

Michigan Historical Commission Special Meeting Minutes

August 25, 2022

Michigan History Center
Morris Learning Center

Commissioners in attendance: Laura Ashlee, Timothy Chester, Brian James Egen, Delia Fernandez, Eric Hemenway, Tom Truscott and Larry Wagenaar.

Excused Absence: Joe Calvaruso, and Robin Terry

Staff: Sandra Clark, Michelle Davis, Troy Masserant, and Andrew Oswald.

Contractor: Noah Levinson, Detroit Marker Review Project

Public: Dr. Howard Lindsey, recording secretary, Black Historic Sites Committee; David Head, vice-president, Black Historic Sites Committee; Wally Ewing, sponsor of Mulligan's Hollow marker application; Jon Jellema, former member, Michigan House of Representatives, supporter of the Mulligan's Hollow marker application.

At 10:02 a.m. President Egen called the meeting to order.

Approval of Agenda: Ashlee moved to approve the agenda as presented; the motion was seconded by Chester and was unanimously approved.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Truscott moved to approve the June 9, 2022, meeting minutes as amended; the motion was seconded by Ashlee and was unanimously adopted.

Clark thanked Troy Masserant for his good work with the historical marker program as part of the Graduate Assistant program established with Eastern Michigan University. Clark then welcomed Andrew Oswald as the new Graduate Assistant. Commissioners also thanked Troy for his efforts and introduced themselves to Andrew.

Clark noted that congratulations go to Terry on the opening of Phase I of the Motown Museum expansion.

Road Map to the Future of the Marker Program

Clark distributed the Michigan Historical Markers 2022 Planning Session summary to the commission prior to the meeting. (Appendix A)

Levinson provided an update on the Marker Review Project. He noted that the project is moving from outreach to action. He is working with JFM Consulting which will facilitate the community meetings next month. Levinson stated there is a lot of interest and passion in Detroit for the marker program.

Chester asked Levinson, "Of the following two marker concerns; 1. existing markers that have issues/problems and 2. untold stories that currently do not have a marker, which need appears greater?" Levinson stated that it appears the absence of markers for untold stories appears to be the bigger concern for community members.

Clark noted the need to better support people doing research for marker applications. In an effort to do this, Masserant has expanded the source workbook prepared by the University of Michigan's Capstone Project students. Ashlee asked if the document could be shared with commissioners. Davis will share it with commissioners before the next meeting.

Responding to a question about current trends in the recent marker applications, Masserant noted an increase in applications that expand the diversity of markers and the continuing interest of churches. Chester asked if there were any geographical trends. Masserant said Detroit was the only location with a concentration of interest.

Clark noted very little pushback from sponsors reaching out to the center asking to have a marker refinished when the center recommends revising the text and replacing the marker.

Clark asked the commission to identify the strengths of the marker program and its processes. Commissioners agreed that the overall marker process has a good foundation: working with Eastern Michigan University, the marker database, program management, commission involvement. Commissioners noted that having the marker text reviewed and approved by them helps develop more diverse points of view. Commissioners agreed that the marker program establishes high standards by requiring rigorous research. It also provides communities with a sense of legacy and grass roots pride. It democratizes the process for participation in local history, but also has a statewide impact. The program also builds community investment by having multiple community stakeholders come together to make a local investment in their history.

Clark then asked the commission to think about the weaknesses of the marker program and its processes. Commissioners noted the lack of equity in participation in a program that relies solely on groups and individuals with the ability to raise funds for a marker, knowledge of the program, and the ability to get owners' permission to erect a marker. They noted that there is not a strong public understanding that markers are commemorative, not just celebratory, and can deal with difficult stories. The focus on new markers means the potential of the program and existing markers to communicate with legislators and to support education and tourism is not explored. Communication and an understanding of how people use markers are also neglected.

Looking toward the challenge of sustainability, commissioners identified a lack of a professional historian staff member assigned to the program beyond the center director for history and research guidance, assistance to maintaining existing markers and ability to handle increased demand or limit demand. They also noted the current difficulties with the current manufacturer, which has a major production backlog.

Clark encouraged commissioners to review the Ohio Historical Marker Program, Remarkable Ohio, website. Ohio uses an annual cycle to receive marker applications and promote specific topics to try and balance the stories across the state. They have been able to secure grant opportunities to assist with this.

