



## St. Germain Red Brick Schoolhouse Restoration Committee FACTS Sheet

### **1. Who is the Red Brick Schoolhouse Restoration Committee (RBSRC)?**

The RBSRC is a growing group of concerned citizens who see the historical value of our Red Brick Schoolhouse & want to restore it to the beauty of the past, while using it for the present needs in our community. Marlene Bartelt is Chairperson. There are various members of the community on the committee including Ed O'Dette, Town Supervisor and Tom Martens, Town Clerk.

### **2. What is your mission?**

To preserve and protect our heritage through the restoration of the Red Brick Schoolhouse of St. Germain. To honor the families who deeded the land, those pioneers that built the schoolhouse, the teachers who taught, the children who learned, and all of us who admire their strength. *We will do this and not add to the tax burden of the residents.*

### **3. How can St. Germain taxpayers afford this?**

Our committee has vowed to restore the schoolhouse on the original site with funding raised through: Federal, State, and local grants, community FUNdraisers, foundations, corporate and individual donations. In the condition it currently is in, the site it is on, *we vow to not have it go on the tax rolls. Note: We will not raise funds to have it moved to another site, demolished, or pay for further damage due to continued neglect of minor repairs. (Cracked windows, no heat, etc. etc.).*

### **4. Have you applied for any grants?**

No, we cannot apply until we get Town Board approval. We have researched what grants, foundations and corporations we can apply to once we get the nod. We would also like to go forward and set up a Historical Society with an endowment fund account that will hold the money separate for the restoration of the Red Brick Schoolhouse needs.

### **5. Is the schoolhouse safe and worth saving?**

July, 2003 the RBSRC hired William Kelly, (Antigo), Registered Professional Engineer, to "inspect the structural stability of the schoolhouse and include items that need to be repaired or update based on the proposed use(s) of the building." (\*Wm Kelly, letter to RBSRC on 7-23-03). Mr. Kelly inspected the site on Aug. 28, 2003 and "found the building structure is in very good condition and could serve for a number of different uses after taking care of the items listed..." (\*Wm Kelly letter, 8-28-03)

"The building could be used for meetings, offices, educational programs, arts and crafts shops, etc". (\*Wm Kelly letter 1/8/04) He stated that with handyman repairs, code updates, the building can last another 50-70 years.(per Wm Kelly letter, 10/03)

The major items that need to be addressed immediately are: Bathrooms in basement repaired and up to code, Lighting in all rooms updated or replaced, 2<sup>nd</sup> heating system will be restored to heat building, hot water will be available in the building, (after 4 years of cold water only), basement flooring/steps recovered, code updates (bathrooms upstairs, chair lift or elevator) and within two years, the roof will need to be redone.(\*list per Wm Kelly 10-03)

### **6. Who hired and paid Wm Kelly to do this inspection and report?**

This inspection was initiated and the report paid in full for by the RBSR Committee with funds raised during our community fundraisers. We chose Wm Kelly based on work he had done for a historical building in Antigo area.

### **7. Why should we save this schoolhouse?**

Our plan is to use the schoolhouse for many committee needs including but not limited to: Town Board/community meeting room, town clerk office/record storage, St. Germain Service groups (including Lions/Lioness/Wildlife/Child Quest/Children's Dresser). Additionally, we have spoken to potential tenants that will benefit our community: Doctors, Nicolet College: Adult Ed, Florist, Clothing Resale, Variety, Bookstore/reading room, Daycare. As needs are identified by the community and/or Board of Directors, they could pursue a way to fill a void. The society's Board of Directors would oversee this and all parts of the projects with community participation, once we get Town approval.

### **8. Why go Historical? Won't that limit the use of the property?**

No, in fact it will open the door to many grants that are available, including one that is available to totally fund the installation of an elevator if it is used for Doctor offices in an historical building. We are currently working with two Legislatures who are keeping us informed of various Federal and State historical grants. We are also in communications with a restoration company in Madison that just recently completely restored the west wing of our state capital.

### **9. How can I support this community project?**

You can share your concerns with us, your support with the Town Board (Mr. Ritter is very interested in hearing if there is town support.) There will be a meeting of concerned citizens and Town Board members on Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at the Red Brick Schoolhouse. You can attend any of our regular FUNdraisers, read our monthly newsletters, attend any of our meetings, sign our petition for to help us get Town Board approval so we can take care of the schoolhouse that belongs to all of us.

