

**Preserving our past. Securing our future.**

# Door County Granary

**Restoring the 1901 Teweles and Brandeis Grain Elevator**



*"We do not choose between the past and the future;  
they are inseparable parts of the same river."*

Dr. Walter Havighurst, social historian



A project of the Sturgeon Bay Historical Society Foundation and a component fund of the Door County Community Foundation

Photograph of the westside waterfront and the Teweles and Brandeis grain elevator with its warehouses and dock, circa 1920s.

Wisconsin Historical Society 79094, View of Sturgeon Bay from Sawyer, Collection of Albertype Co. photographs (Image has been altered: color added)

*"The Door County Granary project embodies timeless civic virtues – the celebration of Sturgeon Bay's proud history of agriculture and shipping, the exciting reuse of an impressive timber structure, and the creation of a memorable public destination in the heart of the community."*

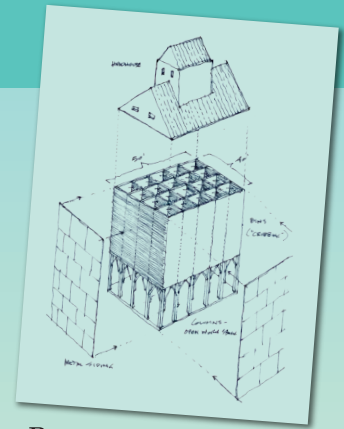
James Dallman and Grace La  
LA DALLMAN Architects





# The Future Unfolds

**The restoration team:** A team of nationally-recognized architects and engineers is working to transform the Granary from its historically-rich past to an inspired and publicly-embraced future. The lead architects are James Dallman and Grace La, of LA DALLMAN, based in Boston and Milwaukee. Jeffrey Beane, a Sturgeon Bay native, is the lead engineer. Beane is an associate with Silman, an award-winning firm located in New York. Smet Construction Services of DePere, Wisconsin, is the general contractor. The restoration team consults with the State Historic Preservation Officer.



When fully restored, the Door County Granary will regain its place as a social hub for the community, serving as a three-season public gathering venue in the heart of Sturgeon Bay. Visitors will be able to touch original wooden support beams and the lathed walls of the grain bins. A winding staircase will provide access to the bins on the second floor and take visitors up to the headhouse, 60 feet or so above ground. Views of the bay, bridges, railway spur and surrounding area will help visitors conceptualize how the granary worked and why it was strategically situated where it was.

The Granary's ground floor (known as the workhouse) will host holiday markets, weddings, family and class reunions, as well as lectures, yoga and other classes, pop-up art installations and theater events. The community park next to the Granary has ample space for tents and food trucks to expand the Granary's uses. A railway car-inspired addition off the side of the Granary, where actual Ahnapee & Western Railway cars once pulled up, will include a catering kitchen and public restrooms.

The finished structure will also act as an iconic and visible destination point and welcome center for hikers on the Ahnapee State Trail, the Ice Age National Scenic Trail and Sturgeon Bay's Bridge Walk. Illuminated from within, and strung with twinkling white lights on its periphery, the Granary will be a piece of architectural art, a beacon that sheds light on Sturgeon Bay's past and forms the centerpiece of its future.

## We invite you to be part of the Door County Granary's vibrant future!

Just as the shiny new Teweles and Brandeis grain elevator served the community in 1901, the newly restored Door County Granary will serve our community far into the future.

Please send your contribution and/or pledge to:

**Door County Granary Fund**  
**Door County Community Foundation**  
222 N 3rd Ave.  
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

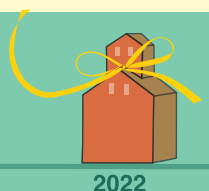
To donate online and for more information, visit [www.doorcountyanary.org](http://www.doorcountyanary.org).

The Door County Granary is a component fund of the Door County Community Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)3 public charity. All contributions are deductible to the fullest extent as allowed by law.

## Thank you!

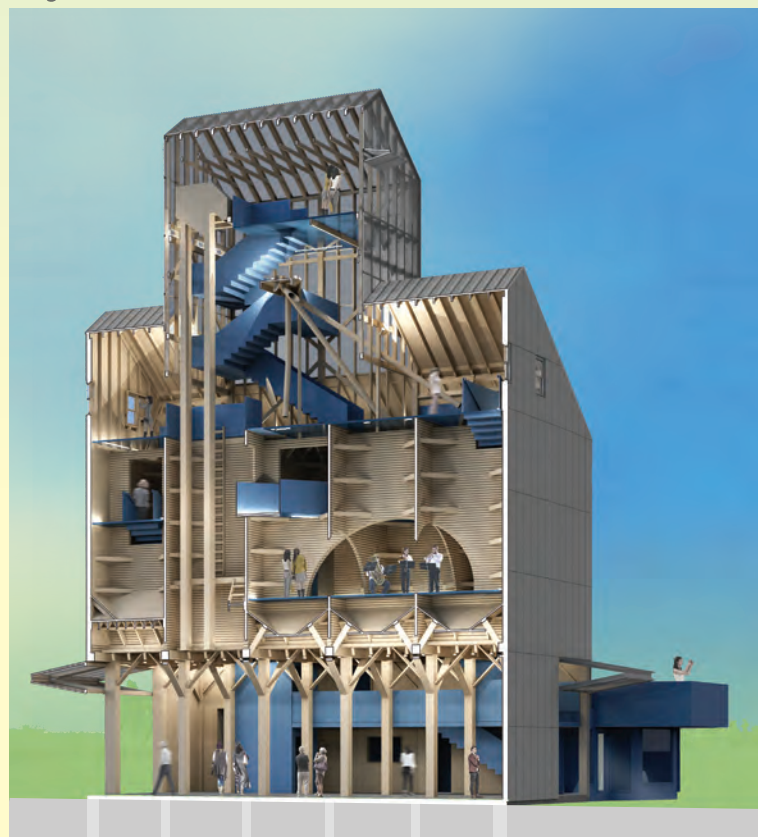
*"The past is not the property of historians; it is a public possession."* – John Steinbeck

