

# Michigan Historical Commission Special Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2022

Mackinac State Historic Parks Offices

Post Hospital Room

**Commissioners in attendance:** Laura Ashlee, Timothy Chester, Brian James Egen, Delia Fernandez, Eric Hemenway, Robin Terry (via Zoom), Tom Truscott and Larry Wagenaar.

**Excused Absence:** Joe Calvaruso

**Staff:** Sandra Clark, Michelle Davis and Troy Masserant.

**Contractor:** Noah Levinson, Detroit Marker Review Project

**Public:** Terry Cwik, Salem Area Historical Society; and Joy Gleason, Glad Tours

At 9:32 a.m. President Egen called the meeting to order.

Steve Brisson, Director of the Mackinac State Historic Parks, welcomed everyone to Mackinac Island. He noted that as a result of the various outdoor venues, the parks managed to fare better than most historic organizations during the pandemic. Layoffs were not necessary; regular attendance was up 12 percent in 2021; various exhibit updates continued; and other construction projects continued to move forward.

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

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Fernandez moved to approve the April 21, 2022, meeting minutes as amended; the motion was seconded by Ashlee and was unanimously adopted.

**Public Comment on Items Not Related to an Existing Agenda Item:** Joy Gleason, Glad Tours in Lansing, expressed her heartfelt appreciation for the recently revised Little Family Homesite/Malcolm X historical marker. She noted the easy thing to do would have been to replace what was already there. However, the commission took the time to do the right thing and make revisions to the text that reflect a more accurate story of Malcolm X's life in Lansing. The end results will make a difference for generations to come.

Clark thanked Gleason for her role in making sure a more complete story was shared.

## Marker Program

### ➤ Marker Relocation Request

#### ◆ St. Peter Lutheran Church, Macomb, Macomb County, Site No. L2344

(Appendix A) – A request was received asking permission to relocate the St. Peter Lutheran Church historical marker that has not yet been erected. Macomb Township indicated the originally proposed location likely would not meet the sign setback regulations. The new marker location will provide public access from both Romeo Plank Road and 24 Mile Road and will be placed near the main entrance to

the church. Wagenaar moved to approve the request to relocate the marker; the motion was seconded by Chester and was unanimously approved.

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

- ◆ **Grosse Pointe First Presbyterian Church, Grosse Pointe Farms, Wayne County – Local Site No. 60**

Ashlee moved to approve delisting the Grosse Pointe First Presbyterian Church; the motion was seconded Chester and was unanimously approved.

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

- ◆ **Catholic Central High School, Grand Rapids, Kent County**
- ◆ **99 Pine Street-Smith Family Home, Manistee, Manistee County**
- ◆ **Berkley Village Hall and Police-Fire Station, Berkley, Oakland County**

Wagenaar moved to approve the Catholic Central High School marker application with text that includes the structures and the campus; the motion was seconded by Ashlee and was approved with Fernandez abstaining.

Chester moved to approve the 99 Pine Street-Smith Family Home marker application with an exception to the policy that requires a person to be deceased for 20 years or more before inclusion on a marker in order to allow Annie May Smith to be included; the motion was seconded by Wagenaar and was unanimously approved.

Wagenaar moved to approve the Berkley Village Hall and Police-Fire Station marker application; the motion was seconded by Truscott and was unanimously approved. The commission suggested requesting additional photos of the addition to assess whether it is an example of Mid-Century modern architecture and note that in the text if it is.

**Dickerson Barn** – At the Michigan Historical Commission meeting on April 21, 2022, Terry Cwik, Salem Area Historical Society, asked the commission to reconsider its March 16, 2022, decision to not include the Dickerson Barn on the Jarvis Stone School historical marker. The commission agreed to reconsider its decision once Mr. Cwik provided additional documentation and interior photos of the barn. After the April meeting, Troy Masserant contacted Stephen Stier, Chair of Michigan Barn Preservation Network's Technical Committee, and asked for his professional review of the barn. Mr. Stier stated that the frame of the building is mostly original, but the exterior cladding is not. Mr. Stier also noted that the barn appears to be an unusual swing beam barn. Ashlee stated that she also contacted Mr. Stier and he noted that the swing beam appears to be important. Ashlee also reminded commissioners that the barn has been moved and is out of context. Mr. Cwik noted that even though the barn was moved, it remains within the same township and continues to be an important part of Salem's history. Chester moved to approve including the Dickerson Barn on the Jarvis Stone School historical marker with text that focuses on the preserved trusses and swing beam; the motion was seconded by Truscott and passed by a vote of 7-1.

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

- ◆ **Nashville Volunteer Fire Department/1899 Fire Bell, Nashville, Barry County**
- ◆ **Romano Park, East Grand Rapids, Kent County**

- ◆ **Hamburg/Edward B. Winans, Hamburg, Livingston County**
- ◆ **St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Richmond, Macomb County**
- ◆ **Walk to Freedom, Detroit, Wayne County**

Truscott moved to approve the Nashville Volunteer Fire Department/1899 Fire Bell marker text as amended; the motion was seconded by Fernandez and was unanimously approved.

