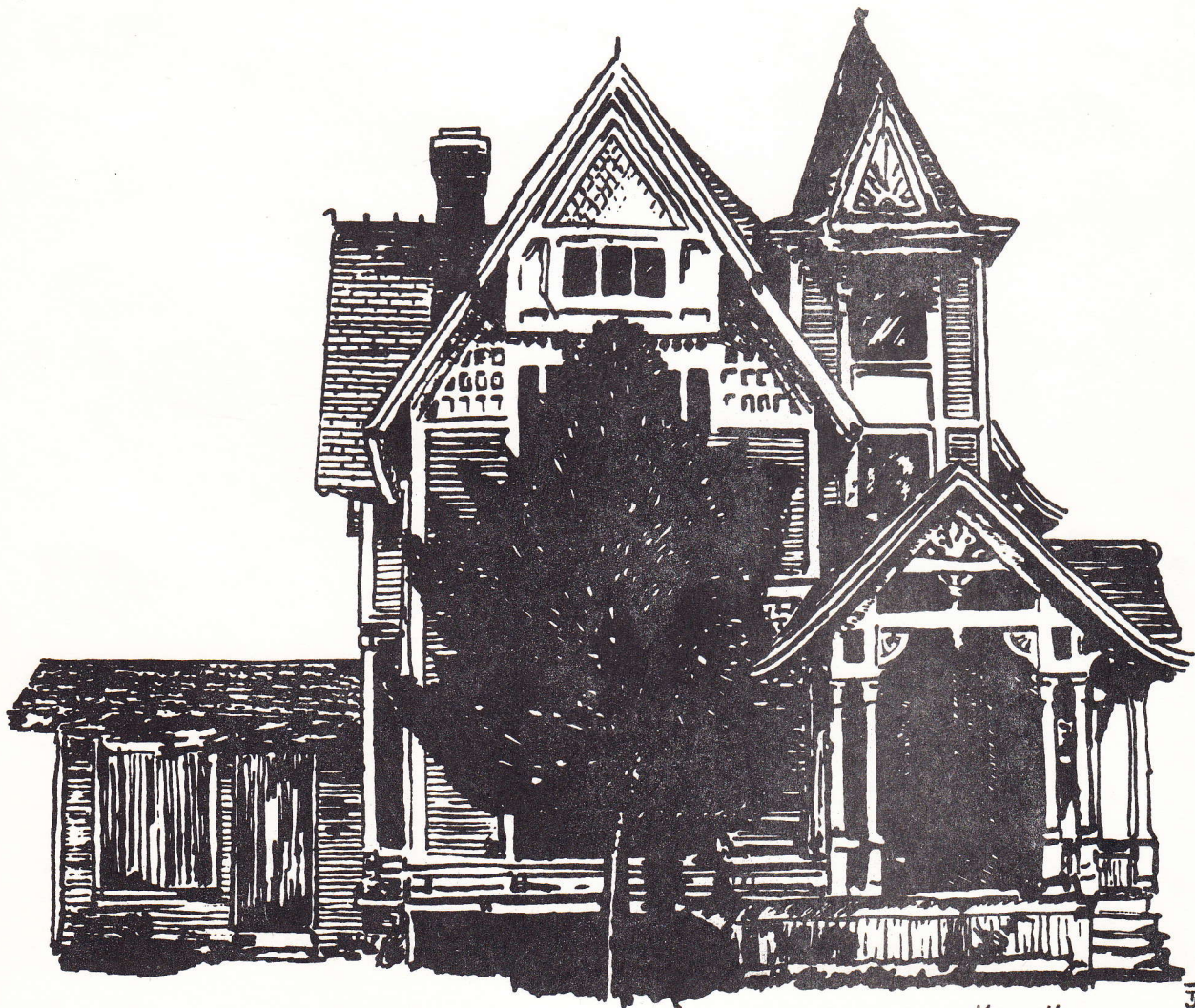


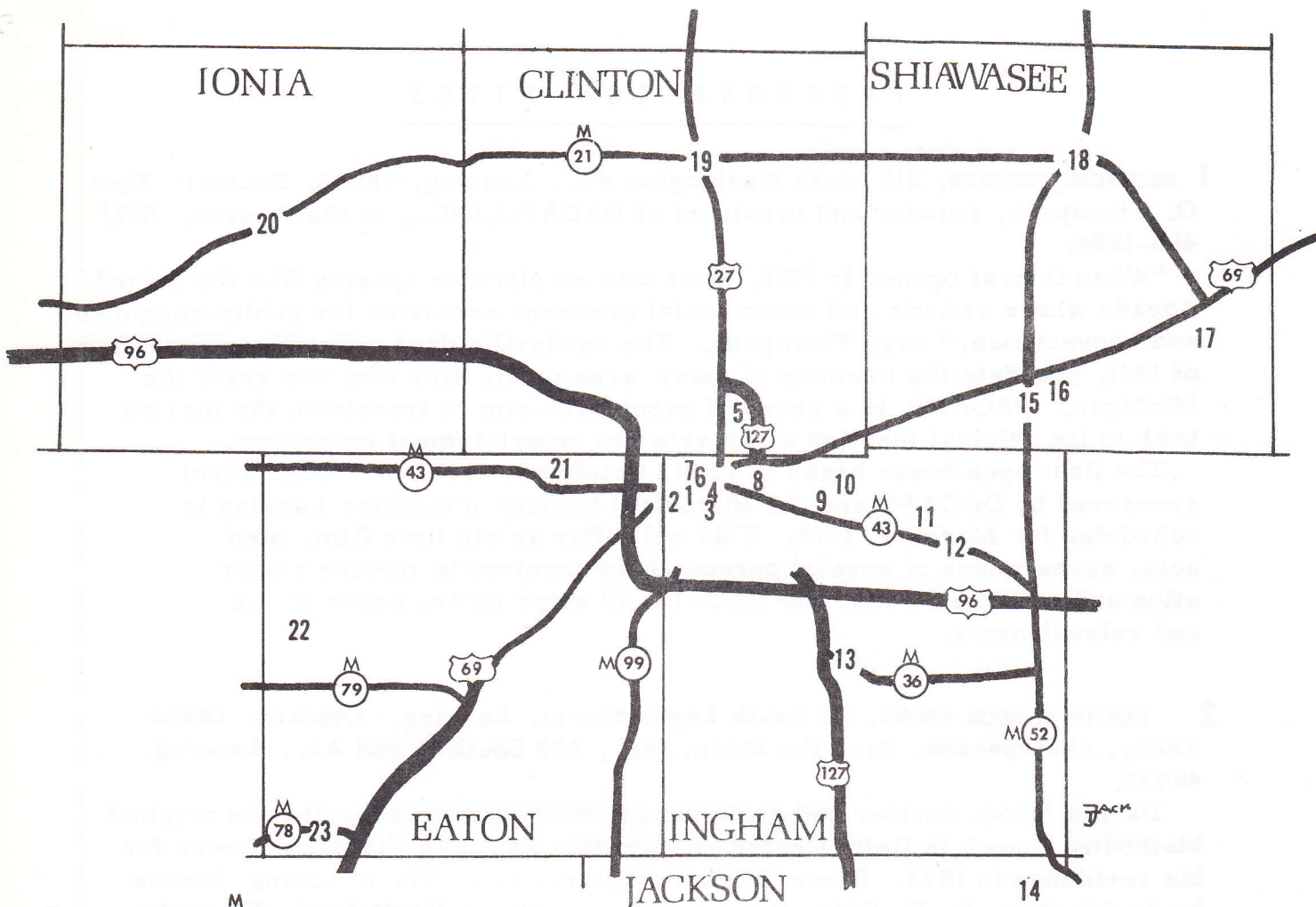
Historical Society
Of Greater Lansing

preservation update



Moon House
see page 3

february 1978



LEGEND
 HIGHWAYS
 COUNTIES EATON
 PRESERVATION SITES 12

PRESERVATION UPDATE
 NO 2: FEB 78

Compilation: Geneva Kebler Wiskemann
Composition: Jack Thompson
 HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER LANSING

Groups offering assistance and support to preservation projects:

HISTORY DIVISION, MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Lansing, 48918. Offers professional guidance in publications, historic site, archives and museum administration.
 Contact: Martha Bigelow, director, 517/373-0510.

CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION. 5580 West State Road, Lansing, 48906.
 Contact: Geneva Kebler Wiskemann, chairperson, 517/321-1746

EATON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION. 1396 East Broadway, Charlotte, 48813
 Contact: Christine MacGregor, chairperson. 517/543-6659

INGHAM COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION. PO Box 319, Mason 48854
 Contact: Eugene G. Wanger, chairman, 517/484-4165

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM, East Lansing 48824
 Contact: Val Berryman, curator of exhibits. 517/355-2370

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER LANSING, Box 12095, Lansing, 48901
 Contact: Bette Downs, chairwoman, Preservation Committee

P R E S E R V A T I O N S I T E S

- 1** MICHIGAN THEATRE, 215 South Washington Av., Lansing, 48933. Contact: Tom O. Thompson, founder and president of DACAPO, INC., at the theatre. 517/485-1234.

"When it first opened in 1921, there was no place in Lansing like the Strand/Arcade where artistic and commercial concerns coexisted for public enjoyment and convenience," says Thompson. The vaudeville days, even the remodeling of 1941, pre-date the memory of many area movie fans who now enjoy the Michigan. DACAPO is a group of people who aim to transform the theatre back to its original function as an arts and entertainment emporium.

The first open house began at 10:01, October 1, 1977. A second event sponsored by DACAPO and the Historical Society of Greater Lansing is scheduled for March 4, 1978. This will offer an old time film, oleo acts, appearances of special personalities involved in theatre restoration and with the Strand, the DACAPO 70 voice choir, organ music and refreshments.

- 2** DARIUS B MOON HOUSE, 116 South Logan Street, Lansing. Contact: Diana Reedy, chairperson, Save the Moon, Inc., 533 South Grand Av., Lansing, 48933.

Darius Moon, builder and architect for many residences, and the original Methodist church in Delta Center created this Eastlake Victorian house for his residence in 1894. Few of his buildings remain. The imposing houses he designed for R. E. Olds, Benjamin Davis, Henry Kositcheck, Edward Sparrow, A. C. Stebbins and other Lansingites have perished.

The house has been registered by the State of Michigan as historically important for its architectural significance and its association with Moon who died in 1939.

Work crews clean up, paint, protect the structure from vandals and weather, and search for a relocation site out of the path of the Logan Street Corridor. Sites are being considered, and the fund raising efforts continue.

- 3** R E OLDS CAR MUSEUM. Contact: Mike Seward, secretary, Board of Trustees, % Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, P O Box 14030, Lansing, 48901. 517/487-6340.

A task force began in May, 1977 to determine the feasibility of creating an educational center devoted to automobiles; and the men and times that made them. A conceptual plan was published in November.

City Council on December 19, 1977 approved the leasing of the former Capital Area Transportation Authority garage on Mill Street to the museum for \$1 a year for display of antique automobiles.

The incorporation meeting of the museum's board of trustees on February 3, 1978, initiated legal documentation, elected officers, approved bylaws, set membership categories and planned fund raising. Remodeling of the garage, just north of Kalamazoo Street along the Grand River, is estimated to cost about \$140,000.

4 GRAND MILL ON THE EAST BANK, bounded by Michigan Avenue, Mill Street, Kalamazoo Street and Grand River, Lansing. Contact: Henry Reniger, 200 Mill Street, Lansing, 48901. 517/485-7291.

Grand Mill is comprised of eight river front buildings on a five acre tract. Existing buildings date from the 1880s and offer 86,000 square feet of floor space for craftspeople and artisans. Two additional buildings offer 24,000 square feet for modern offices.

The development complements the new Mill Street extension, passing under Michigan Avenue via the 100 year old railroad tunnel, the Red Cedar Bike Path and Pedestrian Way, and new Riverfront Park.

5 OLD GUNNISONVILLE SCHOOL, 1454 Clark Road, Lansing, 48906. Contact: George Anderson, principal, Gunnisonville School. 517/374-4228.

A 1907 one room school stood unused since 1969 when the Gunnisonville district merged with Lansing School District. It was considered too important to the community to be ignored by local residents. Funds from the Michigan Bicentennial Commission and local parent-teacher-alumni groups made the renovation possible.

