

# Touring Historical Whitewater

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## *A Guide to Whitewater Homes, Schools, Parks, and Cemeteries*



*Old City Hall Building (1899-1971)*

Front Cover: Whitewater's Old City Hall building once served as the center for City Offices, the Library, and Fire Department. Construction of the building, with Romanesque Revival Architecture, started in Nov. 1899. The building was dedicated in April 1900, and operated as Whitewater's City Hall until 1960s before being demolished in August 1971. Image courtesy of the Irvin L. Young Library.

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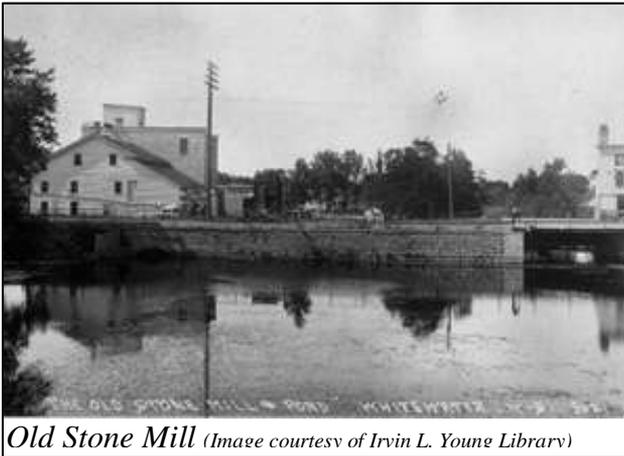
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## City of Whitewater ~ A Brief History

Whitewater received its name from a tribe of Potawatomi Native Americans that had settled along the Whitewater River (known today as the Whitewater Creek). The name Wau-be-gan-naw-po-cat, meaning “white water,” was given to the area due to the white sands which lay at the bottom of the creek.

The Whitewater area was first settled in 1836, when Alvin Foster made his first stake on the land by marking his name on a tree. In 1837, Samuel Prince built the first log cabin near the current site of Whitewater’s



*Old Stone Mill (Image courtesy of Irvin L. Young Library)*

Indian Mounds Park. After a six day trip on foot, 20 settlers arrived here from Milwaukee and started the early makings of

Whitewater. It was not until 1839, with Dr. Trippe’s donation of money for the Old Stone Mill, that Whitewater started to grow. The mill helped to create the new industrial hub of Whitewater.

Three main arteries, Whitewater, Main and Center Streets were laid out in 1840. In 1852, the first railway

to cross Wisconsin laid its tracks through Whitewater, spurring industrial growth. Winchester and DeWolf Plow Factory (1850), Esterly Reaper Works (1857), and Winchester and Partridge Wagon Works (1860) were some of Walworth County's first and biggest industries.



*Whitewater's Main Street*

*(Image courtesy of Irvin L. Young Library)*

The Esterly Reaper Works was the largest employer in the 1880's, employing 525. Esterly employees built homes close to the

factory on the east side of the city; hence, the surrounding area became known as "Reaperville." Various industries fueled Whitewater's growth until 1892 when the Esterly Reaper Works moved to Minnesota and the Wagon Works shut down, thus marking the end of Whitewater's first industrial era.

With the loss of two major industries, Whitewater lost one quarter of its population and did not regain its 1890 population level until 1950. During the World Wars and the Great Depression Whitewater relied on small trade and industries to sustain its economy. Agricultural products, including eggs, farm produce, cheese, dairy products, livestock and small game, made

up 66 percent of Whitewater's trade at the time,.  
Meanwhile, the Whitewater Normal School (which later evolved into the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater) went about its business of training teachers. The School made several changes through years, including diversifying their studies. After World War II, veterans returning from war boosted enrollment, sending this school well on its way to becoming the University it is today. Between the University and the manufacturing and service industries we have today, Whitewater has seen many changes. Whitewater looks forward to this century and what the future has in store . . .

## Bassett House ~ 708 W. Main Street



*Image courtesy of Irvin L. Young Library*

This Italianate-style house built in 1857 has many decorative details including a bracketed frieze and bay window with mansard roof, brackets, modillion blocks, and keystones. The rear wing was added in 1878. The Thomas Bassett family lived in the house for 70 years. Since 1928 it has been the home of the Federation of Women's Clubs.

## W. DeWolf House ~ 707-709 W. Main Street



*Photograph by R. Alan Luckett*

This late-Italianate home was built in 1873 by William DeWolf. DeWolf joined Winchester as business partners in a plow company. In 1867, DeWolf sold his share of the business to a Mr. John Partridge. The company then became Whitewater Wagon Works. After selling his share of the plow business, DeWolf went on to own a local hardware store.

## Engbretsen-Dorr ~ 622 W. Main Street



*Photograph by R. Alan Luckett*

This Queen Anne-style house was built in 1895. Edward Engbretsen was a dry goods merchant, as well as Whitewater's first Treasurer and second Mayor. John Dorr, who worked as the head of the Electric Company's sales department, was his son-in law. This was the first house in Whitewater to be wired for electricity. The house is now the Victoria on Main Bed and Breakfast. An urn given from the original builder to the Engbretsens still sits on a pedestal in the home.

## G. W. Esterly House ~ 604 W. Main Street



*Photograph by R. Alan Luckett*

Built in 1876, this late Italianate house was owned by G. W. Esterly (son of George Esterly, founder of Esterly Reaper Works). The house was designed by H.C. Koch, a well known architect from Milwaukee. Of special interest is the art glass in the inside foyer. It was later the home of Frank Hyer, President of the Teacher's College (UW-Whitewater). The carriage house that sat behind the house has now been converted to a house.

## Winchester House ~ 532 W. Main Street



*Photograph by R. Alan Luckett*

This Italianate-style house was built in 1851 by Nelson Salisbury. Winchester, the original owner of the house, was the founder of the Winchester and Partridge Wagon Works Co. (which was located on Whitewater St. near the corner of Center St). The house was also owned by prominent business man, Mr. Dadmun, who was owner of the local feed mill. Currently the house is used for Meyer's Chiropractic Office and student housing.

