



Cornerstones March 2022

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Happy New Year everyone! PAL would like to thank our friends and members for their support this holiday season. We also want to give a big thank you to downtown vendors that helped us sell our Treasures of La Crosse ornament (The Charmant Hotel) and our new 2022 Calendar: Beautiful Architecture of La Crosse. Both efforts were a tremendous success! Proceeds raised from the sale of these items will help fund new educational initiatives and preservation efforts in La Crosse.

There is a small number of ornaments and calendars remaining. If you're still interested in purchasing an item, you can call, email or contact us using the information below. Thank you again for your support!

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A Message from PAL's President

Happy Spring!

With the melting snow and warming temperatures we will likely see exterior renovations of our city's buildings picking up. If you live in a locally designated historic landmark house, or within a designated local district, you can turn to the City Planning Department for advice on how best to maintain your historic home.

Or reach out to us at PAL! We have individuals on our board and within our membership who can give you great suggestions on how to maintain your building in a historically sympathetic way.

We'd like to start doing more outreach and educational programming as we move out of this two year pandemic, which kept so many of us apart. If you have any suggestions of topics you would like us to consider, whether it's preserving your historic property, the history of local buildings and local architects, or how to research your historic home, we'd love to hear from you!

As we ease our way back into these kinds of public programming, we look forward to making more substantial contact with you all in coming months!

Barbara Kooiman

President – Preservation Alliance of La Crosse

Preservation Spotlight

Fire Station #5 added to the National Register of Historic Places

Submitted by PAL Board Member Jenny Zettler

Fire Station Number 5 at 1220-1222 Denton Street was added to the National Register of Historic Places on November 24, 2021! The following information is from the NRHP nomination:

The La Crosse architectural firm Stoltze & Schick designed Fire Station number 5 for the selected Denton Street site on La Crosse's Southside. The plans were a revision of the previously constructed Fire Station No. 4 completed circa 1871 (not extant). Fred Gross was selected through a bidding process as the contractor and the building was completed in September 1895. A volunteer fire company was organized in the 8th and 18th wards prior to the construction of the building. In 1896 the fire department transitioned to a paid firefighting department. The building experienced the transition from horse-drawn equipment to modern, gasoline-powered equipment in 1926 (Miller, Justin. NRHP Continuation Registration Form, "Fire Station No. 5", 2021. Section 8, page 5).



Both images: Fire Station No. 5 ca. April 14, 1926. Photos courtesy of UW-L Murphy Library Special Collections

The years of significance were from 1895, the year of its original construction, to 1967 when it was decommissioned as a firehouse.

The 2-story rectangular building features a gable roof over the primary spaces in the front, and a shed roof on the stable spaces at the rear. The structure is multi-wythe brick with a trussed roof and a unique second floor structure. Instead of cluttering the main level with columns to support the second floor, the second story floor joists are hung from the roof trusses by cast iron tie rods (Miller, sect. 7, pg. 1).

The front (north) elevation contained two large engine bay doors at street level that have since been infilled with wood framing. The apparatus bay on the north side originally contained two fire pole hatch openings, one below the former club room, the other below the former sleeping room. The rear of the apparatus bay contains the original staircase leading to second floor, complete with panelized square newel posts, turned finials, turned balusters, and hardwood treads and risers (Miller, sect. 7 pg. 4). Though the fire poles have been removed, the grand stair remains. It should be noted that the original first floor was constructed of wood framing. The floor structure was removed and replaced with a poured concrete slab and beam structure to support the heavier gasoline powered firefighting equipment.



Fire Station No. 5 ca. November 22, 1967 Photo courtesy of UW-L Murphy Library Special Collections

The rear (south) portion of the first floor contained horse stalls on each side of a center hallway with a stable at the far end of the building. Above this was the former hayloft. The basement extends below the footprint of the building except the former stable, which is unexcavated (Miller, sect. 7, pg. 4).

Fire Station No. 5 retains its primary character defining features as a fire house, interior spatial organization and original wood staircase. Original blueprints remain intact to aid in restoration efforts!

Today it is the oldest remaining firehouse in the city.



