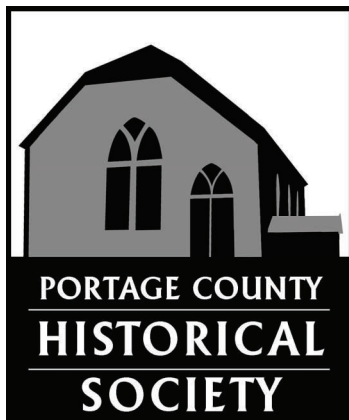


Portage County Historical Society

The Portage County Historical Society is a non-profit organization staffed by volunteers.

The Society operates the Temple Beth Israel Museum on Water St. in Stevens Point, Historic Fire House N^o 2 on Strongs Ave. in Stevens Point, the Rising Star Mill in Nelsonville, and Heritage Park corner of Washington & Willow in Plover.

Visit our website at www.pchswi.org for more information on the Society and our calendar of events.



Why have a Historical Society?

- The history of a place is defined by those surviving artifacts which call to mind the sense of place and time from which they came.
- Our county's history is built upon a foundation of artifacts, architecture and lore, which the Portage County Historical Society has taken upon itself to preserve for the continued enjoyment of future generations.
- Our heritage is defined by our past; so are our present and future.

What the Historical Society does.

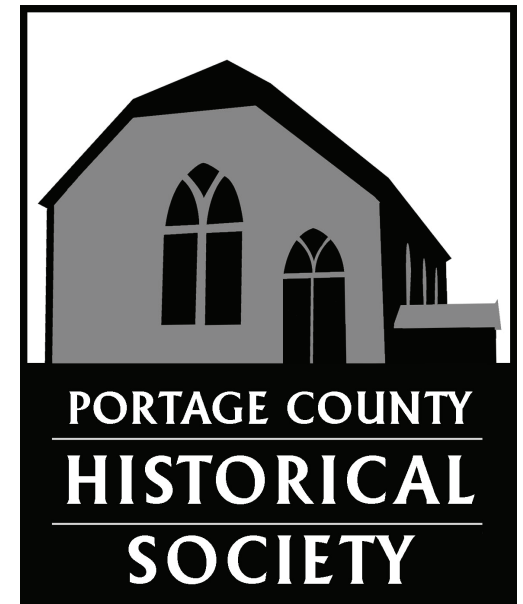
The Portage County Historical Society is a tax exempt public organization, created to preserve our heritage; customs, ideas, ideals and practices which make Portage County unique.

Since 1952 the Society has acquired a vast collections of materials, documents and artifacts which are useful to historians, and interesting to all of us.

The Portage County Historical Society preserves the past, and offers a variety of programs of interest to the public.

The Society publishes books on local history and a quarterly newsletter, *The Pinery*.

The Society also maintains four unique sites in Portage County, the Rising Star Mill, Temple Beth Israel Synagogue, Historic Fire House N^o 2 and Heritage Park.



The Society meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month, except in December. Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. and are open to the public. They are generally held at the Temple Beth Israel Museum on Water St. in Stevens Point. For up to date information on meeting place please check our website, www.pchswi.org and click on Calendar of Events.

If you would like to know more about private tours, or availability of rental at our sites, please call 715-344-4423.

The Society operates four sites in Portage County.

Temple Beth Israel—Water St—Stevens Point

The permanent exhibit in Temple Beth Israel Museum illustrates practices of the Jewish religion and memorializes the Stevens Point Jewish Community and its many contributions to the Stevens Point community.

From 1871—2000 some 140 Jewish businesses were established in Stevens Point, some lasting a few years, while others were in business for a half century or longer.

Members of Beth Israel Congregation played an active role in the civic life of Stevens Point.

Open Saturday and Sunday 1—4 p.m.

Memorial Day—Labor Day

Historic Fire House N° 2—Strong's Ave—Stevens Point

Built in 1885, this building was added on to ca. 1896, four years after Stevens Point became a full time fire department. It was used as a fire station until 1967, when the new headquarters building was built on Franklin St.

This is the oldest municipal building left in the City of Stevens Point. The building currently houses the 1933 American LaFrance truck purchased by the city at the Chicago World's Fair, a ca. 1890 hose wagon, and the first printing press in Wisconsin.

Rising Star Mill— Hwy 161—Nelsonville

Circa 1860. The Mill is one of the oldest mills in this part of the state, and the last of its kind in Portage County.

Jerome Nelson, for whom Nelsonville was named, purchased the land and water rights from Anna & Charles Stoltenberg in 1855, and built the mill upon his return from the Civil War. In 1929 Wisconsin Power and Light took over operation; they ceased electrical production in 1936. The dam was operated until 1984 when the Department of Natural Resources purchased the land and the mill in order to gain control of the dam, which they removed to restore the Tomorrow River to its original river bed.

The Society obtained the mill building in 1985. The Mill is available to rent. The Mill hosts an annual art show the weekend of the Iola Old Car Festival, as well as live music on summer weekends, which are listed on the PCHS website calendar of events.

Heritage Park—corner of Willow & Washington—Plover

Heritage Park is the result of the vision of Maurice Perret and John Anderson. They were responsible for the purchase of the Old Plover Methodist Church, the first building in the proposed Heritage Park.

In 1983 the Society purchased the other six lots in the block and relocated the Franklin-Calkins House to the site. The remaining structures were gathered from throughout the county.

The Society has endeavored to create a living monument to life in Portage County during its early settlement years.

The Park is open June—September on weekend afternoons.

The Plover Portage Rendezvous / Threads of History is held in the park on the 3rd weekend in July.

Joining the Historical Society is easy, just fill out this form and mail it today.

Student (ages 17-21)	\$15.00/year
Senior (ages 62 & older)	\$20.00/year
Individual	\$25.00/year
Family	\$40.00/year
Business	\$50.00/year
Pioneer	\$100.00/year
Patron	\$200.00/year
Sustaining	\$300.00/year
Benefactor	\$400.00/year
Life Member	\$500.00

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/St/Zip _____
 Telephone _____
 Email _____

No thanks, I don't want to become a member, but here is my tax deductible donation to Historical Society. \$ _____

I'm interested in volunteering, please call me. My phone number is _____.

I have an artifact I'd like to donate, please call me. My phone number is _____.

Mail to:
 PORTAGE COUNTY
 Historical Society
 PO Box 672
 Stevens Point WI 54481