## Sanger Marsh House ~ W. 522 Main Street



*Photograph by R. Alan Luckett*

This early Italianate-style house was built in 1861 by Nelson Salisbury and is thought to be the most intact house of this architectural style in the City of Whitewater. The house was at one time owned by Henry Kiser who lived upstairs and had his law office downstairs. Originally this house, along with many along Main Street, stood on a 9 1/2 acre lot extending back to what is now Starin Road.

## Leon Pescheret House ~ 521 W. Main Street



*Photograph by R. Alan Luckett*

This Tudor Revival-style house was built in 1912 by Mr. Littlejohn. It was originally owned by Johnny Ohlnhaus who was a barber downtown. It became the home of Leon Pescheret, Whitewater's well-known artist and color etcher. Originally born in London, England, Pescheret moved here in 1910 and into this house in 1930. Pescheret renovated the home in the late 1930's and is now the site of Mercy Medical Rehabilitation Center.

## J.J. Starin House ~ 507 W. Main Street



*Image courtesy of Station 13*

This Greek Revival-style house was built in 1860 by Mr. Parker and later sold to Jacob Starin. The house was remodeled in 1912 and 1924. In 1920, the fanlight-topped French doors and large veranda were added by owner, Sander Hoyum. The first floor was an elegant restaurant – The Green Shutters. This site was the first Sunday School site in Whitewater in 1841. Today it is the site of Mercy Whitewater Medical Clinic.

## **Kinney-Coxe House ~ 504 W. Main Street**



*Photograph by R. Alan Luckett*

This house was built in 1851. It features a Greek Revival-style with Second Empire and Italianate alterations. Mrs. Rosepha Trippe lived here. The Northeast corner of this lot features the “Territorial Oak.” A pair of trees called the “Territorial Oaks,” used as survey reference points in 1836, were once found here. The Rosepha Trippe property also had the first log school built on it in 1840.

## **T.D. Weeks / Hall House ~ 452 W. Main Street**



*Photograph by R. Alan Luckett*

The house was originally built in 1849 in the Greek Revival-style for S. C. Hall, a merchant and packing plant owner. A large addition was added in 1879 to the west side of the home, taking on a Second Empire style with Italianate elements. The elegant frame entry porch on the south façade was a later addition. It is now the current site of Harrison, Williams, and McDonell Law Offices.

## Newton M. Littlejohn ~ 429 W. Main Street



*Image courtesy of Nancy and Jerry Wendt*

The Littlejohn house was built in 1859 for Mr. Littlejohn who was a lumberman, land investor, and Whitewater's first village President. The house, while once owned by the First English Lutheran Church, was used as a Parish House where Sunday School classes were held. The house is a cream brick with Italianate details. It is decorated with brackets, an elaborate bay window, oculus windows, and an Italianate porch.

## Hamilton House ~ 328 W. Main Street



*Photograph by R. Alan Luckett*

This Second Empire-style House, with alterations from the Queen Anne-style, was built in 1861 and served as part of the Underground Railroad. The house was significantly enlarged in 1881 and Queen Anne-style details were added in the 1890s. The house has had several owners: 1860's-Posey, 1894-Smith and McKey, 1903- Herbert and Ella Hamilton, 1950's - a fraternity where actor and comedian John Belushi once lived. In 1991, the Alexander Company did a major restoration. In 1994 the Anderson's opened it as a B & B. The house is now owned by Jim and Kathy Fleming who operate the Hamilton Bed and Breakfast.

## Nelson Salisbury House ~ 404 W. North Street



*Photograph by R. Alan Luckett*

Nelson Salisbury settled in Whitewater in 1856. Prior to that he lived in New York and worked as a steersman on the Delaware and Hudson Canal. He also worked as a laborer for Prosper Cravath in New York. He moved here in 1841 working as a farmer, banker, and eventually builder. He built three of Whitewater's finest homes: the Sanger Marsh home, the Winchester home and in 1874 this Italianate style residence. Salisbury lived in the house until his death in 1880.

## Fetherston House ~ 113 North Street



*Photograph by R. Alan Lockett*

The area, where this home is located, used to be the ice skating rink and Whitewater's "Old Swimming Hole" where boys were allowed to swim one day and girls the next. High banks kept the water pooled for swimming. The area was filled in thereby creating the two streams that flow on either side of the property. The house was moved to this site from its original location on Center Street, where the Whitewater Post Office is now located. Dr. Mumma owned the house while at the Center Street location, whereas Mr. Fetherston, who ran the Grist Mill owned it at its North Street location.

## **Klinger House ~ 220 N. Jefferson Street**



*Photograph by R. Alan Luckett*

The Klinger House, also known as the Brewmeister House, was built in 1855 and is a fine example of Greek Revival-style. The house had a tunnel that led from the south wall of the basement to the north wall of the old brewery that was located next door. It is believed that the owner had the tunnel dug because he disliked walking through inclement weather. The tunnel has since been filled in. Dave Williams, whose family has been in the area for four generations is the current owner.

## Pleger House ~ 240 N. Jefferson Street



*Photograph by R. Alan Luckett*

The first land owner in Whitewater was William Birge. In 1839, Birge owned 80 acres. The next year Birge sold the farm to George Wilson, who built the house in 1840. In 1845 the house was sold to Asaph Potts. Later, this house was known as the Chicago House since owner Ms. Pleger spent much time in Chicago. The house was designed to help the Underground Railroad and, although the house is not open to the public, the tunnel is still there today.

## Melster Pop Factory ~ 147 N. George Street



*Photograph by R. Alan Luckett*

From the 1880's until 1905, this house was the site of the Melster Pop Factory which produced many flavors of pop. The company was mainly a bottling and delivery service although kids from the area remember going there to get a bottle of pop. In 1898 Melster was credited for inventing a bottle stopper to seal a bottle. The factory was later sold to Schmitt Brothers and after that converted into two apartments.

## Lyman Wight Octagon ~ 127 N. Newcomb Street



*Photograph by R. Alan Luckett*

Built in 1862, this Octagon House was an architectural innovation promoted as an economical and functional home. The Wight House is a small, two-story frame structure with wide overhanging eaves, a carved frieze, and brackets. The house was built for Lyman Wight, an inventor who worked at the Esterly Reaper Works. Octagon houses are quite rare, and this example is of special note because of its small size.

