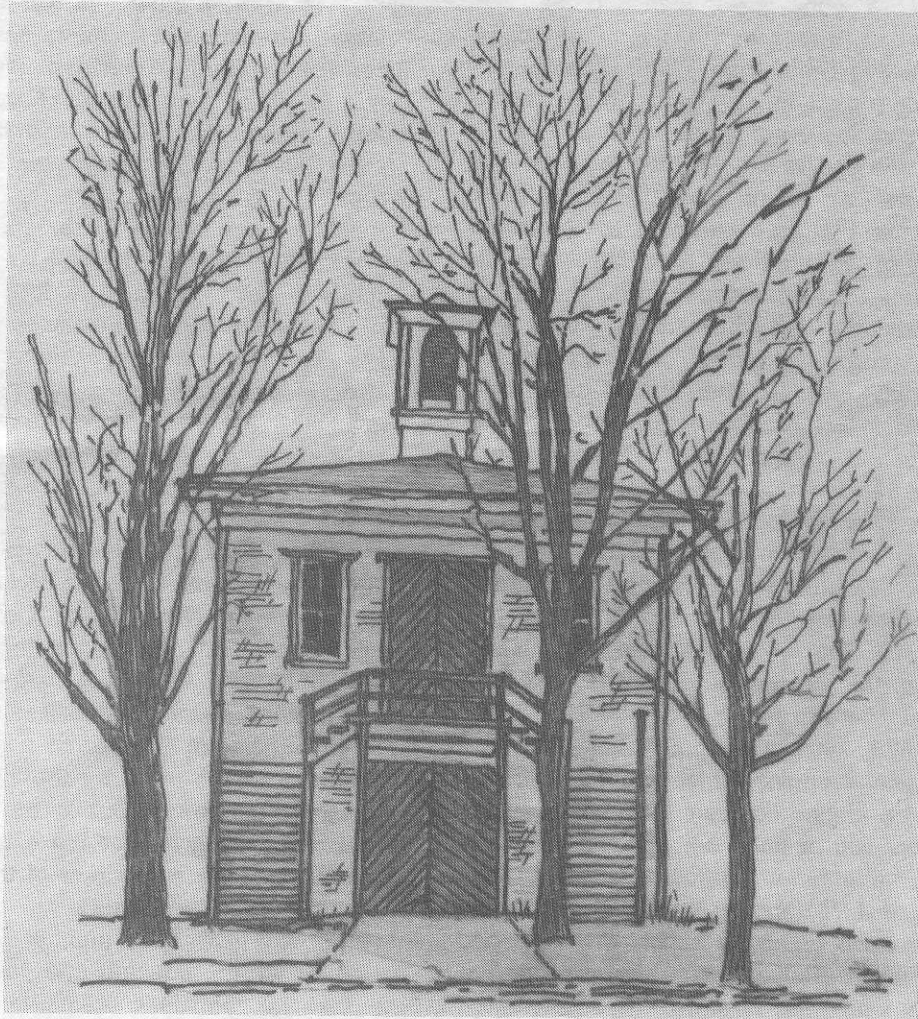


**SAUGATUCK CITY HALL  
MICHIGAN STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC SITES  
MARKER DEDICATION CEREMONY**



**MAY 19, 1991  
2:00 P.M.**

## HISTORY OF SAUGATUCK'S VILLAGE HALL

In 1868, the Village of Saugatuck was incorporated by the Board of Supervisors of Allegan County. An incorporation census counting 831 residents was taken on January 8, 1868 and in 1869-70, the village was reincorporated by an act of the legislature.

The fire department was organized in January, 1871 and the fire house stood on Mason between Butler and Water Streets. A bell and some equipment was purchased and a call went out for volunteers. On October 9, 1871 Fennville and Holland burned to the ground on the same day as the great fire in Chicago. Saugatuck was spared, leading to a greater awareness of fire fighting. Two hundred pails were purchased and distributed around town.

Impetus for the construction of a new fire house, council chamber, hall and lock up came on July 7, 1879 when it was determined that the old fire house was too small to accomodate the fire equipment. The fire house committee decided to begin construction which was almost completed in 1880 at a cost of \$824.33. The builders were Amos H. Gardner, James G. Williams, and Ralph C. Brittain; suppliers were John Nies, Daniel L. Barber and John Priest. The jail was moved from its old location to the northwest corner of the first floor in the new fire hall.

In 1873, the fire equipment consisted of a \$2000 Babcock engine which proved a failure. By 1881, the engine company was composed of 32 members with a hand pumper and hose cart replacing the engine. Amos H. Gardner was foreman and J.P. Hancock was in charge of the 8 member hose company which was equipped with hook and ladder. Chief engineer of the fire department was John Wilson.

