

# SAUGATUCK HISTORIC COASTAL SURVEY REPORT



January 2010

Saugatuck Dunes Coastal Alliance

Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society

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In preparing this survey the team wishes to thank the following individuals for their generosity, insight and knowledge: James Schmiechen, Tracey Shafroth, Jack Sheridan, Dick Haight, Kay Smalley, Norman Deam, David Swan, Alison Swan, Fred Royce, Mary Voss, Jon and Jill Winston, Amy Arnold, Michigan State Historic Preservation Office, Mary Lou Graham, Jennifer Schuham, and Lake Shore Christian Camping.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In August 2009, the Saugatuck Dunes Coastal Alliance with the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society commissioned a survey of the coastal and dunes area north and south of the Kalamazoo River where it enters Lake Michigan. The purpose of the survey was to make a preliminary assessment of archaeological and historic sites in the area and to make recommendations for further action to protect the properties from future development. The sites identified for the survey were part of the June 2008 *Saugatuck Historic Coastal Survey* authored by James Schmiechen, Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society.

The entire study area should be considered an important cultural landscape. The dunes, woods, waterways, and cultural sites together represent the broad history of the area from prehistoric occupation, early settlers, logging, and fishing through the summer resort era that introduced camps and arts instruction. Important to this theme is the strong cultural connection to Chicago, and the creation of a cultural outpost, particularly represented at Ox-Bow, Forward Movement Association Park, and Shorewood. All of the sites and the landscape between them contribute to residents' and visitors' experience and understanding of what makes Saugatuck special.

Of the sixteen sites surveyed, three are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. These are: the Felt Estate, Saugatuck Harbor Navigation Structures, and Lake Shore Chapel. Seven of the sites appear to be eligible for listing in the National Register: Ox-Bow and Tallmadge Woods, Mt. Baldhead Dune and Park, Lighthouse Cottage and Old Harbor, Saugatuck Pump House, Saugatuck Chain Ferry, Forward Movement Association Park (Presbyterian Camps), and Shorewood. Four sites are likely to be eligible for listing in the National Register but require further investigation: Singapore, Fishtown, Oak Openings Camp (Pine Trail Camp), and Dunes Schooner Rides (Saugatuck Dune Rides). Saugatuck Dunes State Park, or portions of it, may be eligible for the National Register if it retains integrity from when it was part of the Felt Estate. Oval Beach and its access road do not appear to be National Register eligible because they have lost integrity, however the access road may contribute to a larger cultural landscape. In addition to these sixteen sites, the team assessed (but did not visit) the shipwreck *Condor*. Further investigation is needed to determine whether the *Condor* is National Register eligible.

Seven of the properties are in public ownership, which makes them relatively safe from future development. The remaining properties are privately owned and could be sold. Among the tools available to protect these properties, the most effective is local historic district designation. Although the city of Saugatuck has a historic district ordinance, none of the surveyed properties are designated. Neither Saugatuck Township nor Laketown Township has an ordinance and would need to create one to designate the properties in those jurisdictions. There are other buildings, structures, and landscapes in the study area that were not surveyed. Future survey work should include these properties, and a cultural landscape report on the entire study area is recommended.

## **SURVEY TEAM**

Kristine Kidorf, Scott Grammer, and Jane Busch conducted the survey. Kristine Kidorf was the project lead and coordinator. She conducted site visits and research, prepared the survey report, and aided in developing action strategies and priorities. Ms. Kidorf is sole proprietor of Kidorf Preservation Consulting, which she established in 2005. From 1997 to 2005, Ms. Kidorf was historic preservation specialist in the Detroit Planning and Development Department, and from 1992 to 1997 she was environmental review coordinator in the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office. In addition, she is a past president of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network. Ms. Kidorf has extensive experience with local historic districts, Section 106 review, preservation advocacy, and determining National Register eligibility. She has a B.S. in architecture from The Pennsylvania State University and an M.S. in historic preservation from the University of Vermont.

Scott Grammer, the team archaeologist, conducted site visits and research for the identified archaeological sites. For the survey report, he prepared the environmental and geologic/dune formation background information, portions of the historical overview, reports on archaeological sites, assessments of the archaeological potential of all of the sites, and a discussion of laws relating to cultural resources. Using his law experience, he assisted with strategies for protecting archaeological sites and future investigation. Mr. Grammer provides legal support to the special counsel for historic preservation in the Historic Preservation Legal Office, Michigan State Housing Development Authority. Prior to embarking on his law career, he worked for eight years as a field archaeologist. He has a B.A. in anthropology from the University of South Florida, M.A. in applied anthropology and public archaeology from the University of South Florida, and J.D. from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing, Michigan.

Jane Busch assisted in evaluating National Register eligibility, wrote statements of significance for the survey report, prepared the action plan, and edited the report. Prior to establishing her historic preservation consulting business in 1998, Dr. Busch worked for four years as planner and Certified Local Government coordinator in the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office. Prior to that she was assistant professor of material culture studies at the Cooperstown Graduate Program for History Museum Studies. She has conducted surveys in the city of Rochester Hills, on Mackinac Island, and on the Keweenaw Peninsula. Projects relating to historic resorts include a National Register nomination for Sharon Springs, New York; National Historic Landmark nomination for Mackinac Island; determinations of eligibility for properties in Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore; and a historic resource study of Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. Dr. Busch has a B.A. in anthropology and archaeology from Cornell University and M.A. and Ph.D. in American Civilization from the University of Pennsylvania.

Collectively, the team meets the federal professional qualifications for historian, architectural historian, archaeologist, and historical archaeologist.

The team was aided greatly by James Schmiechen, a local historian and author, and Tracey Shafroth, a local activist.

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The historical and archaeological survey of the Saugatuck coastal area encompasses approximately two thousand acres between Saugatuck and Lake Michigan stretching from the northern limits of the village of Douglas to Saugatuck Dunes State Park in Laketown Township. The Saugatuck Dunes Coastal Alliance and the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society commissioned the survey to document and evaluate the historical significance of sixteen sites identified in the June 2008 *Saugatuck Historic Coastal Survey* as well as the significance of the survey area as a whole. A second objective was to develop an action plan to protect significant places from development.

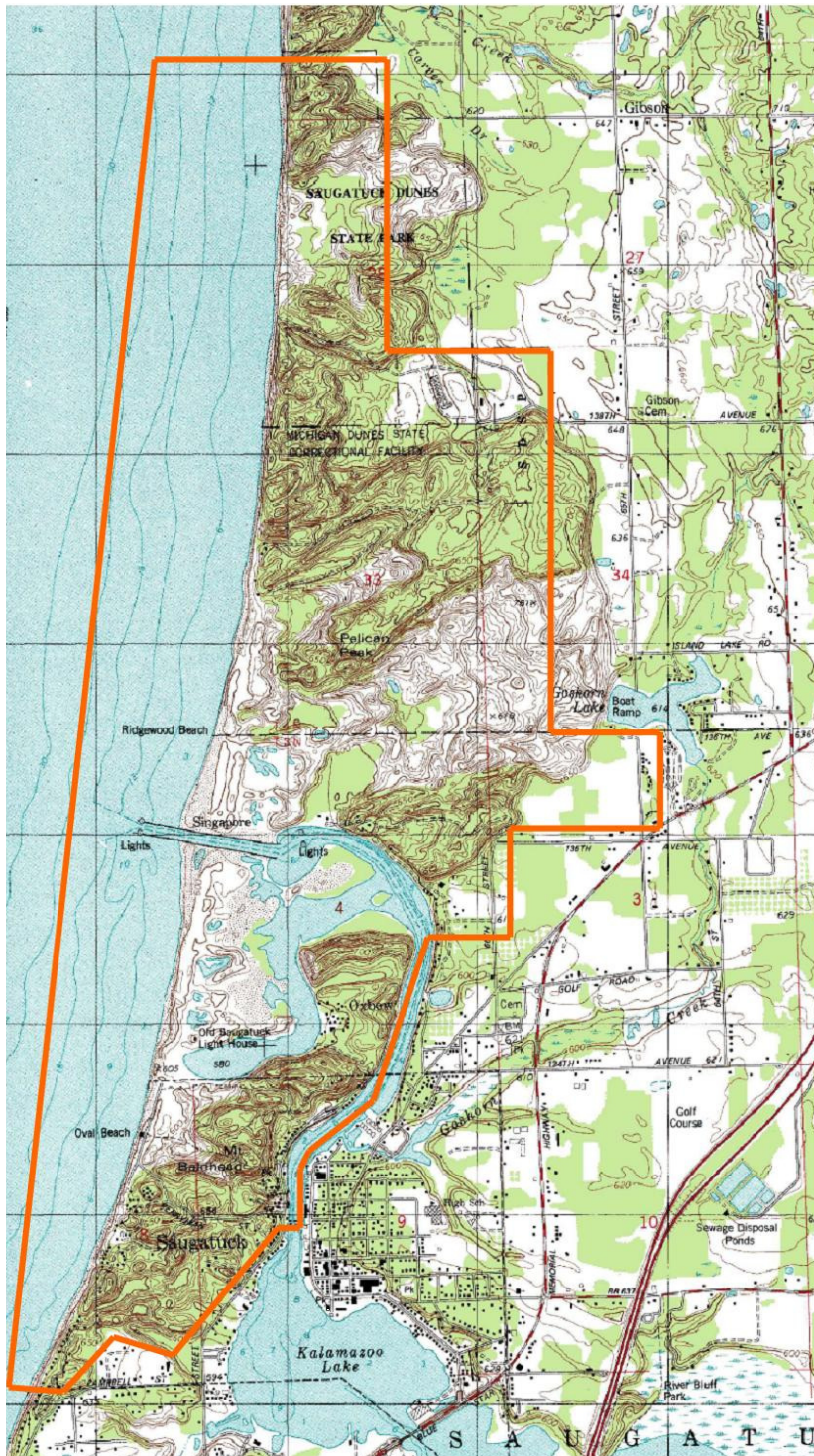
Portions of the survey area are threatened by private development, in particular the land north and south of the Kalamazoo River where it enters Lake Michigan. During this survey it was announced that the portion of the property south of the river would be sold for twenty million dollars for public use and protection. That parcel is now under public ownership and is protected.