Now it is used regularly as a demonstration classroom and a public meeting place for fifty or less people.

Upgrading of out buildings and acquisition of period furnishings continue.

6 TURNER-DODGE HOUSE. 106 East North Street, Dodge Park, Lansing. Contact: Donald B. Hartwick, Jaycees of Lansing, 500 West Washtenaw Av., Lansing, 48933. 517/323-2928. Philip H. Dorland, superintendent, Parks Department, City Hall, Lansing, 48933. 517/487-1278.

The Turner - Dodge House takes its name from James Turner, businessman and city mayor, who constructed the original Green Revival residence facing Grand River. His daughter, Abbie, married Frank Dodge, lawyer, farmer, businessman and State representative. They purchased it in 1899. Darius Moon, architect, designed the 1904-06 additions creating the house as we see it today. The family retained it until 1958 when it was sold to the Great Lakes Bible College.

In 1974 the house and surrounding land was acquired by the City of Lansing. The Lansing Jaycees lease the building and are supervising the renovation. Workers in the Green Thumb program are removing layers from the oak and fruitwood trim, fireplace mantles and tin ceilings.

Bids have been let for re-wiring the house, improving outside lighting, and painting and pointing the exterior. Wall covering for the library and receiving room downstairs and the hall on the second floor has been selected with the help of university design specialists.

The Parks Department is responsible for the land area surrounding the house. They are placing a drinking fountain on the west, moving playground equipment, and preparing protection for the giant Beech tree. Lawn furniture is being built by CEATA employees in the basement of the house. A gazebo, river bank beneficitation, parking area and walking trail are scheduled for completion by the Parks Department in 1978.

New plantings are being selected after careful study of ground evidence and old photographs.

The structure is being used for a meeting place for groups of 100 or less. Dodge Park will be the site of Arts Fete '78 sponsored by the Historical Society of Greater Lansing on August 26-27. Tours by appointment by the Society.

- 7 NORTH LANSING HISTORICAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT. Contact North Lansing Community Association, 317 East Grand River Av., Lansing, 48906. Between 1-5 pm, 517/482-2770.

North Lansing was the site of Lansing's first commercial activity. The mills were first. Early records show Case and Turner operating a mercantile business on the corner of Turner and Franklin (now Grand River Avenue) in the 1850s. Turner Park is there now.

Many of the remaining buildings carry the names of German-American families who invested in the area from 1860 through the 1920s. Remnants of a mill, a mill race turned into a street, castiron front buildings, a mix of architectural styles and a strong neighborhood feeling make the area unique in Greater Lansing.

The Association urged and the Lansing City Council authorized use of professional preservation services for a Facade Restoration program. In late 1977 bids were let on phase I implemented by \$225,000 from the Community Development Program. Phase II will be possible with a multi-thousand dollar grant for historic preservation announced by the History Division, Michigan Department of State, in January, 1978.

Art shows, fun fests, property clean up, publication of a neighborhood newspaper, initiation of Turner Park and building improvements by the Association are significant revitalization projects supporting the District.

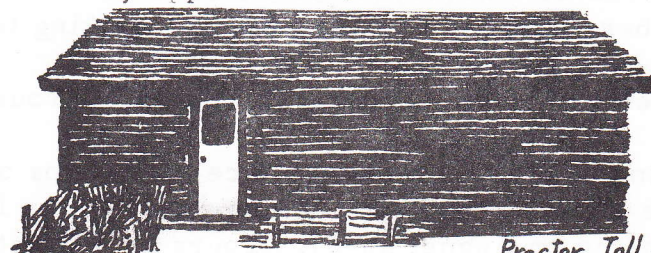
- 8 ORCHARD STREET PUMPHOUSE, 368 Orchard Street, East Lansing. Contact: Norman Smith, 522 Orchard Street, East Lansing, 48823. 517/332-2673. or City of East Lansing Recreation Office, 517/337-1781.

The East Lansing Bicentennial Commission and the Bailey Community Association generated interest in preserving this building, unused since the construction of a new water plant. In July, 1975 residents met for an ice cream social on the lawn, and the work of preservation began. The pumphouse, designed by a local architect, Harold Childs, was built in 1934 as a Works Progress Administration project. It was among the first municipal water softening facilities in the country.

