

March 2, 1855

N/A

Edward H. Brodhead, Chief Engineer for the Milwaukee and Mississippi Railroad, named and platted the Village of Mazomanie. His creation for a railroad built across Wisconsin called for a large millpond and a powerful mill to process Wisconsin's number one crop, wheat.

July 5, 1855

N/A

Recorded as Block 18 "mill lot", of the Original Plat of the Village of Mazomanie

December 12, 1856

N/A

Brodhead sold the plot to Walter R. Burke who decided to erect a "Flouring Mill and Woolen Factory."

October 14, 1857

\$300

Burke was unable to fulfill his agreement and assigned a land contract to George H. Walker, an early Milwaukee businessman and investor in the city's railroad. Walker hired George F. Lynch to assist in the construction and operation of the "Lynch and Walker Flouring Mill." Lynch and Walker also bought the water rights to Lake Marion.

November 19, 1860

\$10,000

Walker and Lynch did not want to continue to operate the mill so they auctioned it off to Frederick Layton, a Milwaukee provisioneer.

January 24, 1862

\$10,025

Frederick Layton sold his interests to Samuel Marshall, a Milwaukee exchange broker and banker and the mill became "Samuel Marshall & Company."

May 5, 1865

\$9,500

William Thompson, who was a manufacturer of barrel staves in Milwaukee purchased the mill from Marshall.

January 22, 1872

\$40,000

Abstract records show that the mill was mortgaged to Abram Bell, brother-in-law of Edward Sanderson.

November 1874 - April 1875

The mill was then running with six run-of-stone, employed 20 men and was the largest in the state.

August 22, 1876

\$17,000

Due to an unexpected financial loss, Thompson was forced to forfeit the business to Edward Sanderson, of Milwaukee, who held securities on the mill property. During his ownership, Sanderson made substantial improvements in the operation of the "Arcade Mill."

April 12, 1879

The mill peaked commercially during this time and was the leading driver of commerce in a thriving Mazomanie.

August 2, 1883

\$17,000

After Sanderson had finally satisfied his foreclosed mortgage initiated from 1876, he sold the mill to businessmen Hover, Hicks and the Bronson's, who later renamed it the, "Mazomanie Milling Co."

December 29, 1885

Water from Black Earth Creek, via the mill, spilled over two sunken generators to provide power for the mill and for the first electric lights in Dane County.

September 26, 1892

\$17,000

Changes in economics finally took their toll on the "Mazomanie Milling Co." and were obliged to suspend business from financial embarrassment. Clarence Waterhouse bought the mill and kept the company name.

December 4, 1899

Portions of the mill were destroyed by a fire that was attributed to an arsonist.

March 20, 1900

\$4,000

Due to the cost of damages and loss, Waterhouse sold the mill to the highest bidder, Henry Kirch, who quickly rebuilt and made additions to the mill. With the ownership of Kirch, the "Mazomanie Mill" became a family owned and operated business for 68 years.

September 30, 1938

\$8,000

Guy Dunlap, Kirch's son-in-law, owned the mill for the entire period. Dunlap also graduated as a civil engineer from UW-Madison.

November 1950s

Highways grew in popularity and the railroads serving the mill shrank in importance. Other mills began to dominate and the "Mazomanie Mill" shifted from grinding flour to grinding cattle feed and selling farm supplies for local farmers.

February 24, 1968

\$10,740

Marvin Everson purchased the mill from the Guy Dunlap Estate and it became "Marv's Feed and Supply."

January 16, 1971

\$10,740

Fred Aeschlimann became the next owner and the name was changed to "Fred's Feed and Farm Supply."

August 29, 1979

\$24, 200

Ken Seston leased the mill from Aeschlimann and in 1980, purchased the mill, changing the name to "Triple S Feeds." Under Seston's ownership, the mill went under extensive renovation.

July 27, 1984

\$32,200

The partnership of Earl Fugate and Thomas Hansen purchased the mill from Seston. Fugate was a business consultant and professor at UW-Whitewater and Hansen was a medical doctor. The mill became known as the "Mazo Feed & Supply, Inc."

February 13, 1990

\$98,800

Dennis and Vern Halverson purchased the mill and kept the company name but were quick to sell it to Dan and Nancy Viste.

May 5, 1992

\$39,200

The Viste's purchased the mill and transformed it into the "Old Feed Mill," a restaurant, bakery and gift shop.

October 1995

The “Old Feed Mill” restaurant opened after three years of restoration and renovation by area construction firms and by the Viste family itself.

The Millstone Mercantile Gift Shop also opened that year and has since expanded. Many specialty breads from the “Amazing Grains Bakery,” located inside the “Whistle Stop Café,” are also sold at the restaurant.

1999

The Vistes purchased the Blacksmith shop and turned into an Art Center where local artists create their work right in front of the public’s eye.

The John Parman Blacksmith and Carriage Shop is the oldest building in the district associated with manufacturing, once Mazomanie’s most important economic activity. It was built in 1865 and was expanded to triple its original size in 1875 when Parman’s successful business, the manufacture of wagons, buggies and sleighs, required additional space. In continuous use as a manufacturing, welding, and blacksmith shop, it was owned and operated for many years by Werner Thiers, first president of the Mazomanie Historical Society.

John Parman, born in Germany and trained as a wheelwright, came to Black Earth Township in 1853. In 1858, he opened a shop in Mazomanie and remained at his trade until 1894.

2002

The Vistes purchased the J. A. Schmitze Block and turned it into the Whistle Stop Cafe and Amazing Grains Bakery.

The J.A. Schmitz Block, built in 1879, was used as a dry goods store until the 1960s. Additions made in 1895, 1904 and 1909 extended the building to the rear. The second floor was built with a large clear-span room known as Schmitz Hall. It served as the principal meeting and theater room for the village for many years. In 1882 it was the site of the first performance of the Ringling Brothers’ Classic and Comic Concert Company, the forerunner to the Ringling Brothers’ Circus. The hall was remodeled for office space and apartments in the 1950s. In later years the first floor has been used by grocery stores, restaurants and carpet businesses.

Born in Germany, John A. Schmitz also served the village as president, treasurer and as a member of the board of trustees.

The first floor of Paylow’s Department Store, built in 1922, was used for a dry goods store, grocery store, used office equipment and surplus store, an alcohol-free bar and an antiqu store. The second floor was used for living quarters. Paylow, a native of Hungary, operated a department store in the J.A. Schmitz Block before building his new store.

2000

The Vistes also turned the Weinschenk Store into Halle's Vintage Shop where they sell everything from vintage clothes to vintage furniture.

Weinschenk built this store in 1923 for his hardware business, then added one addition for use as a tin shop and another for storage. Since then it has always been used as a hardware store.

William Weinschenk, born in Bavaria, was in the hardware business for 40 years. He operated at this location beginning in 1905.