

Granite Factory Tour

Wednesday, May 29 2019 at 6:30 PM

Meet at the corner of Arthur Street and Townline Road

General greeting. Reminder of upcoming events.

Stop #1 – 719 Townline Road - Rudy Topinka House (show photos of him) –

Architectural style & details:

Built 1913 – Listed as Two Family

About Rudy (1917-2002):

Lived at this address in the late 1960s

On radio early in career and also in the 1970s with “55 Feedback” on WSAU

Was known as Rudy the Wrangler on WSAW TV in the 1960s- introduced cowboy movies for kids.

Also had a TV game show called “Quick On the Draw”

Had a column in the Wausau Daily Herald and Record – “Walkin’ and Talkin’”

Stop #2a. - corner of Townline and Arthur

Built 1908

Owned by Frank White of Rungling Brothers. He was a Kangaroo Boxer.

Stop #2 – 916 Townline Road- Townline Market (show photo of Mrs. Burrow)

Architectural style & details:

Built 1942 (store- commercial) and 1884 (multiple residence)

About the market:

1927 – Otto Klug Meats

1929 – MV Merklein Grocery & Meats – also listed Mrs. Emily Klug

1931 – Ray Hirsch Grocery

1933 – 1937 Sylvester Sloan Grocery

1938 – 1968 Edwin L. Burrow

Note that the new building was built during this time. In 1940 for one year the store was listed at 921 Arthur Street- not sure what happened to the old building, why the new building is unknown yet. It started being known as Townline Market in 1942 when the new building was erected.

Story – local asked Mr. Burrow where he got his tomatoes because they were so good- he said of those were from his garden.

1969 – 70 Owned by Evekyn Osswald, a local activist. She was known for calling those in government to let them know what was on her mind, especially in regard to efforts for the disabled. She was the manager of the Central Hotel downtown just prior to owning Townline Market, She had to sell as she became bed ridden.

1971 – Theo Zick

1972 – now – The Jaglers

Purchased by John and Sharon, eventually taken over by the sons Dave (there now) and Michael (kids)

Stop #3 – Wisconsin Box Company (show photos of building)

Architectural style & details:

About Wisconsin Box Company

Opened 1900 and closed in 2000. Built wood boxes for specific uses. Known for their strength and Rey's ability.

Stop #4 – 1009 Townline Road - Farmers Coop Packaging & Kraft Cheese (Show photos)

Farmers Coop

Architectural style & details:

- Brick and cement building complete with water tower

About the company:

- A meat packing plant
- Purchased by Kraft in 1927

Kraft

Architectural style & details:

- Additions were added in 1955, 1963, 1970 and 2003.

About the company:

- Started with just making malted milk
- In 1948 started making the Parmesan and Romano cheese, by 1950 making all of it, in 1956 phased out the malted milk production.

Just north of Kraft was a railroad roundhouse.

Stop #5 – Between the tracks - Chicago Excelsior- just a mention

Architectural style & details: Unknown

About the company:

- In business Late 1800s to early 1900s
- One of two excelsior factories in town
- Owned all of area between tracks to Single Ave. until ABJ purchased some.

Stop #6 – Between the tracks - Anderson Brothers and Johnson Granite Works (show photos)

Architectural style & details:

About the company:

Started in 1895 and still quarrying under the Michele's Company, now one of the oldest continuous quarries in US. Only quarry to supply the state rock- Red Granite. They supply granite for headstones and as building material (think counter tops and veneer).

The quarry is in Maine still, but they would bring the rock here to cut into headstones and such. The large building was for manufacturing and the small building in front was the office. Notice the stairs showing off each type of granite quarried. As well as granite details around building.

Stop #7 – Corner of prospect & Sumner – Tot Lot

Opened spring of 2018- result if effort of Anne Heideman and the Longfellow Neighborhood Group.

Stop #8 – Prospect Avenue Viaduct (show photos)

Was wood for many years!

Stop #9 – 900 Grand Avenue - Kelly Park, AAA, Marchetti & Orr Houses

Kelly Park – used for ice-skating. Building in back was a warming house. Create din 1920.

Marchetti House:

Architectural style & details: Second Empire, built 1879. Moved first in 1993 from 120 Grand Avenue to 11 Grant Street in downtown. Moved again in 2008, along with Nathan Orr House.