## Zimmerman House ~ 157 N. Newcomb Street



*Photograph by R. Alan Luckett*

This house was built by Mr. Lohmiller for Mr. William Farmer. The house was built with the prospect of a rail line going through the area; and that rooms could be rented by railroad workers. The railroad didn't come until later, but the rooms ended up being rented out to Esterly Workers. In the first half of the 1900, the first floor was a grocery store.

## Carlsen House ~ 840 E. Main Street



*Photograph by R. Alan Luckett*

This house was built in the 1850s. In 1872, Christen Carlson and his wife Nelly Pederson moved here from Sweden. He was a plasterer and wallpaperer. Later, he was a janitor at the Eastside School. The house has had alterations in 1870-80's (a kitchen), 1950's (enclosed porch), and in the 1970's. The house is owned by the Therrian family since 1983. This area was known as Reaperville since most of the houses were owned by Esterly Reaperworks employees.

## Dorr House ~ 208 S. Wisconsin Street



*Image courtesy of Dick and Pam Kraus*

This house was owned by the town's blacksmith, Tim Dorr. Some time later, the house became the Ted Johnson Grocery Store until the 1960s. Since the 1970s it has been the Floral Villa flower and gift shop, owned by Dick and Pam Kraus.

## Birge House ~ 409 S. Whiton Street



*Photograph by R. Alan Luckett*

This home, built in the 1840s, was once owned by William Birge, an early Whitewater settler. William Birge was the father of Julius Birge. The Birge fountain located on Whitewater's Main Street, was donated to the City in honor of the birth of Julius Birge. Mr. Erwin Castle, who worked at the condensery, bought the house in 1939 for \$1900. The house is now owned by Vernon Castle. The house was remodeled extensively in the 1980s.

## Coppins House ~ 123 S. Church Street



*Photograph by R. Alan Luckett*

This house was once owned by George and Jane Coppins. George was an undertaker. Jane later helped start the Skindingsrude Funeral Home. She had an agreement with Skindingsrude to look at her shades each day. If they were up, she was fine; if they were down, he was to check on her. One day the shades were down, he checked on her, and she had passed away. Currently, the building is the home of the First English Lutheran Church Thrift Shop.

## Smith -Allen House ~ 445 W. Center Street



*Photograph by R. Alan Luckett*

Built in 1856, this house features a three-story tower in the Italian Villa-style. The house was built by Porter and Hunter, local builders, for E. A. Smith, a local merchant. Other owners include: Nathan Allen, a lumberman, and Teacher's College (UW-Whitewater) President Robert Williams. It was once restored by Galen and Rose Smith.

## Humphrey-Ambrose House ~ 724 W. Center Street



*Photograph by R. Alan Lockett*

This stately Queen Anne-style house was originally owned by Haywood Humphrey, owner of the Century Pen Company. The house was later the boyhood home of author/historian Stephen E. Ambrose. It was built between 1887–1892. The house retains many elegant structural and decorative features typical of this style. The house features original beveled glass windows and an embossed metal fireplace facing.

## McCready House ~ 727 W. Center Street



*Photograph by R. Alan Luckett*

This High Victorian Italianate-style home was built in 1877. Charles Stowers, a Methodist minister, purchased the home in 1877 for \$700. In 1880, he sold it to Orlando Gallt. Gallt was involved in the mercantile business and paid \$4,000 for the property. The basement still has a dirt floor coal room and the exterior and interior trim is original. The property has been owned by William Birge, Ansel Salisbury, Timothy Abbott and Harold Anderson.

## Partridge House ~ 745 W. Center Street



*Photograph by R. Alan Luckett*

This Italianate-style house was built by John and Henrietta Partridge in 1856. Partridge migrated to Whitewater in 1846 and set up a mercantile business. From 1857 to 1892 he was a partner in the Winchester and Partridge Manufacturing Co., which made popular wagons, including the “Whitewater Wagon.” This large double-bricked house is topped with two widow walks, and has two white marble and two black slate fireplaces.

## F. J. Starin Mansion ~ 131 N. Fremont Street



*Photograph by R. Alan Luckett*

The firm of Cook, Roseman, and Kjujn built this home for civil engineer and land speculator Frederick Starin, who remodeled it in 1878. Originally a two-story cream brick house which became much larger when a mansard roof was added to a third story, making a fourth floor ballroom. Once used as student housing, the mansion was restored by Dan and Jean Sable and is now known as the “Sable House.”

## Starin/Converse House ~ 161 N. Fremont Street



*Photograph by R. Alan Luckett*

F.J. Starin built this two story, yellow brick Italianate-style house in 1869 for use by his daughter, Margaret, and son-in-law, Elliot Converse. In 1877 Elliot Converse left town and Margaret returned to the Starin Mansion, owned by her Father. Her Father paid the taxes on 161 Fremont Street after 1877. The front porch was added to the home in the 1880s. Note the three ranked façade openings with two front doors and lovely fan lights.

## Dahlen/Brigham Home ~ 166 N. Fremont Street



*Photograph by R. Alan Luckett*

This two story white frame Queen Anne-style home was originally built by Edward Dahlen sometime between 1885 and 1891. Edward Dahlen, a Norwegian immigrant, came to Whitewater to work for George Esterly. The Brigham family has lived in the home for over 50 years. There is a 3-story tower at the left corner of the front façade, and at Christmastime there is a Christmas tree displayed in each of the tower windows.

