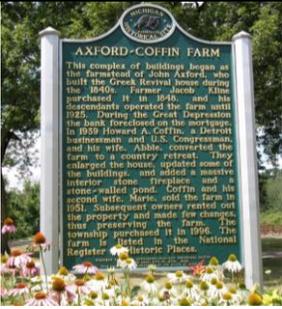


OAKLAND TOWNSHIP HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

**PRESERVATION**



**PLACEMAKING**



**SUSTAINABILITY**



**EDUCATION**



**CULTURAL RESOURCES**



**RESTORATION**



**LOCAL HERITAGE**



# Annual Report 2013

## HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION



**Josiane Whitson, Chairperson**

**Heidi Paterson, Vice-chairperson**

**E. Jean Lyons, Secretary**

**Charles Busch Jr., Commissioner**

**Amy Hopewell, Commissioner (term ended May 2013)**

**Bruce Parkinson, Commissioner**

**David A. Phillips, Commissioner**

**John Sanderson, Commissioner**

**Barbara Barber, Historic Preservation Planner**

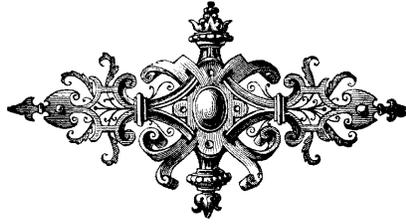
**The HDC meets the third Wednesday of the Month at 7:00 pm at the Oakland Township Main Hall first floor conference room, located at 4393 Collins Road, Goodison, Michigan.**

**[www.oaklandtownship.org](http://www.oaklandtownship.org)**

**The public is always welcome to attend meetings.**

**HDC Office phone 248-608-6807**





## HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

The HDC consists of a dedicated group of Oakland Township citizens who have been appointed by the Oakland Township Board of Trustees to administer the Historic District Ordinance 37-A, to make decisions and offer guidance to historic homeowners with historic resources, to provide education and preservation planning for all township historic resources, to provide comments on any undertakings on Township historic structures, to educate the community on the benefits of historic preservation and the value of preserving the cultural landscape, to manage the Township owned Cranberry Lake Farm (CLF) Historic District listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and to invest time and funds in the development of CLF to succeed as a Community Historical Center. Each member of the Commission shall reside within the Township, with a majority of the members having a clearly demonstrated interest in or knowledge of historic preservation. The membership of the Commission shall be comprised of seven members.



## NEW COMMISSIONERS AND REAPPOINTMENTS

The Oakland Township Board of Trustees (OTBT) reappointed Commissioner Bruce Parkinson for three year term ending in 2016. Bruce Parkinson, lives in a historic home and brings his electrical experience and environmental awareness to the HDC.

New Commissioner David A. Phillips was appointed by the Board of Trustees in February 2013 for term ending in 2015. David Phillips is a member of the Oakland Township Historical Society and assists as a liaison between the groups.

John Sanderson joined the HDC as a new Commission in May 2013 for term ending in 2016. He brings professional research, writing, technical, design, and graphics expertise to the Commission. He is also a member of the Oakland Township Historical Society and a director of the Village of Fairview Historical Society.

Thank you to all HDC commissioners for volunteering your valuable time to serve the Oakland Township community in their preservation needs.



From Left: David Phillips, Charles Busch, John Sanderson, Heidi Paterson, Jean Lyons, and Bruce Parkinson. (Not pictured Josiane Whitson)

## MEETINGS

The Historic District Commission held twelve regular meetings during the year. Regular meetings were held every third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Paint Creek Cider Mill, located at 4480 Orion Road, Rochester, Michigan in the main floor conference room. Beginning in May 2013, meetings were held at the main Township hall, 4393 Collins Road, Rochester, Michigan so meetings could be digitally recorded by CMNTV for broadcast on the local cable channel and for live streaming via the website. One may also watch previously recorded meetings by accessing the township home page 'watch live streaming' button at [www.oaklandtownship.org](http://www.oaklandtownship.org). Meeting agendas and location will be posted on the township website under the departments menu, please select Historic District Commission.

## REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS AND HISTORIC PROPERTIES

The Cranberry Lake Farm Silo reconstruction project was approved and awarded a Certificate of Appropriateness. The Kiosk installation was not required to have an application process. The Hen House roof replacement was general maintenance and replacement of same style rolled roof, which was a black EPDM rolled roofing membrane for superior waterproof, weathering and life of the product.



Applications: submitted – 2, approved - 2, tabled - 1, withdrawn – 1, denied - 0

Two Certificates of Appropriateness were awarded.

Two Historic District Study Committee Reports presented.

Two comments and research provided on local historic resources.

One Section 106 Report on the Goodison Historic District for the Orion Road Bridge project was submitted by the Road Commission of Oakland County.