Budget constraints and the large size of the study area limited the scope of the survey to the sixteen sites identified by the Saugatuck Dunes Coastal Alliance, with the addition of the shipwreck *Condor*. In August, 2009 the survey team visited most of the sixteen sites—but only those on public property or where the owner granted access. At each site, the team took photographs of representative buildings and structures as well as views to convey the character of the landscape. The Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society has researched and published the history of the Saugatuck-Douglas area in numerous exhibits and publications. The survey team synthesized these abundant research materials.

In evaluating the sites from the archaeological perspective, individual site significance cannot be determined. Archaeology necessarily requires an evaluation of past material culture requiring archaeological survey and testing to determine site boundaries, site integrity, and site significance. In the case of this project, no archaeological survey or testing was attempted due to the scope of the project and the lack of access to a number of sites. Instead, sites were evaluated for their archaeological potential to yield additional information to that already known and documented. Archaeological investigation consisted of informant interviews, archival research, and investigation of site surfaces where access to property was permitted. Archaeological work that involved ground disturbance/investigation was not conducted where private property owners did not give permission. Therefore it was impossible to determine the location of Singapore or the cemetery which is totally on private property. In October, 2009 the survey team returned for some follow-up fieldwork and to conduct a work session to aid in the formation of an action plan.

This report provides a descriptive and historical overview of the study area, discussion of the pertinent historical contexts, a summary of survey results, discussion of preservation laws and tools, and a plan for future action. For each site surveyed and the *Condor*, a site report contains a brief description and history, archaeological assessment, statement of significance, location map, site map where available, and representative photographs. Printed and electronic copies of this report will be housed with the Saugatuck Dunes Coastal Alliance and the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society.

Survey area:





## DESCRIPTIVE OVERVIEW

The study area comprises approximately two thousand acres of dunes and water on the east shore of Lake Michigan, north and south of where the Kalamazoo River enters the lake. It encompasses portions of Laketown Township in the north, Saugatuck Township in the center, and the city of Saugatuck in the east and south. The Lake Michigan shoreline is sandy, but quickly turns into grass-covered areas that form small dunes. The northern and southern portions of the study area have tall, steep dunes close to the shoreline. The center section, where the Kalamazoo River currently and historically wound its way to the lake, has lower, grass-covered dunes and some low swampy areas around the Ox-Bow Lagoon. Tall wooded dunes rise east of the lagoon.

There are few structures in the dune and coast area north of the Kalamazoo River. The state park land is largely undeveloped. The Felt Estate, in a township park next to the state park, has three buildings and associated landscape features. A large, newer house stands on a high dune just north of the river mouth. Other buildings are north and east of the river, including an abandoned boat factory on the north shore. Farther upriver, north of downtown Saugatuck, Pine Trail Camp is located on the west bank at the river bend, and there is a row of houses to the south.

Along the Ox-Bow Lagoon, the Ox-Bow campus and a few other cottages are located on the east edge of the lagoon; the buildings are small, low density, hidden by trees, and are primarily used in the summer months. The majority of the development in the study area occurs on the east side of Mt. Baldhead, along Park Street near the Kalamazoo River, where there are more houses and cottages along with the History Museum, a few hotels and condominium projects that are higher in density due to their location across the river from downtown Saugatuck. Except for the lighthouse cottage, the dunes and shoreline south of the river is a large expanse of undeveloped land.

South of Oval Beach, where the wooded dunes rise sharply in height near the shoreline, the buildings of the Presbyterian Camps and Shorewood are tucked among the trees. The camp buildings are small and generally constructed on piers, a distance from Lake Michigan. Shorewood has large cottages near the base and top of the dune. Both areas are generally low in density and are mostly used during the summer months.

### Geology

Present-day Michigan topography and vegetation is a direct result of its geologic history, in particular the repeated glaciations and retreats that ultimately formed the Great Lakes. Most significant to Michigan's current soils and topography was the final Wisconsinan glaciation event that began approximately sixty-five thousand years ago. By twenty-five thousand years ago, the Wisconsinan glaciation event resulted in ice covering all of present-day Michigan as far south as the Ohio River and to central Minnesota in the west. Geologic evidence suggests that following this maximum ice formation there was significant fluctuation in ice formation and flows for several thousand years, resulting in the ice sheets' advance and retreat. This pattern continued until the ice began its current retreat approximately ten thousand years ago. The result of the repeated advance and retreat of the ice sheets is a present-day Michigan that is effectively a glacial landscape. Thick deposits of glacial debris that were subsequently capped by various depositional processes dominate Michigan's Lower Peninsula. The retreat of the ice sheets in Michigan was part of a larger warming trend that ultimately resulted in rising sea levels and rising water levels in the Great Lakes.

Within Allegan County, deposits of glacial debris ranging from fifty to four hundred feet thick overlie sandstone and shale bedrock. The Kalamazoo River is the dominant feature in Allegan County and the study area. Flowing from southeast to northwest, the Kalamazoo River drains the central portion of Allegan County, emptying into Lake Michigan near Saugatuck. At the mouth of the Kalamazoo River are inland and coastal sand dunes. Inland dunes are typically older dunes that formed during high-water periods during early glaciation events. Most of these dunes stabilized over time by colonizing vegetation and generally do not experience extensive dune growth or movement (unless, of course, entire forests are clear-cut). Coastal dunes are younger than inland

dunes and are generally less than five thousand years old. Coastal dunes have two categories: 1) foredune ridges that are found close to the water's edge and generally measure less than fifty feet and, 2) high dunes (which, in some instances, can also be found near the water's edge) that generally measure in excess of fifty feet. Foredunes are the youngest and most active dunes along the Michigan shore.<sup>1</sup> As the residents of Saugatuck learned following the clear-cutting of the mid- to late-nineteenth century, sand blows from the windward side of the dune over the crest of the dune and deposits on the leeward side of the dune. The net effect is that dunes continue to grow and move. In Saugatuck and the study area, this dune migration ultimately resulted in planting efforts during the 1960s and earlier to stabilize the dunes and end the threat to various economic and property interests.

The study area is characterized by undulating to steep sand dunes; nearly level beaches; and steep, sandy, loamy, and clayey escarpments along Lake Michigan. Those dunes without cover are actively shifting and growing. The beach areas are comprised of fine sands at the surface that become increasingly coarse with depth. The beach areas are frequently flooded (although local informants note that water levels have been low for several years) and subject to winter ice buildups. The Saugatuck/Douglas area is dominated by the Morocco-Newton-Oakville Association soil formation that is characterized by nearly level and undulating terrain found on outwash plains, lake plains, and beach ridges. This soil association is typically identified by developed woodlands within the soil formation although some areas were historically and are currently used as croplands. As any local resident knows, drought and blowing sand are major hazards to economic use and development of land forms with this soil association.<sup>2</sup>

## **Ecology**

The soils in the study area traditionally supported woodlands comprised of hardwoods, shrubs, and a variety of grasses as well as numerous plant types associated with the wetlands found at the mouth of the Kalamazoo River and the abandoned river channel at Shriver's Bend. The end result was a large and varied population of fish and wildlife to support aborigines and early pioneers. The heavily wooded area provided cover and food for any number of forest dwellers significant to aboriginal diet and material resources. Fauna included whitetail deer, turkey, tree squirrels, and ruffed grouse. Wetlands surrounding the river provided habitat and enhanced migration corridors used by species such as diving ducks; dabbling ducks; Canada, blue, and snow geese; herons; cranes; kingfishers; marsh hawks; muskrat; and mink. Areas under cultivation and other grassy areas traditionally provided cover and food for rabbit, pheasant, quail, fox, and opossum. Streams and lakes, including Lake Michigan, also provided food resources and raw materials important to aboriginal lifeways. Faunal assemblages typically included sturgeon, sunfish, perch, bass, trout, northern pike, walleye, bullhead, sucker and carp. The Kalamazoo River offered steelhead and salmon fishing, with salmon, lake trout, and steelhead fishing on Lake Michigan.