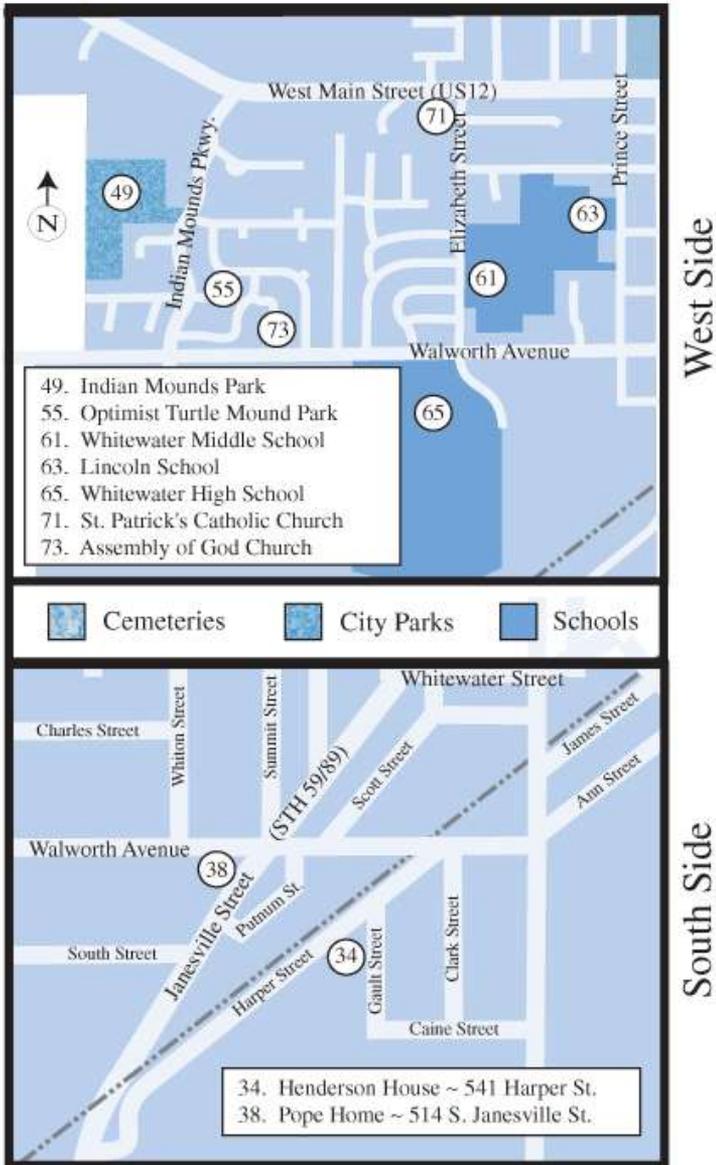
## Henderson House ~ 541 Harper Street



*Photograph by R. Alan Luckett*

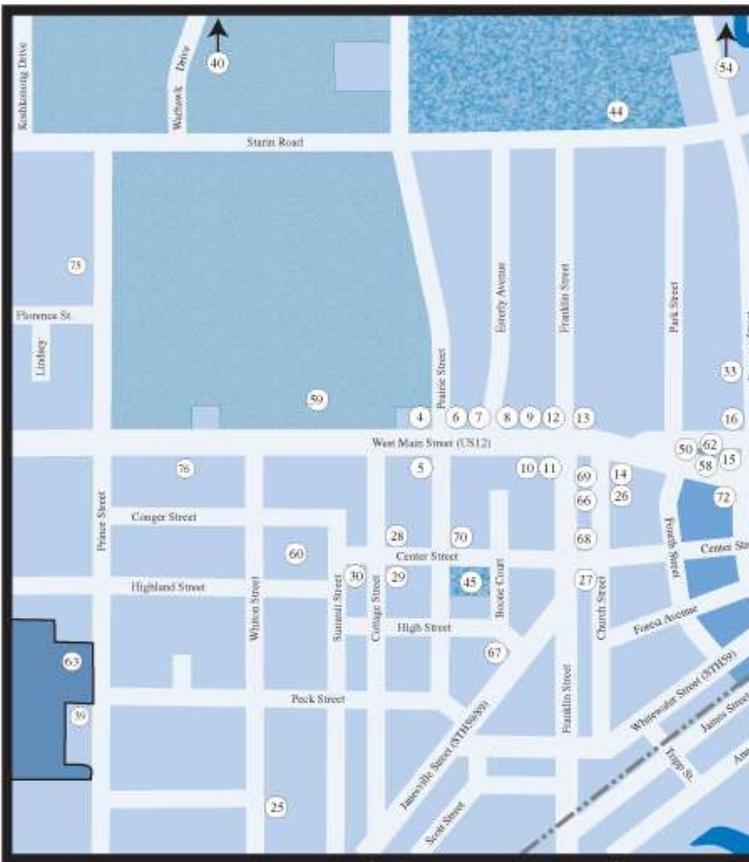
The Henderson House was built in 1859. It was used as the high school from 1883-1885 where twelve students were instructed by Odie Ewing. The Henderson family has lived there since 1902 and has owned the property since 1908. The land was originally purchased from the U.S. Government in 1839 by Asaph Pratt as a 640 acre plot. Various lots were sold off through the years including a 1 acre lot for \$125 to the new railroad in 1852.

## Whitewater ~ Map of South & West Sides



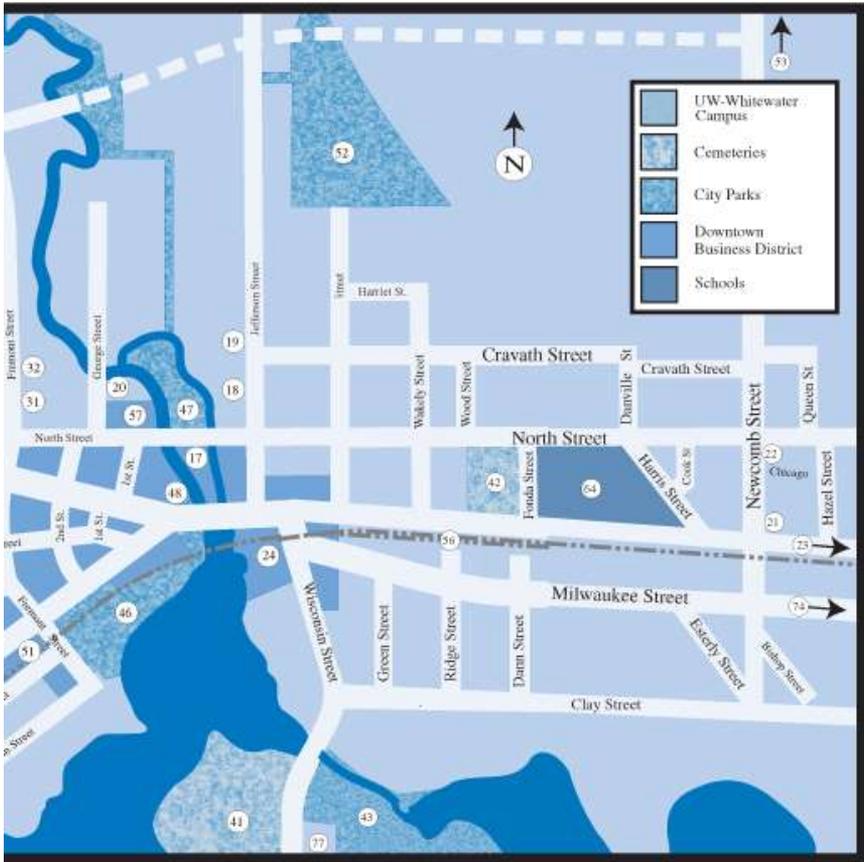
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# Historical Tour Map



