

Lead Region Preservation

Winter 1995-96

P.O. Box 565, Shullsburg, WI 53586

Lead Region Historic Trust, Inc.

THE PRAIRIE SPRING HOTEL RESTORATION 95% COMPLETE

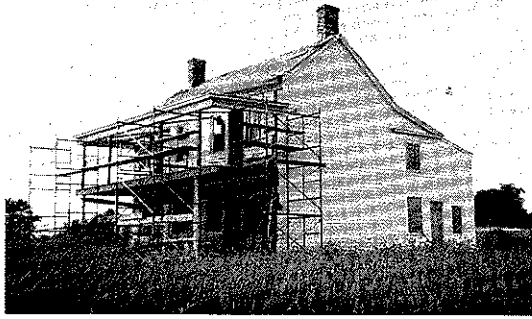
At the end of the summer outdoor working season, the Lead Region Historic Trust staff had completed 95% of the external and structural restoration of the Prairie Spring Hotel. Still remaining for spring work are siding repairs on the front elevations, installation of replacement windows at the first-floor-front elevation, installation of two exterior paneled doors, and finish painting of the restored porch and back elevations.

The restored building has begun to attract interested visitors, some of whom have heard of the restoration while visiting Mineral Point. Other visitors have stopped because of the historic building's visual impact from the highway. And still others are descendants of Daniel M. Parkin-

son (builder of the Prairie Spring Hotel about 1834), who take pride in the renewed interest in their settlement period ancestors, which is generated by the restored building's presence and publicity.

Again, the Trust would like to thank Dean Connors of Mineral Point for his support and interest in making possible the acquisition and restoration of this most significant early Wisconsin building. Without his support, the Prairie Spring Hotel would surely have been destroyed and with it would have gone a tangible association with territorial Wisconsin's settlement period in the lead region.

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TRUST AUCTION A HUGE SUCCESS

On 1 July 1995, the Trust's benefit auction of antiques and collectible items was held on Water Street in Shullsburg, Wisconsin, in front of the Pieffer-Bennett Building. All the conditions necessary for a successful auction were present: perfect weather, a large crowd of serious buyers, and a strong display of desirable antiques, with some donations still arriving at the beginning of the sale.

Six hours of selling produced \$17,600 to be used toward the restoration of the Pieffer-Bennett Building. The lunch stand staffed by the Trust's board members raised another \$1,100. And the contribution of labor by volunteers—grill operation by Shullsburg Lions Club members, setup and display help by Shullsburg FFA participants, and general support in staffing by Trust supporters—rounded out the day's success.

The Trust's board of directors would like to publicly thank Teasdale Auction Service—auctioneers Don Teasdale, Larry Teasdale, and Randy Gill—for extra efforts on behalf of our work in historic preservation in Shullsburg. They contributed their professional services in order to make this fund-raising effort more successful. Contributions at this level are most helpful in our work and are instruments both in motivating others to support historic-preservation projects and in attracting dollar support from outside the region. *A sincere thanks to our fine auctioneers!*

Based on the success of this auction, the Board of Directors feels that this type of event may be utilized again in the future. If any members have ideas they would like to contribute toward organizing a future auction, antiques for auction, or services they can provide, please contact the Trust's secretary Stephen Calvert at 608-759-3600.

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 Editor: Stephen Calvert

Pieffer-Bennett Building

Interior work on the Pieffer-Bennett Building in Shullsburg began in early November. This initial phase involves the removal of 20th-century "overlay" materials from the building's original or 19th-century fabric. Structural examinations are also made at this time.

Plans for structural repairs and replicated materials are also developed during this stage of restoration. A more detailed report of plans and progress will appear in the next issue of *Lead Region Preservation*.