## **HISTORICAL OVERVIEW**

Rich in its history and prehistory, the Saugatuck/Douglas area is unusual with its ongoing seasonal occupation that began during the Archaic period and continues to today. The natural resources that attracted aborigines thousands of years ago continue to draw visitors and residents today.

## **Prehistory**

Archaeologists have developed four periods to describe human history in eastern North America prior to the arrival of Europeans: the Paleo-Indian period, the Archaic period, the Woodland period, and the Mississippian period. The first three figure prominently in Michigan prehistory, whereas the Mississippian tradition is

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<sup>1</sup> Robb Gillespie, William B. Harrison III, and G. Michael Grammer, *Geology of Michigan and the Great Lakes* (Cengage Publishing, 2008).

<sup>2</sup> USDA Soil Conservation Service in cooperation with Michigan's Agricultural Experiment Station, *Soil Survey of Allegan County, Michigan* (USDA, March 1987).

marginal in Michigan. These periods, which appear to correspond to changing environmental conditions, describe broad cultural adaptations rather than site-specific adaptations to localized living conditions. For a more detailed examination of Michigan archaeology and localized cultural adaptations, please see *Modeling Archaeological Site Burial in Southern Michigan: A Geoarchaeological Synthesis* or *Retrieving Michigan's Buried Past: The Archaeology of the Great Lakes State*.<sup>3</sup>

### *Paleo-Indian Period*

Paleo-Indians were hunter-gatherers who lived in bands and hunted and foraged over thousands of miles, moving seasonally to obtain the plants and animals that they relied upon for food and materials. In the Great Lakes, the Paleo-Indian period began approximately 10,000 B.C. Paleo-Indian fluted points and other artifacts have been found near the Great Lakes, particularly on ancient shorelines. Michigan at that time was subarctic grassland with scattered woodlands. Paleo-Indian sites in Michigan include the Gainey, Barnes, and Holcomb sites, which clearly show Paleo-Indian cultural adaptations, especially their dependence on caribou. Although Paleo-Indian sites have been discovered throughout North America, relatively little is known of Paleo-Indian social constructs or technological innovation because much of their material culture is buried beneath modern-day water levels, has deteriorated, or has been destroyed by modern development. No known Paleo-Indian sites have been discovered or recorded in the Saugatuck/Douglas area.

### *Archaic Period*

After the end of the Ice Age, the changing climate and big game extinctions led to changing human adaptations, ushering in the Archaic period. As temperatures warmed, forests replaced grasslands; the Lower Peninsula eventually became a densely wooded boreal forest. The Archaic lasted from roughly 7,500 to 1,500 B.C. and marked the change to a more generalized diet and the gradual adoption of a more sedentary lifeway. Hunter-gatherers turned to readily available forest mammals such as white-tailed deer, to fish and shellfish, and to increasingly available nuts and other plant foods. Archaic people developed new tool kits and may have formalized social practices such as intentional burials.

In Michigan the Old Copper Culture, found primarily in the Lake Superior Basin, is particularly notable. The Old Copper Culture was likely comprised of a variety of hunter-gatherers who shared a common copper technology with similar manufacturing methods and forms. Copper generally substituted for most utilitarian implements found in an Archaic period tool kit – projectile points, axe blades, gouges, wedges, fish hooks, gorges, and even gaffs for landing fish. Ornamental copper pieces included beads, bracelets, and what are presumably ceremonial headdresses. What is especially significant about the Lake Superior copper industry is that a large number of Great Lakes people used the metal, and extended trade networks distributed copper artifacts hundreds of miles beyond the Great Lakes.

Documented and recorded Archaic sites are plentiful in many areas of southwestern Michigan; however, there is only one documented site in the Saugatuck/Douglas area. The Harrington site reportedly has a later Archaic occupation described as a campsite evidenced by a lithic scatter that is typically associated with tool manufacture.

### *Woodland Period*

The Woodland period dates from approximately 1,500 B.C. to European contact. Better understood than previous periods, the Woodland period is characterized by complex cultural change, the adoption of elaborate ceremonial traditions, and an increasingly complex social order. Woodland peoples had a more diverse diet, and they exploited food sources more intensively within relatively localized areas. Three Woodland period innovations are of particular importance: pottery manufacture, plant cultivation, and complex mortuary

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<sup>3</sup> G. William Monaghan and William A. Lovis, *Modeling Archaeological Site Burial in Southern Michigan: A Geoarchaeological Synthesis* (East Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 2005); John R. Halsey, ed., *Retrieving Michigan's Buried Past: The Archaeology of the Great Lakes State* (Bloomfield Hills, MI: Cranbrook Institute of Science, 1999).

practices.<sup>4</sup> The Hopewellian complex is known for its burial mounds, large geometric-shaped earthworks with imported artifact assemblages within.

In Michigan, the Woodland period was quite dynamic, and the human population within the state was quite diverse. Although elements of the Hopewell tradition found their way into Michigan, especially southern and western Michigan, sites are still relatively rare. In western Michigan, most known Hopewell sites are mound groups, including the Brooks mound group near the Muskegon River and the Norton and Converse mounds located near the Grand River. Non-Hopewellian traditions also continued in Michigan and are thought to have developed independently from Hopewell traditions, expressing a cultural continuity that originated during the Archaic.

Recorded Woodland sites abound throughout Michigan. In the Saugatuck/Douglas area, the Harrington site exhibits Woodland components that include a burial dating to the later Woodland period and lithic scatter. The Hacklander site is a large, late Woodland site near Saugatuck/Douglas.<sup>5</sup> In two seasons of excavations, Elizabeth Garland recovered more than twenty thousand ceramic potsherds and some eighty thousand stone artifacts—including diagnostic Woodland points—and debitage. Floral and faunal assemblages indicate an ongoing seasonal occupation of the Kalamazoo River watershed located inland from Saugatuck/Douglas. The Hacklander site is significant because it represents much of what is understood about Woodland period lifeways in southwest Michigan.

### Historic Period

In Michigan, the historic period began during the seventeenth century when the first Europeans arrived. The first French pioneers in the upper Great Lakes described aborigines who lived in small scattered villages and spoke two distinct languages. Today, these groups have been identified as the Algonquian-speaking Ojibwe, Ottawa, and Pottawatomie and the Iroquoian-speaking Huron. Contact with Europeans caused massive disruption in Native American lifeways. European diseases were the major disrupting influence, causing an enormous increase in Native American mortality rates. In addition, warfare, population shifts, and the adoption of new European technology—including firearms—forever changed Native American lives. Nevertheless, Native Americans incorporated European goods and technologies into their own traditional systems of belief, political organization, and religion.

Accounts written by Allegan County's white pioneers provide compelling descriptions of local Native Americans. These accounts include Henry Hutchins's *Recollections of the Pioneers of Western Allegan County*, May Francis Heath's *Early Memories of Saugatuck Michigan*, Kit Lane's *The History of Western Allegan County*, and especially Crisfield Johnson's *History of Allegan and Barry Counties, Michigan*. Crisfield Johnson described the gathering of Native Americans in fall and spring:

The vicinity of the mouth of Kalamazoo was, from a period long anterior to the first settlement of the whites down to 1840 or later, a great gathering place for the Ottawa [sic] and some Pottawattamie Indians, who came thither from Mackinaw every autumn, scattered through the country to the eastward to hunt during the winter and returned to the mouth of the river in the spring.<sup>6</sup>

As to the location of the "gathering place," Kit Lane provides the following:

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<sup>4</sup> Bruce Smith, *The Emergence of Agriculture* (New York: Scientific American Laboratory, 1994).

<sup>5</sup> Elizabeth Garland, "The Hacklander Site – Late Woodland Occupation, Kalamazoo River Valley," presented at the Central States Archaeological Society, South Bend, Indiana (March 1978).

<sup>6</sup> Crisfield Johnson, *History of Allegan and Barry Counties, Michigan, with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Their Prominent Men and Pioneers* (Philadelphia: D.W. Ensing & Co, 1880; reprint, Allegan County and Barry County Historical Societies, 1977), 330–31.