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Pope Home ~ 514 S. Janesville Street



*Photograph by R. Alan Luckett*

Built in the 1860s, this house was originally a residence but is now used as offices. The current owner, Craig Pope, is restoring the house to its original state. A front and back porch as well as a back addition have been removed. The limestone basement has been restored. The original brick carriage house that stood behind the house will be replicated. The house has original trim, décor, and floors.

## Portman Home ~ 302 S. Prince Street



*Photograph by R. Alan Luckett*

This house, built in 1851, was owned at one time by “Daddy” Tice and his emphysema-stricken wife. It served as a boarding house for 7 to 8 female practicing teachers who rented the upstairs. In lieu of paying board, the teachers would take care of “Daddy” Tice’s wife. There have been 3 additions: changing the front door location, then an addition of a bedroom, kitchen, and indoor bathroom, and then a 3-season room. The house is currently owned by Penny Portman.

## Calvary Cemetery



*Photograph by R. Alan Luckett*

Lucinda and Nelson Fryer donated this land in 1865 intending it to be the Catholic Cemetery. In 1914, the Calvary Cemetery Association was formed to improve the grounds. Among the improvements was a stone gateway entrance. In 1960, they sold 4 acres of land for \$16,000 to the State of Wisconsin to build two dormitories. Calvary Cemetery is one of two private cemeteries located within an American university campus.

# Hillside Cemetery



*Image courtesy of the Irvin L. Young Library*

The land for Hillside Cemetery was purchased in May 1858. The chapel was built in the summer of 1897. In the Fall of 1914, perpetual care of the lots was established. William Hewitt designed the new archway at Hillside Cemetery. It was constructed on August 23, 1919 of massive columns of Waukesha limestone bearing the name “Hillside.” It was developed into “park-like” grounds with trees and curvilinear roads in the tradition of later nineteenth century cemeteries in the United States.

## Oak Grove Cemetery



*Photograph by R. Alan Luckett*

The Oak Grove Cemetery was plotted by Jarvis Pike, Asaph Pratt and Asad Williams in 1842 after Dr. James Trippe donated the land. Dr. Trippe was the second person to be buried there in 1844. Soon after, the land surrounding it was developed with homes. This necessitated laying out the Cemetery in 1858. Mr. George Esterly erected the archway to the cemetery in 1884. Many civil war markers can be found here.

## Trippe Lake Park



*Photograph by R. Alan Luckett*

Trippe Lake Park was dedicated as a City Park in 1958. The lake was named in honor of Dr. James and Rosepha Trippe, credited as being the founders of the city in 1839. Trippe Lake was formed as a result of a dam that was constructed to power a saw`mill. Trippe Lake served as the swimming area for the city for many years.

## Starin Park



*Image courtesy of the Irvin L. Young Library*

Starin Park was established 1888 and is one of the oldest recognized parks in Wisconsin. It houses the 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest operating municipal water tower in the state which was built in 1889. The park provided housing for veterans during and after WWII and has hosted many celebrations and events. It has a Veteran's War Memorial honoring area servicemen. Starin Park's Community Building, built in 1934 and rebuilt after a fire in 1998, provides a community meeting place and hosts "Seniors in the Park".

## Big Brick Park



*Image courtesy of the Irvin L. Young Library*

Big Brick Park was acquired by the City in 2001 from the Whitewater Unified School District. It was the site of Union School which was built 1853-1854. In 1883, a combination high school and elementary school was built on this site known as “Big Brick.” A high school program began in 1885 and the “Big Brick” school operated until it burned down in 1928. The basement had a very short ceiling and in stoking the furnace too high, the timbers caught fire.

## Cravath Lakefront Park



*Image of Mike Stumpf*

Cravath Lakefront is truly the “silk purse from a sow’s ear!” In the 1990s, faced with environmental issues, the City opted to create an open space to encourage visitors to the downtown area. A history that included being a dump site, oil tank storage, candle factory and other industrial uses is now being rewritten as the lakefront hosting celebrations, concerts, and weddings. The Lakefront Center was designed to resemble our historic depot.

## Brewery Hill Park



*Image courtesy of the Irvin L. Young Library*

This park received its name from a brewery that once stood on top of the hill. In 1859, George Streng established a brewery on the corner of North and Jefferson Street which became known as Brewery Hill. It was a popular sledding hill. In the winter, the city would close the street and allow children to sled down it. The park now features a multi-purpose trail and the Whitewater Rotary Skate Park.