Chester moved to approve the Romano Park marker text as amended; the motion was seconded by Wagenaar and was unanimously approved.

Ashlee moved to approve the Hamburg/Edwina B. Winans replacement revised marker text as amended; the motion was seconded by Fernandez and was unanimously approved.

Truscott moved to approve the St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church marker text as amended; the motion was seconded by Fernandez and was unanimously approved.

Terry moved to approve the Walk to Freedom marker text as amended; 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.

**Local Historic District Committee Report**

- **Robert and Erma Hayden House Historic District, Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County**
- **Flint & Pere Marquette Potter Street Station Historic District, Saginaw, Saginaw County**

Wagenaar moved to accept the recommendations provided by Ashlee for the Robert and Erma Hayden House Historic District as amended; the motion was seconded by Truscott and was unanimously accepted.

Fernandez moved to accept the recommendations provided by Ashlee for the Flint & Pere Marquette Potter Street Station Historic District as provided; the motion was seconded by Truscott and was unanimously accepted.

**Director's Report** – Ashlee asked if it was too late to reach out to legislators about the proposed line-item for a one-time Archive microfilm digitization project that was mentioned at the April commission meeting. Clark noted there is still time to reach out if it is done soon.

Clark shared that Mark Hoffman, DNR Deputy Director, will be retiring at the end of 2022. Clark will work on text for a resolution to present at a future meeting.

**Marker Audit Project**

Clark reshared the Michigan Historical Marker Audit Process flow chart and the Michigan Marker Audit Project description with commissioners prior to the meeting. (Appendix D)

Ashlee asked for a reminder of the amount awarded for the National Endowment for the Humanities Grant that includes both the Marker Audit Project and the Grant House. Clark stated \$189,000 was awarded.

After discussion, commissioners agreed that the following changes should be made to the document:

- ◆ Throughout the document replace the word “audit” with “review”
- ◆ Final paragraph – Change the marker count to read “nearly 1,800 markers”
- ◆ Final paragraph – Change “neglected” to “have yet to be told.”

### **Road Map to the Future of the Marker Program**

- **U of M Capstone Study** – Clark distributed the study and a discussion guide to the commissioners prior to the meeting.

Clark noted that there are important stories that lack the traditional primary sources that have been required by the marker program. Clark asked commissioners to consider ways for the program to move forward using oral history and/or oral traditions as primary sources. She mentioned the importance of considering: how oral history should be recorded, how it should be documented, what process(es) should be used if there are disagreements in the oral stories being shared.

Ashlee expressed concern related to the decision-making process involved in deciding whose point of view to share if oral history stories differ. One individual remembering a story in a certain way does not necessarily make it true or historically accurate. Egen mentioned the need to have consistency when looking at the parameters used for oral traditions.

Fernandez noted that textual sources also have errors, biases and disagreements. It is important to collaborate to find a consensus whether it is textual or oral. There is a need to find out why narratives differ – what may have been left out and why.

Hemenway shared that the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) states that folklore (oral) traditions have the same weight as scientific Western evidence. It does not have to be printed to be considered a primary source; recorded oral stories should be considered sources as well.

Terry noted that a marker text should not rely solely on one-person’s oral history; it should require further validation. At this time, the marker program may find it necessary to maintain the current guidelines for primary sources. However, if it is determined that those primary sources do not exist, additional discussion should determine next steps. The discussion likely should include whether or not the marker program has available resources to assist with finding a knowledgeable individual to help with research and to find additional resources that may include oral history/traditions.

Commissioners discussed using collective memory, community knowledge and community/tribal tradition. Chester noted that history is not an absolute. It is important to acknowledge there are different ways of sharing and learning more than one person's knowledge. Fernandez noted that the Oral History Association has numerous resources available.

Clark stated that a source book was compiled by the University of Michigan Capstone students. It provides good information to assist with applying for a marker, but it needs further review by staff prior to sharing it with the public.

Clark stated that another item worth noting is the idea of scheduling library and/or archives research events. This would provide research assistance to sponsors planning to apply for a marker. Wagenaar noted it may be beneficial to host a webinar or share a YouTube video that guides a sponsor through the various ways to collect primary sources and oral history.

Fernandez noted having multi-lingual marker texts available is worth considering as well. Commissioners also discussed the possibility of using QR codes on the markers. The commission agreed to have a longer meeting time for the August 25, 2022, meeting. A 2-hour block in the morning will focus on further discussion regarding the marker program, there will be a break for lunch, and the meeting will reconvene in the afternoon for normal procedural items.

**Public Comment** – Mr. Terry Cwik, Salem Area Historical Society, reiterated his appreciation to the commission for its efforts to properly show the history of the past. He commended the commission for its efforts.

The commission took a break for lunch at 12:12 p.m. and reconvened at 2:15 p.m.