Aspirations for the marker program:

➤ **Creating New Markers**

Chester shared the idea of having the commission fully fund a high school classroom project that would purchase a new marker to share an untold story. It would be undertaken by a history teacher in grades 8-12 who is willing to dive deep into Michigan's history to share significant untold stories. The students, under the teacher's guidance, would be required to do the research, gathering and vetting the required primary sources. It would be a great way to get youth involved and provide them with a lifelong experience.

Hemenway noted the importance of finding education partners who are passionate about history and using the marker program to educate young students about Michigan's history.

Truscott mentioned using college interns to work directly with the marker program.

➤ **Managing Existing Markers**

Chester noted the lack of funds to repair the deteriorating markers and posts. Currently the commission is offering support to assist with repairing the markers, but there is a need to find bigger dollars by applying for private funding or asking for capital dollars. He mentioned finding and offering different alternatives to have a marker repaired or refinished instead of being fully dependent on one foundry. The commission could establish clear guidelines to help sponsors find efficient, effective, and less costly ways to improve a deteriorating marker and/or post.

➤ **Building History Engagement Using Existing Markers**

Commissioners discussed adding QR codes to existing markers. QR codes could allow markers to be more accessible by providing screen reader capabilities and might allow the text to be translated into various languages. However, developing a QR landing page to house the marker information would need further exploring before determining if it is even feasible. Chester mentioned CollectiveAccess (www.collectiveaccess.org), a free, open-source software for cataloguing and publishing museum and archival collections. It is a citizen driven public platform for cataloguing and commentary that allows public manipulation of the data.

Fernandez reported that she has been working with a few community organizations in Grand Rapids to assist with building long-term sustainable marker program engagement with Latino history. The coalition is working to engage the community in order to uncovering the stories and needed documentation to move forward with applying for some historical markers. Ideally, a running list will be created of the untold stories that need to be shared, now and in the future. They are discussing ways to involve local schools in this initiative.

Clark asked if commissioners would be interested in writing a monthly, social media piece highlighting a different historical marker each month. Staff is preparing a document that outlines the content for the center's social media posts and once that is finalized, it will be shared with the commission. The commission agreed it would participate in this.

Lunch Break from 12:28 p.m.

Meeting resumed at 1:02 p.m.

Marker Program

➤ **Public Comment on Marker Topics**

Dr. Howard Lindsey and David Head, on behalf of the Black Historic Sites Committee, urged the commission to approve the soon-to-be submitted Michigan Historical marker application for Cornelius L. Henderson. The plan is to have the marker erected in Riverside Park. Mr. Henderson was the second African-American to graduate from the University of Michigan (U of M) with an engineering degree and was the chief structural engineer for the Ambassador Bridge and the Detroit Windsor Tunnel. Mr. Henderson was a long-time fighter for social injustices and civil rights for African-Americans. A team of U of M graduates, along with Mr. Henderson's great grandson, is assisting with and supporting this project.

➤ **Delisting of State Register of Historic Sites (Appendix B)**

◆ **Bishop's Residence, Detroit, Wayne County – State Site No. 609**

Ashlee moved to approve delisting the Bishop's Residence; the motion was seconded by Fernandez and was unanimously approved.

➤ **Approval of Marker Applications –** Written background information was provided for three new marker applications. (Appendix C)

◆ **Beta Beta Chapter-Alpha Sigma Phi, Lansing, Ingham County**

◆ **Mulligan's Hollow, Grand Haven, Ottawa County**

◆ **Tejano Music and Culture in Southeast Michigan, Detroit, Wayne County**

Truscott moved to approve the Beta Beta Chapter-Alpha Sigma Phi application; the motion was seconded by Fernandez and was unanimously approved. The commission suggested that additional information should be requested about the structure itself along with a few photos, current and historic.

Wagenaar moved to approve the Mulligan's Hollow application; the motion was seconded by Truscott and was unanimously approved. Commissioners noted that this is a good example of multi-racial history.

Ashlee moved to approve the Tejano Music and Culture in Southeast Michigan marker application; the motion was seconded by Truscott and was unanimously approved.

➤ **Approval of Marker Text –** Draft Marker texts were provided for:

◆ **Ring Lardner, Niles, Berrien County, Site No. S339**

◆ **Catholic Central High School, Grand Rapids, Kent County**

◆ **Berkley Village Hall and Fire-Police Station, Berkley, Oakland County**

◆ **Holcombe Beach, Sterling Heights, Macomb County, Site No. S309**

Wagenaar moved to approve the Ring Lardner revised replacement marker text as amended; the motion was seconded by Fernandez and was unanimously approved.

