



History of Old Mill's Name

Nearly named "Menards Plaza," an architect dubbed Eau Claire's shopping center "Old Mill Center" to celebrate its two expansive ponds and mechanical mill house. Before Menards' second shopping center was constructed, Eau Claire had no city water system for fire prevention or protection. To remedy this situation, two ponds were built to discreetly store two million gallons of water on the premises. The mill house was also equipped with two fire pumps and a working water wheel to regularly distribute water to neighboring sprinkler systems and fire hydrants.