



Meeme House Inn Restoration

Be Part of the Next Chapter.

As immigrants came to Manitowoc County and roads became well traveled, stagecoach stops were built throughout the state. One of these stops, the Meeme House, still stands today. Built around 1855, the Meeme House Inn was located along the Green Bay Road. It was built by farmer and new immigrant, Michael Herr. The typical rate was around \$1 a day, which included supper, lodging, breakfast and feed and stabling for a team of horses. The building had several small overnight rooms, a tavern on the first floor and a large beautiful ballroom on the second. Voting also took place inside until a new poll house was built in 1900.

It has been said that during the Civil War a rally took place in the ballroom and the next day the Civil War volunteers walked to Manitowoc to join the unit. The Meeme House Inn was owned by the Herr family until 1906 when it was purchased by Peter DeGrott. DeGrott operated the Inn until 1909 when it was sold to Joe Schwartz. After Joe's death in 1947, his wife Minnie ran the tavern until 1955. The Meeme House Tavern was then passed on to their daughter, Valeria, and became well known as Sessler's Meeme House.

The Meeme House is similar to other stagecoach inns across Wisconsin including the Dousman Inn (Brookfield, 1843); the Hawks Inn (Delafield, 1846); the Wade House (Greenbush, 1850); and the Okauchee House (Okauchee, 1850-1851). The Meeme House Inn is the only site to have its original livery stable.

In October, 2013 the Manitowoc County Historical Society, a private non-profit organization, purchased the Sessler's Meeme House Inn property to preserve and share the stories of the structures.

The Meeme House Inn, and its outbuildings, will be restored to its glory in 1915, under the ownership of Joe Schwartz. The historic structure will serve as an interactive living history museum, where visitors of all ages can be transported back in time and discover the Meeme House Inn, its livery, and poll house, in operation.

After the culmination of years of planning and fundraising, the structure will now begin its next phase of restoration. This stagecoach inn, and its poll house and livery stable, is certain to bring great and lasting benefits both to the Museum's membership and the region it serves.

Creating and sustaining an experience like we offer at the Manitowoc County Historical Society is not without challenges. As with most non-profit organizations, we are understaffed, underfunded, and have to-do lists miles long. In order to continue providing the powerful, relevant experiences that visitors cannot find anywhere else, we are trusting in you. The truth is, none of this exists without your generous donations.

To make this dream a reality, we need you. The Meeme House Inn Restoration project needs your financial contributions to become a place where our history lives for today and generations to come. Together we can discover our past to dream our bright future.

MEET THE SCHWARTZ FAMILY



Joseph Schwartz was born in Meeme in 1872 and learned the carpenter trade, which he followed in connection with his tavern business in Meeme. In 1907 he married Minnie Wasmer. Joe and Minnie purchased the Meeme House Inn in 1909. Together, they operated the establishment through the stagecoach era and transformed it into a community civic center.

Joe passed away in 1947 and the Inn remained in the Schwartz family until his daughter, Valeria's, death in 2012.

(Pictured above: Schwartz Family, circa 1914)

1910 MEEME CENSUS

56	56	Joseph Schwartz Sr	Head	M	38	28
		Minnie	Wife	F	36	26
		Peter	Son	M	11	2
		Lorenz	Son	M	10	1
X		Sousmer of Chritina	Daughter	F	7	3
		Agnes	Grand daughter	F	11	8
		Robert	Grand Son	M	11	6
		Decla	Grand Daughter	F	10	3
57	57	Schwartz Joseph Jr	Head	M	37	27
		Minnie	Wife	F	35	25
		Wilhelmina	Daughter	F	7	3
		Gilbert	Son	M	11	1
		Clarence	Son	M	11	1/2
		Anna	Servant	F	11	14
58	58	DeWard Peter	Head	M	33	23
		Emma	Wife	F	31	21
		Lily	Daughter	F	7	18
		Laura	Daughter	F	11	7
		Hilda	Daughter	F	11	6
		Julia	Son	M	10	4
		Edna	Daughter	F	7	3

The 1910 census gives clues to the Schwartz's early beginnings at the Meeme House Inn. Joe and Minnie began their endeavor with 3 small children: Arlene (age 3), Gilbert (age 1), and Clarence (4 months). The family also enlisted the help of a servant, Anna Wasmer, Minnie's sister.