The building, much improved, is being used for community activities suitable to its size. It is administered by the Bailey Community Association and the City.

- 9 MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP HISTORIC VILLAGE. Central Park, west of Meridian Township Municipal Building, 5100 Marsh Road, East Lansing. Contact: Elaine Davis, 4611 Arrowhead Drive., Okemos, 48864. 517/349-1993.

The Proctor TollHouse and the Gretenberger farmhouse on the Historic Village Green continue to be refurbished for public viewing and use. The Toll House restoration is now complete. Two of the five rooms of the Gretenberger house scheduled for attention are completed, and partially furnished. Tours by appointment.



Proctor Toll House

10 LOG CABIN, OUTDOOR EDUCATION SITE OF HASLETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS, Haslett.
Contact: Jane Taylor, Haslett Public Schools, Haslett, 48840. 517/339-9773.

This cabin was originally located on Haslett Road one half mile east of north Williamston Road in Williamstown Township. In 1888 it was sold to the Perkins family who lived in it for many years. Dr. Ervin VanDerJagt, professor emeritus of natural sciences at Michigan State University, purchased the land in 1958, and in 1971 he donated the cabin to Haslett Public Schools.

The cabin was dismantled, moved seven miles and reconstructed on the eighty-five acre Outdoor Education Site of the Schools. Most of the work was done by eighth grade students.

These students in Log Cabin Living and ecology classes continue work on restoration. The project and teaching materials it has generated have brought state and national awards of recognition.

Even a fire in June, 1974 which destroyed the new roof did not stay the project. By the spring of 1976 the repairs were done, and shutters, doors and some chinking was completed.

Hundreds of elementary and middle school students are learning pioneer skills here, and equal numbers of adults visit to view the exciting educational idea, the cookstove, white-washed walls and simple appointments to the cabin. Tours by appointment.

11 BRANCH SCHOOL, 993 Sherwood Road, Williamston, Contact: Gloria VanDusen, 5140 North Zimmer Road, Williamston, 48895. 517/655-1453.

The school constructed in 1863 on the north side of the Red Cedar River was called Africa, like the road in front of it. Later when the abolitionist movement was less prominent in the community, the school was named the Branch for an area farmer.

It ceased as a school in 1961, and soon suffered loss of its bell and cupola. By 1973 it was threatened by destruction. The Friends of Historic Williamstown, dedicated to preservation and restoration, requested and got the responsibility for the building.

Now it is used as a meeting hall. It still lacks the bell and cupola. These have high priority on the list of things the Friends need.

12 WILLIAMSTON HOTEL, 104-106 Grand River Av., Williamston, 48895.
Contact: Dru Roehm, 302 Jackson Street, Williamston, 48895. 517/655-3003.

Country taverns and hotels are part of the Michigan scene, and for many the vanishing scene. In Williamston the Lombard House, the Glaser Hotel, the Spaulding House and Western Hotel are gone. The Andrews Hotel of the early 1900s is now the Williamston Hotel. It was dangerously close to demolition when townfolks organized the Future of Williamston Corporation and purchased it in 1973.

The Corporation lacked money for the needed renovation so the three story structure on the main four corners was sold. The buyer did not meet the contracted payments, and the hotel is once more available from the Corporation.

CEATA funded employees are now removing lath and plaster from the second and third stories in anticipation of further renovation.

A firm specializing in development of museums, recreational facilities, and historic preservation has opened offices in the hotel.

- 13** THE PINK SCHOOL, Ash and Cedar Street, Mason. Contact: Pam Ling, president, Mason Area Historical Society, 103 North Jefferson, Mason, 48854. 517/676-1171.

A pink school, built as a one room Greek Revival structure in 1855 on the corner of College and Columbia Roads near Mason was the focal point of the Mason Area Bicentennial Commission. During the summer of 1976 it was reduced to its original dimensions and moved to the grounds of Cedar Street Elementary School.

The Society has recently received a gift of a bell and reconstruction will continue as a project of the Society.

- 14** WATERLOO FARM MUSEUM, 9998 Waterloo-Munith Road. Contact: Mrs. Guy Russell, 15600 Cassidy Road, Grass Lake, 49240. 313/475-1426.