Norwegian Log House in Wiota Township

Congratulations to Arleigh and Mary Lou Hansen of South Wayne, Wisconsin, for being featured in an article in the November 16, 1995 issue of the weekly farm newspaper *Agri-View*. The story, written by Jane Fyksen, highlighted the history of Simon Bjork Anderson (Arleigh Hansen's great-grandfather), his emigration from Norway to the United States 150 years ago, and the family log house located on the Hansen farm in eastern Wiota Township. Built about 1863, this immigrant homestead is an excellent example of Norwegian log house construction with slightly outward-canted wall design (built this way so that rain-water runs off the roof directly to the ground, rather than running down the logs).

The Trust would like to take this

opportunity to thank the Hansens for their generosity in sharing this most interesting building with so many people. During the historic-architecture tours offered by the Trust, this log house is always a high point of the day. And the house is just a part of this stop—Arleigh Hansen's enthusiasm for his ancestral heritage and homestead is a quality that is admired by all.

We would hope that Arleigh's enthusiasm becomes contagious so that more people can share in the lessons of history so well conveyed by the architecture of our past.

Lead Region Preservation will contain a detailed story on this settlement period log house in a future issue.

Trust Receives Historic Preservation Award

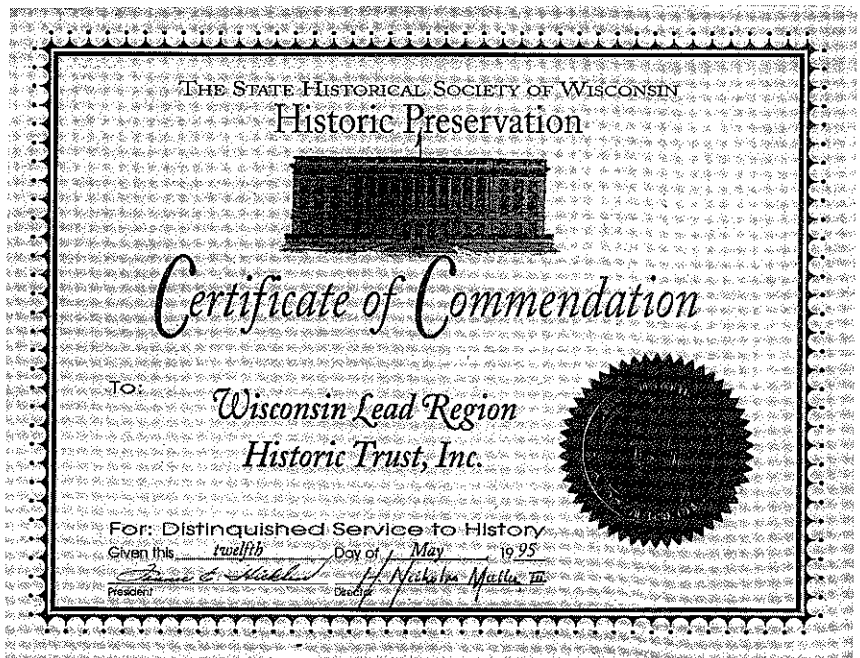
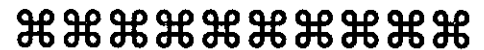
At the 1995 Heritage Preservation Conference held in Hurley, Wisconsin, on 12 May 1995, the Lead Region Historic Trust received the State Historical Society of Wisconsin's prestigious certificate of commendation for historic preservation accomplishment.

The society's commendation stated: "From July 1993 through June 1994, the Wisconsin Lead Region Historic Trust, Inc. restored the vacant and deteriorated 1849 building in Platteville's Main Street Historic District. This is an extremely well-done rehabilitation of a very early and important building. The project is a high-quality undertaking by a relatively new organization that is already making an important impact on the preservation of significant Southwestern Wisconsin historic structures."

The award was presented to Dean Connors, representing Dana Duppler, Executive Director of the Lead Region Historic Trust, by Nicholas Muller III, Director of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

Among the other award winners were the City of Janesville/Rock County Historical Society for its \$640,000 restoration of the Landmark Lincoln-Tallman House in Janesville; the Brown County Historical Society for its \$750,000 restoration of Hazelwood, an early Green Bay home; and the Seth Peterson Conservancy for its restoration of the Seth Peterson Cottage at Mirror Lake, Wisconsin.

