

What is Shake Rag Alley Center for the Arts?

We are a non-profit arts and crafts school utilizing historic buildings as the site for our varied media areas. Please take a catalog to learn more about the type of classes we offer. We have plenty of offerings for youth and adults. We are also home to Alley Stage. You'll find it tucked into the limestone wall along the upper walk.

The 2.5 acres called Shake Rag Alley began in the early 1800s as miners' cottages surrounding Federal Spring. Houses and sheds were built and rebuilt over the years. In the 1970s Madison florist Al Felly purchased several adjoining properties, renovated the buildings, created award-winning gardens and invited artisans to work in the buildings. After he sold the property in 1990 various owners ran the site until purchased by local artists in October 2004. This community group created the non-profit organization Shake Rag Alley Center for the Arts. Mineral Point is well known for its artist community, with many studios and art galleries.

Building Paths to the Future of Shake Rag Alley

We are proud to support the arts in our many programs and educational ventures. You are our biggest partner — our income derives from workshops, grants, guest room rental and donations. We need your help in keeping this innovative arts education program viable.

Feeling Inspired?

- Tell your friends!
- Sign up for a workshop!
- Spend the night!
- Volunteer your time!
- Donate!

*18 Shakerag Street
Mineral Point, WI 53565*

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www.ShakeRagAlley.com

Self-Guided Tour



Center for the Arts

Historic Buildings

Magical Gardens

Adult Workshops

Youth Programs

Alley Stage

Historic Lodging



COACH HOUSE

One of Wisconsin's oldest hotels, built in the 1840s for travelers and miners, the structure reflects Colonial American design and function. Originally, the Stagecoach House included a full-length double decker porch. Today, three charming second-floor guest rooms with private baths await modern day travelers. The Shake Rag Alley office, with wifi, is located here, as well as a lower level Commons Room.



CARRIAGE HOUSE

Built in 1973 by Robert Camardo as an antique furniture restoration shop, the *Carriage Barn* was connected to the Coach House though the original stone and mortar root cellar, still in use today as a tunnel between buildings. Expanded and converted for use as Shake Rage Cafe in later years, it is now used as the box office for Alley Stage and workshops.



ELLERY HOUSE

The central room was originally a typical Cornish one-room cut-stone cottage, of the 1840s or 50s. Various frame additions transformed the building into a modern village house of the 1920s. The Ellery House is the center for Shake Rag Alley's Youth Program.

ALLEY STAGE

Located behind and above Ellery House on the site of a small quarry, Alley Stage was landscaped and built in the Spring of 2007, with much volunteer work and donations. The theater seats 120.

BLACKSMITH BARN



This wood and stone structure built in 1972 is a reconstruction based on a photo of the original Klaase pottery. One of Klaase's products was a paddle-shaped roof tile. Unfortunately, he roofed his barn with them and it collapsed under the weight.

POTTER'S HOUSE



This brick-walled cottage was constructed in the 1840s and occupied until the 1970s. Note the extreme deflection in the front wall, though the roofline is level. The gable end and front were partially rebuilt in the 1970s by an enterprising young mason who reset eroded bricks with the worn side inward. The large window in the gable end was added at that time.

FRENCH CABIN



Previous owners of Shake Rag Alley purchased this unusual structure in Maine. It was built in Canada and demonstrates the rare *piece-on-piece* timber form and log construction technique used by French Canadians. Short horizontal timbers are fitted into grooves in vertical corner posts.

FEDERAL SPRING

This important source of clean drinking water was the focus of the 1830s mining settlement built within the valley. Residents at Shake Rag Alley cottages were still dipping water from the spring into the mid-1950s. (Please don't drink the water.)

1830 LOG CABIN



This Territorial Wisconsin log cabin was built in 1830 as a school and originally located a short distance to the east. It may be Wisconsin's oldest schoolhouse. The stone cottage was built circa 1840 along with a stone cellar foundation to which the cabin was moved. The house was last occupied in 1958 by *Tea Kettle Annie* who dipped her kettle in the spring each day. When Al Felly developed the site in the 1970s he repaired and re-roofed the structure, adding the stone fireplace.

CABINET SHOP



This structure was built in the early 1970s from a design by Alan Pape, reflecting typical village woodworking operations. A garage door on the left was removed in 2004 to expand floor space for use as a classroom. In 2006 the walls were insulated and sided with boards from a Sun Prairie barn.

LIND PAVILLION



Located up the hill at 411 Commerce St., this Quonset Hut was built in 1948 as a farm equipment dealership. It was purchased by Shake Rag Alley in 2012 and is now used as a classroom and gathering place.

Please do not interrupt classes in session.