



Meeting: Village Board
Meeting Date: October 28, 2013
Agenda Item: 6c

Mission Statement

Delivering quality services in a courteous, cost-effective and efficient manner.

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING STAFF REPORT

REPORT TO: Burt R. McIntyre, President
Village Board of Trustees

REPORT FROM: Paul F. Evert, Village Administrator

AGENDA ITEM: 6c Consideration and Discussion of funding request from the Howard-Suamico Historical Society

ACTION REQUESTED: __Ordinance __Resolution X Motion __Receive/File

POLICY ISSUE

Should the Village Board make a contribution to the Howard-Suamico Historical Society to be used toward the preservation of the Robert Vickery homestead?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Village of Suamico has agreed to lease to the Howard-Suamico Historical Society the Robert Vickery homestead for a period of 99 years. The Society has been raising funds to preserve the foundation of the barn as that is their first priority. On behalf of the Society, Russ Roland contacted the Village Administrator soliciting a donation. Mr. Roland explained that he had hoped to have raised \$25,000 by this point to begin repairs on the foundation prior to the onset of winter. He is still working on raising that money and hopes the Village of Howard will make a contribution.

PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW

This is the first time the Board has been asked to contribute to the Robert Vickery homestead. However, the Village does provide a facility to the Society on Maywood Street, out of which the Society operates.

FISCAL IMPACT:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Is There A Fiscal Impact? | <u>Yes</u> |
| 2. Is it Currently Budgeted? | <u>Yes</u> |
| 3. If Budgeted, Which Line? | <u>Capital</u> |

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Village staff recommends the Village Board review the attached information and determine the extent it wishes to be involved. Certainly, if the renovations are completed this facility will be enjoyed by residents in our area and help preserve the history of the area.

POLICY ALTERNATIVE(S)

The Village Board could take the following actions:

- Approve a donation to the project at this time or in the future.
- Deny the request.
- Table the suggested motion and request additional information

ATTACHED INFORMATION: **The Robert Vickery Homestead Project**

THE
ROBERT VICKERY HOMESTEAD



PROJECT



INDEX

PROJECT INFORMATION p. 3

ROBERT VICKERY HOMESTEAD VISION p. 4

ROBERT VICKERY HOMESTEAD RESTORATION PROJECT p. 5

HISTORY OF ROBERT VICKERY HOMESTEAD p. 6

BARN CONSTRUCTION p. 7

VISION FOR THE BARN p. 8

HOUSE CONSTRUCTION p. 9

VISION FOR THE HOUSE p. 10

OUTER BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS p. 11

OVERVIEW p. 12

HISTORY OF HOWARD-SUAMICO HISTORICAL SOCIETY p. 13

VILLAGE OF SUAMICO RESOLUTION

PATRICIA VICKERY HENRY LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

DONATION REQUEST





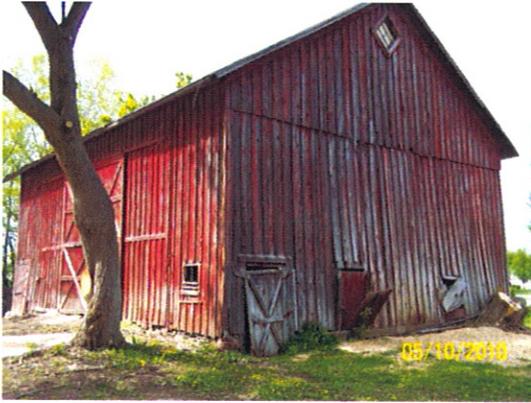
**HELP PRESERVE
A
LOCAL HISTORICAL
LANDMARK**

A Donation Request

PROJECT INFORMATION

- Project Name:** Robert Vickery Homestead Project
- Project Summary:** Restoration of the barn, house, granary and development of the grounds to help preserve the history of our area and create an educational center.
- Project Location:** 12787 Velp Avenue in the Village of Suamico
- Project Owner:** The property is leased to the Howard-Suamico Historical Society for a term of 99 years by the Village of Suamico.
- Contact Person:** Tim Rasmussen, Project Chairman
(920) 434-3514
timras54313@att.net
- HSHS Website:** www.hshistoricalsociety.org
- Vickery Homestead Project Committee:**
Tim Rasmussen, Chairman
Nancy O'Kelley
Barb Styczynski
Jerry Steffen
Joy Schabow
Russ Roland