PROJECT BUDGET



Revenue (pending & secured)	Total Support/Revenue
Sale of Original Meeme Property Land	\$25,000.00
Individual contributions	\$638,030.00
Foundation/Corporate grants	\$546,000.00
Total Support/Revenue	\$1,209,030.00

Expenses	Total Expenses
Purchase of 5 acre Meeme Inn Property	\$66,000.00
Professional Architect fees	\$13,700.00
Demolition Work and Move Preparations	\$28,000.00
Eis Structure Movers (Meeme Inn Relocation)	\$156,330.00
Astro Log Homes (Livery Stable Relocation)	\$33,000.00
Equipment Purchases	\$8,000
Hammann Construction (Inn Restoration)	\$889,000.00
Contingency	\$15,000.00
Total Expenses	\$1,209,030.00

The Meeme House Inn will sustain its upkeep and needs with rental income and enhanced programming. Curriculum plans are developed for youth and family overnight experiences as well as opportunities for formal rentals in the historic tavern and ballroom.

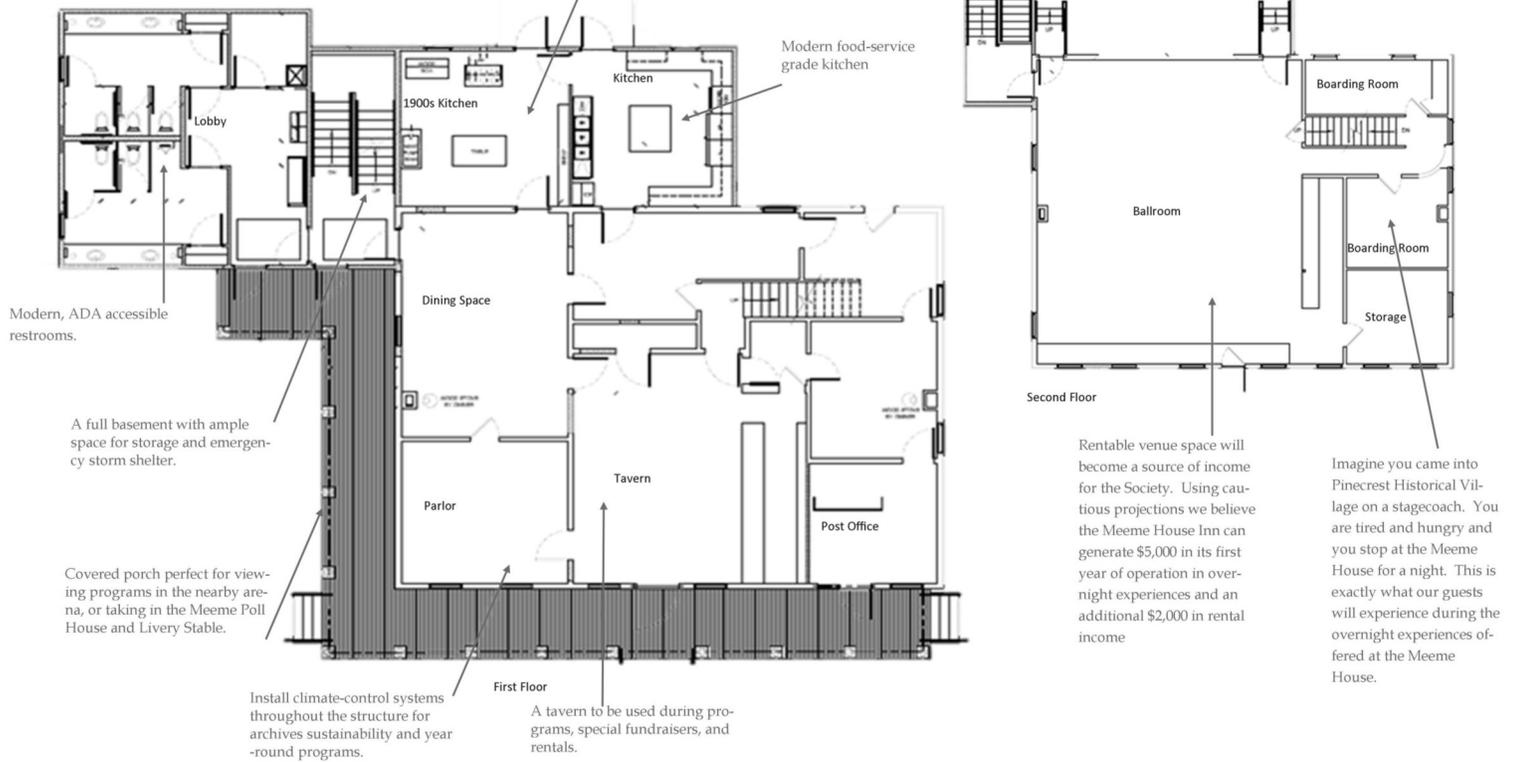
The restoration of the Meeme House Inn will follow 2 phases. The first phase will focus on the exterior. The Inn had 2 additional wings, which were not relocated with the structure. These sections will be added with new construction. One will house a restroom area, while the other will feature a 1900s kitchen and modern day kitchen. Windows will also be installed and siding placed around the structure to ensure its weather-proofing.

