

BROWN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY **1999 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS**

The Green Bay Harbor Range Lights, 100 Bay Beach Road, Green Bay



In the 1800s, the outer channel in Green Bay was narrow and tortuous, and a direct entrance was blocked by Grassy Island, about 1.5 miles out from the mouth of the Fox River. In the 1860s, a cut was made for a channel through Grassy Island. To mark the ends of the east revetment of that cut, two light towers were constructed, 29' tall at the south end and 22' tall at the north end, and those lights stood for nearly 100 years, marking the passage into the city's harbor. When plans to enlarge the channel in the 1960s doomed Grassy Island, the lights were temporarily removed to the Green Bay Yacht Club. In 1999, the lights finally received a permanent home at the Yacht Club, and restoration will be completed soon.

The Silver Residence, 449 N. Superior, De Pere



A fine example of early 20th Century eclectic architecture, the Silver Residence exhibits the transition of the Arts and Crafts movement from the Victorian period. In 1997-98, both the interior and exterior of the house were thoughtfully and accurately restored. The stone foundation was repointed, all decayed wood above the foundation was replaced, and the roof was completely reconstructed. At the signature horse-shoe arch on the front facade, the decayed trim was replicated. The owner took great care in milling rails and balusters to match the existing at the front porch. Finally, the new four color paint scheme has transformed the formerly all white house into a colorful neighborhood landmark.

The Mattern Residence, 511 N. Michigan, De Pere



In 1998, the Matterns decided it was time to replace the roof of their Victorian style house, and at the same time were considering replacing the wide board asbestos siding with vinyl. When they inspected the condition of the materials beneath that siding, however, they found that the original wood siding and its architectural decoration was in restorable condition. This discovery marked the beginning of a true historic restoration. The overlay siding was removed to once again expose the fish scale weather boards and rosette detailed fascia. The new five color paint scheme enhances the houses's true Victorian character.

Voice of Faith Church, 521 Fourth Street, Green Bay



This is the oldest church building in continuous operation as a place of worship in the Green Bay area. In 1867, Madame Tank donated two lots at the corner of Fourth and Maple Streets for the purposes of a new church for the Norwegian Moravian community. The church was dedicated in 1869, and the adjacent parsonage was built in 1884. It remained the West Side Moravian Church until 1958, when that congregation moved to South Oneida Street. After a period of ownership by Bethel Baptist Church, the current Voice of Faith congregation took possession in 1972. Also during the 1970s, Ukranian immigrants were fleeing their county to escape religious persecution, and took refuge in Green Bay. While they were understandably fearful of open worship, they received a spiritual welcome from the Voice of Faith congregation, and arrangements were made for them to use the church for their own worship on Sunday afternoons. As a token of their gratefulness, the Ukranians have joined forces with the Voice of Faith congregation over the past few years in a unique co-operative effort to paint the building, re-roof the steeple, and restore the bell tower. New nighttime lighting of the church has increased its visibility from the Ashland Avenue viaduct. The church now proudly and brightly continues into the new century as a symbol of religious fellowship, a strong and prominent anchor for the Tank neighborhood, and an enduring Green Bay historic landmark.



Direct Development, Inc., 1240 Main Street, Green Bay

John Hopfensperger had heard the stories that Historic Preservation doesn't pay, that it's easier to knock down old buildings and start over with a cleared site. He set out to prove otherwise, and Green Bay and Brown County are better off for his success. John's Direct Development, Inc. has become a specialist in giving new life to old buildings. After the 1998 success of Olde Town Crossing on Main Street in Green Bay, Direct Development has respectfully renovated and rejuvenated six more existing buildings for exciting new uses, not only preserving the building but often energizing and stabilizing the neighborhoods where they are located. (Shown are 112-114 South Broadway and Bistro John Paul in Green Bay, Victorian Residence in De Pere, and Bridge View River Loft in Wrightstown. Not shown are Jillians Entertainment and the Green Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, both in Green Bay).

