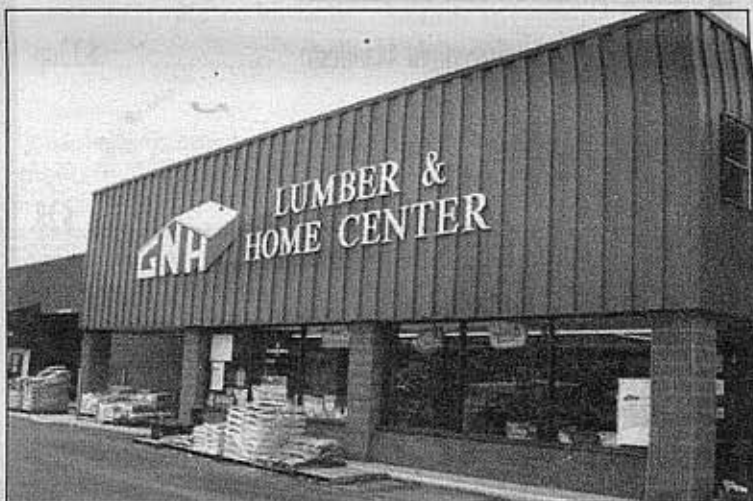


White Paint Turns Historic Structure 'Green'

By Melanie Lekocevic

GREENVILLE – The new paint job on the Greenville Cultural Arts Center – the former church on Rte. 32 – may be white, but it's also the community's way of going 'green'. And the entire project is a testament to what can be done when everyone pulls together – local business, government officials and even a troop of industrious teenagers.

The project that fixed up the historic building – scraping, painting and sprucing up – was
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GNH Lumber donated half the paint - the latest in environmentally-friendly paint technology - to refurbish the Cultural Arts Center on Rte. 32.

White Paint

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the brainchild of a trio of Girl Scouts who wanted to complete a community service project to earn their Gold Award. The award is the Girl Scouts' version of Eagle Scout, which the boys earn, and the highest honor a Girl Scout can achieve.

But painting a huge building like the Cultural Arts Center is a cumbersome proposition, no matter how industrious the teenager. So they worked with the Town Council and the town maintenance department to hire inmates on a work-release program to do the job. Then came the matter of cost.

That's when a local business came to the rescue. When the folks at GNH Lumber heard the town was getting prices on paint from Benjamin Moore, they decided to get involved. And for the company, it was also an opportunity to try out the latest in paint technology – one of the cleanest 'green' paints around.

And we are not talking 'forest green' or 'pistachio' – we mean the most environmentally-friendly paint available on the

market. Known as 'Aura' and marketed by Benjamin Moore, the exterior paint has the lowest VOC levels of any paint, and adheres to the most stringent environmental regulations out there.

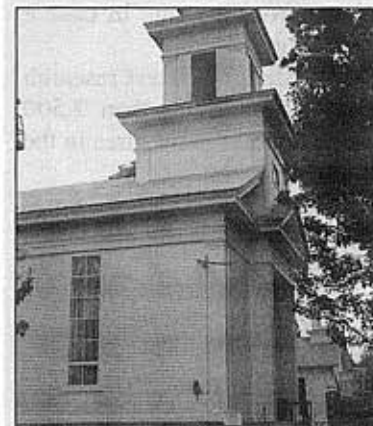
"We approached the town when we saw they were rehabbing the building with Benjamin Moore paint," said Genn Hagan, Division Manager for GNH Lumber. "Benjamin Moore was looking for community-based projects to try out this new paint. The paint has a different make-up from regular paint, and it almost eliminates VOCs – volatile organic compounds."

So the company met with town officials, measured the building, and then donated half the paint.

"This was one of those projects that we never even thought twice about getting involved in, even with the current state of the economy," Ms. Hagan said. In addition to the environmental benefits, the paint also extends the painting season – you can paint at much cooler temperatures than with ordinary paint – and the paint expands and contracts with the

building as the seasons, and temperature, change. It also has one of the most durable finishes around.

"This building has been getting so much positive use from community organizations, so getting involved in the project was a no-brainer. The church is a historic site, and the entire community uses the building now," Ms. Hagan said. "It was also a great opportunity for GNH to try out this paint, which is the latest in paint technology."



The paint job on the Cultural Arts Center was just about done last week; workers were just putting the finishing touches on the exterior of the building, with half of the paint donated by a local business.