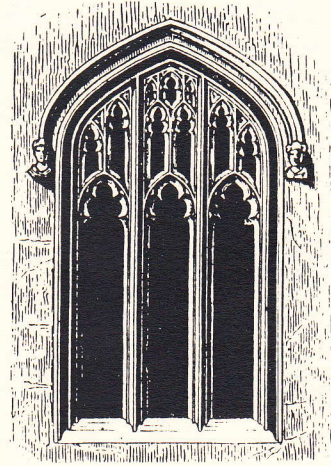


HSGL Newsletter

Official Publication of the
Historical Society of Greater Lansing **September 1994**

Lansing's Downtown Churches

The original plat of Lansing was drawn at a time when river towns were routinely arranged to provide the best compromise possible between maximum access to the river and security from its inevitable ravages. This principle placed the center of the projected town, called Michigan, Michigan in 1847, at the intersection of the principal streets of Washington and Main, the Grand River flowing eastward below the bluff on which Main was located, then northward below a gentler bank upon which Washington was located at a height relatively safe from



flooding.

Almost immediately, however, the center of development shifted northward on Washington to the square upon which the new state capitol was located. The actual importance of the state presence to the community was, I suspect, only one of many reasons for this. At least as important, I think, would have been the impulse of early settlers, most of them from small-town New York state, to organize town life around the familiar, traditional public square.

In such towns, other central institutions of society, commerce and religion usually surrounded the courthouse or town hall square. So it was in Lansing until the removal of state government to the second capitol in 1879. The earlier central square promptly became a developed urban block, but the new square acquired almost no commercial activity, becoming instead the center of civic and religious activity, attracting finally several

Continued on Page 2

Historical Society of Greater Lansing EXECUTIVE BOARD

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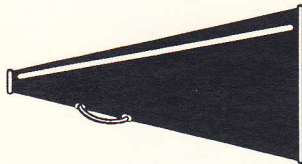
Newsletter Editor
Craig Whitford

The *HSGL Newsletter* is published bimonthly from September through May.
Articles and news of historical interest may be sent to the
Historical Society of Greater Lansing, P.O. Box 12095, Lansing, MI 48901.
Linda Peckham, President. Tel: 517/372-3385.

beautiful churches.

We include in this year's walking tour five mid-town churches, the earliest dating from 1890, expressing in their architecture the aesthetic values and spiritual aspirations of Lansing's early residents. They include the exterior and interior of the First Presbyterian, St. Paul's Episcopal, Central United Methodist, First Baptist, and St. Mary Catholic churches.

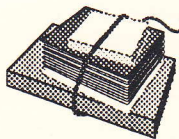
- Robert J. Morris



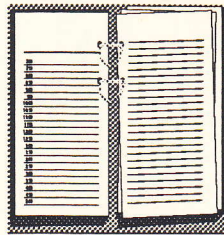
You Need To Know...

808 N. Cedar . . . One of Lansing's oldest houses, dating from the early 1850's, needs a buyer and restoration. This nearly pure Greek Revival can be moved, and city money is available to assist a low-to-moderate income owner with the project. Contact Fred Sible at 394-1100.

Grand Rapids . . . Heritage Hill Home Tour. Twelve historic structures, including nine private homes. Oct. 1, 11:00-5:00 and Oct. 2, Noon-6:00. Cost is \$12. (Advance tickets are \$9.) Call 616/459-8950 for more information.



The Antiquarian Book and Paper Show will take place on October 9, 1994 between the hours of 9:30 and 5:00 at the Lansing Center.



1994-1995 PROGRAMS Mark Your Calendars NOW!

Sunday, September 18, 1994

Walking Tour of Downtown Churches

Wednesday, November 16, 1994

Lawyers and Lawyering in Ingham County

Wednesday, January 18, 1995

Lansing's First African/American Church

Wednesday, March 15, 1995

The Artistry of Charles H. Mead

Saturday, April 29, 1995

Lansing History Showcase

Wednesday, May 17, 1995

**Historical Society of Greater Lansing
Annual Dinner**

Michigan Stained Glass Census . . .

If you would like to participate in the Michigan Stained Glass Census as a VOLUNTEER CENSUS TAKER, by visiting buildings where stained glass windows are located and recording information about the windows please write: Michigan Stained Glass Census, Michigan State University Museum, East Lansing, MI 48824-1045.

HSGL September Program
Sponsored by
David Thomas Communications

BLASTS From The Past

The following 'news' items have all been taken out of issues of the **Lansing Republican Weekly**, written in the style of the time.

There is one redeeming feature about the irredeemables. They are like summer hen-coops, built of lath and the breezes of truth are blowing right through them. LRW 7/30/1878.

Tax payers have a chance to dispose of their surplus cash at the city treasurer's office. People who live in the country are denied the luxury of paying taxes twice a year. LRW 12/13/1878.

Joshua Billings scientifically remarks that "Luv is one ov them kind ov diseazes that yu kant git, nor git rid ov, with enny certainty, enny more than yu kan the rumatiz. LRW 12/23/1878.

There is one greenbacker left in Lansing, whom even a coroner's jury could not make understand that he is politically dead. LRW 11/19/1879.

The photographers of this city are following the example in wheat and produce, for they have made a combination to raise on their prices after Dec. 1. LRW 11/26/1879.