The Waterloo Area Historical Society has produced a learning center devoted to the pioneer experience and farming which is unique in Michigan.

The 1855 homestead, barns, windmill, bake oven and out buildings are enjoyed every day except Monday during June, July and August.

The Society has been given a hand hewn log cabin to be added to the complex in forthcoming months. The annual spring educational program will feature specialists for construction, maintenance and living in a log cabin during the settlement era.

- 15** MACQUEEN HOUSE, 127 East First Street, Perry. Contact: Lucile Griffith, president, Perry Historical Society, % City Hall, Perry, 48872. 517/625-4550.

The house that Charles Calkins built in Perry in 1881 was used by the family until 1941. Bessie MacQueen, his surviving daughter, left the home to the village. After a period of rental, the house was turned to the Perry Historical Society for a museum.

Refurbishing and furnishing of the first floor of the house has been nearly completed by volunteer workers. The new roof and like necessities have been given by local businessmen, and the village provide the utilities.

The Perry Garden Club's Bicentennial flower garden on the lawn will be continued.

Open by appointment.

- 16** HERITAGE MUSEUM, MORRICE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, 691 Purdy, Morrice. Contact: David Fahrenbach, at the school, 517/625-3143.

A farm oriented museum has grown from special projects in an imaginative course in local history. Small tools, farm equipment, fashions and fabrics and many items from the past are donated and loaned for exhibit.

Activities in April include a demonstration of soap making, and in the first week of May the entire community celebrates Centennial Week. This offers something for everyone each day. An antique farm equipment show is a highlight this year.

Three fourths of an acre of land near the school is being enclosed in pioneer fashion and a garden will be planted with the help of CEATA funded employees. Productions will be sold for benefit of the museum.

Open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 9:15-2:30, and on Saturdays during the summer.

- 17** RAILROAD HISTORY MUSEUM, 205 Clinton Street, Durand, 48429. Contact: Norma (Mrs John) Wood, 420 Fitzgerald Street, Durand, 48429. 517/288-3893.

A Grand Trunk Western baggage car, built in 1919, was purchased by area residents and is now operated by a Board of Trustees. Exhibits change in January, May and September.

Open by Appointment. Railroad Days is an annual event scheduled May 6, 7.

- 18** CURWOOD CASTLE AND COMSTOCK CABIN, Curwood Castle Drive, Owosso. Contact: Sallysue Gale, 215 West Oliver Street, Owosso, 48867. 517/723-4078. or City Hall, 517/723-5221.

The yellow stucco studio of James Oliver Curwood overlooking the Shiawassee River is called a castle because of its architectural resemblance to a Norman fortress. The city owned building is operated as a museum and art center.

Nearby is Comstock Cabin, claimed to be the first log house in Owosso in 1836. It is open as a pioneer home museum.

Several groups joined the Bicentennial Committee to develop Castle Park and Walkway from Corunna to Owosso along the northerly side the Shiawassee River and across the river to Bicentennial Park surround the Castle and cabin.

The Castle is open from 1-5 pm on Sunday, and by appointment.

The 100th anniversary of Curwood's birth in Owosso will be recognized by special exhibits, an antique show and sale and other events on June 10-11. His home across the river, at the intersection of Williams and Shiawassee Streets, will be open to the public for the first time.

- 19** CLINTON COUNTY MUSEUM, 1009 South Oakland Street, St. Johns. Contact: Tom Hollen, at the Museum, 48879. 517/224-8173.

The six room cottage, owned by local government and operated by the Clinton County Historical Society as a museum, is open from 2-5 pm on Sunday and by appointment.

Donations since the museum opened in May, 1976 have filled the small house. More adequate display area is being sought.

- 20** BLANCHARD HOUSE, 253 East Main Street, Ionia. Contact: George Vance, 222 West Main Street, Ionia, 48846. 616/527-0010. or Sandra Coykendall, 152 East Washington Street, Ionia, 48846. 616/527-9666.

This Italianate residence was built in 1880 by John C. Blanchard, Sr., a lawyer and first village president of Ionia. The exterior walls of varigated sandstone quarried east of Ionia adds distinction.