Michigan Street Bridge opens	T & B Granary survives second fire	T & B Granary sold to the Door County Co-op	Door County Co-op ceases operation of Granary	Door County Maritime Museum is built	Oregon Street Bridge opens	Teweles and Brandeis Granary listed on State and National Register of Historic Places
1931	1944	1953	1960s	1997	2008	2017-2018





Images: LA DALLMAN



# How a Granary Works: From field to market

The Teweles and Brandeis grain elevator was built in 1901 by Sturgeon Bay carpenter contractors Russell and Lindsley. Granaries once dotted the Midwest and Canada and were strategically located to be within a day's return wagon journey of larger farming areas.

The granary is striking in its simplicity of design. All straight lines and right angles, it measures 40 feet by 50 feet and rises to a height of 75 feet. It held 30,000 bushels of grain when full, in vertical bins laid out in a 4 x 5 grid. Nineteen of the bins held grain. The twentieth space features the conveyor system and a manlift to the headhouse, propelled by a counterweight.

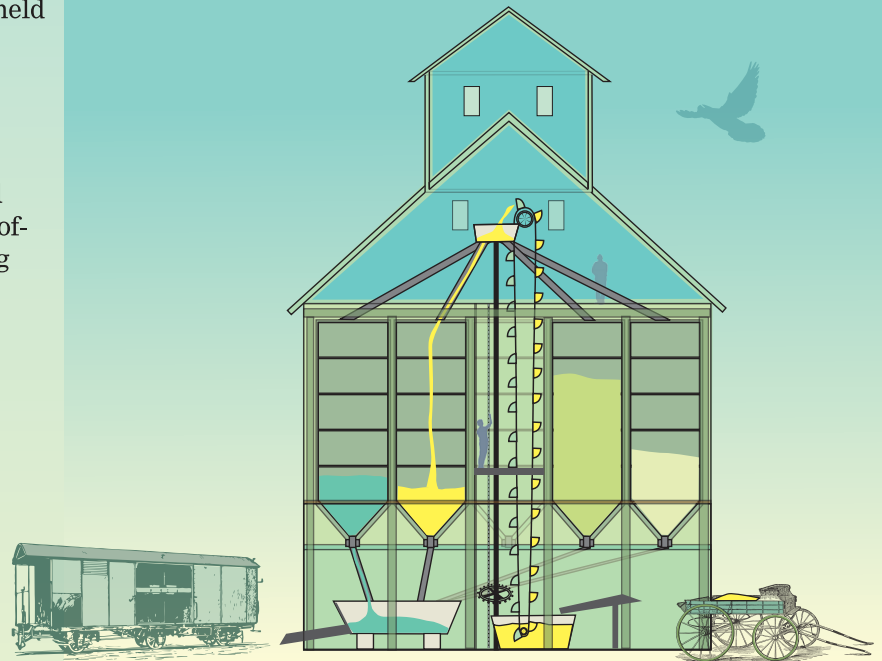
The first floor of the Granary is the workhouse, containing a "boot" into which farmers unloaded their crops. A scale weighed the grain, and state-of-the-art equipment cleaned and sorted it, ensuring that Teweles and Brandeis' product was of high quality and would demand a good price.

Once the grain was sorted and cleaned, a belt-and-bucket conveyor system lifted the grain to the headhouse where the head drive of the vertical conveyor system was located. From there, the grain was diverted to one of the wooden storage bins below.

At the bottom of each wooden bin, a chute opened to empty the grain into waiting ships, railroad cars or trucks, to be carried to market.

*"The grain elevator stores dry, small cereal grains; it handles grain in bulk rather than in bags or sacks, and it stores, moves, and processes grain vertically... desirable because grain flows by gravity in tall, narrow bins, and thus less power and labor are needed."*

Encyclopedia of the Great Plains, David J. Wishart, editor



## The granary exchange: A place of business and a social hub

One can only imagine the relief farm families felt when they pulled a full wagon into the yard at the Teweles and Brandeis grain elevator and watched grain that had been growing in the field mere days before dumped into the boot on the workhouse floor.

With the physical fatigue of the harvest still fresh – the short nights of sleep and the long days of work – questions would have accompanied the journey to town. What was their final yield? What price would it bring? Was the quality as good as the neighbors'?

These questions followed a season's worth of questions. How much seed to invest? Was this the right time to plant? Would there be enough rain?

In addition to grain being exchanged (for funds, credit or other grain), news would have been exchanged, too. What improvements had been made to the granary? How had the newest seed or planting method worked? Was the roof finished on the new school? What new babies had been born or were expected?

Before heading home, a trip to town could not be wasted and empty wagons were reloaded with provisions for winter. Perhaps a stop at the Hagemeyer brewery was in order or Lawrence's General Store for a treat for the kids.



*The Sturgeon Bay Historical Society Foundation, Inc. is dedicated to preserving Sturgeon Bay's living history, which defines our community character and cultural evolution, for future generations through advocacy, preservation and education.*

[www.doorcountyanary.org](http://www.doorcountyanary.org)  
[www.sturgeonbayhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.sturgeonbayhistoricalsociety.org)