The Historical Society seeks donations of local historical materials, such as papers or photos, especially of those related to our programs. **This month we are interested in obtaining photographs of Lansing Churches** which will be made available to the public in the Local History Room at the Lansing Public Library. Please contact the Historical Society at 372-3385.

Board Meetings are held on the third Wednesdays of October, February, and April. Any business may be addressed to the Board before or at the meetings. All are invited.

Who do you know who should belong to the Historical Society? Send in your membership, and recruit a member.

*Give a Gift that Gives All Year . . .
Membership in the Historical Society of Greater Lansing*

Membership Application

*Historical Society
of Greater Lansing*

P.O. Box 12095
Lansing, MI 48901

Annual Membership in the Historical Society of Greater Lansing is due by October 1, 1994 for the 1994-1995 program year. Please clip and return this coupon with payment.

New **Renewal**

Enclosed: \$10 Individual \$15 Family \$150 Life Gift

Name _____

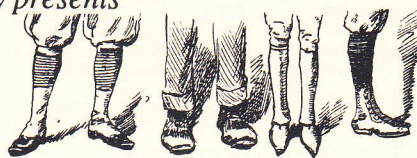
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The *Historical Society of Greater Lansing* is a non-profit corporation, and we appreciate your support.

Historical Society of Greater Lansing

proudly presents



Walking Tour: Lansing's Downtown Churches

A walking tour of the historic architecture of five of Lansing's Downtown churches, including two that are more than 100 years old. The tour includes exteriors and interiors of the Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Methodist, Baptist, and Catholic churches.

Conducted by Robert J. Morris

2:00 P.M.

Sunday, September 18, 1994

The tour will start at 500 W. Ottawa

The Public Is Invited

*Historical Society
of Greater Lansing*
P.O. Box 12095
Lansing, MI 48901

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**PLEASE
RENEW
Your
HSGL
Membership
TODAY!**

The Historical Society of Greater Lansing seeks donations of local historical materials, such as papers or photos, especially of those related to our programs. These materials will be made available to the public for viewing and research in the Local History Room at the Lansing Public Library. Please contact the Historical Society at 517-372-3385.

The Local History Room at the Library is open Wednesdays from 12-3 p.m. We are working on open hours on other days, also. For more information, contact JoAnne Jager, Local History Librarian, at 517-325-6400.

Board Meetings of the Historical society are held on the third Wednesdays of October, February, and April. Any business may be addressed to the Board before or at the meetings. All are invited.

**HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
of GREATER
LANSING**

P.O. Box 12095
Lansing MI 48901

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Vice-Pres John Curry
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Trustees

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Newsletter Editor

Craig Whitford

HISTORICAL SOCIETY of GREATER LANSING

1994-1995 PROGRAMS

Walking Tour of Downtown Churches *Sunday, September 18, 1994*
A walking tour of the historic architecture of five of Lansing's Downtown churches, including two that are more than 100 years old. The tour includes exteriors and interiors of the Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Methodist, Baptist, and Catholic churches. Conducted by Robert J. Morris, President of City Visions, Inc., a restoration design company in Lansing. **Start at 500 W. Ottawa . . . 2:00 p.m.**

Lawyers and Lawyering in Ingham County *Wednesday, November 16, 1994*
Stories from the bench since 1837, including the 1876 Marble murders, the 1940's Senator Hooper case, and others. Because Ingham County uniquely includes State and Supreme Court cases, its past forms a legal history of Michigan. Presented by Richard Frazier from his new book on the 100th anniversary of the Ingham County Bar Association. **Lansing Public Library . . . 7:30 p.m.**

Lansing's First African/American Church *Wednesday, January 18, 1995*
The early history of Trinity AME Church. Lansing's oldest, continuous African/American congregation has been integrated since it was formed 128 years ago. The influences of this church reach far beyond the black community. Photos and story presented by Hondon Hargrove, nationally-known black military historian, from his history of Trinity AME Church. **Lansing Public Library . . . 7:30 p.m.**

The Artistry of Charles H. Mead *Wednesday, March 15, 1995*
Lansing's premier, but little-known, 1870's artist and professional photographer. The son of a pioneer family, Charles Mead left many photographs, pencil drawings, and ingenious advertisements, our best visual record of Lansing as we moved into the Industrial Age. Presented by Craig A. Whitford, of C. A. Whitford Numismatic Auctions, a rare coin auction firm. **Lansing Public Library . . . 7:30 p.m.**

Lansing History Showcase *Saturday, April 29, 1995*
Private Collections on Display **Lansing Public Library . . . 9:30-4:30**

Annual Dinner *Wednesday, May 17, 1995*
Annual Dinner, Annual Business Meeting, and a Dulcimer Concert by Ernie Block.
Herrmann Conference Center, LCC. . . 6:00 p.m.

Shouldn't you belong to the Historical Society in Michigan's capital city?
You will receive advance program information, special discounts, and a newsletter of Lansing history.
Send in your membership. Recruit a friend.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY
of GREATER LANSING

P.O. Box 12095 Lansing MI 48901

Annual membership in the Historical Society of Greater Lansing is due by *October 1, 1994*
for the 1994-1995 program year. Please clip and return this panel with payment.

New _____ Renewal _____

Name _____

Address _____

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Enclosed: ___ \$10.00 Individual ___ \$15.00 Family ___ \$150 Life _____ Gift

The Historical Society of Greater Lansing is a non-profit corporation, and we appreciate your support.

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