—Dean Connors



From the Executive Director:

A Year-end Message to the Trust's Supporters

The Lead Region Historic Trust will be four years old the first week of 1996. I think it would be useful to reflect briefly upon the accomplishments of our first years. Regarding its goal to acquire, restore, and preserve the region's oldest remaining buildings, the Trust has made a very creditable beginning. It now owns eight qualified historic buildings; two of these buildings have been restored by the organization; two structures were restored by two board members prior to acquisition by the Trust; one building is currently being restored; and the remaining three buildings have been stabilized and are awaiting the skills of our small staff.

Another goal of the Trust is to use historic buildings as elements of an ongoing educational program. This goal is being met by means of frequent building tours and slide shows given by the Executive Director, with the assistance of Trust members and other supporters.

As an example of the fruits of the Trust's educational efforts, one young New Glarus man was encouraged to pursue a specialized career in architecture, with an emphasis on historic preservation as a community revitalization tool, in large part because of his exposure to the work and vision of our organization.

In addition, a Madison man in his thirties has become so interested in preservation work that he has left his job to gain hands-on experience in trades related to the restoration of historic buildings, with a goal of entering graduate school and studying architecture. He is also building an excellent reference library to expand his knowledge immediately.

Some participants in our architectural tours have invited their own friends to join them in retouring the historic buildings to which they had been recently introduced, sharing some of the knowledge that they have gained.

It appears that our beginnings have been well received and are having a substantially positive impact. And there is good news for the immediate future, too. During late December, the Trust will hire its first full-time staff member,

Adam Charles, a 1995 University of Wisconsin-Platteville graduate, with a bachelor's degree in English. Adam's exposure to historic preservation goes back to high school, when he worked part-time and summers for the Executive Director, prior to the establishment of the Trust.

Adam's gradual accumulation of valuable work experience in the preservation and restoration of historic buildings has made him a number-one choice for a full-time preservationist. At the same time, he has come to see the challenge of working daily with the Trust as a worthwhile profession.

I'm pleased to have Adam on our team, and I am confident that his contributions will extend beyond the skilled labor involved with preserving buildings to assistance with development of programs and furthering the goals of the Lead Region Historic Trust.

The Trust's ability to reach these points of success has been due to the financial support of more than 250 individuals, businesses, and organizations that have contributed the dollars needed to purchase the buildings and the materials needed to restore them.

We have also been fortunate to have had substantial donated labor, and compensated labor has been very reasonable. Our staff is efficient and highly skilled.

All of this predicts a successful future. But the Trust depends upon the *continued support* of those who have helped get it all started. The Trust will ultimately become self-sufficient, as income from restored buildings becomes more substantial—but we depend upon our supporters to get us to that future point.

The Trust has undertaken innovative fund-raising techniques during the past two years, the benefit auction in Shullsburg last spring being the most noteworthy and successful. Nevertheless, the tax-deductible contributions of individuals have been the mainstay of our existence thus far, and they will probably continue to be so for the foreseeable future.

A solid cash position is even more imperative in order to *retain* the quality people we are now beginning to attract. If you have helped us to get this far, would you consider a 1995 year-end contribution toward making 1996 a success for the Lead Region Historic Trust? Your financial support also helps us attract the larger dollar amounts given by corporations and foundations that we need to acquire.

Again, on behalf of the Board of Directors and myself, I thank all of our supporters of the past four years. I hope that our successes thus far have measured up to your hopes and expectations.

May 1996 hold the best for all!

—Dana Duppler, Executive Director

LEILA DUPPLER MEMORIAL



A memorial fund has been established in the memory of Leila Duppler, who died at her Verona home on 23 November 1995 after a brief illness. She was the mother of Trust Executive Director Dana Duppler. Memorial contributions in Leila's name will be used for the restoration of the Pieffer-Bennett Building in Shullsburg.