Ashlee moved to approve the Catholic Central High School marker text as amended; the motion was seconded by Truscott and was unanimously approved.

Wagenaar moved to approve the Berkley Village Hall and Fire-Police Station marker text as amended; the motion was seconded by Chester and was unanimously approved.

Truscott moved to approve the Holcombe Beach revised replacement marker text conditional upon allowing additional time for commissioners to review and respond to Clark with suggested minor edits; the motion was seconded by Ashlee and was unanimously approved.

➤ **Reports**

- ◆ The Marker Status report was distributed prior to the meeting.
- ◆ The Marker Fund report was distributed prior to the meeting.

Wagenaar noted that the Holland Harbor Lighthouse/Holland Harbor (site no. L394) historical marker located in the Holland State Park is in desperate need of refinishing. He asked if it would be possible to use the marker repair/replacement funds to refinish the marker. Clark said that she would reach out to the Parks and Recreation Division to pursue this project. Davis said that currently Sewah Studios is not accepting any refinishing projects. They hope to begin accepting them sometime in 2023.

Lewis Cass Plaque

The center recently received a complaint regarding the Lewis Cass historical plaque located on Mackinac Island. The plaque was issued by the Michigan Historical Commission and the Mackinac Island State Park Commission (MISPC) in 1915. Clark and Hemenway met with Steve Brisson, MISPC Director, and discussed possible ways to rectify the portrayal of Mr. Cass's treatment of Indigenous people. All three agreed the current plaque should not be removed, but an additional plaque should be added that will convey an Anishinaabe perspective on the Cass's actions. The commission discussed adding a second plaque of similar size but perhaps with a modern Anishinaabe design. Commissioners were particularly intrigued with the idea of focusing on Kanapima (Augustin Hamlin, Jr.) who was educated in Cincinnati and Rome and served as both an interpreter and advisor in treaty negotiations and legal efforts to avoid removal of the Odawa from Michigan. His portrait would be a good match in design to that of Cass. The commission adopted a motion offering that should the Mackinac Island State Park Commission choose to honor Augustin Hamlin in this manner, the Michigan Historical Commission would be pleased to share in the cost of the plaque and have its name associated with the new plaque. The motion was made by Wagenaar, seconded by Fernandez and unanimously approved.

Local Historic District Committee Report (Recommendations – Appendix D)

- **Dr. David R. Byrd Center and Wilsey-Sperry-Nelson Farm, Pittsfield Township, Washtenaw County**
- **Krainz Woods/Sojourner Truth Homes Historic District, Detroit, Wayne County**
Chester moved to accept the recommendations provided by Ashlee for the Dr. David R. Byrd Center and Wilsey-Sperry-Nelson Farm report and the Krainz Woods/Sojourner Truth Homes Historic District report; the motion was seconded by Fernandez and was unanimously accepted.

Director's Report

➤ Budget FY2023

Clark reported that starting October 1, the historic interpretation that the center provides within Michigan State Parks will be funded by state park funds. The FY23 budget also provides \$485,000 in one-time funding for the Archives to complete several digitization projects including preservation of microfilm and other cellulose media that are decaying with age.

Business Updates

- Awards Program – A final draft of the Awards Program information was distributed prior to the meeting. Wagenaar moved to launch the program and begin promoting it to the public; the motion was seconded by Chester and was unanimously approved. The commission mentioned having the award's committee discuss adding past award recipients to the internet content. Davis noted that the awards ceremony was previously held in the Capitol rotunda, which is no longer available for such events. The Capitol now has a new addition available to rent, Heritage Hall. The committee may want to host the awards ceremony at the center in May of 2023. Egen stated that Fernandez has agreed to serve on the Award's Committee.
- November Commission Meeting – The commission confirmed it would like to have its November 2022 meeting at the Records Management Services building in Lansing. Clark and Davis will inquire about its availability for November.

Public Comment – No public comments were given at this time.

Commissioner Comments:

- Fernandez reported that her book release date is scheduled for late January 2023.
- Hemenway said that things continue to remain very busy for him. He will be presenting at the Historical Society of Michigan's Michigan History Conference, which will be held in-person September 23-25, 2022.
- Wagenaar noted that the society's first post-pandemic motorcoach tour held the previous weekend went very well.
- Truscott shared his pleasure at attending the Knaggs Bridge Area marker rededication event that was held in Bancroft, Michigan, on July 31, 2022.
- Clark shared that Kathryn Eckert, former historic preservation officer and history advocate, passed away in July 2022.

