

Old Stagecoach Inn Named State Historical Landmark

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PIPE - The 103-year-old Club Harbor stagecoach inn here has been designated a State Historical Landmark.

Built in 1846 by Henry Fuhrman, the three story grey stone building built from Peebles stone, had nine rent-out rooms on the second floor and 13 on the third floor, two of which were a bridal suite. Four were very small and were used by the stagecoach drivers.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Brandenburg own the business now and live on the remodeled second floor. With their children Coy and Perry Brandenburg, Jaynee Zimdars, Candace Wood, the family dressed in colonial garb greet visitors to the old stagecoach stop where Mrs. Brandenburg, who has been in the food handling business since she was 12 years old, is cook.

Family Operation

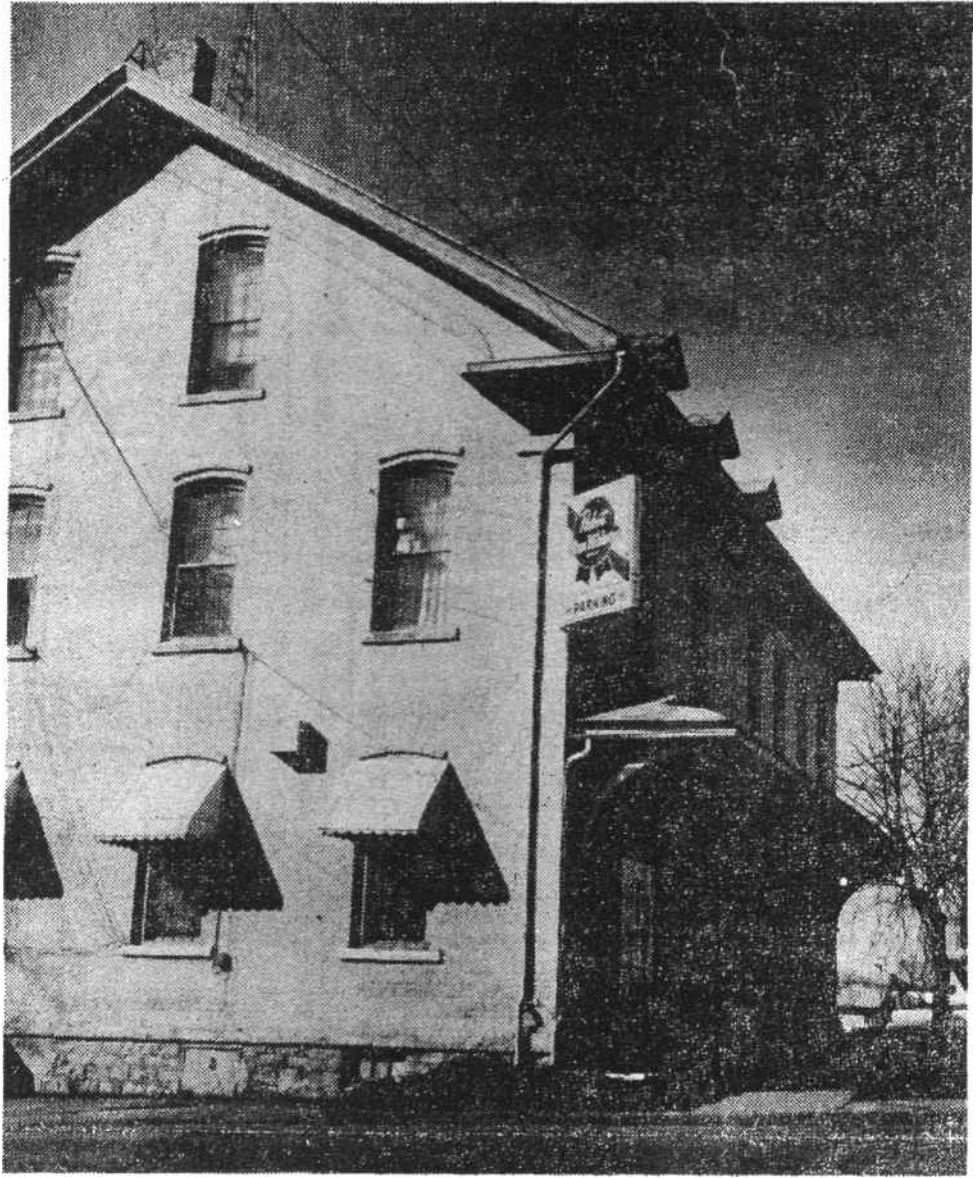
The girls all serve as waitresses and son-in-law Eugene Zimdars and Paul Wood, and future son-in-law Gerald Roehrig tend bar and make change with the cash register of 1911 vintage. • In 1848 the tri-weekly left Fond du Lac for Manchester (Brothertown) and Green Bay. Traveling along the historic Military Road it stopped at Fuhrman's Inn where travelers could get lunch with a large beer for 10 cents and dinner with a large beer for a quarter. Room and board was available for \$2 a week.

According to historians, the area had the largest bank "from here to New York" so people came great distances to deposit money.

Meat at the inn was preserved in large crocks covered in lard and Indians brought bushels of fish to trade for bacon.

Black Walnut Beams

Little has been done to the historic building. Huge hand-hewn black walnut beams support the building. They are put together with wooden pegs and square nails. The original door latches are on the bar door. Double doors allowed animals to come into the bar which originally was divided with a large staircase in the middle. The staircase was removed in 1941 and indoor plumbing was installed. One side of the barroom was for men and the animals and the other was an ice cream parlor for the ladies. During the war between the state of the union troops stopped here on their way to take Lake Winnebago to take barges into a fort at Fond du lac. In the 1880's barges came from Oshkosh with grain and supplies. From these barges also came rats. Because people in the area didn't know what they were they didn't destroy them. During a severe winter the starving rats got into the homes, ate food from the tables and women carried clubs to protect their children from the rats. An epidemic spread through the area as a result of the rats and many people died.



CLUB HARBOR AT PIPE, a 130-year-old stagecoach inn, has been designated a state Historical Landmark. It once served passengers riding stagecoaches between Fond du Lac and Green Bay. (Thiel Photo)

Natural Spring Cooler

The third floor of the building is unchanged, though it is not furnished. Doors were removed and sold during the depression and the building, which was bought for \$9,000, was sold for \$7,000.

A natural spring, which served as a cooler, still runs through the basement when the water is high. Boats could come up to the inn through an inlet so it served both Lake Winnebago and Military Road traffic.

The Brandenburs pur-

chased the business three years ago from Tommy Brown and serve a full menu of home cooked food with a dash of colonial flavor.

A plaque describing the proper manners is posted in the dining room and history has noted that Al Capone and his gang stopped here on their way to Mercer. One of the locals ran a still for Capone and while revenue men were not allowed to shoot

bootleggers, this one was shot and the government was required to pay his medical bills.

History of Club Harbor has been traced by Ruth Worthing of the historic Galloway House, who has authored a book on the History of Fond du Lac County. It was through her efforts that Club Harbor gained recognition of being listed on the state historic register.