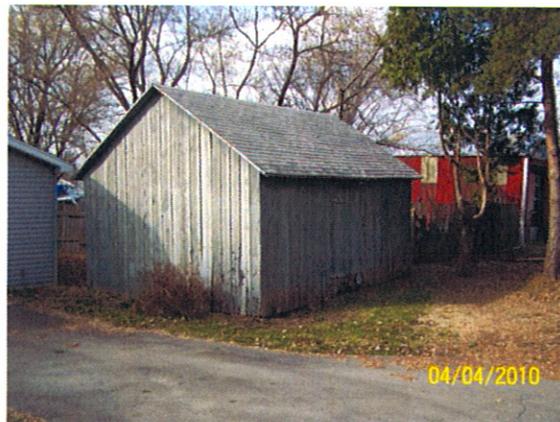
ROBERT VICKERY HOMESTEAD VISION



Once the pre-1870 barn is restored, we will make it accessible to the public as a museum and as a location for events (i.e., barn dances and ice-cream socials). It is a primary goal of the Society to involve the area schools as much as possible, including: art displays, guided tours utilizing docents to explain how early settlers lived in the area, etc.



The house, built before 1870 by Robert and Elizabeth Vickery, will also be open to the public, with docents explaining life in the late 1870's in the area. The house will be set up as a living museum with furnishings apropos to the era.



The granary is a very unique and interesting building; while very old and in need of some renovation, it is basically in good repair and will house several of the items used on a typical farm.

ROBERT VICKERY HOMESTEAD RESTORATION PROJECT

Development Phases:

The Vickery Homestead Project will be divided into three main phases. This donation request is for Phase 1.

Phase 1: Barn Restoration

Phase 2: House Restoration

Phase 3: Outer Buildings and Grounds

The estimated cost for Phase 1 is: \$100,000.



HISTORY OF ROBERT VICKERY HOMESTEAD

The house was built by prominent Suamico settler Robert Vickery and his wife, Elizabeth. Robert and Elizabeth emigrated from England in 1856 and settled in Suamico sometime after 1860.

The research we have been able to do indicates that the building was erected prior to 1870.

The Vickery's raised their family on this homestead, which is a great example of early farm life in the area.

The Robert Vickery family, as well as Elizabeth's family members were featured in the book, "Double Wedding Ring" by Patricia Wendorf, a well-known international author and a relative of the Vickerys.



Robert Vickery

Robert Vickery, Jr.

Elizabeth Vickery

(Elizabeth died in 1910 and Robert died in 1914. The property was sold to Robert Vickery Jr. in 1910.)

BARN CONSTRUCTION



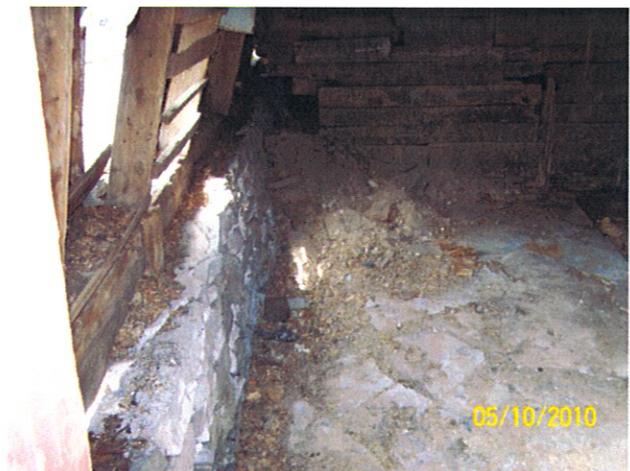
The barn has a stone foundation which needs immediate attention. The foundation is failing on the west end of the building.

The roof is wood shake shingles covered by a metal roof.



Inside there is a small milking area with seven stanchions on the east end and a horse stall in the southwest corner. The stanchions will be preserved and the horse stall will be removed.

A stone floor is visible in several areas of the building. The barn has a threshing floor where hay was unloaded to be stored in the mow.