In the spring as they prepared to leave for the journey north, the Indians would meet at the mouth of the river, usually on top of the sand dune across from the present village of Saugatuck which we now refer to as Mount Baldhead, and perform the ceremonial roasting of the white dog. All of their sins would be cast on the head of the unfortunate animal. He was then killed and roasted, and usually eaten. Thus cleansed, the Indians were ready for another summer. “Fire Water” supplied by the fur trader, later became an important part of the ritual. Finally, the dog was dispensed with altogether.<sup>7</sup>

William Butler’s account of his encounters with Native Americans or May Heath’s description of local Pottawatomie staring through her mother’s cabin windows and ultimately staying for the night offer the reader insights into nineteenth-century life in Saugatuck, at least from the perspective of the white settlers. The first of these settlers in the Saugatuck area were William and Mary Butler, who came to the mouth of the Kalamazoo River in 1830. They are credited with founding the village of Saugatuck, which they—along with other investors—platted in 1834. Closer to Lake Michigan around the hairpin turn of the river, the town of Singapore was founded in 1837 as a lumber town. Two mills operated in Singapore from 1838 until 1875, when the local timber ran out and the mill equipment was shipped to northern Michigan. The town was abandoned, and shifting sand from the deforested dunes covered the remains. Across the river from Saugatuck, Douglas was established as a lumber town in 1851. Access to Singapore, Saugatuck, and Douglas was through old Native American trails and through the natural mouth of the Kalamazoo River, where a lighthouse was constructed in 1838 and the harbor was improved with piers that were covered with wooden walkways. The original lighthouse was undermined and was replaced in 1859. A small settlement of docks and warehouses was established on the south side of the old harbor, opposite the lighthouse, with a trail, now known as “Fishtown Trail” that ran east and south to the chain ferry and the Saugatuck settlement.



**Fishtown ca. 1910, courtesy Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society**

The village of Saugatuck continued to grow as a harbor for fishing and as a shipping port for lumber and for produce from nearby fruit farms. The fishing industry was concentrated in Shriver’s Bend and Fishtown, although by 1910 most fish processing had moved to the village shore near downtown. Douglas had some boat building and other small manufacturing facilities. In 1857 the chain ferry began operating, replacing an earlier bridge, to move residents and visitors across the Kalamazoo River. When the river was impassible, ship passengers and freight would disembark at Shriver’s Bend and take the land route to Saugatuck, necessitating a

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<sup>7</sup> Kit Lane, *Saugatuck: A Brief History* (Saugatuck: The Commercial Record, 1973), 2–3.



river crossing. The ferry was easier to construct and maintain than a new bridge, which would have to be raised to allow large boats up and down the river.

By the later 19<sup>th</sup> century the Saugatuck area was fast becoming a major cultural outpost for Chicagoans—rich and poor alike.<sup>8</sup> The first summer visitors began arriving in the 1870s, while Singapore was still producing lumber. Resort hotels were few, and people stayed in residents' homes and farms. At Shriver's Bend, Charles Shriver converted his house into one of the first resorts, first called Shriver's Inn and later the Riverside Hotel. The area's popularity increased through the early 1900s, especially with people from the Chicago area who wanted to escape the summer heat and congestion of the rapidly growing city. An interurban rail line was constructed from Grand Rapids and Holland in 1896. Steamer excursion boats from Chicago and other ports came only as far as Shriver's Bend, and later to downtown Saugatuck. After the new channel was constructed in 1905, more boats came directly to Saugatuck. In 1909 the Big Pavilion, a dance hall and entertainment facility, was constructed along the river in downtown Saugatuck. It boasted the largest dance floor between New York City and California. Boats could dock at the facility and deposit the many groups of people who came to the hall for evening dancing. The building was destroyed by fire in 1960.



**View of Saugatuck from Mount Baldhead in 1895. Courtesy Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society.**

During this same period, artists discovered the area for summer painting. In 1898 and 1899 a group came from the Chicago Art Institute to reside at a student's family resort, Riverside Rest, to paint for the summer. This evolved into the Saugatuck Summer School of Painting, which was housed at Shriver's Bend in the Riverside Hotel beginning in 1913. Later known as Ox-Bow, the school drew numerous artists from Chicago and around the country for art classes. A number of instructors such as Frederick Fursman, Thomas Eddy Tallmadge, Elsa Ulbricht, and Arthur Deam purchased property in Saugatuck and contributed to art schools and exhibits in the village as well as to the growth and endurance of Ox-Bow.

In the late 1890s summer visitors began purchasing property and constructing summer cottages in areas such as Shorewood on Lake Michigan. Summer instructional camps that came to the area included the Forward Movement Association in 1899 and the Oak Openings Camp in the 1930s. In 1919 Dorr E. Felt continued the summer residence trend, purchasing nearly one thousand acres of property for farms and a large estate north and east of the river. Other Chicago millionaires built summer homes in the area—often using well-known Chicago architects to bring the latest in architectural fashion to the area.

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<sup>8</sup> James Schmiechen. *Raising the Roof* (Saugatuck: Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society, 2006). Chapter 4.



**Camp Gray, courtesy Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society**

Although Saugatuck had full-time residents who ran the village, populated the local schools, and worked in small industries, Saugatuck's main industry continued to be tourism. Resorts and hotels came and went through the years. Visitors climbed and picnicked at Mt. Baldhead, swam in the old harbor, and visited attractions such as the big pool. As automobile traffic increased, the village constructed a road and parking lot at Oval Beach in 1936. The Saugatuck Dune Rides opened in 1954, giving visitors a new thrill of riding up and down the dunes and splashing into the edge of Lake Michigan.



**Postcard of the Dunes Schooner Rides, courtesy Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society**

Lake Michigan, Saugatuck's scenery, natural landscapes, and the arts continue to draw tourists to Saugatuck, especially in the summer months. Many families still retain their lakeshore cottages and contribute to the vitality of the area.

## HISTORIC CONTEXTS

Historic contexts provide a framework for evaluating a property's significance. They include information about the time, place, and themes that are relevant to a property and provide the big picture within which a property has meaning. The time frame for evaluating the properties in this survey is the 1830s to the 1960s; the place is the greater Saugatuck/Douglas area. Below are the major themes that apply to the resources that were surveyed. The art, architecture and recreation/entertainment themes all demonstrate the relationship of the area to Chicago. If Singapore is located, the lumber industry theme would need to be developed. Similarly, if prehistoric sites are found, the time frame would need to be extended to include them.

### **Theme: Archaeology**

#### **Subthemes: Prehistoric, Historic—Aboriginal, Historic—Non-aboriginal**

Over one hundred historic and prehistoric archaeological sites located in and near the Saugatuck/Douglas area are currently recorded in the Michigan Archaeological Site File at the Office of the State Archaeologist. The vast majority of these sites are prehistoric and are located inland and reflect continued seasonal occupations along the Kalamazoo River. Few of the prehistoric sites in the Saugatuck/Douglas area have been studied sufficiently to make a determination of National Register eligibility.

In addition to using the Saugatuck area as a place for gathering and seasonal encampments, Native Americans also apparently used the area to inter their dead. Burials have been reported in both Saugatuck and near the mouth of the Kalamazoo River. Crisfield Johnson recounted that as late as 1842, Indian mounds existed on what is presumably the west side of the Kalamazoo River. Johnson wrote: "[o]n the hills opposite Saugatuck there were visible until recently traces of Indian graves, and among them that of a chief called Wamnus, but there is now no sign to show where they were."<sup>9</sup> In 1929, an Indian cemetery was reportedly found within Saugatuck: archaeologist George Quimby recounted that between thirty and fifty burials were found during construction of a community hall. The grave goods included birch bark, bundles of feathers, brass kettles, pewter porringers, an iron knife, iron axes, brass-rimmed spectacles, china, a mirror, silver spoons, silk, cotton prints, blankets, and wooden pipes. Perhaps most intriguing are three marked silver brooches that were recovered. One was marked with the initials "JK," most likely for silversmith John Kinzie and dating between 1780 and 1812, making it an excellent horizon marker.<sup>10</sup>

Both of these burial sites appear to have been relatively late sites, likely associated with the historic periods of Ottawa and Pottawatomie seasonal occupation. In addition, historic maps stored at the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society show an Indian cemetery at the site of the Saugatuck's Oval Beach parking lot. It is not clear whether this is the site described by Crisfield Johnson. There is also local lore that Indian burials and a gathering site are located on the Presbyterian Camps property. A letter of the 1830s from Wm. Butler cites an Indian corn field adjacent to the camp property and along the Kalamazoo River opposite the Saugatuck (Butler's settlement) village.<sup>11</sup> However, there are no reports of Indian artifacts at either Oval Beach or the Presbyterian Camps. Only the Saugatuck community hall burial site has been documented by physical evidence.

Most if not all the historic sites within the project area likely retains some archaeological component, even if it is confined within builder's trenches dug out for foundations of historic structures. The historic sites each differ in their research potential and significance to the body of knowledge locally, state-wide, or nationally. The Lighthouse Cottage, Singapore and Fishtown have the highest potential to yield artifacts that are tangible links to the past. The opportunity to investigate any of the sites within the project area archaeologically would significantly contribute to the understanding Saugatuck's history.

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<sup>9</sup> Johnson, *History of Allegan and Barry Counties*, 330–31.

<sup>10</sup> George I. Quimby, "An Historic Burial Site at Saugatuck, Michigan," manuscript on file in the Office of the State Archaeologist, Lansing, Michigan.

<sup>11</sup> Schmiechen, *Raising the Roof*, 2.

## **Theme: Architecture**

Early architectural styles in the study area begin with the Greek Revival and Italianate-style Ox-Bow Inn, built beginning in the 1870s. By the 1920s the area mirrored the cultural imprint of Chicago and American urban life. Arts and Crafts-style cottages and cabins were built in the early twentieth century. The Felt mansion (1925–1928) is an excellent example of a Colonial Revival style country house. Notable examples of post-World War II buildings are the Cold War era radar tower and equipment building (1957) on Mt. Baldhead and the architect-designed lighthouse cottage (1962).