### **Business Updates**

- Award's Committee – Clark shared three awards program documents with commissioners prior to the meeting. The documents are designed to share as separate pages on the center's website. She noted she will also create another page with brief bios for each of the individuals that the awards honor. She proposed adding former Secretary of State Richard Austin to the Milliken/Adams/Kelley Award and renaming it as the Milliken/Adams/Austin/Kelley Award. The commission supported this idea. Commissioners provided minor edits to the document. Wagenaar noted he would be willing to share the awards information in an upcoming edition of the *Michigan History* magazine.
- Nominating Committee Report – The nominating committee recommended reappointment of Egen as President and Chester as Vice President. Truscott moved to accept the recommendation of the nominating committee; the motion was seconded by Fernandez and adopted unanimously with Egen and Chester abstaining.

### **Commissioner Comments:**

- Ashlee noted it is wonderful to be on Mackinac Island.

- Truscott commended Clark for the fantastic job that she does. He paid tribute to Ashlee for her marker book and all of the work she has done for the historical marker program.
- Hemenway shared his recent involvement with the “Pedaling with a Purpose” bicycle tour. This year 380 fourth grade students participated in the bike tour and learned about health, science and history along the way. Hemenway used the Hiawatha Pageant historical marker to share a piece of history with the students.
- Fernandez shared her book cover with commissioners. It will be out in January 2023. She has had some marker conversations with Latino community groups in the Grand Rapids and Lansing areas.
- Wagenaar mentioned the Upper Peninsula History Conference and encouraged others to attend.
- Chester appreciated the option of being able to stay an additional night on the Island and how nice it is to spend time with others.
- Clark shared that Davis is finalizing the details to have the marker files digitized.
- Egen thanked everyone for the nomination and for putting their trust in him. He also thanked Clark, Davis and Giffin for their efforts in organizing the meeting and all that goes along with it.

### **Further Marker Program Discussion**

Ashlee noted a need for the marker program to be sustainable. This means having the correct people working with the marker text. One situation to consider is Clark’s retirement and what it will mean to the program. Ashlee stated there is no guarantee that the next director will value the program or want to devote their time to it or be qualified to oversee it. The program has been functioning out of necessity and not necessarily the way it should be run. Future staffing needs and succession planning should be part of the future marker program discussion.

Egen thanked Clark for her many years of having a major role in the marker program.

Clark noted that the center has become much more serious about succession planning. She noted the importance of having a historian on staff who can do a variety of history work, including the marker program. Clark shared that she believes the graduate assistant program through Eastern Michigan University has greatly benefited the marker program by bringing fresh enthusiasm and ideas to the table and providing a great deal of good work. It also provides the graduate assistant with real experience in public history and writing. Clark noted that it may be time to ask what should Michigan’s commitment to Michigan’s history look like going forward? The marker program is not the only area of future concern.

Chester mentioned it may be beneficial to benchmark where Michigan is at in the history field, particularly when compared to other states. Some questions to consider; what are we doing and are we doing it well; what are we not doing and why are we not doing it; who is doing it the best; and how did they manage to leverage resources to get things done. This would allow the commission and others to determine what should Michigan have to be handling history at its best. This should not be limited to the marker program only; it should focus on the center’s entire efforts in history.

Clark suggested that a future discussion should examine whether the center is doing the best job that it can with the resources it currently has and then ask what it could be doing with more resources.

Ashlee moved to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Truscott and the meeting adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sandra S. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

Sandra S. Clark, Executive Secretary

## Appendix A



Jason M. Emerine, PE  
Robert J. Emerine, PE  
William J. Thompson, PE  
Robert R. Drouillard, PS

Michigan Historical Marker Program  
Michigan History Center  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 30740  
Lansing, MI 48909-8240

May 25, 2022

Re: St. Peter Lutheran Church and School 17051 24 Mile Road Macomb, MI 48042

I have been asked by the St. Peter Lutheran Church and School historical committee to submit a site plan for submittal to the Macomb Township Planning Commission for approval of the proposed Historical Sign location. The site plan was submitted on April 28, 2022. The Planning Department is requiring us to relocate the sign farther off the Romeo Plank Road right of way. Their concern relates to the minimum sign setback and people possible being distracted trying to read the sign from their cars as they go by.

We are proposing to relocate the sign to within the Church property, along the drive way that connects the south and north parking lots and passes right in front of the main entrance to the church and the school. The sign will be visible from Romeo Plank Road, located between the Church and Romeo Plank Road and have public accessibility from both 24 Mile Road and Romeo Plank. The sign would be located four feet off the back of the curb, perpendicular to the line of traffic and easily read by people in their cars (both sides, since it is a two-sided sign). Low bushes would be planted around the sign and a 5 ft. sidewalk would go from the curb, around the sign and back to the curb again (with the required curb cuts to minimize trip hazards).

We hope this meets with your approval, the revised site plan (copy included) has been submitted back to the Township and based on conversations we have had with the Planning Department we expect their approval.

We thank you for the honor of being able to place this sign on our property.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'William J. Thompson'.

William J. Thompson P.E.  
President, Seiber Keast Lehner, Inc.

