

Historic Preservation in Michigan



2016 Governor's Award for Historic Preservation

Home Renewal Systems LLC, Quinn Evans Architects, and Wolverine Building Group

Rehabilitation of Fremont High School

Built in 1926, Fremont High School served students for 86 years. As noted by Shannon Morgan of Home Renewal Systems, "Everyone in Fremont born between 1910 and 1996 who went to public school attended classes in this building."

The campaign to pass a millage for the new high school, which opened in 2012, included a pledge to preserve the old high school building. Affordable housing developer Home Renewal Systems (HRS) purchased the former school and, using Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credits and Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, transformed classrooms into 38 affordable and market rate senior apartments. They rehabilitated the building's exterior and the interior courtyard—once filled in to provide classroom space—preserved interior corridors and lockers, and refinished oak cabinetry and trim. In addition, the Fremont Area Recreation Authority/Community Center is located in the 1980s annex, which contains athletic facilities.

The rehabilitation of Fremont High School preserved a historic downtown building and continues the rich relationship between community members and their school. Today, former students, faculty and staff are among the residents who live in the building and have convenient access to all Fremont has to offer.

