

WASHBURN HERITAGE ASSOCIATION



Board of Directors

Irene Blakely

Carla Bremner

Kimberly
Christensen

Don Ekstrom

Patra Holter

Dick Johnson

Sandy Johnson

Dora Kling

Jill Lorenz

Mary Nowakowski

Sharon Stewart

Jane Weiler

Ken Weiler

MISSION

To protect, preserve, interpret,
and increase awareness of
the architectural and cultural
history of the City of Washburn
and its surrounding area.

Second Annual Winter History Festival Schedule

The Washburn Heritage Association, along with the Washburn Area Historical Society, is pleased to announce the Second Annual Winter History Festival. Four lectures will be held on Tuesday evenings in January, February and March. Funded by a grant from the Wisconsin Humanities Council, the lectures cover a broad range of historic topics.

The first lecture will be held at Stage North, while the remaining lectures will be held at the Washburn Cultural Center. All lectures start at 7:00pm. Light refreshments and live music are also provided. Don't miss these entertaining and informative lectures! The cost is \$5.00.

Second Annual Winter History Festival

- **January 21 - On The Ice**
- Bob Macketh; music by Phil Anich & Friends
- **February 4 - The Civil War and the women's Movement** - John and Karen Devries; music by Angela Cantlon
- **February 18 - Washburn's Airstrip and Pilots** - Kathy Holt and Terry Welty; music by Jack Gunderson
- **March 4 - Ladies of the Isles** - Bob Mackreth, music by Yazmin Bowers

Complete lectures descriptions at
www.washburnheritageassociation.com

Funded in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Humanities Council, with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the State of Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Humanities Council supports and creates programs that use history, culture, and discussion to strengthen community life for everyone in Wisconsin.

WHA Welcomes Two New Board

The Washburn Heritage Association is delighted to welcome Kimberly Christensen and Patra Holter to the board of Directors.

Kimberly moved to Washburn in 2012 from the Tucson, AZ area. She was a Systems Integration Manager for a biotech company there, and enjoyed hiking and biking in the mountains. Snowshoeing in Wisconsin is a new venture for her!

Patra Holter is an accomplished artist who lived in Eastern U.S. for many years where she also worked as a teacher and arts administrator. She was born in Ashland, spent many summers here and recently purchased a home in Washburn as a full time resident.

WHA Scholarship

The Washburn Heritage Association is working out details that would offer a scholarship to a Washburn High School graduating senior. The successful candidate will have completed research, writing or participation in a project that fits with the mission of the WHA. Watch for further details.

Facade Improvement Awards Draw Attention to Local Landmarks

The WHA's facade improvement award program kicked into high gear this summer, with three awards given to honor a private business owner, governmental agency and a local homeowner.

North Coast Coffee was presented an award on June 14th for the positive contribution that owner Pam DeRam made to a former A&W stand. Exterior improvements included an inviting outside patio and gardens planned by a master gardener. A local artist painted interior and exterior embellishments.

The Bayfield County Courthouse exterior restoration was recognized by the WHA on July 29th. Restoration of the National Register property included replacing 12 cornice stones, lower sections of the front columns, tuck-pointing using historically appropriate raised beaded mortar joints, and installation of a waterproof membrane flashing system to reduce the possibility of water infiltration around the top perimeter of the courthouse.

Marty and Joanne Katzmarek's 1915 arts and crafts bungalow has been lovingly restored by the couple. The home features sloping stone columns that support the front porch roof. This form is echoed in the sloped siding at the base of the house. The windows are original and have a distinctive arts and crafts pattern of rectangular panes.

Facade Improvement Awards recognize exterior improvements that contribute to the architectural or cultural history of the city.



single family residences and some duplexes. (There were three new home starts in Washburn in 2013.) Construction began two weeks later with an immense crew of hundreds of workers brought to town from the plant. It was anticipated the crews would average completion of one building a day!

The war ended 14 weeks after construction had begun. Orders for explosives dried up. Jobs were eliminated and workers moved on so the new homes were no longer needed. By 1920, the federal census shows Washburn's population had dwindled to 3,707 people, down from the 1918 peak of more than 7,000. The buildings in the new "suburb" were sold, and in 1920, all of the completed and partially completed homes were dismantled in sections and shipped to Duluth to be re-erected.

It is interesting to speculate what the east end of town would look like today if the homes had not been moved – perhaps a ghost town? Although the sale may have been motivated by profit, the DuPont Company was forward looking in recycling and reusing these buildings in 1920. Today, reuse and recycle is a common goal. Part of the Heritage Association's mission is to promote adaptive reuse of vital and irreplaceable parts of the built environment. We so much appreciate the community's support in our endeavors.

Carla Bremner, President

President's Letter

Washburn experienced an astonishing building boom in the years of World War I. Thousands of workers poured into the Washburn area to work at DuPont in response to the huge demand for explosives created by the war.

To accommodate workers, the company built barracks at the factory site in Barksdale and along with other builders, purchased lots and built homes in what will soon be dedicated as the Third Street Historic District area. This was not enough, however, and on August 14, 1918, DuPont acquired a large plot of land (five city blocks total) at the east end of town, where they planned to build 106 additional new homes – some