F:/22/22-101/correspondence/Historical Marker

Clinton Township Office  
17001 Nineteen Mile Road, Suite 3  
Clinton Township, MI 48038  
586.412.7050

Farmington Hills Office  
39205 Country Club Drive, Suite C8  
Farmington Hills, MI 48331  
248.308.3331





Green Star = marker location

## Marker Location Approved



## Newly Proposed Location



## 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 Number	Date Listed	Name	Location	Reason for Delisting
L60	7/17/1965	Grosse Pointe First Presbyterian Church	Grosse Pointe Farms, Wayne County  (Kerby Road and Lake Shore Drive)	Structure demolished; no marker exists; Site No. L60 needs to be delisted.  NOTE: a new church was built at a different location 16 Lake Shore Drive – On 4/14/1990 a new listing was entered on the state register - site No. L1739 - Grosse Pointe Memorial Church and a marker was erected on the new site. The marker mentions the original church located at Kerby Road and Lake Shore Drive

# Catholic Central High School

**Applicant:** Debra Moore, Catholic Central High School

**Location Address:** 319 Sheldon Blvd. Grand Rapids. Kent County

**Historic Resources:** A high school campus with a focus on the events that occurred there.

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

## Historical Summary:

Catholic education in Grand Rapids began in 1833 when Father Frederic Baraga, a Jesuit priest, established the Mission of the Blessed Virgin Mary on the west side of the Grand River, near the rapids. Baraga chose that location to better proselytize to the local Odawa. During his time in Grand Rapids, some thirty Odawa children and about a half-dozen European children attended his makeshift school. Louis Campau and Canadian Catholics in the area argued against the mission's placement on the west side of the river, as travel was inconvenient between the mission and the village of Grand Rapids on the east side of the river. Father Viszosky, Baraga's replacement, also recalled that those in Grand Rapids "did not want to mix with the Indians." Baraga allowed the timber-frame building that served as a school, chapel, and his personal residence to be moved across the river during the winter of 1833-34. Baraga sold that building due to a lack of attendance and built another chapel on the west side of the river.

After seventeen months there, Baraga left the mission. County histories and Vislosky's letters indicate that Baraga's advocacy for the Odawa and divisions between him and the European settlers on the east side of the river played a role in his departure. News that the U.S. government sought to purchase more tribal land in the area and remove the inhabitants may also have influenced Baraga's departure.

Viszosky managed to maintain a school while administering to a large geographic area. On August 11, 1850, Viszosky renamed the parish after St. Andrew. Viszosky died in 1853. With the patronage of the church, Peter G. Koch, a theology student, operated a small Catholic school on the corner of Monroe and Ionia Streets in Grand Rapids in 1853 and 1854. In 1858 St. Andrew's opened a parochial school of the same name that operated from a house on Ionia Street. In 1872 the congregation purchased land for the construction of a dedicated school for the parish. Construction finished in 1873. Four other parish schools operated in Grand Rapids at this time.

Bishop Henry Richter and the parish priests consolidated the five parishes' high school students into a single "Catholic Central High School" system in 1906. The consolidation created two schools in the system: a high school for boys, located on the third floor of St. Andrew's School, and a high school for girls taught at the Sacred Heart Academy on the corner of Ransom and Fountain Streets. Because the two schools were under the same administrative umbrella of the Catholic Central High School, the sponsor argues that it is among the first Catholic coeducational schools in the United States.

The girls remained at the Sacred Heart Academy from 1906 until 1909. They were moved to the Shepherd Estate on the northwest corner of Jefferson and Oakes Street in 1909 and remained there until 1921. From 1921 until 1953 the girls were taught at St. Joseph's Seminary across the street from St. Andrew's School. In 1953, the boys' and girls' divisions of Catholic Central Highschool were merged and relocated to a new addition to St. Joseph's Seminary completed in 1952. The students were then taught in coeducational classrooms.

Prior to 1952, fraternization between males and females was discouraged and limited. However, diplomas, report cards, and other materials issued to students generally do not designate a "girls" Catholic Central High School and a "boys." It appears that graduating classes from both schools were generally treated as one unit. For example, students from both schools were elected to leadership positions that impacted both schools and participated in a shared commencement.

### **Summary of Integrity:**

Fire destroyed the original 1873 St. Andrew's school on January 8, 1915. A new St. Andrew's School was finished that same year. The 1915 St. Andrew's School was demolished in 2011.

St. Joseph's Seminary was built in 1910 and enlarged in 1913 and in 1952. The original wing and the 1913 addition were demolished in 1983. The 1952 addition remains intact and serves as the "main building" of the campus.

A Romanesque Revival-style Gymnasium was constructed in 1925 and enlarged in 1988.

It appears to retain its integrity.

**Recommendation:** The sponsor wants to focus on the narrative of Catholic education in Grand Rapids, rather than the specific architectural significance of any single building. Commissioners should also define coeducation and discuss Catholic Central High School's "coeducational" characteristics from 1906 to 1952.