Summer camp cabins are the most common building type in the study area. Constructed between about 1900 and the 1930s, they are typically constructed on wood or log piers, one-story tall with clapboard or vertical siding, and hip or gable roofs with exposed rafter tails. Some have screened-in porches, but all are simple in design and construction, reflecting their intended use for a short length of time in the summer season.

Numerous architects of greater or lesser renown designed buildings in the study area, including fashionable cottages: Frank P. Allen, Thomas Eddy Tallmadge, Arthur Deam, Harry L. Walker, George Hellmuth, George Maher, Robert Spencer, Charles Wittlesly, J&G Daverman, Howard Cheney, and Florence Hunn.

## **Theme: Art**

### **Subthemes: Decorative Arts, Painting, Sculpture**

As in the architectural landscape, the area's place in the history of art in America flows from Chicago. The first documented instance of artists coming to Saugatuck was in the 1880s with women from Grand Rapids. Then in 1891, four men arrived and rented a red scow. It is not clear how long these men stayed, but in 1898 another (or possibly the same) four men came and camped along the river. In 1900 Bessie Bandle, a student at the Art Institute of Chicago, invited some of her classmates to her family's farm resort, Riverside Rest, to paint for the summer. This began the first regular visits by students and professors from the Art Institute of Chicago, with some instructors advertising summer schools of sketching. Frederick F. Fursman, a noted Chicago painter, co-founded the Saugatuck Summer School of Painting with Chicago newspaper artist Walter Clute. Fursman and Clute began teaching summer painting classes at the Bandle Farm and later taught classes down river at the Park House as well as at the Riverside Hotel, the resort built by Charles Shriver. In 1914 the school began renting the entire Riverside Hotel as its exclusive summer school location, and in 1920 the school purchased the Shriver and adjacent property to create a permanent home for the School of Summer Painting, which later became known as Ox-Bow after the lagoon created when shifting sands closed the river mouth.

A few other art schools were founded in Saugatuck over the years by former Ox-Bow instructors including Albert H. Krehbiel (1930-1945), who founded the A. K. Studio, the William and Pearl Greason art school in Douglas (1837-1950s), and Cora Bliss Taylor, who operated the Taylor Art School from 1931 through 1981. In 1930 a group of local professional and amateur artists founded the Saugatuck Art Association. They ran a gallery in the upper floor of the Saugatuck Village Hall.

For a more detailed history of art in Saugatuck see *Painting the Town: A History of Art in Saugatuck and Douglas* by Kit Lane (Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society, 1997).

## **Theme: Conservation**

Efforts to conserve and restore the deforested sand dunes began around the turn of the twentieth century. South of Saugatuck, at Pier Cove, renowned landscape architect O. C. Simonds planted grasses to protect the dunes and created a one hundred-acre land preserve and arboretum. In the 1920s, Dorr E. Felt used his Shore Acres farm to experiment with conservation practices, planting more than three thousand trees to stop erosion. Felt reportedly advised the city of Saugatuck on conservation for Mt. Baldhead. Subsequently the city

undertook a massive tree planting effort to prevent the Mt. Baldhead dune from moving farther east. When the state of Michigan acquired the Shore Acres estate in the 1970s, it turned much of the land into Saugatuck Dunes State Park.

**Theme: Maritime History**

**Subthemes: Aids to Navigation, Commercial Fishing, Passenger Travel**

Saugatuck and Douglas were established short distances upriver from the natural harbor at the mouth of the Kalamazoo River. In 1838 a lighthouse was constructed at the harbor, and the harbor was improved with piers covered by wooden walkways. The original lighthouse was undermined and was replaced in 1859. The village of Saugatuck grew as a harbor for fishing and as a shipping port for lumber and for produce from nearby fruit farms. The fishing industry was concentrated in Shriver's Bend and Fishtown, although by 1906 most fish processing and fish docks, shanties, and fish shops were concentrated along the downtown Saugatuck shore.

Douglas had some boat building and considerable small manufacturing facilities at its harbor front - including lumber milling, leather tanning, and it was the area's major point of export of the great peach trade. In 1857 the chain ferry began operating to move residents and visitors across the Kalamazoo River. When the river was impassible, ship passengers and freight would disembark at Shriver's Bend and take the land route to Saugatuck, necessitating a river crossing. The ferry was easier to construct and maintain than a bridge, which would have to be raised to allow large boats up and down the river.

In 1869 the federal government began construction to improve the condition of the harbor. Between 1869 and 1882, the piers were extended to a total length of 1,907 feet on the north and 3,863 feet on the south side. Nevertheless, the harbor was difficult to navigate and constant shoaling occurred, making the task of keeping the channel open difficult. In 1894 the federal government dredged and improved the channel for the last time. In 1896 Lieutenant Colonel Lydecker of the Detroit District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conceived the idea to cut a new channel in a new location that would be less costly than to continue to maintain the existing harbor. The new project was authorized in the River and Harbor Act of 3 June 1896 and subsequent River and Harbor Acts of 2 March 1907 and 25 June 1910. The new piers were constructed by Burk, Smith and Nelson between 1904 and 1908.

The SDHS has recently restored a Lake Michigan (from the old harbor site, Saugatuck) "Francis" ironclad lifesaving boat of about 1855, one of two remaining in America. The boat was constructed by the same company that built the Civil War era *Merrimack*.

(Portions of the above excerpted from the Saugatuck Harbor Navigation Structures National Register nomination prepared by Karen L. Krepps, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.)

**Theme: Recreation/Entertainment**

**Subthemes: Automobile Tourism, Great Lakes Recreation, Religion and Recreation**

The first summer visitors began arriving in the 1870s. Resort hotels were few at first, and people stayed in residents' homes and farms. At Shriver's Bend, Charles Shriver converted his house into one of the first resorts, initially called Shriver's Inn and later the Riverside Hotel. The area's popularity increased through the 1890s, especially with people from the Chicago area who wanted to escape the summer heat and congestion of the rapidly growing city. Steamer excursion boats came to Shriver's Bend and later to downtown Saugatuck. An interurban rail line was constructed from Grand Rapids and Holland in 1896. The first summer camp, Forward



Movement Association Park, was established in 1899,<sup>12</sup> and summer cottages, boarding houses, and hotels grew in numbers. In 1909 the Big Pavilion, a dance hall and entertainment facility, was constructed along the river in downtown Saugatuck. It boasted the largest dance floor between New York City and California and made Saugatuck into one of the leading Great Lakes resorts. Tourism had become the basis of Saugatuck's economy.

By the 1910s tourists were beginning to come to Saugatuck by automobile. Beginning in 1911, the West Michigan Pike was constructed as the first continuous improved road in West Michigan. In 1926 the pike was designated a federal highway, U.S. 31. In the 1920s, tourist cabins and then motels became increasingly popular with vacationers. Oval Beach was constructed in 1936 as part of a statewide system for beach access and parking for automobiles. After World War II, many older resort institutions disappeared (the Big Pavilion burned in 1960), replaced by newer types of accommodations and recreation such as the Schooner Dune Rides (Saugatuck Dune Rides), which were established in 1954.

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<sup>12</sup> A national and statewide context for summer camps can be found in Amy L. Arnold, "Preserve America Southwest Michigan RoadMap Final Report" (Lansing, MI: State Historic Preservation Office, 2009).

## SURVEY RESULTS

A primary goal of the survey was to evaluate the eligibility of the surveyed sites for the National Register of Historic Places. To be considered eligible, a property must meet National Register requirements for age, integrity, and significance, as described on the National Register website:

- **Age and Integrity.** Is the property old enough to be considered historic (generally at least 50 years old) and does it still look much the way it did in the past?
- **Significance.** Is the property associated with events, activities, or developments that were important in the past? With the lives of people who were important in the past? With significant architectural history, landscape history, or engineering achievements? Does it have the potential to yield information through archaeological investigation about our past?

An eligible property must possess integrity and meet at least one of four criteria for significance:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- a. that are **associated with events** that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- b. that are **associated with the lives of persons** significant in our past; or
- c. that **embody the distinctive characteristics** of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- d. that **have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information** important in prehistory or history.

Only the keeper of the National Register of Historic Places can determine that a property is eligible. Thus the statements of eligibility in this report are qualified.

The entire study area should be considered an important cultural landscape. The dunes, woods, waterways, and cultural sites together represent the broad history of the area from prehistoric occupation, early settlers, logging, and fishing through the summer resort era that introduced camps and arts instruction. Important to this theme is the strong cultural connection to Chicago, and the creation of a cultural outpost, particularly represented at Ox-Bow, Forward Movement Association Park, and Shorewood. All of the sites and the landscape between them contribute to residents' and visitors' experience and understanding of what makes Saugatuck special.