VISION FOR THE BARN

Working with Lloyd Carpenter and Dave VanLanen from Bay Architects, our plan to make the following changes to the barn:

- Removal of existing exterior boards, access the condition of existing beams and replace as needed, repair foundation, install stone fascia on foundation, install existing boards for interior appearance, install insulation and new exterior barn boards.
- Install new windows and doors, new barn floor, repairing the existing mow floor, reinstall existing stanchions and recreate milking area.
- Remove, repair, insulate and install a new roof.
- Install modern electrical system.
- Landscape area around barn for drainage and parking.
- Install security system and exterior lighting for safety and security.



HOUSE CONSTRUCTION

The house was built prior to 1870 by Robert and Elizabeth Vickery on a stone foundation with a brick top row and reclaimed timbers.



The exterior of the house was slab construction.



An addition was added to the home after 1960 and included a dormer on the second floor and a new family room off the back of the house.



Indoor plumbing and electricity were added to the house after original construction.



VISION FOR THE HOUSE



- Renovation of the home to bring it back to its original period. This would include the downstairs bedroom, pantry, front parlor and kitchen.
- Check condition of the floors to bring back the original planking
- Install original period windows (possibly more energy efficient to look old)
- Install insulation to the entire home
- Work with the architect, the State of Wisconsin and the Village of Suamico to bring the house up to required codes for electrical, plumbing and ADA accessibility
- Upgrade the exterior of the home with siding, roofing and landscaping.



OUTER BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

The granary is in relatively good shape.

Changes needed:

- Renovate the exterior to its original 1870's condition.
- Clean and secure the building.
- Raise the building and install a foundation.



During this era, the majority of country homes had a summer kitchen which was used for most of their cooking during the summer months so the main house stayed cool.

The Vickery Homestead also had a summer kitchen, and it is our vision to reconstruct such a building in the future.



OVERVIEW

Preserving the early history of the area.

Holding events to bring the surrounding communities together to learn more about the early development of the area.

1. Barn Dances
2. Ice-Cream Socials
3. Historic Displays, including farm items
4. Quilt Shows
5. Outdoor Concerts
6. Movie Night

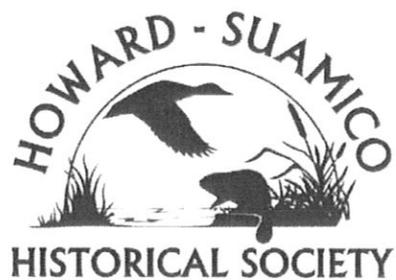
Education

1. Art displays from local schools
2. Docents explaining living in the late 1800's, early 1900's.
3. Hands-on techniques
4. Historic displays in house, barn and granary
5. Involving area students in activities

Create living history museum

Gift Shop

1. Howard-Suamico Historical Society items
2. Books on the history of the area.
3. Children's games
4. Children's books
5. Educational Items
6. Vintage toys and games



HISTORY OF HOWARD-SUAMICO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

- The Howard-Suamico Historical Society was founded on April 21, 2005, starting with 16 members. We currently have 136 members.
- The former Howard Water Department, which was leased to the Society by the Village of Howard, was renovated and now houses our office and a small museum, which is open to the public every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 10:00am until 12:00Noon, or by appointment.
- The Society received a 1952 Chevrolet fire truck from the Village of Howard, which is used in parades and is stored in one of the garages on the Vickery Homestead.
- H-S Memories shows are held ten times a year in Howard and Suamico showing photos representative of the history of the area. We currently have over 4,500 photos in our collection.
- The Society awards a \$1,000 scholarship to a Bay Port High School senior each year. In 2012, the 6th scholarship was awarded.
- A local cookbook was compiled and sold.
- Completed our fourth historical calendar featuring local historical pictures and local and national historic dates.
- Published 2nd edition of "Early Duck Creek History" and reprinted the other six local history books by Les and Jeanne Rentmeester. All of these books are available for sale on our website - www.hshistoricalsociety.org.
- Created an "Honor & Remember" wall honoring local veterans. The wall can be seen at our office and museum at 605 Maywood Avenue
- Hold Used Book Sale, brat fry and booyah sales to raise money for operating our society.
- An on-going project is the development of a research library at our Maywood Building, including books, obituary files and other local historical information which is available for use by the public.
- Held a rummage sale in the spring of 2012 at the Vickery Homestead in conjunction with the Village-wide Suamico rummage sales.
- Held a cemetery walk in Suamico during its sesquicentennial, showing some of the rich history of the area and honoring the area's early settlers.
- Participated in the Suamico Summer Solstice.
- Participated in Howard and Suamico's parades.