An impressive example of the Second Empire style, the house features a fishscale shingled, straight-sided Mansard roof; square turret with parapet; bay window; and pedimented dormer. At it's original location it was one of the key remaining features (along with 114 Grand) marking the beginning of the elegant, tree-lined Grand Avenue - neighborhood of many prominent Wausau citizens from c. 1870 to 1900.

About Judge Marchetti:

Marchetti was municipal judge, county judge, AAA, and mayor of Wausau.

Louis Marchetti was an attorney who authored the classic History of Marathon County in 1913.

Nathan Orr House:

Architectural style & details: Greek Revival, built in 1870, moved in 2008 to current location from 630 Second Street.

Has a poured concrete foundation and is sheathed with clapboard. The street-facing elevation features a pair of sash windows with eight-light, wood-frame storms along the first floor, along with a wooden-panel door (with sidelights and transom) that is sheltered by a bracketed wooden hood. A pair of sash windows occupies the upper floor and the house is outlined by a wide wooden frieze with return eaves. Additional eight-light storms are located along each side elevation, while small, attic-story windows run immediately beneath the eave. A gabled dormer (not original) rises from the home's north side to provide for an exit from the upper floor. The interior includes carved wooden features (including a fireplace surround) that were reportedly done by the home's original owner, Nathan Orr.

About Nathan Orr:

The owners were Nathan and Martha Orr. Nathan was born in Massachusetts. According to local research, Nathan, a carpenter and cabinetmaker, came to Wausau in 1864 and wed New Hampshire-born, Martha Nutter in 1866. As of the 1870 census, Nathan is identified as a cabinetmaker and he and Martha had two children, John (age 3) and Harriet (age

1). Martha died in February 1872, just days after their youngest son (Nathan) was born. In May 1873, Nathan wed a second time (to twenty-year-old Fannie), with whom he remained until his death in 1907. Fannie died in 1926.

AAA – brown building near road

About AAA:

Highway 51 would bring tourists through town on the way north. AAA was located here 1942-1970, offering tourism advice and help.

Stop #12 – Manson Street- mention that it was Garfield and Prospect was Lincoln

Stop #14– 1206 Arthur Street

Style: possible kit house- built 1917, but deed says 1921.

Built for Joseph and Hannah Essenbach. He was an engineer for the Chicago and Northwestern. They lived there until 1940. Was vacant for a few years. Purchased by Clement and Martha Kruegers in about 1942. He was a printer wih Wausau paper mill in Brokaw and then a machine operator at Employers Mutual. She was a sales person at Winkelmanns in 1947. By 1950 she had opened her own business Katherine Ks Corset Studio on 3rd Street- later known as Katherine Ks Intimate Apparel.

Clem died in 1949. She married his brother Felix. He dies 1975. She lived there until 2000. She died in 2003 at age 99.

Current owners purchased in 2001- mark and Barb Wyenberg. Restored claw foot tub on second floor, French doors back to original place, keeping original birch and interior posts on first floor. They are opening up the stairwell once again and putting the pillars they found under the porch. Stained glass was put in when Katherine Ks was moved.

Stop 15 -

Style: Built 1911. Two story

Built for the Kalks. Daughter was admitted to the sanitarium for TB. Letters have been found of her time there and a gentleman she met. She wasn't sure if she should start a relationship due to her illness. She died single in 1933.

The Olsons then owned it. The mother was very adventurous and was traveling into her 80s. She was a horseback octor for the native Americans.

Now owned by the owner of Sweet on Third and thy are busy renovating.

Stop #16– 1220 Arthur Street - 1862 House

Style: Farm house

Variety of owners.

Built 1862

Stop #17– 1221 and 1228 Arthur Street- Johnson Houses

1221 Arthur - Charles E. Johnson and wife Mary

Architectural style & details: Built 1910

About Charles E. Johnson: President of AB & J.

1228 Arthur- Charles W. Johnson

Architectural style & details: Built 1919 and is a bungalow in the craftsman style. Birdseye maple floors and woodwork throughout. It was originally wood siding, is steel siding. It has a granite patio around the back. House was built by Fridolph Perterson who was a granite cutter, and purchased by the Johnson's within about a year.

About Charles W. Johnson:

Became president after Charles E. Johnson, his father. He was known to be a "rock hound" and kept a tumbler, cutter and such in the basement.