**Proposed Marker Location:**





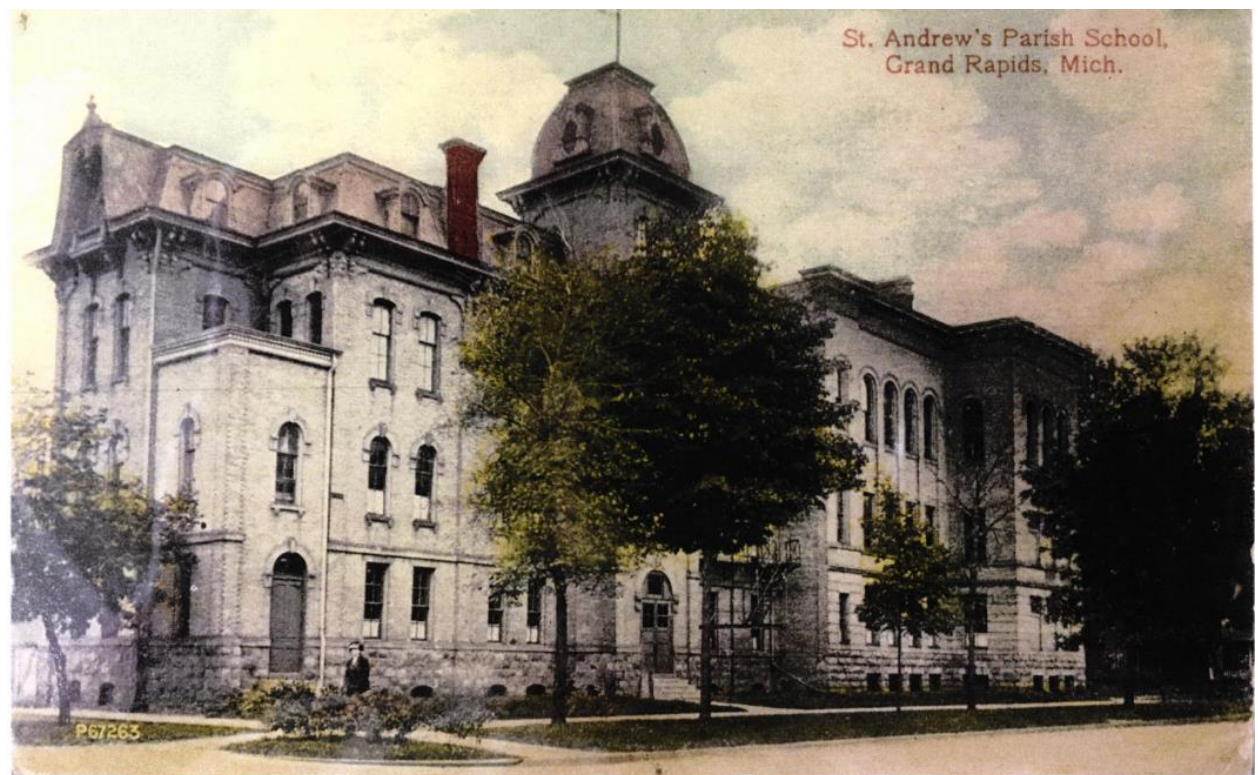


Figure 1. Original St. Andrew's Parish School, destroyed by fire in 1873

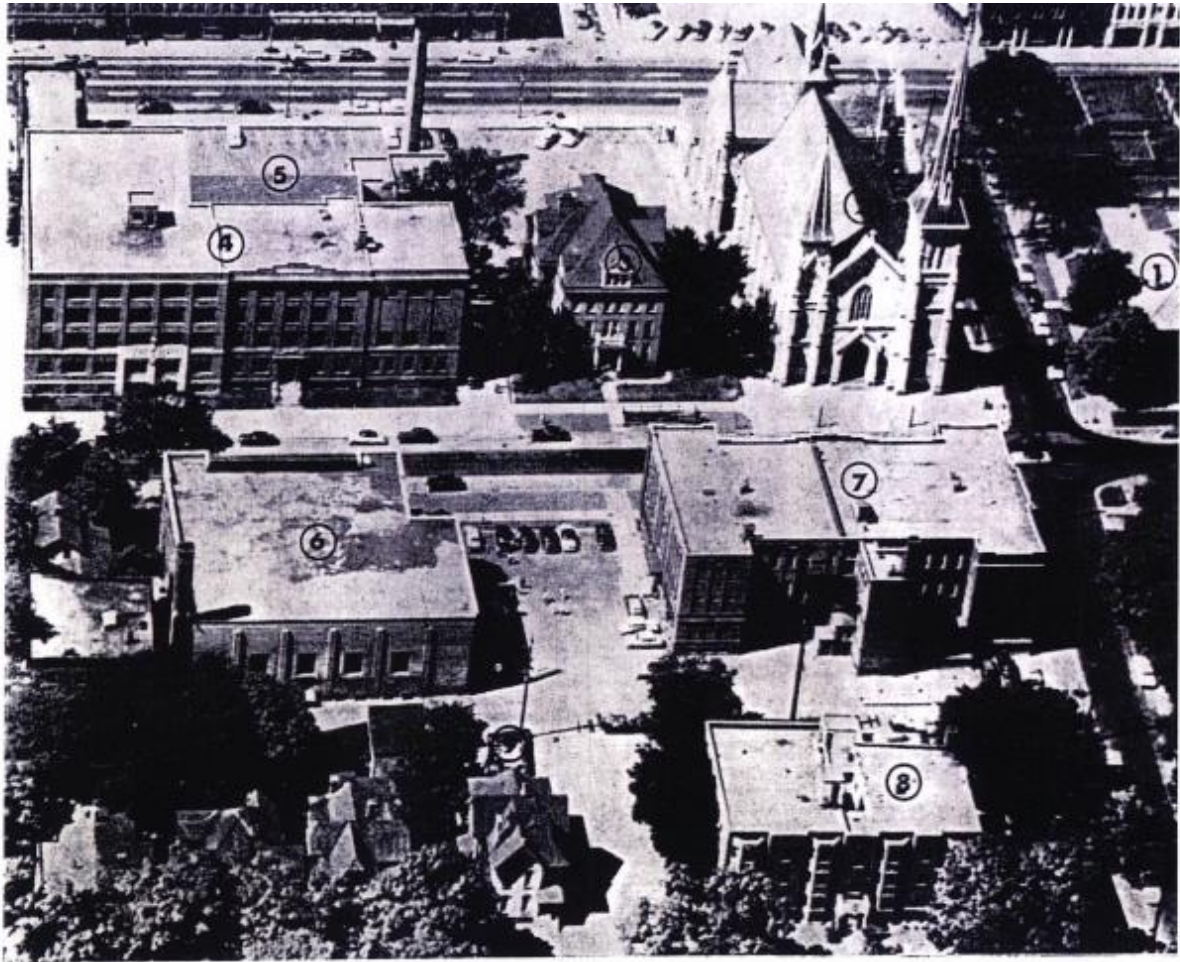




*Figure 2. The 1913 St. Joseph Seminary building circa 1950.*



*Figure 3. Demolition of the St. Joseph Seminary Building in 1983.*

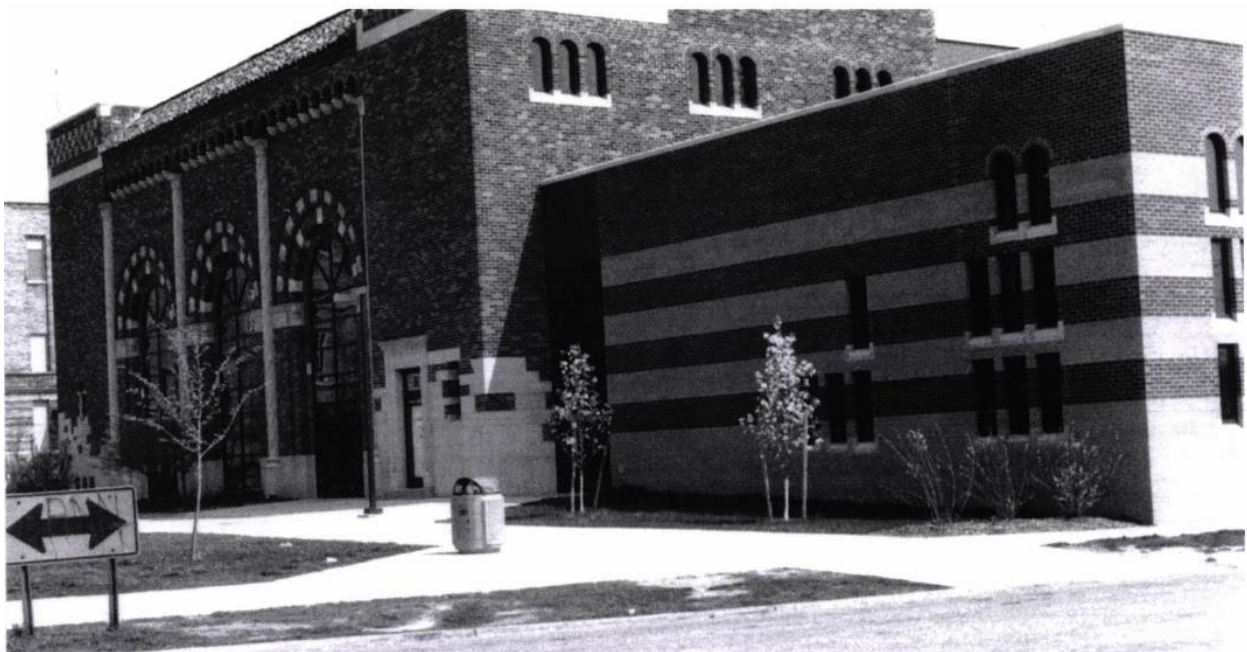


*Figure 4. Catholic Central's Campus in 1956. 1. St. Andrew Rectory. 2. St. Andrew Cathedral. 3. St. Andrew Grade School Convent. 4. Junior and Senior Building. 5. Cafeteria. 6. Gymnasium. 7. Freshman and Sophomore Building. 8. High School Convent. 9. Band Room.*





*Figure 5. 1927 Catholic Central Gymnasium circa 1965.*



*Figure 6. Catholic Central Gymnasium with the 1988 addition. 2021*



A



*Figure 7. Catholic Central Gymnasium, 2021.*



*Figure 8. 1952 Catholic Central Highschool building, 2021.*

# 99 Pine Street—Smith Family Home

**Applicant:** Ann Dieye

**Location Address:** 99 Pine Street, Manistee, Manistee County

**Historic Resource(s):** African American family and their family home.

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

## **Historical Summary:**

In the early 1930s, Raymond (1908-1989) and Annie Mae Smith (1912-2009), an African American couple living in Thomasville, Georgia, joined millions of other African Americans leaving the south as part of the Great Migration. Their family history states that Raymond accepted a job offer to chauffeur a wealthy white doctor that had been golfing in Thomasville back to his home in Manistee. While staying in the doctor's home, Raymond arranged for Annie Mae and their son, Raymond Jr., to come to Manistee. On April 7, 1932, the family withdrew the entirety of their savings from the Bank of Thomasville, a total of \$135.20, and Annie Mae and Raymond, Jr., joined Raymond in Manistee.

