

STURGEON BAY **Historical Society, INC.**

P.O. Box 827 | Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

The mission of the Sturgeon Bay Historical Society is to preserve Sturgeon Bay's living history, which defines our community character and our cultural evolution, for future generations.



Preserving the Teweles and Brandeis Grain Elevator

On August 18, 2017, Door County's Teweles and Brandeis grain elevator, located on Sturgeon Bay's westside waterfront, was officially listed on the Wisconsin Registry of Historic Places.

According to the Wisconsin Historical Society, "The Teweles and Brandeis grain elevator is an excellent, highly intact example of a grain processing and storage building of a type that was once frequently encountered in communities in Wisconsin and in many other Midwestern states....It is now the only surviving historic resource in the city that can attest to the city's historically important role in agriculture production in Door County."

Sturgeon Bay's Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 2010, states, "Cultural resources encompass historic buildings or structures and archeological sites, as well as institutions and organizations which contribute to the cultural or artistic life of the community. Cultural resources help to provide the City of Sturgeon Bay with a sense of heritage, identity, and civic pride...and can also provide economic development opportunities for the City and its residents. For these reasons, it is important to identify historical and cultural sites in the City of Sturgeon Bay."

The grain elevator stands as an iconic symbol of our past. Just as it connected us to the land when it was built over one hundred years ago, it still connects us to our story. And, with help, it can be part of our future. Yet, its future is in jeopardy.

On August 1, 2017, the Sturgeon Bay City Council voted 4-3 to “direct staff to obtain formal bids for the razing of the grain elevator and that the razing bid specifically be written in such a way that demolition commence no sooner than January 1, 2018. In the meantime, should an offer be received from an interested party to save or restore the elevator, no City dollars will be used in the effort.” On October 17, in the same week the City learned that \$150,000 had been secured by the Sturgeon Bay Historical Society, the Fire Chief issued a 30-day raze order without having a complete study done.

The Sturgeon Bay Historical Society (SBHS) is prepared to fully fund and commence repairs on the Granary in order to halt deterioration and prepare the structure for future use.

SBHS requests that the City Council, 1) authorize SBHS to stabilize the elevator, preparing it for future use; and 2) allow SBHS an 18-month period, during which the elevator remains protected from demolition, to solidify and present a community-devised proposal that adheres to the Public Trust Doctrine and State Historical Society and outlines a clear plan and timeline for implementation and funding.

Professional engineering firms estimate that approximately \$150,000 is needed to prevent further deterioration and to stabilize and prepare the grain elevator for its next use. We are pleased to report that SBHS has the dollars it needs in hand. However, future funds will be needed as a portion of the dollars raised are in the form of a loan. We are now seeking additional written pledges. Please do not send money, but do send your pledge. Any amount helps!

The dollars matter, and the number of supporters matter. No matter what the size of your gift, you can make a difference! Thank you!

Pledge to Preserve the Teweles and Brandeis Grain Elevator

Yes, I/we, _____, on _____, pledge \$ _____, to the
(name) (date)

Sturgeon Bay Historical Society (SBHS)* for the preservation of the historic Teweles and Brandeis elevator. Our pledge is to be paid over () one, () two, or () three years. Our pledge is effective as of today and for 18 months from today, and is contingent upon the following:

1. That the City of Sturgeon Bay authorizes repair and restoration of the grain elevator.
2. That, inclusive of the repair/restoration, the City has in place a long-term arrangement/commitment/restriction with SBHS that assures that the elevator remains protected from future capricious or unilateral demolition.
3. That future use of the structure adheres to the stipulations of the Public Trust Doctrine and the Wisconsin Historical Society.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email and phone: _____

*All contributions are deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Please return your pledge to Sturgeon Bay Historical Association, P.O. Box 827, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235.