The second phase of the Inn's restoration will focus on interior needs. This will include the tavern, dining rooms, post office, and boarding rooms. Interior plans for the Meeme House Inn also include restrooms, archival storage space and an emergency storm shelter.

NEW WAYS TO EXPLORE

Our circa 1900 era kitchen inside the Inn will come to life. Not only will the guests be able to learn how to cook on a wood stove and pump water into the sink, they will also experience what it was like to run a kitchen at the turn of the century.

Beautiful hand-painted stage backdrops for a variety of small stage performances and activities.



RECOGNITION OF BELIEVERS

Gifts to the Meeme House Inn project will be acknowledged according to the following guidelines:

- All donors will be invited to the official grand opening celebration upon completion of the restoration.
- **\$5,000 or more** will be recognized inside the Meeme House Inn on a plaque as part of a display of artifacts found inside the structure during the restoration process.
- Donors also have the opportunity to sponsor a room in the Meeme House Inn. You can choose a room based on the donor categories below. As a room sponsor, you will work with Manitowoc County Historical Society staff to submit a period appropriate image to be displayed on the room's wall.

Entry Hall/Bar Room	\$200,000
Dining Room 1	\$90,000
Dining Room 2	\$140,000
Kitchen	\$115,000
Post Office	\$60,000
Ballroom & Stage	\$670,000
Bedroom 207	\$50,000
Bedroom 205	\$50,000

BECOME A BELIEVER

Name

Address

Phone

Please acknowledge my gift as from:

My gift of _____ will help bring the Meeme House Inn to life.

Please return to:
 Manitowoc County Historical Society
 924 Pinecrest Road
 Manitowoc, WI 54220



Manitowoc County Historical Society
924 Pinecrest Road
Manitowoc, WI 54220-3137

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Manitowoc, WI
Permit No. 388

**Follow Your
Support in
Motion!**
Like us on Facebook.
Follow @MantyCoHistory on
Twitter and Instagram.



LET THE SHOW BEGIN

One of the most notable aspects of the Meeme House Inn is the structure's second floor. In plan, it consists of three small lodging rooms, an open ballroom, and a stage area.

The Inn's stage includes a canvas stage curtain adorned with a painting of a rural landscape. A pair of Moorish columns are present in the foreground, while a small bridge straddles a stream leading back into a mountain range. The mountain denotes the Swiss Alps in a German countryside, while painted details such as the tasseled teaser along the top of the canvas, and a butterfly curtain (popular through the 1870's and 90's) date the mural from the late 1890's to the early 1900's. Behind this cover, the stage consists of several sliding canvas panels stretched over wooden frames with painted woodland scenes.