

# Rutland Center Church Renovation

Town of Rutland  
Dane County, Wisconsin



The Rutland Center Church as it looked when a local group of citizens and the Town Board decided it needed renovation. July 2003



The old lectern awaits the next guest speaker.



The interior of the church was in remarkably good shape.



Two old stoves heated the building.

## 2004: Planning Begins



The Anthony sisters present the deed for one acre of land that will double the size of the cemetery.



Community members toured the cemetery, which contains graves dating back to the late 1840's.



In October, 2004, a group of citizens gathered on the church property to hear about its history and discuss restoration possibilities. It was at that meeting that the Friends of the Rutland Center Church was organized.

## 2005: Foundation



Between August and October of 2005, contractors raised the church, excavated beneath it, and dropped the building onto its new foundation.

# 2006: Roof, Rock and Rim

In July a local contractor replaced the old roof boards with new cedar shingles like those used on the original roof.



New limestone rock duplicates the look of the original foundation. Above, the old rotten sill beams demand attention. (September 2006)



New sill rim beams and a new center joist now strengthen the building and eliminate wall bulge.



The Friends group operated food stands at the Oregon Horse Show and SummerFest during the summer of 2006 to raise funds for the project.



Temporary plywood panels close in the building until next summer when the next construction phase begins. (November 2006)

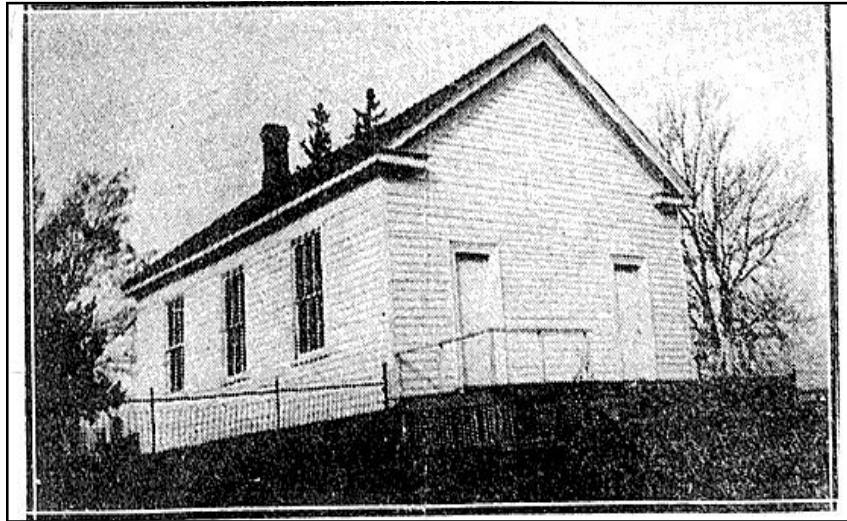
# 2007: Paint and Panes

During the summer of 2007, all the windows were removed and taken to a professional window renovator. They will be re-installed during the summer of 2008. We also began the laborious process of removing the white lead paint, and restoring the side boards.

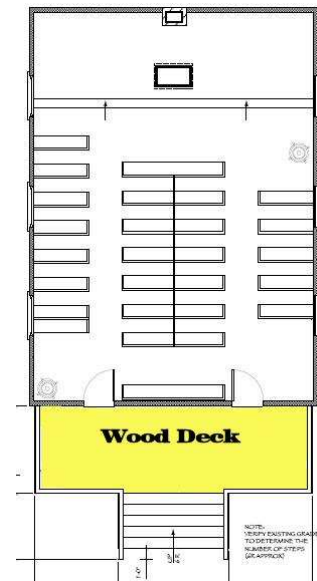


## 2008: Paint, Panes & Porch

The windows removed last year were re-installed this year after being professional renovated. The difficult task of removing the old paint was concluded and the building received two new coats of paint. The long missing deck has been added this year also, finishing the exterior work on the building.



The church as it looked around 1935 with a wood deck and railings.



After five years of work, the exterior renovation of the Rutland Center Church is now complete.

## 2009: Ceiling, Wiring & Insulation

We now begin work on the interior. The first job has been the removal of the pews, stoves and furniture. With that out of the way, we have been removing the wainscoting, lath and plaster. In the early fall carpenters will straighten the sagging ceiling. Then electricians will install wiring for the lights and heaters. Finally we plan to install foam insulation in the walls, which will provide strength and moisture resistance. Conventional fiberglass insulation will protect the ceiling.



# 2010: Ceiling Repair, Floor & Drywall

As we began work in 2010 the pews were in safe storage and the walls and ceiling were stripped of their plaster. Carpenters came to straighten and level the ceiling rafters and joists.



Another crew built a new chancel at the front of the church and volunteers installed wiring throughout the structure.



One Saturday in May volunteers arrived to prepare the walls for the spray insulation which upon completion provided strength and made them impervious to insects and moisture. Drywall and a coat of fresh paint finished the renovation of the walls and ceiling. Finally new flooring was installed around the interior perimeter of the building.



Work also began refinishing the pews but that challenging job will carry into 2011.



# 2011: Pews, Paint, & Pieces

During 2011 the interior began to look like its old self. Carpenters installed the wainscoting, a painter refinished the floor, the pews returned, carpet covered the new chancel, and the stoves received a beautiful coat of new paint.



Sanding and repainting the pews proved to be a major challenge because the original milk paint was so tenacious. Workers finished that work by August and then turned their attention to painting the walls, floor and window frames. The stoves now stand elegantly in their original corners. The pews returned in September as the year's work came to a conclusion.

## 2012: Power, lights, furniture and finish



After ten years of planning, grant writing and many hours of work, the Rutland Center Church renovation is now complete. New lighting, restored furniture and installation of an authentic pump organ have set the stage for many new uses in the coming years. Thanks to the Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission, the Bryant Foundation and the hundreds of people whose gifts and hard work made the project possible.

