

TOURING HOUSES AND HOME LIFE AFTER THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR Last week we suggested that the American Civil War (of 1861-65) changed the course of American history in many ways, including housing and the home environment, for the war-generation and forever after.

For a variety of reasons, the period after the Civil War was the high point of what we could call the “Home-Sweet-Home” era. The economy boomed, new worlds had opened up for the returning veteran; the reform impetus for the war was extended to everyday-life, such as drinking and rearing of children, and the “home-sweet-home” became a way to create a more refined and aesthetic way of life. “Respectability” was something that could be learned, taught, and BOUGHT.

Here are three post-Civil War buildings—two houses and a church—all on the upcoming (September 17th Heritage Festival Home Tour).

Top - All Saints Episcopal Church on the corner of Hoffman and Grand in Saugatuck.

Below - Barr - Cappelletti house on the corner of Allegan and Maple in Saugatuck.

Below right - Riley-Slack-Ellis house at 203 Heirloom Lane in Douglas.

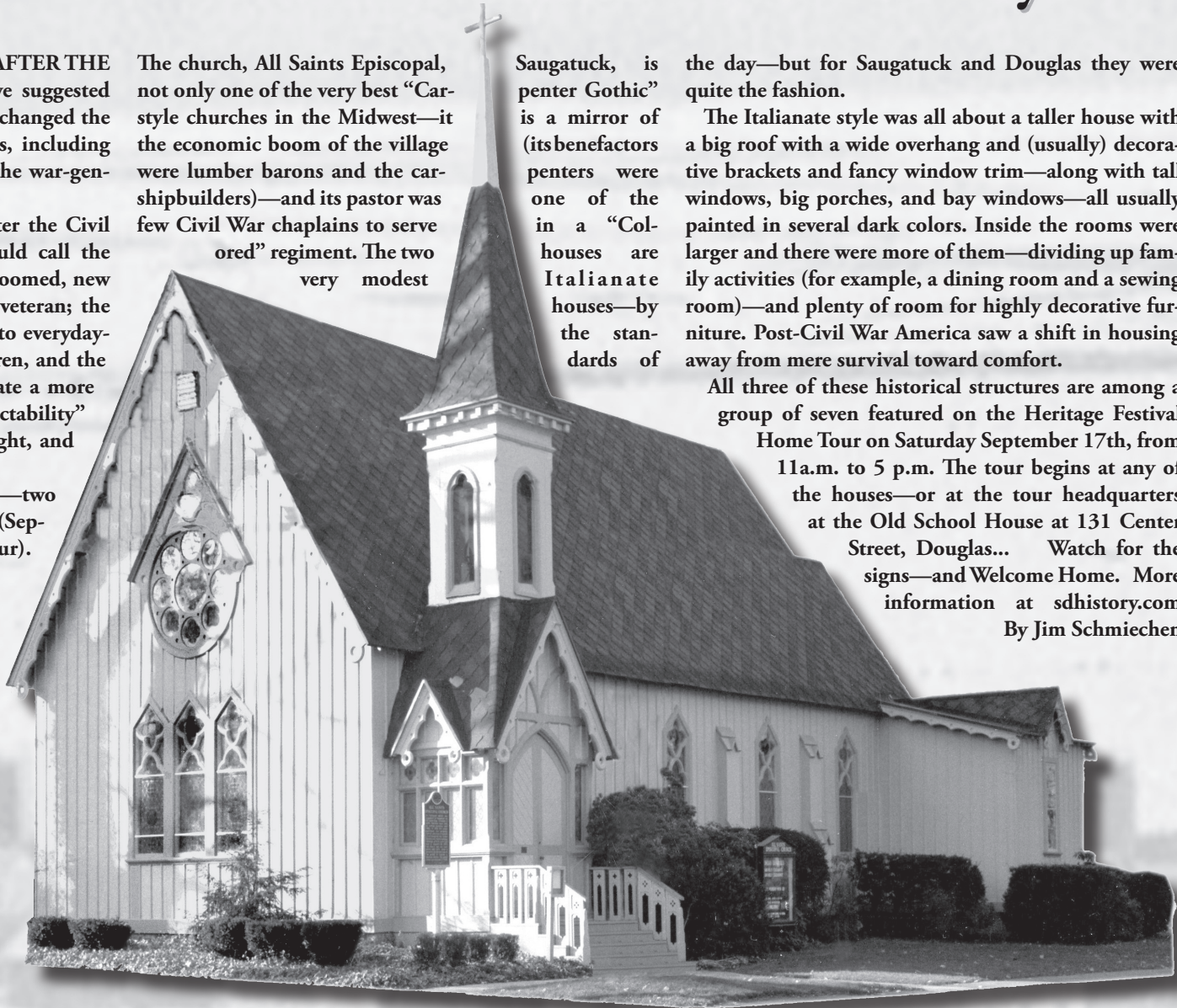
The church, All Saints Episcopal, not only one of the very best “Car-style churches in the Midwest—it the economic boom of the village were lumber barons and the car-shipbuilders)—and its pastor was few Civil War chaplains to serve ored” regiment. The two very modest

Saugatuck, is penter Gothic” is a mirror of (itsbenefactors penters were one of the in a “Col-houses are Italianate houses—by the stand-ards of

the day—but for Saugatuck and Douglas they were quite the fashion.

The Italianate style was all about a taller house with a big roof with a wide overhang and (usually) decorative brackets and fancy window trim—along with tall windows, big porches, and bay windows—all usually painted in several dark colors. Inside the rooms were larger and there were more of them—dividing up family activities (for example, a dining room and a sewing room)—and plenty of room for highly decorative furniture. Post-Civil War America saw a shift in housing away from mere survival toward comfort.

All three of these historical structures are among a group of seven featured on the Heritage Festival Home Tour on Saturday September 17th, from 11a.m. to 5 p.m. The tour begins at any of the houses—or at the tour headquarters at the Old School House at 131 Center Street, Douglas... Watch for the signs—and Welcome Home. More information at sdhistory.com By Jim Schmiechen

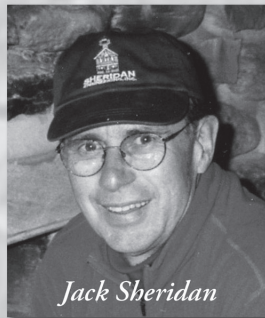


This collection of houses are among those featured in the September 17th Heritage Festival Home Tour. In addition, the lecture: “Victorians at Home: Architecture, Interiors, and Furnishings of the Civil War Era” will be presented at 10:00 AM at the Saugatuck Center for the Arts by Jim Schmiechen.

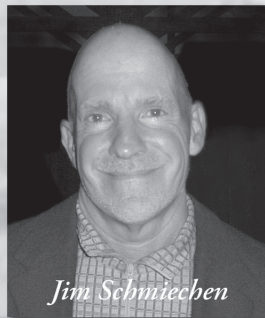
The tour is open from 11-5 -- the starting point is the Old School House in Douglas. All Welcome.

The Remembering When feature is the creation of Jack Sheridan and Jim Schmiechen of the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society. We welcome your comments on Remembering When. Call 269 857-7901, email us at sdhistory@accn.org or write to Box 617 Douglas, Mi 49406. SDHS historical images can be seen on the SDHS web site at www.sdhistory.com and all historical photos are available for purchase in print sizes up to 12x17.

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Jack Sheridan



Jim Schmiechen