Truscott moved to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Fernandez and the meeting adjourned at 3:09 p.m.



Sandra S. Clark, Executive Secretary

DRAFT

Michigan Historical Markers 2022 Planning Session

Review of Where We Are

Statement of Value

Michigan Historical Markers are silent sentinels with a powerful voice. Each deepens the meaning and connections of a particular place. Taken together they can tell a whole community's or a whole state's story.

Through historical markers, communities convey information to tourists, residents, school children, and learners of all ages. The markers may be discovered through random encounters or organized tours and field trips.

Historical markers can form a connective tissue that helps a community, or a state, understand how it evolved over time. They can help build a shared understanding of the past that is essential to creating a viable future. They can inspire with stories of bravery, innovation, and enterprise, and they can invite reflection as they share difficult history.

The Michigan Marker Review Project

To achieve these goals, Michigan's historical markers must be grounded in authentic history, and we must ensure in doing so that we remember to give voice to narratives that have been forgotten or ignored.

Since 1955, the Michigan Historical Marker Program has grown to encompass approximately 1,800 sites, mostly through application and financing by local communities, individuals, and organizations. As a result, some stories have yet to be told. To preserve the power of local involvement and ownership while expanding the collective narrative told by the markers, the Michigan Historical Commission and the Michigan History Center are launching the Marker Review Project. Over the next few years, they will work with diverse members of communities across the state to review the stories told by existing markers, identify important untold stories, set priorities, and develop additional markers. A pilot effort, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, is taking place in Detroit this year.

Using Oral History and Traditional Cultural Knowledge

The marker program is grounded in traditional primary sources, writings created at the time of the event. Traditional cultural knowledge, collective memory, and attributed oral histories may be the only sources for some things. When this is the case, the practices of comparison and validation used with printed sources need to be followed.

Building Community Competence in History

The source book developed by the University of Michigan Capstone Project has been edited and expanded by Troy and will be available as a downloadable PDF on the web. Other ideas include:

- Recorded webinars on how to go about research in one or more archives and online
- Recorded webinar on collecting oral histories, including permissions, transcription, and deposit in a public archive

Agenda for August Discussion

- I. Current Trends in Applications

- II. Strengths of the Marker Program

- III. Weaknesses of the Marker Program

- IV. Aspirations for the Marker Program
 - a. Creating New Markers

 - b. Managing Existing Markers

 - c. Building History Engagement Using Existing Markers

Delisting Items from the State Register of Historic Sites

The Michigan Historical Commission is charged with maintaining the State Register of Historic Sites. When a historic structure is destroyed or so altered as to remove its historic significance, we require, by law, that the marker be removed. In most cases, the State Register listing should also be removed at that time.

At this time, we propose that the following site(s) be delisted from the State Register of Historic Sites:

Site No.	Date Listed	Name	Location	Reason for Delisting
S609	3/15/1990	Bishop's Residence	Detroit, Wayne County	For the past several years, the site owner has been making various changes to the exterior and interior. After trying to work with them for several years, they have made the decision to return the marker. Per Sandra Clark the site should be delisted. The marker was already salvaged.

Beta Beta Chapter-Alpha Sigma Phi

Applicant: Joy Murray

Location Address: 616 M.A.C. Ave, East Lansing, Ingham Co.

Historic Resource(s): Historic Event

Requested Marker Type: Small marker with different text on each side.

Historical Summary:

On March 20, 1891, a small group of female students at the Michigan Agricultural College (Now Michigan State University) organized the Feronian Society, a women's literary society and the first women's organization active on the University's campus. Mrs. Susie Hillman was the organization's first president. At the time of its founding, only twenty female students attended the university.

After a suggestion from a faculty member, the founders named the society after Feronia, a Roman goddess said to be associated with abundance, wildlife, health, and fertility. Feronia was also said to be a patron of those freed from enslavement and connected with liberty. According to "the college men of those days" who translated the name, "Feronian" meant "Iron-jawed Fraternity."

At its outset, the society scarcely had members "sufficient to fill the offices" and did not have a "regular nor suitable place of meeting." In addition to these, the society endured the "persistent fun made of the 'Iron-jawed Fraternity' by the exclusive circles of Wells' and Williams Halls."

