



Randall Wilcox Buckeye

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The Randall Wilcox Buckeye

DePere

One of the largest Ohio buckeyes in the state towers over Wisconsin's oldest home to be continuously occupied, at 707 N. Broadway in DePere, Brown County. The Lawton family, direct descendants of Randall Wilcox, who built the home in 1836, still lives there. Growing beside the front porch, with its pillars and pediment, the tree was a spectator in its youth to the passing parade of traders and Indians, soldiers and settlers, farmers and townspeople along the Military Road from Fort Winnebago to Fort Howard.

Still in good health, the buckeye measures about

10 feet 6 inches around the trunk and is 73 feet high.

Randall Wilcox, an architect, came to the Green Bay area from the East, bringing with him all the materials he needed to build not only his home but a building across the street that became one of the first banks in the Northwest. Both buildings are in the Greek Revival style, the first appearance of this popular style in the state. It is probable that Wilcox brought the buckeye seedling with him.

As time went on, Wilcox became one of the area's most influential citizens and, in 1857, the first mayor of DePere.

Sources: Max Franz, DePere
Darlene Kronschnabel, DePere
Cathy and Randall Wilcox Lawton, DePere
Tracy Salisbury, DNR

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