



# 317 West Main Street

**1855** This Italianate style house was built by Daniel Bryant. The large front porch was not included in the original design. At this time, the property was part of the Town of Westport.

**1867** George and Sophia Fish purchased the property. Mr. Fish farmed 220 acres adjacent to the house. He and a neighboring farmer, Lewis Baker, were instrumental in inducing the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad to locate the station on their properties in 1871, and thus founded Waunakee. Sometime prior to 1898, an addition was made to the original home. The addition included what is now the kitchen, bathroom, and pantry. The brick walls of the original house were 3 bricks deep; the added walls are just 1 brick deep. There were 5 bedrooms upstairs. The house had no indoor plumbing and was lit by gas lights or kerosene lanterns. There was a cistern on the back walk and an outhouse near the garden.

**6/1/1898** Thomas Patrick O'Malley and his brother, John Vincent (Vinney) O'Malley, purchased the house and 195-3/4 acres for the sum of \$11,000. Thomas (T.P.) quickly bought out John's share. At the time, T.P. was a bachelor. He lived in the home with a couple who served as the housekeeper and hired man. T.P.'s farm was well managed and included a dairy named "Fairview". T.P. soon married Martha Monks, the teacher at Wilke School between Waunakee and Dane. They raised 7 children—Victor, Mary, Catherine, Martha, Thomas, David and James. The O'Malleys built a grass tennis court between their home and that of Dr. and Mrs. Byron Shaw at 311 West Main Street and the children from the two families would play together. (Dr. Shaw's office address was 313 West Main Street, which was part of the parcel which contained their residence).

**3/29/1941** T.P. died at the age of 75. Their youngest son, David, (4-year-old James died of Spanish flu) stayed on after graduation (WHS 1930) to help operate the farm. Victor O'Malley's son, Donald (Bud), moved to the farm as a teenager to also help his grandmother and uncle with chores. He joined the Navy in 1950 after he graduated from WHS.

**1942** David's oldest sister, Mary O'Malley Jordan, and her infant daughter Mary Ellen, moved into the house when Mary's husband Gerard accepted a temporary war job in Chicago. After her husband's untimely death later that year, Mary and Mary Ellen remained as permanent residents.

**1947** David married Ruth Callahan. They had three children: Maureen, Patrick and David, Jr. That family moved in 1956 into the house that had been built next door at 315 West Main Street. David was elected to the County Board that year and to the Wisconsin State Assembly in 1958.

**1964** Ruth died in 1964 and David made the decision to sell his cattle and farm equipment, and rent the land to other farmers. By then, he had become Chairman of the Assembly Agriculture Committee which was a full-time position.

**3/17/1966** The farm equipment and cattle were auctioned. The barn and other farm buildings remained.

**1971** Martha O'Malley lived in her home until she died at the age of 95. David, Sr. became the sole owner of the O'Malley house and farm. He continued to live in the home next door.

**1976** David, Sr. retired from the State Assembly. His oldest son, Pat, and his wife Donna returned home in 1975 with plans to build a restaurant on the farm property. The O'Malley Farm Café opened in 1976 just west of the farmhouse. It was sold in 1996 to Bill and Cheri Ranguette.

**1978** The second floor of the house was converted into an apartment for Pat and Donna. Mary Jordan continued to live on the first floor. When Pat and Donna bought a home of their own, the second floor remained as a rental unit.

**10/7/1986** David O'Malley died at the age of 73. In his estate plan, he made arrangements for his sister Mary to live in the farmhouse as long as she was able.

**1999** Mary O'Malley Jordan lived in the house until her death at age 95. The house passed to David, Sr.'s children, Maureen, Patrick, and David Jr., and his niece Mary Ellen Jordan Kearney.

**July 1999** Mary Ellen Jordan Kearney purchased the house from her cousins and began doing historic preservation work on the house, restoring it to its original "single family home" status.

**2008** The home was included on the Wisconsin Architecture and Historic Inventory, State Historic Preservation Office, Wisconsin Historical Society.