The council chamber was entered from a double set of outside steps which led to the second floor. These were removed in 1908 and an internal staircase built in the northeast corner, with a door that led to the outside. The building was redesigned and renovated in 1926

by noted local artist Carl Hoerman, who created a new entryway with the distinctive pillars that we see today. The bell was replaced by a siren, and the bell rope which always hung at the entrance, disappeared forever. Cost of this work was \$1,682.65.

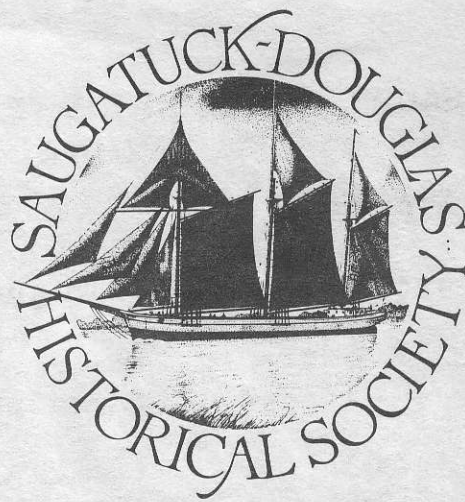
In 1929, a basement was dug and the jail moved downstairs. Remains and burial articles from a Native American cemetery were excavated in the process of this work. (The early settlers had also buried their dead here until Riverside Cemetery was created in the 1860's.) Cost of digging the basement and building a foundation under the structure was \$1,185.00. In 1949, the jail was moved to the public works building. The fire department left in 1954 when a new fire house was completed. The police department eventually opened an office in the public works building.

The Saugatuck Art Association opened an art gallery in the council chamber in 1931 highlighting Saugatuck's long time contribution to the arts.

The interior, where the fire hall had been, was remodled in 1957 to accomodate the clerk's office, Chamber of Commerce, public rest rooms and lounge, serving visitors to the art exhibitions. In more recent years the police department office and lock up has returned. The Chamber of Commerce was relocated and their office was used by the Interurban, which provides the area's public bus service. The need for a second floor fire exit was served by a new staircase at the rear of the building.

Saugatuck became a city in the summer of 1984. In 1988 local architect Richard Rudich was hired to redesign the interior. Modern offices for the clerk, treasurer, police, mayor, and city manager were provided. The work was completed in Spring 1989 at a cost of \$175,125.00. On July 19, 1990, the building was listed on Michigan's State Register of Historic Sites completing 110 years of continuous use.





## PROGRAM

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

CHARLES J. LORENZ

HISTORY OF SAUGATUCK'S VILLAGE HALL

MICHAEL S. SWEENEY

PRESENTATION OF THE MICHIGAN STATE  
REGISTER OF HISTORIC SITES CERTIFICATE  
TO THE MAYOR, THE HONORABLE DAVID MOCINI

ROBERT JOHNSON,  
PRESIDENT OF THE  
SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

UNVEILING OF THE MARKER

DOROTHY LANGHORST

## REFRESHMENTS

SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
DEDICATION CEREMONY COMMITTEE

DOROTHY LANGHORST, CHAIRMAN

GOLDIE KLEINHEKSEL

JUDY OBERHOLTZER

KAY KRAUSE

PEG SANFORD

INGE NIMROD

JEFF WILCOX

is a  
d stud  
ering int  
S. NAVAL ACADEMY  
will present a concert  
igned Church at 1:30 p.m.  
19.

**IN THE GALLERY**

CONGRESSIONAL ARTS COMPETITION  
ENTRIES will be exhibited at the  
Holland Area Arts Council building,  
W. Eighth St., May 13-31. A re-  
for the selected student work  
Fourth Congressional District  
planned for 2 to 4 p.m.  
with an awards ceremony.

**A DIARY OF THE**  
showcase of  
11 artists.  
Petter C  
May 1  
789

## LEADERS THROUGH THE YEARS

### Saugatuck Village Presidents

Horace D. Moore	1868-1869
John B. Bacon	1870
Stephen A. Morrison	1871
Randolph Densmore	1872

Issac Wilson	1873-1874
Daniel L. Barber	1875-1876
Lintsford B. Coates	1877
Horace D. Moore	1878

Alfred B. Taylor	1879
James G. Williams	1880
Wallace B. Griffin	1881
James G. Williams	1882

Daniel L. Barber	1883
Frank A. Winslow	1884-1885
John F. Henry	1886-1892
James M. Pond	Nov., 1892

Fred Wade	1893-1896
Samuel Reed	1897-1898
Fred Wade	1899
John H. Pear	1900-1901

John Koning	1902
John H. Pear	1903-1904
Henry Bird, Jr.	1905-1906
Waterman G. Phelps	1907-1910

