

NASSAU ANNIVERSARY QUILT

Back in January 1993 an idea for a lasting tribute to Nassau's 175th anniversary of village incorporation came to life with the vital help of a group of talented volunteers. Led by Nancy Somers, and friends and members of the East Side Quilters group, they worked both at the Nassau Library and in their homes to create the commemorative quilt.

18 volunteers shared their time and expertise to craft the eight by six foot masterpiece that now hangs in a protective case in the Nassau Village Hall on Malden Street.

Those who worked on the quilt were: Marion Bevis, Marge Callahan, Martha Cole, Nancy Cooper, Pat Cooper, Alvine Dion, Tita Dringus, Ann Fisher, Linda Gerhardt, Marybeth Goodman, Inez Jacklin, Jenny Philbrok, Pat Piniasek, Nancy Somers, Marcia Valenty, Jo Wilson, Gloria Wood and Sue Yonkers.

Community members and groups were asked for design suggestions and Sue Canfield, Herman Kosegarten, Hazel Mensing, Keith Prior, Barbara Nieman, Nancy Somers and Pat Piniasek contributed ideas and design suggestions.

Updating an old early American custom, residents of the Village were invited to sign their names to a blank piece of fabric that was sewn onto the back of the finished quilt. The finished quilt was unveiled to the public on Saturday, May 14, 1994 at an Earth Day celebration, which was part of the year-long activities celebrating the 1994 anniversary.

All About Nassau

People, Buildings and Memories

BY KURT VINCENT



The concept and design of the quilt was based on Nassau's history and memorable groups and events that had contributed to that history. Eighteen approximately 12 inch by 12 inch panels surround the central stylized scene of Nassau's Village Square, circa 1819. Beneath the "Lafayette Elm," the stage arrives from Albany. Guests could stay at the Nassau House Hotel, situated on the corner of Albany Avenue and Elm street next to the blacksmith's shop.

On the corner of Church Street, Hoag's store and house are pictured. Going down Elm Street, Moses Vail's house is opposite the Presbyterian Church. And as it has sat for well over 200 years, Jonathan Hoag's mill sits at the split in the road.

Surrounding the central scene, inspiration for the smaller panels came from local history and community groups. From the upper-right, going clock-wise, these panels represent: Village officers in 1994; The Nassau Fair; Nassau Ambulance; St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church; Nassau Little League Association; Grace United Methodist Church; Nassau in a state of Nature; Kosegarten Piano Action Factory; Nassau Hose Company; The Door to the Future; Nassau Girl Scouts; Nassau's Albany Southern Railroad station; Nassau Reformed Church, Nassau Jewish Center and Synagogue; Village Square Bandstand; Nassau Free Library; 4-H Club; and DPS School.