

BEST YEARS

FOR OUR MATURE READERS

Quote

"It is the mind that makes the body."

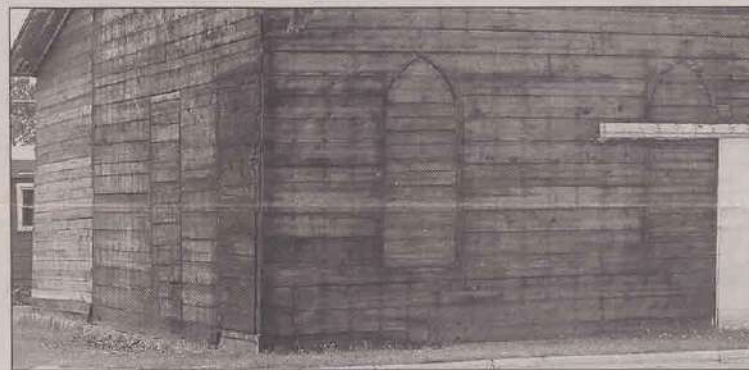
— Sojourner Truth

Oneida Senior
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History is slowly dismantled as former church comes down



At top, the old warehouse. Above and top right, outlines of the former church windows can still be seen in the walls of the old structure. Lower right, a large addition was constructed at the rear of the former First Congregational Church building for the electric factory's use in 1889-90. In later years, the old church roof was lowered, the warehouse roof was raised and the south wall of the church was moved, windows and all, to meet the walls of the warehouse and make one long uniform building. The church windows were later boarded up when used by the lumber companies. Of the gentlemen in front of the church, Casper Faust is probably the man on the left and E. A. Forbes is standing on the right.

BY JOY VANCOS

Looking naked without its skin of asphalt siding, the former church and factory building at the corner of Alban and Frederick Streets will soon be just a memory. Like a patchwork quilt, almost every addition, door

and window opening made in its 121 years of existence can now be seen as Paul Hastreiter, A-Z Property Development, and his crew dismantle the structure.

The section of the building fronting on Alban was built in 1885 as the First Congre-

gational Church, the first religious structure in the Village of Rhineland.

Only four years later, with plans of building a larger church, the growing congregation sold the site to Casper Faust.

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Church

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Faust constructed an addition at the rear of the church and purchased equipment to bring the first electric power to

Rhineland. He hired Edward A. Forbes, then of Minneapolis, to manage the Power and Light Company.

In 1899, Forbes and Chester A. Wixson bought Faust's interest in the company and expanded the business, making changes in the building as needed. By 1906, they had moved all equip-

ment necessary to light up the city to the Hat Rapids Dam. The former church and electric company spent much of its later life as a lumber warehouse for

Rhineland Lumber and Coal and Macdonald Lumber Company. The building was most recently used as a warehouse for Hardware Hank's.

Hastreiter will salvage all wood and other materials for use in his business, which involves renovating and resurrecting older buildings and homes. Portions of the old church and electric company will live on as part of other Rhineland structures.