Of the sixteen sites surveyed, three are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. These are: the Felt Estate, Saugatuck Harbor Navigation Structures, and Lake Shore Chapel. Seven of the sites appear to be eligible for listing in the National Register: Ox-Bow and Tallmadge Woods, Mt. Baldhead Dune and Park, Lighthouse Cottage and Old Harbor, Saugatuck Pump House, Saugatuck Chain Ferry, Forward Movement Association Park (Presbyterian Camps), and Shorewood. Four sites are likely to be eligible for listing in the National Register but require further investigation: Singapore, Fishtown, Oak Openings Camp (Pine Trail Camp), and Dunes Schooner Rides (Saugatuck Dune Rides). Saugatuck Dunes State Park, or portions of it, may be eligible for the National Register if it retains integrity from when it was part of the Felt Estate. Oval Beach and road do not appear to be individually eligible for the National Register because they have lost integrity, however the access road may contribute to a larger cultural landscape district. In addition to these sixteen sites, the team assessed (but did not visit) the shipwreck *Condor*. Further investigation is needed to determine whether the *Condor* is National Register eligible.

## Archaeological Resources

Whereas prehistoric sites have been found in proximity to the Saugatuck/Douglas area, no prehistoric sites have been recorded within the study area. This is not to suggest that prehistoric archaeological sites are not present. Given that there was substantial Native American activity just inland as well as on the opposite side of the Kalamazoo River, it is likely that the study area contains some remnant of Native American activity. Both the Michigan State Archaeological Site File and local lore recognize that the entire Saugatuck/Douglas area, from Kalamazoo Lake to Lake Michigan, was, at a minimum, an annual gathering place for Native Americans and more likely, was a site of ongoing seasonal occupation. Native Americans also used the area to inter their dead.

In evaluating the study area for prehistoric archaeological resources, the difficulty is ascertaining the level of disturbance that has occurred over the past 175 years. While there are records of Native American activity throughout the area, exact locations are unknown. Given the level of historic development, it is likely that any prehistoric cultural remains have been disturbed. If there were sites at the former mouth of the Kalamazoo River on the old channel at the Oval Beach parking lot, they were probably obliterated by subsequent activities. Furthermore, some ceremonial sites would be too temporary to leave an archaeological footprint. Given the overall lack of documented evidence, the lack of local informant prehistoric or Indian artifact recovery, and the construction activity that has occurred over the past century, the prehistoric research potential of the study area is minimal and would unlikely be eligible for National Register listing under Criterion D.

Juxtaposed against the relative lack of potential for intact prehistoric cultural remains is the outstanding potential of several historic sites within the study area. When considering the historic archaeological significance of the historic sites within the study area, five have excellent and two have moderate archaeological research potential, making them eligible for National Register listing under Criterion D. There may also be other sites where archaeology could yield information to assist with site interpretation. For example, builder's trenches and abandoned utility trenches can yield diagnostic artifacts important to the site itself, the people who created the trenches, and sometimes even provide information about the parties who contracted for the work. When a construction project is over, the traditional practice has been (and frequently continues today) to throw the trash into the backfill of the trench. Because of this, sites such as the Shorewood Chapel (which is already listed in the National Register) and the Pump House might ultimately meet Criterion D standards for eligibility.

Most if not all of the historic sites within the study area likely retain some archaeological component, even if it is confined within builder's trenches. However, the sites differ in their potential to add to our knowledge of local, state, or national history. Most significant for Criterion D eligibility requirements for listing in the National Register are those sites found between the old and new channel. Not only are these sites likely eligible under Criterion D, they are perhaps the most exciting archaeologically.

## SITE REPORTS

**Saugatuck Dunes State Park**, 6575 138<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Laketown Township

Possibly eligible for listing in the National Register, Criterion A (because of past history with Felt Estate)

### Description:

Located on one thousand acres next to Lake Michigan, Saugatuck Dunes State Park features winding trails through the forested dunes and two-and-a-half miles of Lake Michigan shoreline. The main asphalt-paved parking area is accessed from 138<sup>th</sup> Avenue and has restrooms, trailheads, and a picnic shelter. The parking area is a large circle with a grassy area and trees in the center with a few picnic tables and grills. Off to one side are two toilet buildings with gable roofs and vertical wood siding. Next to the trailheads there is a rectangular open picnic shelter with a gable roof supported by square posts on a concrete pad.

### History:

The property comprising the state park was originally part of Shore Acres Farm, the Felt Estate. The two beach houses constructed by Felt (demolished) were likely on what is now state park land. The property was sold to the Chicago Catholic Diocese in 1949 for use as the St. Augustine Seminary. During the 1970s the state of Michigan acquired the property, using a portion for the Dunes Correctional Facility and in 1977 turning the remainder into the state park.

### Archaeological Assessment:

No archaeological assessment was made of Saugatuck Dunes State Park as it is owned by the state of Michigan, and the land is protected by state law. Further, a cultural resources assessment that was completed for the portion of the site that is now the entrance to the park reported no historic or prehistoric archaeological components.

### Significance:

Portions of the state park may be eligible for National Register listing for their history as part of the Felt Estate. Felt may have reforested portions of the park lands as part of his conservation program. There also appear to be some ornamental plantings in the park that could be associated with the estate. Research is needed to establish whether any of the park landscape retains integrity from the period when it was part of the Felt Estate.

SAUGATUS DUNES  
STATE PARK

SAUGATUS LAGOON

SAUGATUS

Kaiamason Lake

SAUGATUS

(<http://www.michigandnr.com/parksandtrails/Details.aspx?id=491&type=SPRK>):





Photographs:



Picnic shelter and informational signage, looking north, August 2009



Picnic space in center of drive/parking area, looking south, August 2009



Toilet buildings, looking east, August 2009



Trail head, looking west, August 2009

## **Dorr E. Felt Estate, 138<sup>th</sup> Street, Laketown Township**

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places and State Register of Historic Sites

### **Description:**

The Felt Estate consists of a two-and-a-half story Colonial Revival style house and two surviving outbuildings on a forty-four acre site adjacent to Saugatuck Dunes State Park. The property has gentle hills with open fields and forested areas. The main house is located on a high spot of the property and is constructed of tan brick with formal entrances on both front and rear elevations. It has a rectangular plan with symmetrically arranged double-hung windows. The house is surrounded by gardens and a terrace, and there is a large round reservoir surrounded by a stone railing with a central fountain. Down the hill, in the woods, is a small, tan brick pump house with a clipped gable roof. Steps lead from the house down the hill to a stone grotto built into the side of the hill. The area below the house also contains a two-and-a-half story brick garage with a clipped gable roof and a modern metal pole barn addition at one end. The majority of the windows in the garage are boarded. To the side of the garage is a two-story gable-roof barn with a cupola. There are also remains of tennis courts near the barn.

### **History:**

Dorr E. Felt (1862-1930) began purchasing land north of Saugatuck in 1919 and by 1925 owned nine hundred acres on the Lake Michigan shore that he named Shore Acres Farm. Primarily a fruit farm, Shore Acres also included a dairy, a deer park, and a small zoo. Felt constructed a barn, garage, greenhouses, and a round concrete reservoir to warm water from Lake Michigan that could then be used to water the extensive gardens, orchards, and vineyards. The family summered in an existing farmhouse on the property until the large house was constructed between 1925 and 1928. Grand Rapids architects Frank P. Allen and Son designed the house. Recreational facilities included tennis courts; scenic drives atop the sand dunes; and two beach houses on Lake Michigan, one for his family and one for the public.

Felt was a wealthy Chicago businessman who invented the Comptometer, an early calculating machine that combined all four math functions. In 1887 he founded the Felt and Tarrant Manufacturing Company to manufacture the machine, and he operated training schools across the United States. Felt was interested in agriculture and used Shore Acres to experiment with conservation practices. He planted over three thousand trees to stop erosion and constructed a dock on Lake Michigan to ship his fruit directly to Chicago.

The Felt family sold the property in 1949 to the Chicago Catholic Diocese for St. Augustine Seminary. In the 1970s the state of Michigan bought the property for the Saugatuck Dunes Correctional Facility and Saugatuck Dunes State Park. During these periods all but the house, reservoir, pump house, grotto, tennis courts, garage, and barn on the property were demolished. The majority of the original property became the Saugatuck Dunes State Park. The correctional facility closed in 1988, and in 1995 the forty-four acres containing the house and gardens were sold to Laketown Township for preservation and public use. The township demolished the newer seminary/prison buildings. In 2002 the Friends of the Felt Estate began an extensive restoration program of the house and grounds. The property remains in the ownership of Laketown Township.