Willian R. Takken	1911-1912
Frank J. Comstock	1913-1914
Clarence Wade	1915-1916
William H. Allen	1917

Clarence Wade	1918
Waterman G. Phelps	1919-1920
Clarence Wade	1921
Joseph Zwemer	1922

Clarence A. Lynds	1923
Herman E. Kreager	1924-1933
Clarence A. Lynds	1934-1935
Frank W. Sewers	1936-1938

Frank J. Comstock	1939
Francis E. Force	1940-1942
Clarence A. Lynds	1943-1949
Frank Wicks	1950-1951

George W. Wright	1952-1955
Roscoe Funk	Nov., 1955-1956
Lynn McCray	1957-1960
Richard Hoffman	1961-1970

Julius Van Oss	1971-1973
James Christenson	1974-1977
De Forest Doerner	1978-1983
Wayne Entsminger	June, 1984

### Saugatuck City Mayors

Gerald O'Connell	July, 1984-Nov., 1985
Margaret Sanford	1985-1987
Robert Berger	1987-1989
David Mocini	1989 to date

GRAND RAPIDS PRESS 5/17/91

# City dedicates marker for historic city hall

## SAUGATUCK

The Grand Rapids Press

Saugatuck City Hall's designation as a Michigan historical site will be recognized officially Sunday afternoon during a dedication of a marker that denotes that fact.

The ceremony — to begin at 2 p. m. — is being hosted by the Saugatuck/Douglas Historical Society.

Guest speaker for the event is Michael Sweeney, founder of the local historical society. The 111-year-old hall received the designation in July from the Michigan Historical Commission.

After the marker dedication, the hall will be open for viewing. Refreshments will also be served.

City Hall had originally been built in 1880 as the town's Village Hall. The community switched from a village form of government to city status in 1984.

At one time, the hall also served as the site for the town's firehouse and lockup.

The hall was first redesigned in 1926 by local artist and architect Carl Hoerman. His work led to the Greek Revival entryway, with four white pillars, that remains today.

In 1988, the interior of the hall was renovated — under the direction of local architect Dick Rudich — to better accommodate city government operations.

Today, the building's first floor is occupied by the city offices and police department. City council meets on the second floor.

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION  
HISTORY OF SAUGATUCK**

**PRESENTATION OF THE MICHIGAN STATE  
REGISTER OF HISTORIC SITES CERTIFICATE  
TO THE MAYOR, THE HONORABLE DAVID MOCINI**

**ROBERT JOHNSON,  
PRESIDENT OF THE  
SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**UNVEILING OF THE MARKER**

**DOROTHY LANGHORST**

## REFRESHMENTS

**SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
DEDICATION CEREMONY COMMITTEE**

**DOROTHY LANGHORST, CHAIRMAN**

**GOLDIE KLEINHEKSEL  
KAY KRAUSE  
INGE NIMROD**

**JUDY OBERHOLTZER  
PEG SANFORD  
JEFF WILCOX**



CONTACT: Charles J. Lorenz  
2795 64th Street  
Fennville, MI 49408  
(616) 857-3955

FOR RELEASE UPON RECEIPT:

#### SAUGATUCK VILLAGE HALL DEDICATION CEREMONY

On May 19, 1991, at 2:00 p.m., a marker dedication ceremony and unveiling will take place at Saugatuck's Village/City Hall which was listed on the Michigan State Register of Historic Sites on July 19, 1990. The 111 year old structure has served as council chamber, hall, fire house and lock-up since 1880.

Chairperson of the program is Mrs. Delbert Langhorst and guest speaker is Mr. Michael S. Sweeney, who will present the history of the building from his extensive research on the subject.

In 1908, the first major change came when the double set of stairs were removed from the front of the building. Noted local artist and architect, Carl Hoerman, was asked to redesign the building in 1926, leading to the distinctive Greek Revival entryway with the four white pillars that we see today.

The building has been used as an art gallery, lounge, polling place, Chamber of Commerce office, village clerk's office, vault, public rest rooms, police department, dispatch office for the public transportation system, and the meeting place for many organizations including the the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society which is sponsoring this festive occasion.

In 1984 Saugatuck, Michigan became a city and four years later the interior of the structure was upgraded to accomodate city government. It was redesigned by Chicago architect, Richard Rudich, and is more beautiful then it has been in its entire history housing modern offices for officials of the City of Saugatuck.

The Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society cordially invites the public to attend the dedication ceremony, at 102 Butler Street, Saugatuck, Michigan. Refreshments will be served immediately following with the building open for viewing.