<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Ornament Mail Order Form</u></p> <p>2021 Charmant Hotel _____ @ \$25.00 2020 Gundersen Cottage _____ @ \$25.00 2019 Magill Bank _____ @ \$25.00 2018 Cargill Pettibone _____ @ \$25.00 2017 Public Library _____ @ \$25.00 2016 Pearl Street West _____ @ \$25.00 2015 Band Shell _____ @ \$20.00 2014 #4000 at Grand Crossing _____ @ \$20.00 2013 Mississippi River _____ @ \$20.00 2011 Grandad Bluff _____ @ \$20.00 2009 The Martindale House _____ @ \$20.00 2008 Holy Trinity Church _____ @ \$20.00 2007 The Pump House _____ @ \$20.00 2006 King Gambinus _____ @ \$20.00 2002 Pettibone Beach House _____ @ \$20.00 2001 The Ott House _____ @ \$15.00 <u>Shipping and Handling for 1</u> <u>\$5.00</u> <u>\$1.00 for each additional</u> <u>@ \$1.00</u> <u>Total</u> \$ _____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Checks Payable to PAL</u> <u>Or</u> <u>For Credit Card Users:</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Visa, Mastercard, Discover, Am. Express</p> <p>Card Number _____</p> <p>Expiration Date _____ / _____</p> <p>3 Digit Security Code _____</p> <p>Name as on Card _____</p>
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Weatherizing Your Historic House

[Part of a series by the Wisconsin Historical Society]

With increased heating costs, it's more important than ever to properly insulate your historic home while also preserving its historic integrity. To assist you, PAL will begin featuring home improvement articles published by the Wisconsin Historical Society.

Weatherizing can help improve the energy efficiency of your historic house. The act of weatherizing is insulating and stopping excessive airflow by sealing areas where air is infiltrating your house. However, when it comes to sealing your house, you can over-do it. You must make certain that your house has adequate ventilation.

Weatherization Practices to Follow

Use the following practices to weatherize your historic house:

- **Ensure proper ventilation in your house.** Make sure your house is getting an exchange of inside air with outside air to avoid a build-up of stale air. Stale air can cause illnesses like asthma and lung infections.
- **Maintain airflow in your attic.** Make sure your attic has adequate airflow. Keep every gable-end vent and soffit vent open in your unheated attic spaces. If you blow insulation into your attic, be sure none of the insulation gets into your eaves. If the insulation gets into your eaves, it will constrict airflow and cause problems with ice damming. Install eave shoots, which are styrofoam panels that keep the insulation out of the eaves.
- **Make certain your crawl space has cross ventilation.** During spring, summer and fall, open your crawl space vents to ensure your crawl space has cross ventilation. This ventilation will prevent mold and mildew. Only close your crawl space vents in the winter.
- **Paint and caulk your original wood siding.** Maintain the exterior paint on your wood siding and wood shingles. Apply caulk only to the joints where cascading water can penetrate. Do not caulk the bottom edges of wood siding or wood shingles, which will seal your house too tightly.



Dane County. Here you can see original wood storm windows with the turn-buckle hardware. Source: WHS - State Historic Preservation Office.

- **Caulk only the exterior edges of your electrical boxes.** Apply caulk only to the edges of electrical boxes. Do not caulk the wires or back of a metal box, which could cause heat to build up and start a fire. Do not caulk recessed light boxes.
- **Keep and weatherize your original windows.** Keep your original windows and weatherize them to improve their energy efficiency. Your original windows can be made as (or more) energy efficient than replacement windows in a cost effective manner. Do not install expensive replacement windows.
- **Keep the weep holes on your storm windows open.** Check the weep holes on the bottom edge of your aluminum storm windows regularly to be sure they are open. The weep holes allow condensation to escape. Do not caulk the weep holes on your storm windows.

Weatherization Practices to Avoid

When you are weatherizing your historic house, avoid the following practices:

- **Do not seal your house up completely.** If you seal your historic house too tightly, you will prevent the proper exchange of inside and outside air.
- **Do not install replacement siding.** Replacement siding and its insulating backer board create a vapor barrier that will trap moisture in your wall cavity.
- **Do not install wall insulation.** Do not insulate exterior walls that have original plaster on the interior side. The insulation could cause the plaster to bow out and trap excessive moisture in the wall cavity.
- **Do not insulate your sash weight pockets.** Do not insulate the sash weight pocket of an original window. Sash weights are a proven way to raise and lower a sash effectively. Spring balances break down easily and do not last, and their installation will require that the width of your window be reduced. You can avoid air infiltration in your window by caulking the exterior casing and trim.

In the next newsletter, we'll share tips on insulating the attic of your historic house. For more preservation information, please visit www.wisconsinhistory.org.



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119 King St.
La Crosse , WI 54601

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