The Ionia County Historical Society purchased the home in 1974. The mortgage is ready for burning, and a campaign for \$40,000 for renovation is in motion.

The Society offers tours of the house showing a splendid curving stair case, marble fireplaces, brass and crystal chandeliers, carefully selected woodwork, contemporary wallpaper and floor coverings inside; and a pleasant lawn beside a small brook outside.

Recent additions to the lower level work area are five hand looms.

Tours by appointment. The house will be featured during the annual home tour on May 20-21.

- 21** CANADA SETTLEMENT SCHOOL, South Hartel Road (M-100) at Strange Highway, Grand Ledge, 48837. Contact: Alice Veltman, 5739 Mt. Hope Highway, Grand Ledge, 48837. 517/627-5629.

Oneida #1 District's red brick one room school was built in 1887 and served the educational needs of the community for 71 years. Furnishings included seating for 40 pupils, a recitation bench, teacher's desk and wood burning stove. Since its closing in 1958, the Mighty Minnie 4-H Club, serving over 100 young people between 10 and 18 years, have used the school for meetings and project work. The club initiated restoration and use received new enthusiastic support during the Bicentennial.

- 22** VERMONTVILLE ACADEMY, Vermontville. Contact: Martha Zemke, president, Vermontville Historical Society, Vermontville, 48897.

Two meetinghouses on the village square in Vermontville resemble New England prototypes and are on the National Register of Historic Buildings.

The Vermontville Academical Association was incorporated in 1846 for establishment of "an institution for the instruction and education of young persons." Reverend W. U. Benedict was the pastor of the Congregational Church and teacher of the school. The Academy has served 135 years as a school, place of worship, townhall and general store. It is a storehouse of artifacts relating to the settlers and their rural life.

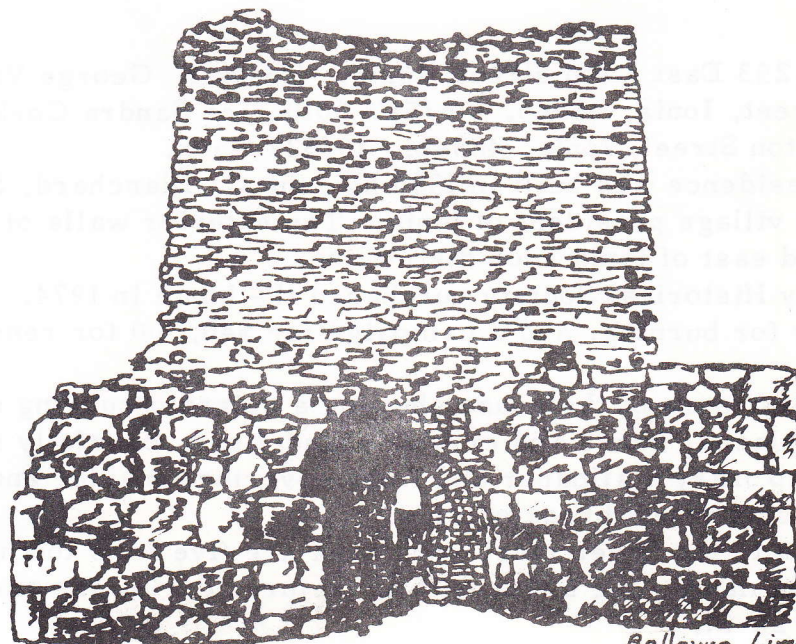
During 1976-77 the stone foundation was repaired, a sand and concrete base refloored on the ground level and steel supports for the second floor hidden in the old wood posts.

The museum is a major point of interest during the last weekend in April each year when the community hosts a maple festival. Open by appointment.

- 23** BELLEVUE MEMORIAL MUSEUM. 212 North Main Street, Bellevue. Contact: Bernard Otto, % City Hall, Bellevue, 49021. 616/763-6571.

A new facility for the display of materials depicting the heritage of Bellevue and Eaton County was officially opened February 5, 1978. Exhibits of a turn of the century dining room and a school room are installed.

The building was made possible by a Grant of \$10,000 from the Miller Foundation and the balance by local subscribers. Tours by appointment.



Bellevue Limestone Kiln