### **Archaeological Assessment: Good Archaeological Potential**

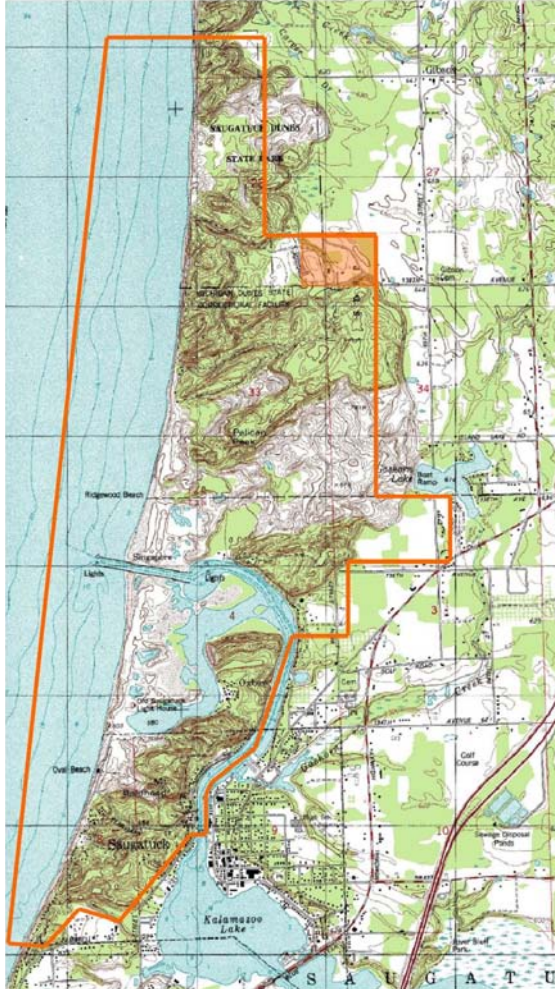
It appears that there have been relatively few ground disturbances since the original estate was completed. Although there is substantial documentation about the Felt family, little is known about the workers who built and maintained the estate. Potentially intact archaeological remains could provide insight into the lives of these workers. Information could also be uncovered concerning the estate's original landscape as plantings are frequently preserved archaeologically. The builder's trench around the foundation of the main house is also likely to yield clues about construction techniques, construction technology, and the workers.



### Significance:

The Felt Estate is listed in the National Register for its association with inventor and statesman Dorr E. Felt. The house is an excellent example of a Colonial Revival country house. Felt's farming and conservation efforts are also of note in the context of agriculture and conservation in Southwest Michigan. The Felt Mansion was part of a larger movement of the post-World War One decades into the area by a class of wealthy Chicago families looking to establish themselves as gentlemen farmers, with summer home estates.

### Location Map:



### Site Map:



Photographs:



Felt Estate, looking northeast, August 2009



Felt Estate, looking west, August 2009





Felt Estate garage and barn, October 2009



Felt Estate reservoir and fountain, August 2009

**Dunes Schooner Rides (Saugatuck Dune Rides), 6495 Blue Star Highway, at 65th Street, Saugatuck Township**

Potentially eligible for listing in the National Register, Criterion A

**Description:**

The property consists of three hundred acres between the Blue Star Highway and the tallest Lake Michigan sand dunes. The ticket sales and headquarters building is a one-and-a-half story gable front structure with a full front porch behind a gravel parking lot next to the Blue Star Highway. A covered carport extends to the south side of the building where the dune buggies are parked for loading and unloading passengers. The building was substantially remodeled in late 2007 - early 2008 after a fire damaged the building. The dune buggies are topless, customized trucks with aircraft tires and bench seats for holding eighteen passengers and the driver. The long-vacant Pine Crest Tourist Inn (1938) stands behind the headquarters building. It has an L-shaped plan and is comprised of individual units separated by gable-roof openings for cars. The dune ride follows a six-and-a-half mile long course of groomed roads that wind up and over the large sand dunes with views of Lake Michigan, Goshorn Lake, Saugatuck Dunes State Park, and the surrounding landscape. The driver stops at the highest point to view Lake Michigan and the tops of trees growing out of the sand dunes and to tell stories of Singapore and the buried town beneath. Throughout the ride the driver points out remains of tree stumps from the Singapore lumbering era. After going through "the woods," a heavily forested section with mature hardwoods and conifers, the ride goes past the original sales office and starting point, a one-story gable-front building with vertical log siding that is a distance from the main road.

**History:**

Founded in 1954 by Ron Jousma, the Saugatuck Dune Rides have served the area's tourists every summer since. Jousma purchased a former resort on Goshorn Lake and patterned his dune rides after Mac Wood's dune rides at Silver Lake near Hart. Jousma started with a 1942 Ford convertible. Originally the ride starting point and ticket sales were located off 65<sup>th</sup> Street, but that area was abandoned due to rising water tables, the distance to the Blue Star Highway, and parking availability. The rides have always used older truck vehicles that have been customized with aircraft tires and seating to accommodate riders. When the neighboring property to the west was owned by Frank Denison he allowed the dune rides to cross his property and race down the large dune and plunge into Lake Michigan. This was part of the "thrill" ride that customers could choose until a new owner of the neighboring property restricted access. The property remains in private ownership as a dune ride.

**Archaeological Assessment: Good Archaeological Potential**

The original sales office location appears to be relatively intact, including the building and utility poles adjacent to the trail. The archaeological potential in this case is measured by the relatively undisturbed areas against the research potential regarding what was a thriving industry during the early twentieth century: thrill rides for vacationers. Archaeology could yield information about the original proprietors and operation of the rides. Further, the site has potential to add to the overall understanding of mid-twentieth century Saugatuck and the area's economic shift to a primary reliance on tourism.

**Significance:**

The Saugatuck Dune Rides may be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A as a rare survivor of this form of recreation. The rides are one of two remaining dune rides in Michigan and one of only a few remaining in the U.S. They are integral to understanding the automobile-related tourist industry that blossomed in the Saugatuck area after World War II. More information is needed about the integrity of the course and of the landscape in order to complete an evaluation of eligibility.



Location Map:



Site Map: Not Available

Photographs:



Pine Crest Tourist Inn, looking west, October 2009



Photographs:



Dune buggies parked at sales office, looking southwest, August 2009



Original sales office, August 2009





View from high dunes looking east over dune course, August 2009



Looking west toward Lake Michigan, August 2009





Tops of trees growing up through dunes, looking east, August 2009



Tree stump rumored to remain from Singapore lumbering days, August 2009

## **Saugatuck Harbor Navigation Structures, Kalamazoo River at Lake Michigan, Saugatuck Township**

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, Criteria A and C

**Description**--Excerpted from the National Register nomination prepared by Karen L. Krepps, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

Saugatuck Harbor is an artificial channel, about 1,500 feet in length, connecting Lake Michigan with the Kalamazoo River. The harbor consists of two parallel piers that protect the mouth of the Kalamazoo River and form the entrance channel into the river from Lake Michigan. A tall metal light is located at the lake end of each pier. The North and South Piers are two hundred feet apart. The North Pier is 2,778 feet long and is divided into seven sections. The South Pier is 2,514 feet in length and divided into six sections. The sections of the piers in the lake were constructed between 1904 and 1905 and have an internal substructure of stone-filled timber cribbing with riprap toe protection placed on either side of the cribs. The next two shoreward sections were constructed at the same time and consist of wood pilings thirteen feet apart that are filled with stone. The remaining shoreward sections have the same construction technique and were built from 1906 to 1908. Between 1936 and 1938 the piers were capped with a concrete and/or stone superstructure, and in 1959 a section of the South Pier was reconstructed with steel sheet piling. In 1974, 1981, and 1982 stone fill was added to various sections of both piers, including under the superstructure as needed.

**History**--Excerpted from the National Register nomination:

The first navigation structures at the natural mouth of the Kalamazoo River were constructed by private interests and consisted of two slab piers with a channel depth of seven feet. In 1869 the federal government began construction to improve the condition of the harbor. Between 1869 and 1882, the piers were extended to a total length of 1,907 feet on the north and 3,863 feet on the south side. Both piers had walkways along their length. The harbor was difficult to navigate and constant shoaling occurred, making the task of keeping the channel open difficult. The channel was dredged and improved for the last time in 1894 by the federal government. In 1896 Lieutenant Colonel Lydecker of the Detroit District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conceived the idea to cut a new channel in a new location that would be less costly than to continue to maintain the existing harbor. The new project was authorized in the River and Harbor Act of 3 June 1896 and subsequent River and Harbor Acts of 2 March 1907 and 25 June 1910. Pier construction began in April of 1904, after the necessary land was deeded to the United States. The piers were constructed by Burk, Smith and Nelson between 1904 and 1908.

**Archaeological Assessment: Minimal Archaeological Potential**

The Army Corps of Engineer's construction project has likely caused massive disturbance to any archaeological remains. Although it is possible that intact archaeological sequences and horizons are intact and have been covered by channel dredging, the sheer size and scale of the channel construction make it unlikely that much has survived. It is possible that with additional information concerning turn-of-the-century Army Corps of Engineers' personnel housing methods or use of local natural resources, some remnants of Corps activity could be found within the dunes under dredge fill removed for the channel. However, given the relative lack of information concerning Corps methodology, this area is considered to have minimal archaeological potential.

**Significance**--Excerpted from the National Register nomination:

The piers are significant for stimulating the growth and development of Saugatuck in the early twentieth century; for linking local and regional markets to larger transportation hubs throughout the Great Lakes; and as an example of the methods used by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the early twentieth century. The timber crib substructure was the dominant pier form constructed throughout the Great Lakes during the early twentieth century.