In Manistee, Raymond and Annie Mae worked to provide for their growing family. In their initial years in Manistee, they lived out of the doctor's home, and then later in an apartment on River Street. At the time, they were among the first African Americans living in Manistee, and among a handful living in Manistee County.

Raymond worked as many jobs as he could manage. He operated a shoeshine stand, washed cars, and worked as an after-hours custodian (because the businesses didn't want him seen there during the day) for many businesses in Manistee. When he returned home from work, he often stayed just long enough to eat and change clothes before leaving to work another job. This was often at the country club, where he donned a suitcoat and tails to bartend. Other times, he would dance at local clubs and venues. Newspapers advertised Raymond Smith as "the dancing boy from Georgia." If Raymond did have free time at home, he often spent it working on the house.

Annie Mae also played a major role in providing for the family. Because Raymond was illiterate, she would transcribe letters that Raymond needed sent, review contracts, and prevent others from taking advantage of him. When Raymond later began his own catering business—which Raymond called "a hobby" for tax reasons—she helped him prepare food late into the night in addition to taking care of their children and finding other work.

By 1935, the Smiths had saved enough money to make a down payment of \$150 on the house at 99 Pine Street owned by Hazel P. Anderson. One of the Smith children sardonically called their neighborhood "the colored section of town" because they and their close friends, the Saugies, a Native American family, were the only ones with homes there. They weren't aware of any other African American families living in Manistee at the time.

The Smiths opened their home to African Americans that were not allowed to stay at other lodgings in Manistee. Annie Mae kept guestbooks of visitors and longer-term residents that stayed at 99 Pine Street. Dozens of names are logged, including Jesse Owens, Edith Wilson (the fourth African American woman to assume the role of "Aunt Jemima"), and Richard Austin,



Michigan's first African American Secretary of State. The Smiths also housed a young James Earl Jones while he studied acting at the Ramsdell Theater in Manistee. They maintained a close relationship with him and the Connolly family.

Raymond and Annie Mae Smith raised ten children together. Of their nine surviving children, eight have obtained college degrees. The home at 99 Pine Street is still owned by the family.

### **Summary of Integrity:**

The house has changed dramatically throughout the years. Its footprint has been expanded by numerous small additions. Raymond covered the original wood cladding with green shingles in the 1940s. Yellow aluminum siding was installed in the late 1950s. The front porch underwent several changes and renovations since the home's construction.

Retains integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association.

**Recommendation:** Approval. Discuss twenty-year rule for Annie Mae.  
**Proposed Marker Location:**





*Figure 9. Annie Mae and Raymond Smith, July 1930*



*Figure 10. Raymond Smith in his dancing attire.*



*Figure 11. Raymond Smith (left), Jesse Owens (center), and an unknown baseball player (right).*



*Figure 12. James Earl Jones and Annie Mae Smith.*





*Figure 13. Raymond Smith driving Edith Wilson, "Aunt Jemima," during a Fourth of July parade.*

# Berkley Village Hall and Police-Fire Station

**Applicant:** Berkley Historical Committee, Dale A. Carlson.

**Location Address:** 3338 Coolidge Hwy, Berkley, Oakland County

**Historic Resource(s):** Historic Building

**Requested Marker Type:** Large Wall-mounted Marker.

## **Historical Summary:**

The Berkley Village Hall and Police-Fire Station is a two-story, hipped-roofed building designed in the Colonial-Revival style by Detroit architect F. Carl Pollmar of the Pollmar and Ropes architectural firm. The red-brick building is trimmed with limestone. The broken-pedimented main entrance is flanked by brick quoined piers and is surmounted by a triangular gable. A clock sits in the gable's recessed oculus. Many of the building's windows and entrances feature flat-arch brick lintels with a limestone keystone. An asphalt shingled roof tops the structure. Paul O. Winkler constructed the building. The first floor housed the fire engine, the police department's cars and motorcycles, and the offices of the fire and police chiefs. The first floor also had a three jail cells. The village offices, the meeting room for the village commissioners, and the Berkley Public Library were located on the second floor.

The building was dedicated on March 10, 1928. Judge Frank Covert of the Oakland circuit court, Mayor Clarence E Gittins of Highland Park, Mayor Harold E. Storz of Royal Park, F. Carl Pollmar, Paul O. Winker, and Michigan State Senator Augustus J. Ganser spoke at the dedication. Some 1,000 people attended the dedication, which was interrupted mid-program by the station's fire engine leaving the station to respond to its first call. It was a false alarm.