- Third grade students from Howard Elementary visited the Howard-Suamico Historical Society museum to learn first-hand about the history of the area.
- Third grade students from Bay Harbor School created a video history which featured interviews with five local residents. These interviews are available on our website.
- Affiliated with the Wisconsin State Historical Society N.E. Region.
- Member of the Wisconsin Council of Local History
- Member of HSBPA (Howard-Suamico Business & Professional Association)
- Member of Wisconsin Genealogical Society





Resolution 13002

A Resolution in Support of the restoration project for the barn on the Vickery Homestead

WHEREAS, The Howard-Suamico Historical Society has undertaken the restoration of the barn on the Vickery Homestead; and

WHEREAS, the Vickery Homestead is a significant historical property in the Village of Suamico; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has approved the structural modification for the barn to be used for public events; and

WHEREAS, the Suamico Historical Preservation Commission has reviewed the plans for the restoration and

WHEREAS, the Commission believes this is a viable project to preserve a part of Suamico history.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of Suamico Historical Preservation Commission does hereby resolve its support for the restoration of the Robert Vickery Homestead barn located in Suamico, Wisconsin.

Adopted this 5th day of February, 2013.

Robert Zastrow,
Suamico Historical Preservation
Commission Chair

February 3, 13

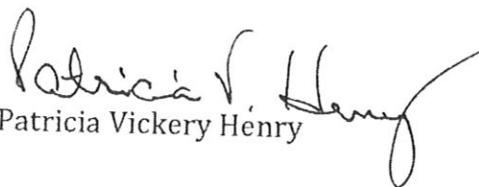
To: The Howard Suamico Historical Society
From: Patricia Vickery Henry

In speaking for my family, we are so pleased about your desire to and you developed plans to restore the Robert and Elizabeth Vickery barn in such a manner as to make it accessible to the public.

The Vickerys were a pioneer family in the tradition of agriculture in Suamico. Elizabeth was, along with her sister, Rhoda Black involved in mentoring the building of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Robert and Elizabeth's son: Robert Birch Vickery was instrumental in Suamico politics (Town Clerk) and Brown County politics (County Clerk). He in addition to acquiring numerous land holdings owned the Vickery General Store and the Vickery Road Construction Company.

In our ancestor's name, thank you for preserving the barn as a Suamico artifact.

Sincerely,


Patricia Vickery Henry

DONATION REQUEST

Thank you for taking the time to read about the Robert Vickery Homestead Project and the Howard-Suamico Historical Society.

It is so important to preserve historic buildings and preserve our proud heritage not only for ourselves, but also for future generations.

There are three ways to give:

Option 1 – HSHS

Make check payable to: HSHS

Memo on check: Robert Vickery Homestead Project

Simply fill out our donation/pledge form and mail it to:

HSHS

605 Maywood Avenue

Green Bay, WI 54303

(Note: We are a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization, so your donation is tax deductible.

Option 2 – Pledge

Donations may be pledged. Simply fill out our donation/pledge form and mail it to:

HSHS

605 Maywood Avenue

Green Bay, WI 54303

Option 3 – In-Kind Services

If you would like to donate your services and/or materials, please call Tim Rasmussen at 434-3514.

If you have any additional questions, please call Tim Rasmussen at 434-3514.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING PRESERVE LOCAL HISTORY!!!!!!



Donation Request Form

YES, I want to help the Howard-Suamico Historical Society in the Robert Vickery Homestead barn restoration. Enclosed is my gift of:

- Co-Naming Level (\$25,000 & over)(Up to 3)
- Platinum (\$10,000 & over)
- Gold (5,000 & over)
- Silver (\$1,000 & over)
- Bronze (\$500 & over)

- Other, please specify amount \$_____

Make check payable to the
H-S Historical Society
605 Maywood Avenue
Green Bay, WI 54303

Name: _____ Phone No. _____
Address _____

It is important to preserve this historic building site not only for us but also for the education of our children and future generations

Note: We are a non-profit 501c, 3 organization. All donations are tax deductible.
(Over)