In 1900 the Feronian society numbered thirty members, was the largest of the four women's organizations active on campus, and successfully obtained designated meeting rooms on campus. Ella Kedzie Plant, an alum of the Feronian society and member of the Kedzie family that helped shape the Michigan Agricultural College, graduated in 1898 as the high honor student for the Women's Course. Her commencement address was entitled, "the Realm of Women."

On February 17, 1922, all seventy-eight members, including alums, of the Feronian Literary Society were inducted into the Alpha Sigma Phi International Fraternity and became the Beta Beta Chapter. The Theta Chapter officiated the occasion.

In 1935, Dorothy Dow Arbury loaned the Beta Beta chapter \$2,000 to purchase land in East Lansing to construct their chapter house. The building was completed in 1938.

Recommendation: Approval

Proposed Marker Location:



Mulligan's Hollow

Applicant: Wallace K. Ewing.

Location Address: 600 Mulligan Drive, Grand Haven, Ottawa County.

Historic Resource(s): Historic Site

Requested Marker Type: Large marker with different text on each side.

Historical Summary:

Native Americans who inhabited western Michigan used a small meadow here at the mouth of the Grand River as a gathering place. They knew the area as Gabagouache. The name is said to describe “the widening of the river and the slowing of the current as the flow reached Lake Michigan.”

In 1755, Louis Herbin, the French Commandant of Michilimackinac, ordered Charles-Michel Mouet de Langlade, an officer in the colonial regular troops, to “take command of the whole of Grand River and dependency” and establish a trading post “at the place named Gabagouache.” Langlade remained active in the area and is said to have conducted winter trading at the mouth of the Grand River through 1790. In 1819, Gurdon S. Hubbard, an American fur trader, traveled to the area to witness the “Feast of the Dead,” a ten-day ceremony he described as being held to honor their deceased ancestors. Under the 1836 treaty of Washington the Odawa ceded their land north of the Grand River to the federal government.

Alfred (1803-1881) and Louisa (1806-1885) Bennett were among the first Black settlers in the area, having arrived in Spring Lake Township by 1850. During the 1850s they began purchasing land in the hollow. They owned twenty acres of land in the hollow in 1876. Alfred and Louisa later sold the land and were recorded as living on Third Street in Grand Haven in the 1880 Census.

In 1881, John Mulligan, an Irish immigrant, purchased a part of the hollow. Mulligan was known as a sailor and ship's captain. He purchased a larger portion of the hollow in 1907. In 1908 the city purchased the property, by then known as Mulligan's Hollow.

Known as the city forest, the hollow remained relatively undisturbed until the late 1930s. In 1939, construction began on a Civilian Conservation Corps work camp in the hollow. Eighteen buildings were built. During World War II the buildings were converted for use as a Coast Guard training camp under the command of E. J. Clemons. After the war, the buildings gradually decayed until 1971, when the remaining structures, except the mess hall, were demolished to turn the area into a recreation park.

On August 25, 1973, the eighty-acre parcel of land was dedicated as the Mulligan's Hollow Park and Recreation Area. At the dedication, the president of the Tri-Cities Family YMCA presented Grand Haven Mayor John Walhout with a \$1000 check to formally acquire the land.

Recommendation: Approval

Proposed Marker Location:



Tejano Music and Culture in Southeast Michigan

Applicant: Michigan Music Hall of Fame, Inc.

Location Address: 2826 Bagley Street, Detroit, Wayne County.

Historic Resources: Historic events and people associated with Tejano culture in southwest Detroit.

Requested Marker Type: Large marker with different text on each side.

Historical Summary:

The first group of Mexican immigrants and migrant workers came to Detroit in the late 1910s and early 1920s. The *Detroit Free Press* estimated some 2,000-4,000 Mexicans living in Detroit in 1921. Their numbers increased dramatically beginning in 1922. Many came to work in the sugar beet fields near Marlette and the factories in southern Michigan. In 1923, the *Detroit Free Press* estimated that there were some 30,000 members of the local “Mexican Colony.” Most migrants during this period followed cyclical labor-related migration patterns and returned home frequently.

The Great Depression and 1929 immigration restrictions brought a large reduction to Mexican immigration and to the Mexican/Latino population in Detroit and the United States. The 1930 census enumerated 6,515 Mexicans in Detroit. In November 1932, with the help of Diego Rivera, some 5,000 Mexicans in Detroit were convinced to voluntarily repatriate to Mexico. Nationally, contemporary scholarship estimates some 350,000-400,000 Mexican immigrants repatriated or were deported between 1929 and 1935 by government-sponsored repatriation and deportation programs.