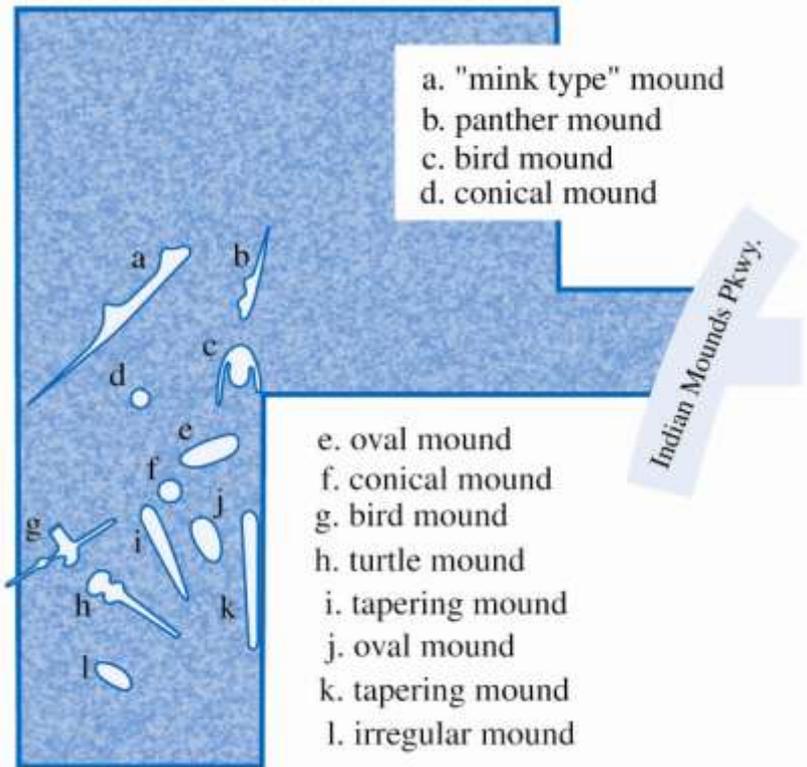
# Mill Race Park



*Image courtesy of the Irvin L. Young Library*

A chance meeting between Asaph Pratt and Dr. J. Trippe led to the raising of a mill on Whitewater Creek in 1839. It provided the settlers with their biggest needs: flour and grain products. Men from LaGrange, Milton and Fort Atkinson provided labor. It was around this mill that the Village of Whitewater grew up. William Birge purchased the mill in 1853 and added on in 1856. The mill operated as the Old Stone Mill until the 1960s.

# Indian Mounds Park



*Image by Mike Stumpf*

One of the largest collections of effigy mounds in the country, numbering 12 to 15, are found near Indian Mounds Parkway. They were built between 800 A.D. and 1200 A.D. The oldest mounds are geometric shapes and the more recent ones resemble animal shapes ranging in size from 60 to 300 feet. Studies suggest that these mounds were a gathering place for several Midwestern Native American tribes. Samuel Prince, Whitewater's first settler, built a log cabin in this area.

# Birge Fountain Library Park



*Image courtesy of the Irvin L. Young Library*

This park, also known as Flat Iron Park, is home to the Birge Fountain, which was donated to the city by Julius Birge. The fountain is 17½' high and 9' in diameter. Julius required that the fountain be placed on the little brick school site where he learned to read and write. The war memorial, located near the point, was erected in 1922 to recognize soldiers of all wars. This site also housed the City Library from 1908 until 1991.

## Whitewater Passenger Depot



*Image courtesy of the Irvin L. Young Library*

This unusual railroad depot suggests Victorian Gothic and Queen Anne architectural styles. In 1890, noted Madison architect, J. T. W. Jennings, designed this brick depot. In 1852 it was the first rail line to cross Wisconsin. In the early 1900s a minimum of 4 freight and 4 passenger trains went through daily, with as many as 30 trains recorded daily. Since 1974 the depot has been the Whitewater Historical Society Museum.

## Hospital Hill ~ 418 E. Cravath St.



*Image courtesy of the Fred Kraege*

This area was also known as Ole Bull Park, named for a Norwegian violinist who performed a concert in 1868. The \$88 proceeds from the concert were used to purchase this land for the Norwegian Church. The Norwegian Lutheran Church building was bought in 1908 by Charles Martin who razed it and built the Whitewater Hospital. He then bought the adjacent land to use as a park for his patients. In 1925 the hospital was destroyed by a fire.

# Moraine View Park



*Image courtesy of Community Development Authority*

This park was established in 2000. It has more than 45 acres and is located in the Whitewater Business Park on the east side of the city. This park is designed to accommodate active play and leisure strolls through native plants. In the future it will include restrooms, designated play fields, a small orchard and a pet exercise area.

## Whitewater Creek Conservancy Area



*Photograph by R. Alan Luckett*

This park area, located on North Fremont Street, was adopted by the University Optimist Club which actively participates in its planning and development. Currently the Optimists are coordinating the development of trails, and the planting of native grasses and flowers. The park consists of close to 60 acres of wetlands, woods, a small prairie planting project and a pet exercise area.

## Optimist Turtle Mound Park



*Photograph by R. Alan Luckett*

This neighborhood “mini-park” was developed in 1994 and is located in the Mound Park Acres residential development. This park’s emphasis is on free play and “pick-up” sports. The Optimist Club helped raise funds, planned, designed and developed this park.

## Washington School Footbridge



*Image courtesy of the Irvin L Young Library*

The Washington School Footbridge was built in the 1880s. Previous to the footbridge being built, there had been steps that went down one bank of the tracks and then up the other. Mr. Soby wanted his handicapped son to be able to cross the tracks safely, so he generously donated the land where the bridge would then be constructed. Finally, with permission from the railroad company, the city built the footbridge over the railroad tracks.

## Whitewater Armory ~ 146 W. North Street



*Image courtesy of the Irvin L Young Library*

The Whitewater National Guard Armory was built in 1940 by a WPA Labor Group. Total cost for construction was \$30,000. It served as the National Guard Armory until 1992 when the new National Guard Armory was built in the Whitewater Business Park. During WWII, when driving was restricted, the Chamber of Commerce ran dances here that were a popular recreational activity. The building was also leased out three months of the year for roller skating.

## White Memorial Building ~ 402 W. Main Street



*Image courtesy of the Irvin L Young Library*

This Neo-classical Revival building of 1903 was designed by Claude and Starck. It was built with private funds be quested by Mrs. Mary Flavia White in the amount of \$17,000. It served as the public library from 1904 until 1992 when the new Irvin L. Young Public Library was built. The building now houses offices for the Chamber of Commerce, Tourism, Cable TV Station 13, and the Whitewater Community Development Authority.