## **Summary of Integrity:**

A one-story addition was constructed on the east side of the building in 1957. The Smith, Hinchman and Grylls architectural firm designed the addition. The original doors for the firetrucks were converted into walls circa 1990. Circa 1993 the first floor was partitioned for use by various city government offices and the Berkley Historical Museum.

**Recommendation:** Approval.

**Proposed Marker Location:**





*Figure 14. East elevation*

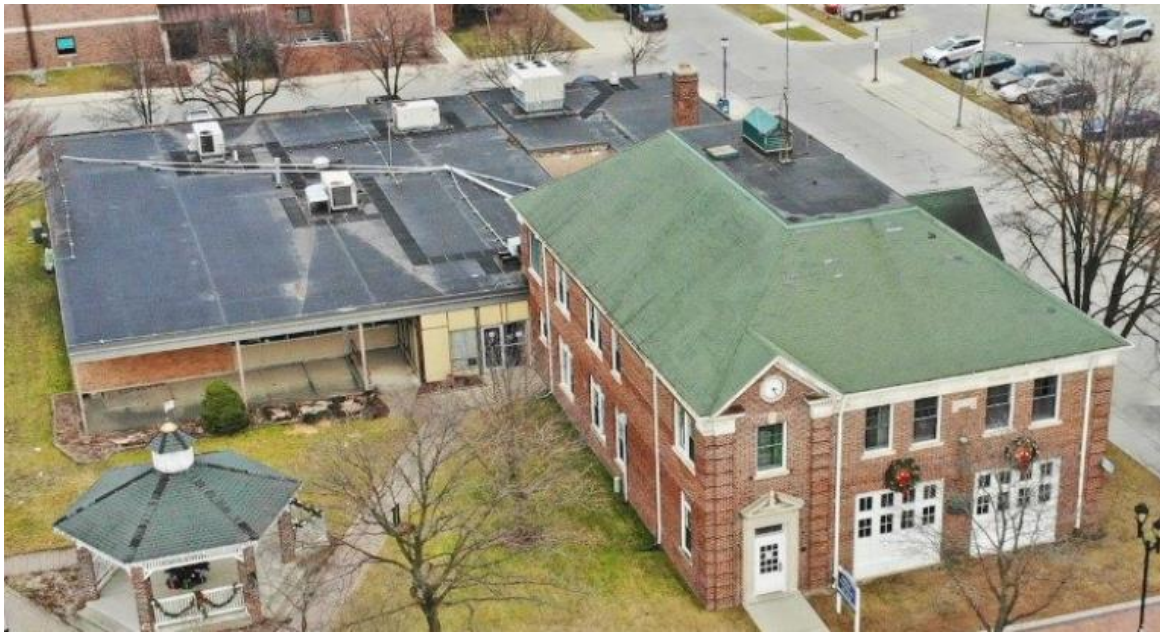


*Figure 15. North elevation*





*Figure 16. South elevation*



*Figure 17. Aerial view showing an oblique view of the north and east elevations and the later addition to the western end of the building.*



*Figure 18. East elevation in 1928.*





*Figure 19. East elevation in 1974.*



*Figure 20. Oblique view of the east and south elevations circa 1985.*

## The Michigan Marker Review Project

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 the common understanding of the past that is essential to creating a shared future. They can inspire with stories of bravery, innovation, and enterprise, and they can invite reflection as they share difficult history.

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

Since 1955, the Michigan Historical Marker Program has grown to encompass more than 1,700 sites, mostly through application and financing by local communities, individuals, and organizations. As a result, parts of Michigan History have been neglected. 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 Audit 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.

# **Michigan Historical Marker Review Process Roles**

## **Oversight**

### **Michigan Historical Commission**

Provides oversight of the program; advises on fund-raising and on community partners; reviews final markers.

### **Michigan History Center Staff**

Seeks financial support; recruits and coordinates Core History Team, hires and oversees project manager, provides marker text and location information, guides marker text writers

### **Michigan History Foundation**

Provides fundraising and grant administration support.

### **Core History Team**

Made up of historians with expertise in Latinx, African American, Asian American, Arab American, Native American, LGBTQ, immigrant and Michigan history. Meets 2-3 times a year to advise on major themes in history, specific resources or questions, and overall project balance.

### **Project Management Organization**

Manages sub-contracts, schedules community work, invitations to participate, record keeping, and grant compliance.

## **Community**

### **20 Local History Experts**

Provide historic context for community meetings, help community members provide marker application research

### **20 Groups of Local Partners**

Existing organizations that help identify and recruit participants for the community meetings.

### **4 Facilitators**

Conduct 20 sets of community meetings and provide summary notes.

## **Markers**

### **5 Marker Text Writers**

Work with local marker teams to draft texts for commission approval.

### **60 Local Marker Teams**

Research and “sponsor” individual markers identified as priorities using the marker application process

### **Products**

60 New Michigan Historical Markers installed

20 Community Groups with priorities for addition markers and commitment to continue working on them.