

## What We Do

The Portage County Historical Society diligently pursues its stated goals: *“the purposes of this organization are exclusively educational.”*

To this end the Society holds ongoing annual events, special presentations, guided walking tours and school presentations.

Each year the Hie Corner One-Room School House hosts 600+ 3rd grade students from Portage County with a half day 1920’s era school experience.

Publication of material has become a major part of our activities. We now have about 80 titles in print!

Answering questions submitted through our web site from area students and teachers to international submissions (Singapore as an example) has become an interesting challenge!

None of this ongoing activity would not be possible without the continued support of the Portage County Community!

Our programs and activities allow us to fulfill our second goal: *“Disseminate knowledge of the history of Portage County, Wisconsin.”*

## Establishment

The Portage County Historical Society’s first newsletter was published April, 1956. Its second newsletter was published November, 1957. This second newsletter announced the filing of the Articles for Incorporation on September 18, 1957.

The move on September 18, 1957 aligned the Society with the Wisconsin Historical Society, allowed for tax deductible donations and added structure to its operations.

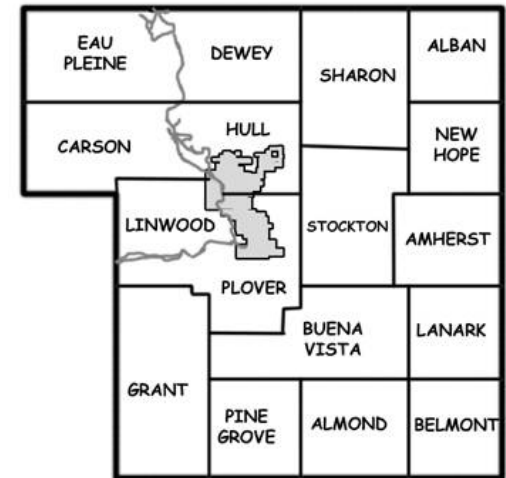
What would become Heritage Park was purchased in 1977; the Rising Star Mill in 1985; the Beth Israel Synagogue in 1985, and the Fire House No. 2 in 2005.

### PORTAGE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P O Box 672  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Phone: 715-600-4930  
www.pchswi.org  
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Join us on Facebook

## PORTAGE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



*“the purposes of this organization are exclusively educational and shall be to preserve, advance, and disseminate knowledge of the history of Portage County, Wisconsin..”*

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# Portage County Historical Society's Museums

## Membership Application

### Stevens Point Museums



#### Beth Israel Synagogue

Temple Beth Israel was constructed in 1905 and served as a house of worship for Stevens Point's vibrant Jewish Community until 1985. At one time the congregation had 40-50 families from Stevens Point and surrounding communities as far away as Wisconsin Rapids, Weyauwega, Minocqua, and Marshfield.

The first Jewish families emigrated from Central Europe to Central Wisconsin as early as 1871. Beginning in 1892 the bulk of the Jewish community arrived from Eastern Europe.



#### Firehouse No. 2

In a letter dated Dec. 20, 2005 addressed to PCHS President Tim Siebert, Mary Ann Laszewski included a copy of a letter she had sent to Stevens Point Mayor Gary Wescott asking if the Southside Fire Station could be saved rather than demolished or sold off. This began a flurry of letter writing and inquiries that resulted in the Historical Society being sold the building in March, 2006 for \$1.00.

Thus the oldest surviving municipal building in Stevens Point was saved! The Fire Station, designated No. 2, was built in 1885 to serve the railroad and business districts in the southern part of the city.

### Plover/Nelsonville Museums



#### Heritage Park

Heritage Park, located in Plover, bordered on the West by Madison St., on the East by Washington St., on the South by Willow Dr., and on the North by the railroad tracks, is the result of Maurice Perret's and John Anderson's foresight in 1977. They were responsible for the purchase of the Old Plover Methodist Church and two plots of land under the structure. This was the beginning of what is now an historic village. In 1983 the society purchased the other 6 lots in the park and moved the Franklin/Calkins House onto the site. The remaining structures have been gathered from all over the county and brought to Heritage Park with the intention of preserving and showing what life in Portage County was like between 1870 and 1910.



#### Rising Star Mill

The Nelsonville Mill is one of the oldest mills in this part of the state and the last of its kind in Portage County. On September 10, 1855, Jerome Nelson purchased land and water rights from Anna and Charles Stoltenberg on which to "construct and maintain a mill dam." Nelson, for whom Nelsonville is named, built the dam and sawmill in 1855. The Rising Star Mill was built in 1868 upon his return from serving in the Civil War. The Mill was operated as a business until 1984.

Student (ages 17-21)	\$15/year
Individual	\$25/year
Business	\$50/year
Patron	\$200/year
Benefactor	\$400/year
Senior (62 & older)	\$20/year
Family	\$40/year
Pioneer	\$100/year
Sustaining	\$300/year
Life	\$500

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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