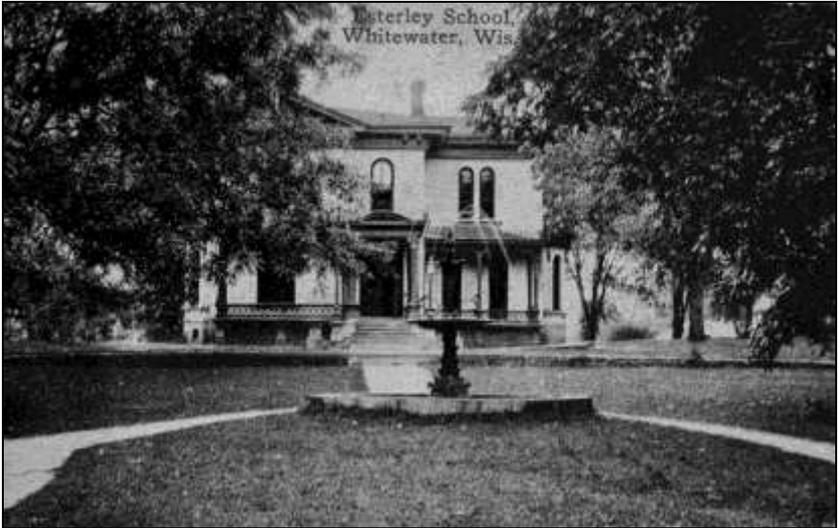
**University of Wisconsin-Whitewater ~  
800 W. Main Street**



*Image courtesy of the Irvin L. Young Library*

Founded in 1868, this school was first known as the Whitewater Normal School. It was the first normal school in the state to grant a 4-year degree. It has had many name changes: in 1927-the Whitewater State Teacher's College, in 1954- Wisconsin State College of Whitewater, in 1964- Wisconsin State University-Whitewater, and finally in 1971 took its current name University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

## Esterly School Site ~ W. Center & S. Whiton Streets



*Image courtesy of the Irvin L. Young Library*

This was originally the site of George Esterly's Home. It was purchased by the city in 1894 for \$10,001.00. The home then became the Esterly School for Kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade until 1927. In 1927-1928, a new high school was built on this site, known as City High. It was nearing completion just as the High School known as "Big Brick" had its fire. City High was at this site until 1960, when it then became the Whitewater Middle School. The building was razed in 1999.

## **Middle School ~ 401 S. Elizabeth Street**



*Photograph by R. Alan Luckett*

This school was originally built in 1960-1961 and was called Whitewater High School. The first addition was added on in 1962. The first class graduated in 1964. In 1993 a new High School was built and with some modifications, this became the site of the Whitewater Middle School.

## Little Brick School Site ~ 402 W. Main Street



*Image courtesy of the Irvin L. Young Library*

A 15' x 18' log cabin built in 1842 was the first school in the area and was built by volunteers with all donated materials. It was located on this park site which was at that time the Rosepha Trippe property. The property extended from 402 to 504 West Main Street and extended north to Starin Park. In 1844, Little Brick School was built to replace the log cabin. The new brick school was 24' x 28' in size. The bricks were purchased for \$440 from the east side. Union School replaced this school in 1853-1854. The Birge Fountain now sits on this site.

## **Lincoln School ~ 242 S. Prince Street**



*Photograph by R. Alan Luckett*

This elementary school opened its doors in 1953. It was known as the West Side School. In the 1960's they had a naming contest for both this school and the East Side School. It was decided that they should both be named for U.S. Presidents.

## Washington School ~ 506 E. Main Street



*Photograph by R. Alan Luckett*

In 1857, this was the East Side School. It was originally made of wood and was replaced with bricks in 1872. One of the first reconstructions and memories of this building was the addition of a fire chute that came from the second floor. The first kids down hated the fire drills, since they would get all the cobwebs in their face coming down the chute. In the 1960's, it became known as Washington School. It has had reconstructions in 1955, 1963, 1970, and 2001.

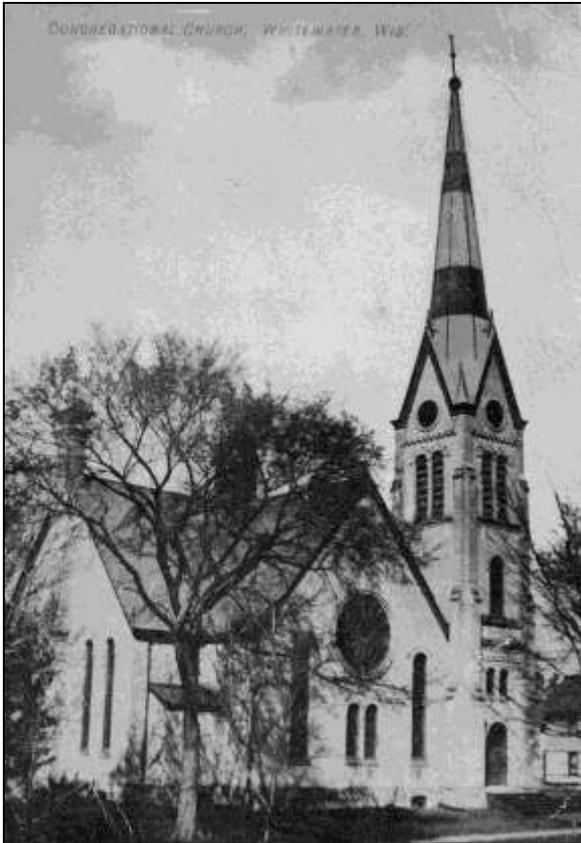
## **Whitewater High School ~ 534 S. Elizabeth Street**



*Photograph by R. Alan Luckett*

The Whitewater High School was built in 1993. Private funds were solicited for the auditorium, ball fields, lighting, and educational tree-way. The Whitewater Aquatic Center was constructed in 2001, an effort by an organization SWIM, the city and the school district. Mercy Health System took over operations in 2002 and they added The Mercy Fitness Center in 2004.

## Congregational Church ~ 130 S. Church Street



*Image courtesy of the Irvin L. Young Library*

In 1840, about 15 people decided to form the first church in the area under Rec. Daniel Smith. In 1843, the first church was built on land bought from Dr. James Trippe. By 1850, and again in 1871, new and larger churches were constructed on this same site. A fire destroyed the building in 1881 and the present building was finished in 1882 and 1923. The 85-foot steeple atop the church can be seen for some distance.

## **Whitewater Bible Church ~ 511 W. High Street**



*Photograph by R. Alan Luckett*

In 1934 this church began its worship services on Janesville Street under Rev. Paul E. Sisco. A year later, the Church was officially organized and given its name. The building was purchased in 1946 under Rev. Russell Clark. Since its organization the Church has been affiliated with The Independent Fundamental Churches of America. The parsonage was built in 1957 under Rev. Oliver Langmade.