## ELECTIONS

Elections for 2013, Josiane Whitson was elected as chairperson for her second year. Heidi Paterson was elected vice-chair for her first time, and Jean Lyons was elected to serve as secretary for her seventh year. HDC Elections are held the beginning of each New Year and the role is fulfilled until the next year's elections. Commissioners can be re-elected yearly for the same position of chair, vice-chair, or secretary; or commissioners can elect to change positions.



## HDC OFFICE

The HDC office is located on the second floor of the Paint Creek Mill building, 4480 Orion Road, Goodison, Michigan. The office has been at this location for five years.

The HDC has many resources available on loan to residents including many preservation books, National Parks Service preservation briefs, preservation magazines, and even a few movies on loan at no charge. Also, there are numerous files with history of local homes and structures, and records of the protected homes listed in the Township historic preservation Ordinance 37A. The office has one staff person that meets the federal governments' Secretary of the Interior's professional qualifications standards for historic preservation.

## PAINT CREEK MILL

The centrally located landmark building in Goodison that houses the Historic District Commission, Paint Creek Cider Mill, Parks and Recreation, Paint Creek Trailways Commission, and Six Rivers Land Conservancy. The HDC is working with the Historic District Study Committee to have the building listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



## CONFERENCES AND EDUCATION

Commissioner Parkinson attended the Michigan State Historic Preservation Networks conference in Marquette, Michigan, with the theme 'Ingredients of Place.'

Commissioner Sanderson and Barb Barber attended several Oakland County Planner's Gathering's Mid-century Modern and Complete Streets Master Plan.

Commissioner Phillips and Barb Barber attended the Oakland County Heritage Conference. The keynote speaker Scott Day, Urban Planner shared how successful communities provide a pleasant sense of surprise to one's soul and how people have emotional relationship with their communities.

Barb Barber attended a budget workshop by Robert Daddow, cash handling training, website training, and HR training Solving Problems and Making Effective Decisions.

## PRESERVATION OF THE NATIONAL GRAND CHAMPION SCHUETTE OAK TREE



Oakland Township is home to the famous National Grand Champion Schuette Oak Tree that has been estimated at being 400-500 years old, and is listed in the National Register of Big Trees. The HDC oversees the maintenance and health for this 120 foot tall tree which has a circumference of over 20' 6". The tree is on a maintenance program to bolster its ability to absorb nutrients and water from the soil because of the close proximity to Parks and Letts Roads. The Township's special tree is monitored for signs of disease and stress on a regular quarterly schedule.



## ORDINANCE 37A

Ordinance 37A had a new additional single historic district approved by the Oakland Township Board of Trustees in 2013, called the George Farmstead Historic District. The main house was built in 1909 by William George.



## CRANBERRY LAKE FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT

The Axford-Coffin Farm, referred to as Cranberry Lake Farm is a 16 acre historic district listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The main house built c. 1840s is a Greek Revival main farmhouse. The farmstead has many out buildings, barns, caretaker house, carriage barn, greenhouse, fieldstone reflection pond, and apple orchards. The site is maintained by the Historic District Commission funded by the historic preservation millage which is supported by the residents of Oakland Township. The Oakland Township Historical Society are partners in the development and use of the sixteen acre historic district.

### RESOLUTION 13-02

The Township Board of Trustee passed Resolution 13-02 on January 8, 2013. The resolution commands the Historic District Commission as the responsible department to manage and operate Cranberry Lake Farm historic district.

### OAKLAND TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OTHS has been dedicated in collecting local archives of photos and documents to be accessible to residents for research.

### DEPRESSION GLASS

Great Lakes Depression Glass Club held a program and invited guest to bring samples of their glassware to help discover the history.

### HISTORY PROGRAM - MICHIGAN AUTHORS

Speakers included Robert Lytle on Michigan history and his book *Mr. Blair's Labyrinth*. Gloria Nixon-John read her beautiful poetry.

### SQUARE DANCES!

Returning by popular demand, caller Glen Morningstar and the Ruffwater Stringband, clapped and played tunes for the crowd that gathered in the late summer breeze next to the Flumerfelt Barn.

### BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA DAY CAMP

The BSA held a three day camp at the farm where hundreds of children learned about the history of the farm, silos and barns, archery, shooting sports, and a multitude of games and crafts.



### **FLAG RAISING CEREMONY**

Cub Scouts, Cobra Patrol, Pack 109 held a Flag raising ceremony with the American Flag on June 14, 2013 Flag Day.



### **SILOS IN THE LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION**

Local residents were invited to photograph Oakland County silos and submit them in a competition. First through fourth place entries received prizes donated from local businesses and private citizens.



### **DOWN ON THE FARM**

Sheep, tractors, horses, chickens, peacocks, and many, many more antiques were on display during Down on the Farm. OTHS and Dinosaur Hill Nature preserve helped with the festivities.

### **HOLIDAY HOME TOUR AND BOUTIQUE**

The Friends of the Rochester Hills Public Library included the farmstead on the Holiday Home Tour. Gretchen Drader Interiors, working with the OTHS, decorated the site with antiques, garlands, wreaths and bows, and everything from nature filled the many trees. Music was provided throughout the event from talented piano students from the Rochester Conservatory. The Flumerfelt Barn was filled with artisans selling their crafts for the holidays.



