

Muensterberg Plaza and Clock Tower



The Final Eight Pillars
Campaign
Berne, IN

Berne



A Dream in Progress



The Settlers Monument
Dedicated on October 17, 2010



Mission Statement

The Muensterberg Plaza and Clock Tower create a time-honoring tribute at the crossroads of our community by fostering an abiding legacy of the faith of our ancestors, refreshing the common spirit of the community and inspiring a vision of hope for future generations.





Where We Were – Yesterday

In 2002, Berne celebrated its sesquicentennial with a week-long party. In a word, the party was a smash! More importantly, while planning the party, the idea of doing something which could bring lasting value to the town, perhaps the building of a clock tower, was first publicly aired. That grand idea led to the formation of the Berne Community Development Corporation (Berne CDC) whose main mission and charter was first stated, in part:

“To plan, design, build and improve parklands and to erect and maintain public buildings, monuments or works thereon to be central focal attractions at the corner of U.S. 27 and S.R. 218, and other locations, as consistent with the above objectives and purposes.”

The Berne CDC board and fundraising group quickly got to work. Through vision and pluck, and in the face of overwhelming odds, obstacles and obfuscations, it succeeded in raising awareness and interest . . . and money. In fact, a lot of money.

The initial lead pledge, which started the fundraising success and which was the financial impetus for the project getting “airborne,” was from former Berne resident, Keith Reinhard and his wife, Rose-Lee, of New York City. At last count, over 800 names appear as donors on the rotunda plaque signifying donations of at least \$1,000. Community interest and pride were on trajectories during the five years of the fundraising campaign and peaked at the dedication on July 31, 2010.

Early efforts of the Berne CDC included the acquisition of six homes, as well as an abandoned gasoline service station. A public street and alley had to be vacated and the group also hired an Indianapolis architectural firm to develop a suitable design.

The final plaza design was selected which emphasizes the plaza as a community gathering space to encourage civic connections of myriad types, not the least of which are concerts, weddings, reunions, art fairs, and community festivals.

The scope and size of this venture required persistence, perseverance, patience and poise. The size and scope of the project actually had the unintended, but yet quite satisfying, result that the planning process was not rushed along too quickly. This allowed suitable time for reflection, change, amendment and alteration that almost always turned out, sometimes almost whimsically, to enhance the project's value and rationale.

Maybe more to the point, the project's appointed time of being ready to "go out to bid" occurring later than when some would have wished, actually took place in history-making recessionary times. This permitted contracts to be awarded to construction companies who were particularly economically motivated and interested in the project.

So, the project's special attractiveness and uniqueness, coupled with the slow economy, gave Berne more than the benefit of its bargain. As the saying goes, "We got our monies worth!"





Where We Are – Today

Construction contracts were signed with a local contractor, Limberlost Construction, in January 2010. Having a local project manager was a godsend. On many occasions the board realized that Mike Schwartz of Limberlost was personally invested in the project.

Groundbreaking was held on March 17, 2010. Just 136 days later, 2,800 people attended the dedication ceremonies at the end of Berne's 2010 Swiss Days celebration. It was a grand night for a grand project!

Those in attendance witnessed a 160-foot tall Clock Tower with four clock faces modeled after the famous Zytglogge in Bern, Switzerland with the following features:

- Eight value stones marking Lasting Values for Changing Times (It's What You Learn in Berne!)
- The first playing of the 12 animated glockenspiel figurines, accompanied by the Reinhard Carillon, telling the unique story of the settlement of Berne, Indiana;
- Bernard, the Bell ringer, a 7 foot tall Switzer, standing guard in the cupola, striking the bell at the hour;
- The Reinhard Carillon capable of playing over 1,000 songs including tunes of local interest, "On the Banks of the Wabash", "Back Home Again in Indiana" as well as the Indiana University and Purdue University fight songs;



After the dedication, additional plaza work was completed in the fall of 2010 including:

- State-of-the-art sound system covering the entire plaza for concerts and fairs;
- The 270° Muensterberg Wall encircling the clock tower;
- The rotunda, performing stage, and steps and walkways to Main Street and the Settlers Monument;
- Lamp posts (in the European style) along the western and southern portions of the plaza;
- The Settlers Monument (at the northwest corner of the plaza) which was dedicated on October 17, 2010;
- Purchase of five ornamental standards for the US 27/SR 218 intersection to be completed in 2011;
- Security camera system in place.

Where We Need To Go – Tomorrow An Eight Pillars Rationale

The clock tower is changing Berne's landscape and image. More importantly, perhaps, it is changing the community's persona and ethos, which are all tremendously worthwhile things.

Yet, our work cannot stop now. Simply put, the Muensterburg Plaza, around the clock tower, needs to be completed.

There are eight components, or pillars, to finish this plaza work. The costs, while not on the same level as the initial anchor, the clock tower itself, are still rather significant for a town the size of Berne.

One pillar, endowment, recognizes our responsibility to maintain our investment and insure that it remains aesthetically beautiful and meaningful for future generations.

Each pillar is important to finish our work and each will bring something to the plaza that is special and unique. In quick order, here is what still needs done:



Pillar 1. Final Grading of Plaza and Irrigation System. \$45,000

This is needed to aid in sound quality and safety for participatory events as well as plaza ambiance - especially important for concerts, weddings and splash pad safety.





Pillar 3. Splash Pad with Lights. \$100,000

More than any other component, this will bring the public, especially children, to the plaza. To be a success, the plaza needs to be a place for many public participatory functions. This is a paramount requirement.



BERNE CLOCK TOWER, BERNE, IN, option 1, view 1

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BERNE CLOCK TOWER, BERNE, IN, option 2, night, view 1

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Pillar 4. Promenade. \$60,000

Sidewalks and Lamp posts. Promenade venues need to circle the entire plaza. Approximately one half of the promenade sidewalks remain to complete. Four of the 12 lamp posts are in place already and demonstrate an early taste of the evening ambiance at the plaza.





Pillar 5. Quilt Gardens. \$50,000

Three separate, yet adjacent, gardens using themes (Heritage, Patriotic and Limberlost Wetlands) will bring vibrant floral color to the plaza. The quilt patterns will be nationally recognized and will be exclusive showcases for annuals. These gardens will also promote increased participation from groups interested in annual like the Berne Garden Club and others.

Pillar 6. Canton Tree. \$20,000

Canton shields of all Cantons and Half-Cantons serve to make, in just one more way, the plaza uniquely ours but at the same time foster our special connection with the Swiss international community.



Pillar 7. Pavilion. \$140,000

This structure located in the far northeast corner of the plaza will increase the user-friendliness for play and participation. This addition will be especially required for tours, as well as weddings, receptions, reunions, concerts and fairs. It will include ADA restrooms as well as kitchen facilities useful for receptions and food vendors.





Pillar 8. Endowment. \$500,000

Because there will be continuing maintenance of the plaza for years to come, an endowment fund has been established and is expected to be partially funded with future estate gifts. The endowment needs funded, at least in part, for current and future people to enjoy the plaza as shown below.



Final Costs to Complete the Eight Pillars

Final Grading of Plaza & Irrigation System	\$45,000
Professional Landscaping	\$75,000
Splash Pad (with Lighting)	\$100,000
Promenade	\$60,000
Quilt Gardens (Three)	\$50,000
Canton Tree	\$20,000
Pavilion with Rest Rooms	\$140,000

Total Construction Costs **\$500,000**

Endowment \$500,000

Total Eight Pillars Project **\$1,000,000**





Berne

HOPE

VISION

MUENSTERBERG PLAZA