



# Herman Schlegelmilch House

517 South Farwell Street  
1871, Upright and Wing



Herman Schlegelmilch, an accomplished German gunsmith, immigrated to the United States in 1853 and settled in Eau Claire in 1860. He worked at his trade until 1866, when he built the first brick commercial building in Eau Claire at 217 South Barstow Street. He hoped it could survive the numerous fires that ravaged the "sawdust city" at this time.

Schlegelmilch purchased a frame house at 517 South Farwell Street in 1869, and in 1871 added a two-story west wing, thought to be the first brick residence in Eau Claire. The main entrance faced Farwell Street. In 1906, three years after the death of Schlegelmilch's wife, his daughter Louise replaced the original framed portion of the house with a two-story brick addition. The entry was replaced by a bay window and moved from Farwell Street to Lake Street. Electricity and plumbing were installed at this time.

In 1977, Agnes Barland McDaniel, a Schlegelmilch descendant, donated the house to the Chippewa Valley Museum to be maintained as an example of an early merchant's home. The museum provides regular tours, and hosts special programs, educational classes and private functions, such as weddings, at the house.