It wasn't until the late 1930s and early 1940s that large numbers of Mexicans and native-born Tejanos—Mexican Americans from Texas—began to follow cyclical migrations to northern states in search of work. Many returned to the sugar beet fields and factories of southern Michigan.

Tejano traditionally describes the “Spanish and Mexican colonial settlers of Texas and their descendants,” especially those living in southern Texas. The term has become more expansive and denotes a “Texan of Mexican descent” and includes many Tejano migrants who settled throughout the northern United States in the twentieth century. Many of these migrants continue to identify as Tejanos due to cultural ties and familial connections in Texas. These often draw them back to Texas for extended periods and reinforce close cultural connections between geographically distant groups.

Migrant workers brought Latino and Tejano musical styles that emerged in Northern Mexico and Texas, such as *conjunto* and *orquestas Tejanas*, to Michigan as they made their way north in the 1940s. The conjunto is a uniquely working-class Tejano musical style with folk roots. Evolving from the northern-Mexican *norteño*, conjunto originated among Tejanos in the late nineteenth century. It paired the accordion and the *bajo sexto*, a twelve-string bass guitar, with European

musical styles like the waltz, mazurka, and polka. Conjunto musicians and groups, more prominent in Texas in the 1920s and 1930s, began to emerge in Michigan in the late 1940s and 1950s (“Conjunto” can delineate a musical style. It can also describe a small group of musicians, e.g., “He started his own conjunto.”)

While largely unknown when compared to big-name Tejano musicians from Texas, Michigan-based Tejano musicians and groups were central figures in their communities during the 1940s and 1950s. They played for their families and local communities at frequently held “house dances” and other local celebrations. Hilario Perez, a member of a family musical trio, recalled that they would even sing and play music while working in the sugar beet fields.

Most Michigan-based Tejano musicians balanced a full-time work schedule with touring local venues, bars, and events during the evenings and on weekends. Advertised as “three rooms of Latin atmosphere,” the Las Vegas Bar at 3400 Bagley Street was one such place during the 1960s and 1970s. It featured a restaurant, a dancing room, and a bar. A 1976 *Detroit Free Press* article noted that WMZK broadcast live music from the bar six days a week. In the 1970s, Olivia Galan hosted a live radio show every Sunday afternoon on WQRS-FM. Other radio stations that frequently broadcast Tejano and Latin American music included WSAM and WDET.

Many groups or conjuntos toured a wide area in Southeast Michigan and northern Ohio, playing at venues in Detroit, Luna Pier, Toledo, Ann Arbor and other cities. Martin Solis, founder and lead voice for early Detroit-based conjunto *Los Primos*, was known in the community for his large repertoire of songs and singing voice. Musicians such as Solis would frequent jukeboxes at local bars to listen to and learn the newest songs and styles emerging from San Antonio and other hubs of Tejano and Mexican music in Texas. Others learned by buying Tejano and Latino records and cassettes from places like the Mexican American owned Roy’s Records at 2628 Bagley Street.

Recommendation: Approval.

Proposed Marker Location: Mexican Town, Mercado Plaza





Michigan Historical Commission review and recommendations regarding the David R. Byrd Center and Wilsey-Sperry-Nelson Farm Historic District Study Committee Report submitted by Pittsfield Charter Township

Comments submitted by Commissioner Laura Ashlee for consideration by the full commission at the August 24, 2002, meeting.

This historic district study committee report is excellent. It is thorough, well written, and well documented. There are only two suggestions:

- 1) The period of significance ends in 1987, the year of David Byrd's death. The study committee report makes a clear case for Byrd's significance as an African-American architect and educator; therefore, the area of significance Ethnic History: African-American should be added.
- 2) In addition to being designated under National Register criterion A, the property should be designated under criterion C for architecture.

Michigan Historical Commission review and recommendations regarding the Krainz Woods/Sojourner Truth Homes Historic District Study Committee Report submitted by the City of Detroit

Comments submitted by Commissioner Laura Ashlee for consideration by the full commission at the August 24, 2002, meeting.

A map showing the location of Krainz Woods, the Sojourner Truth Homes, and Conant Gardens would be helpful. Additionally a map showing the broader area of where these neighborhoods are located relative to Paradise Valley would be helpful.