## St. Luke's Episcopal ~ 146 S. Church Street



*Image courtesy of the Irvin L. Young Library*

In 1852, St. Luke's Episcopal Church became a legal entity after ten years of worship under Fathers Philo and Cadle. The church's present site and building was bought from Dr. James Trippe and was consecrated by Rev. Bishop Kemper in 1852. The church was renovated and a bell was added in 1867. Disaster struck in 1869 when a fire destroyed the church. A new church, the current one, was built in November of that same year.

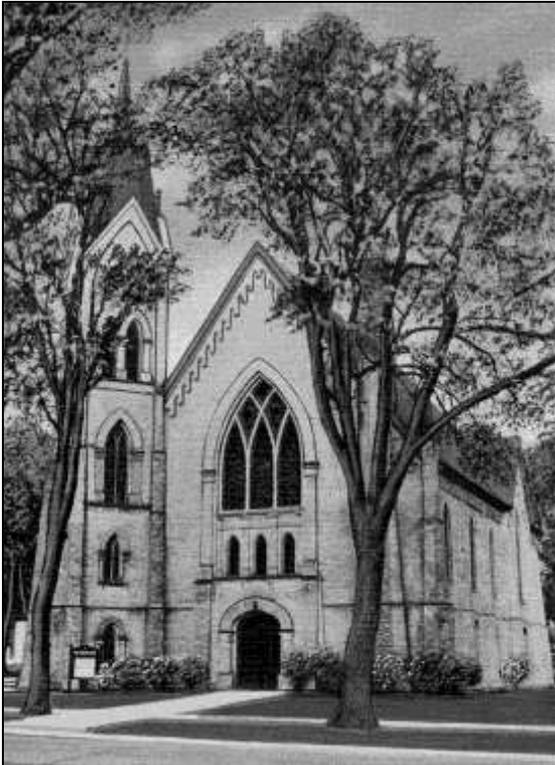
**Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. John ~  
116 S. Church Street**



*Photograph by R. Alan Luckett*

While the earliest beginnings date to the mid-1850's, 1865 is considered to be the birth of this Church. In 1872, the German Lutheran congregation purchased this church from the Methodists. (This had been the Methodists' first church) The building was remodeled in 1885. Services were conducted in both German and English in the early 1900's. German services ended around 1940.

## Methodist Church ~ 145 S. Prince Street



*Image courtesy of the Irvin L. Young Library*

In 1843 the first services were held in member's homes and occasionally the Congregational Church. In 1851, the First Methodist Church was built. This building was later purchased by St. John's Evangelical in 1872 when the Methodists built their present church. Improvements were made over the years including switching oil lamps to electricity (1896). The first Parsonage was built in 1940 and the second was purchased in 1960.

## St. Patrick's Catholic ~ 1235 W. Main Street



*Image courtesy of the Irvin L. Young Library*

In 1843, Fathers Kundig and Morrisey came from Milwaukee to offer mass in the Bluffs. The first Catholic Church was built in 1853 with Father J. Doyle as pastor. When a new church was dedicated in 1867, the old church was moved and converted to a school, operating until 1906. The Parish was incorporated in 1883 under State laws. Under Father T. Berry, a new landsite was purchased in 1955. The newest structure was dedicated in 1958.

## First English Lutheran ~ 401 W. Main Street



*Image courtesy of the Irvin L. Young Library*

This church was officially organized in 1858. Services were held in various places such as Bower's Hall, a school house in Library Park, and in the East Side School. In 1869, after the Norwegian congregation was organized, a small white church was built on Cravath Street (Ole Bull Park). Masses were held here until 1908, when the current First English Lutheran Church was bought from the Baptists. This church was built in 1886.

## Assembly of God ~ 1540 W. Walworth Avenue



*Photograph by R. Alan Luckett*

The Assembly of God church in Whitewater was established in 1953 by Melvin A. Graham and organized in 1959 after the Wisconsin/Northern Michigan District of the Assemblies of God purchased the property in 1956. The church added on twice -- most recently adding a new 200 seat sanctuary in 1970. Along with the sanctuary the church has a fellowship hall, large activity area, classrooms and offices. In 1999 the church hired its 11th pastor in 47 years of ministry.

**Whitewater Community Church ~  
W8231 Highway 12**



*Photograph by R. Alan Luckett*

This is one of the youngest churches in Whitewater, having begun in the spring of 1986. It started service in the American Legion Hall and then moved to the University's Roseman Auditorium in September 1986. In four years that followed, the church grew to an average of 220 attendees. In January of 1991 the church built in new facility on the corner of Highway 12 and P on the eastside of Whitewater.

**Calvary Lutheran Church and University Chapel ~  
234 N. Prince Street**



*Photograph by R. Alan Luckett*

This church has been in Whitewater since August 1, 1966. It has served students and the community from its building on Prince Street, which was dedicated on September 24, 1967. Its first pastor was Robert C. Boedecker. Currently it is served by Pastor David Emmrich.

**The Sanctuary & The Church of the First Born ~  
921 W. Main Street**



*Photograph by R. Alan Luckett*

The Sanctuary is a Christian Ministerial Training Center that has approximately 25 rooms, 12 of which are warmly decorated for overnight lodging for Christians who want a retreat.

The Church of the Firstborn, a non-denominational, spirit-filled church, holds weekly worship service at 5:30 p.m. on Saturdays in the Sanctuary. In addition, Bible classes, prayer and various other Christian Ministry meetings are held regularly in the building.

**Kettle Moraine Baptist Church ~  
505 South Wisconsin**



*Photograph by R. Alan Luckett*

Kettle Moraine Baptist Church, formed in 1993, has its roots in an assembly of believers known as the Whitewater Baptist Church, which previously occupied the same facility. The first edition of the Whitewater Baptist Church met in a building where the present Sentry grocery store now stands. The present pastor is Tom Fuller and the Kettle Moraine Baptist Academy is led by Mike Landers.

The Whitewater Historical Walking Tour, a guide to Whitewater Homes, Schools, Parks and Cemeteries, was made possible by the following Groups and Organizations.

*“Remember When”, Seniors in the Park*

*Whitewater Department of Park, Recreation and Forestry*

*Irvin L. Young Library*

*Station 13, Whitewater Community Television*

*Whitewater Tourism Department*

*Whitewater Historical Society*

*Whitewater Community Development Authority*

*And in Memory of James Kestol*