### **10. What will happen when you get Town Board Approval?**

When we get approval, we will get the hot water running and then we will have numerous clean-up, painting parties. Many local businesses have already stepped forward to offer donations & or reduction of the cost of time, labor and material to help get this job done. If you are alumni of the Red Brick Schoolhouse, we want to know- we will be throwing a BIG Homecoming party and you will be a guest of honor! Call or email us soon. Monetary donations are always welcome and can be dropped off at 1<sup>st</sup> National Bank or mailed to: PO Box 381, St Germain WI 54558.

### **11. Are the donation tax- deductible?**

Yes and we can give you a receipt.

### **12. You are having a number of FUNdraisers? Why?**

Until we get Town Board approval so we can get grants and donations, we need to raise funding to protect the schoolhouse and get the heat and hot water back on. The business and community outreach has been huge and we thank you all for your support. At every one of our FUNdraisers we have made a profit that goes directly for the schoolhouse needs. Our committee is all volunteers.

\*All information from our engineer has been shared with the town board and is available to view by anyone in town. Contact Marlene.

**13. When/where can I get more info?**

This group has been meeting regularly as a group & you are welcome to attend. We have been an Informational Item on the monthly town board agenda & reporting monthly since May '03 to them. Town Board meetings are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday every month.

**14. Didn't someone try to do this a few years ago?**

Yes, a group of citizens tried to get Historical Status in 2000 but it was denied until we could replace the windows/entrance to original condition. At that time, we never thought to use the 1965 addition as the cash cow for the 1941 schoolhouse. The cost of the restoration to get historical would have been total donations. This committee has thought of a solution to that problem. Not only would the tenants minimal monthly rent help defray the cost of electricity, heat, rental contracts, part-time maintenance person and insurance; they may help with cost of restoration. When restoration is complete, we could reduce the minimal rent we will be charging, or spend the excess on community projects related to education.

**15. St. Germain is a tourist town, why should we get into the business of renting and historical buildings.**

Historical sites in the USA are listed on numerous promotional tours that link one to another in AAA and various other travel logs. Some bus companies do tours in the summer and fall from site to site and it is a plus to our chamber. As far as renting, we will only use the 1965 addition as long as it is needed; since we are retaining the historical integrity of the 1941 schoolhouse, the major costs of restoration will be the windows and entrance with the half moon window above. Keep in mind, the town is in the rental business with the Senior Housing and the Bo-boen Storage Garage.

**16. Why were the classroom windows covered and the front door bricked in?**

During the 1970's there was an energy crisis & the school district felt this was the responsible thing to do to conserve the high cost of heating. The 'remodeling' reduced heating bills dramatically. When we replace the windows, we will insulate them properly.

**17. How can I contact this group?**

Mail	Internet	Phone
St. Germain's Red Brick Schoolhouse Restoration Committee PO Box 381 St Germain, WI 54558	<a href="mailto:stg@nnex.net">stg@nnex.net</a> <a href="http://www.fen.com/wi/stg">www.fen.com/wi/stg</a> This is the St Germain Elem School Website, on the left menu- go to Red Brick School	542-4139 Marlene Bartelt, Chair 891-1585 Patty Schoppe, Public Relations, Historian

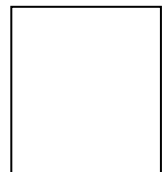
Co-Treasurers, 542-2573 Ed O'dette, 479-5575 Ellen Allen, Co-Fundraising: Terry Backis,542-3257, 542-3685 Janet Kazda, Charter members: Tom Martens, Shirley Erickson, Mia Heilke, Ray & Di Weber, Andy & Peg Anderson, Bruce & Mary Weber, Barb Zimmerman, and many new members everyday. Including YOU.

**Next FUNraiser:** Spaghetti Feed at Sister's Saloon & Eatery- Wednesday the 28<sup>th</sup> 4-8 – Buckshot Anderson will also be signing his books for your enjoyment!

**Anything else?**•There is a petition throughout the area and we are hoping you will sign one in support of making this schoolhouse in the heart of our town a busy part of our town!•Some up coming FUNdraisers we are considering are:1.Possible Big Craft Show-Late Spring, 2.Auction-much like our November auction, 3. Dinner Dance, 4.Shore-lunch prepared by 'Buckshot' Anderson-possibly Labor Day •We are always looking for community ideas, big or small-contact us with any ideas, they are welcomed. • We need to know what the community wants.

**Marlene Bartelt, Chairwomen, Patty A Schoppe, Public Relation**

Red Brick Schoolhouse  
Restoration Committee  
PO Box 381  
Saint Germain WI 54558



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