## PUBLIC AWARENESS

The HDC website located at [www.oaklandtownship.org](http://www.oaklandtownship.org). Scroll to Departments, click on the Historic District Commission main page. There is a printable application form for convenient access for historic home owners. Also listed are monthly meeting minutes, meeting agendas, and information on Cranberry Lake Farm. There are related links to:

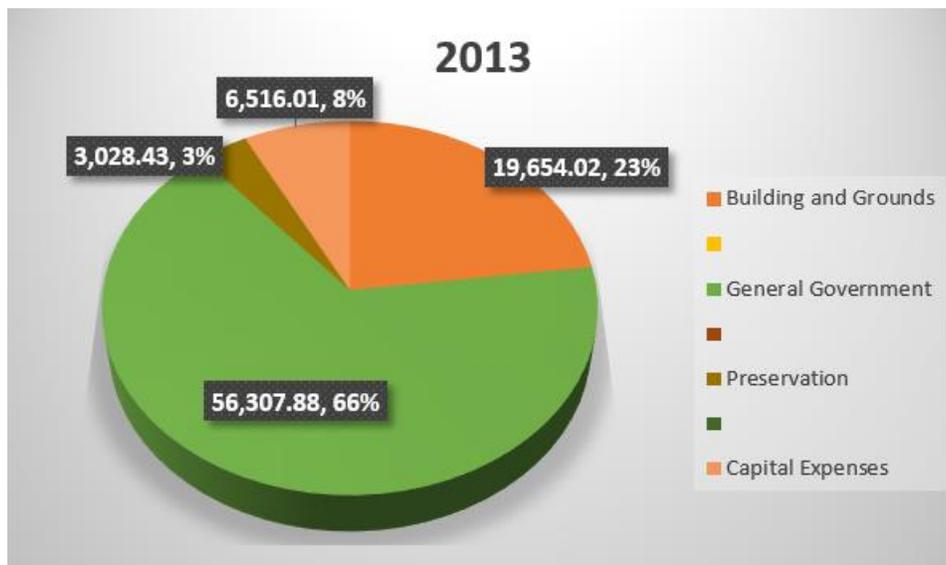
- Michigan Historic Preservation Network
- Oakland Township Historical Society
- State Historic Preservation Office
- National Trust for Historic Preservation
- Oakland Regional Historic Sites

The HDC produces a newsletter update for the Township's quarterly newsletter that is mailed to all township residents. Please stop by the office where there are extra copies to share one with a friend.

The HDC purchases books and history magazines for use by township residents. Residents may come into the office and sign them out at no charge. The newest additions to the HDC library are:

- The Economics of Place: The Value of Building Communities Around People, Michigan Municipal League, edited by Colleen Layton, Tawny Pruitt, and Kim Cekola
- The Michigan Historical Review
- Forum Journals by National Trust for Historic Preservation
- Historic Michigan Travel Guide, by Michigan History, edited by Larry J. Wagenaar and Izzi Bendall

## BUDGET FY 2013



## FUTURE PLANS

The HDC will continue to invest in the maintenance, operations and programming at CLF to reach more residents to enjoy the historic site. Plans are being implemented to allow small groups the opportunity to rent specific buildings for wedding ceremonies or small gatherings. The HDC follows the no alcohol policy and the township noise ordinance.

A historic landscape master plan is the next large project for CLF, with planning for garden area, orchard maintenance, and the care and placement of farm implements. Interpretation for a silo pulley system has been discussed.

The Historic District Study Committee is working towards the inclusion of the Paint Creek Mill building in the National Register of Historic Places. The hope is to have a historical marker commemorating the Mill building, weir, and Paint Creek Millrace, installed by the end of 2014.

A weatherization workshop is planned for 2014 to be held in the Paint Creek Mill building. Speakers from Michigan Historic Preservation Network and the National Trust for Historic Preservation educate homeowners on the benefits of weatherization for historic structures.

The Society for the Preservation of Old Mills is holding their Annual Conference in the Greater Rochester Area and will be stopping into the Paint Creek Mill building.

The HDC is always available to assist owners of historic homes to meet the requirements of the Secretary of Interior Standards for Rehabilitation for their improvement projects.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Charter Township of Oakland Historic District Commission is to promote and preserve the rich heritage of our township by safeguarding its historical resources. This is accomplished through the following:

- ❖ Cultivating an appreciation for the heritage of Oakland Township.
- ❖ Educating our residents about the value of preserving the buildings, structures and areas that have contributed to this heritage.
- ❖ Encouraging the listing of new resources so that future generations can benefit from them.
- ❖ Administering the Charter Township of Oakland's Historic District Ordinance 37A.
- ❖ Collaborating with other commissions and groups that have a mutual interest in preserving our township's heritage.