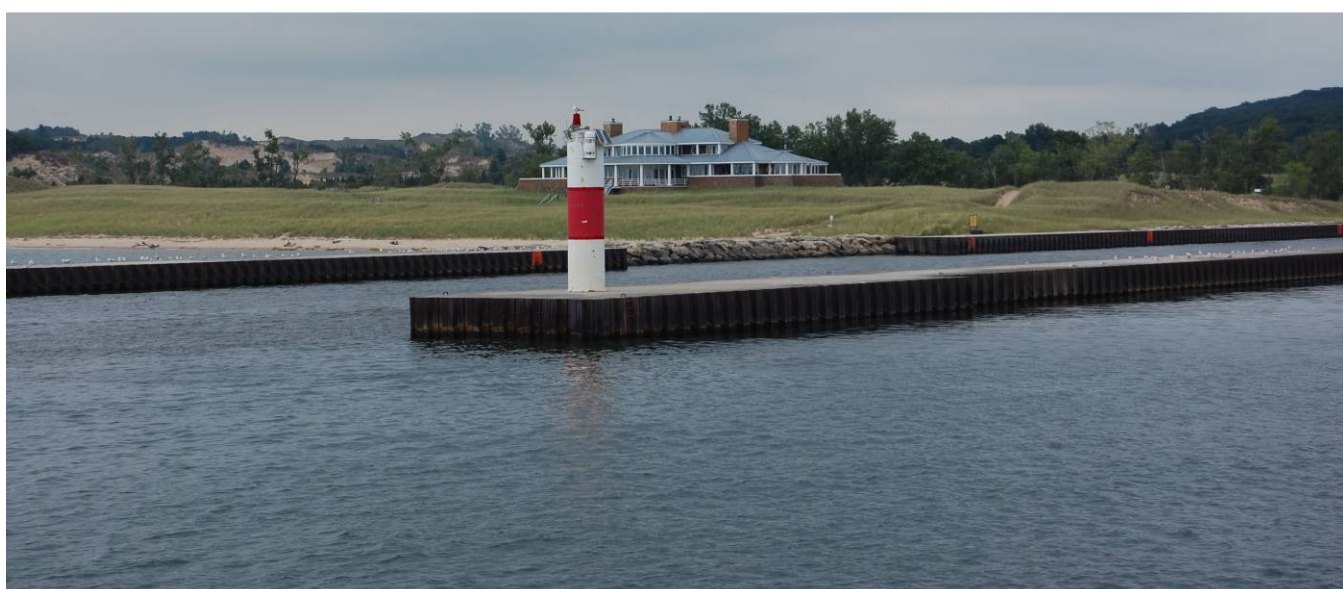
A map of Lake Michigan with the Kalamazoo River flowing into it from the northeast. A sampling station, indicated by an arrow and the label "039-12", is located in the river just before it enters the lake. The shoreline of Lake Michigan is shown with a dotted line, and the riverbank is also indicated with a dotted line. The text "Lake Michigan" is written in the lower-left corner, and "Kalamazoo River" is written along the river's course.



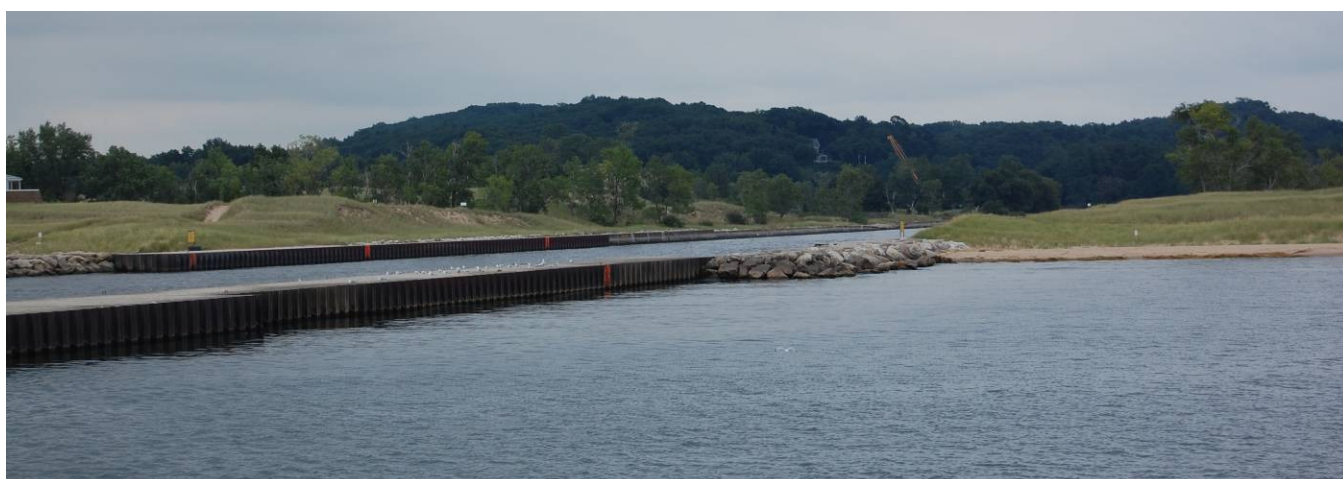
Photographs:



Looking north at the harbor, August 2009



Looking northeast at the harbor entrance, photo by Scott Grammer, August 2009



Looking east at channel, photo by Scott Grammer, August 2009



**Singapore**, located near the shore of Lake Michigan, just north of the new channel on the north bank of the Kalamazoo River, Saugatuck Township

Listed on the State Register of Historic Sites - Informational Designation. Potentially eligible for listing in the National Register, Criterion D

**Description:**

The site of Singapore is located on what is now the McClendon property. Historic maps approximate the location of Singapore just north of the new channel, east of the current McClendon home, possibly extending as far east as the 1976 shipyard located on the Kalamazoo River across from the old channel. Dunes and dune ridges dominate the area near the McClendon house. Grasses give way to a combination of trees and grasses inland until reaching the shipyard structures. There is no apparent visible evidence of Singapore remaining.

**History:**

Singapore was established in 1837 by New York land speculators who hoped that the area would eventually rival Chicago or Milwaukee as a lake port. In its heyday Singapore was reportedly occupied by between two hundred and one thousand residents who processed and shipped up to twelve thousand feet of lumber per day. Singapore was the site of as many as four mills, although it appears that only two mills were in operation at one time. Accounts differ as to when the various mills were built, operated, failed financially, and were subsequently abandoned and/or destroyed by fire. Mills were sited at two locations on the north side of the river at approximately the upper end of the Ox-Bow and the lower end of the Ox-Bow. Singapore had as many as ten to twelve houses, a "wildcat" bank, a boardinghouse or hotel (the "Astor House"), at least one general store, a warehouse, and a cemetery. Although there are no reports of a church, Singapore had a town hall, and a school was located in a lumber drying shed. Substantial docks and piers accommodated the loading and unloading of ships. In 1875, after the surrounding forests were exhausted, the last mill in operation was dismantled and moved north. Singapore was largely abandoned and left to the dunes, which quickly buried the remnants of the town. By 1896, sand had reached the second story of the boardinghouse, forcing its last occupant to move out. At the time of its demise, Singapore (in 1873) had 20 structures.<sup>13</sup>

**Archaeological Assessment: Excellent Archaeological Potential**

Although the Singapore site is recorded and listed in the Michigan Site File, the site is located on the McClendon property and could not be accessed during this survey. Without archaeological survey, the exact location of Singapore and its cemetery can only be approximated. Members of the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society have produced overlays of the historic Singapore plat on aerial photographs, but Singapore's exact location relative to the new channel, the shipyard, and other nearby landmarks such as the old channel remains unclear. It is possible that the site has been negatively impacted by the shipyard located at the bend of the new channel. The facilities at the shipyard are quite extensive and include warehouse facilities, lifts, and ramps that extend to the new channel water's edge.

When Singapore was abandoned, some buildings were moved to Saugatuck, and Fishtown residents reportedly salvaged some of the materials that were left. Despite these activities, and possible damage from the shipyard, there is evidence that much remains from Singapore. Locals observed sawdust and whole planks of milled lumber washing out of the new channel bank prior to McClendon's ownership and modification of the bank. There are reports of at least one shell midden located just to the northwest of what was likely the edge of the Singapore plat. Informants report that as recently as the 1970s it was possible to identify the remnants of Singapore buildings by the sand that accumulated around the rooftops. These reports, combined with the nature of Singapore's burial in the sand dunes, suggest that the archaeological potential of the site is excellent if

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<sup>13</sup> Schmiechen, *Raising the Roof*, 14.

it can be located. Depending on burial methods of Singapore inhabitants, there may be human or other remains from the cemetery. Remote sensing techniques such as coring or the use of a magnetometer can likely determine the presence or absence of material remains as well as the extent of the site.

Although documentary information on Singapore abounds, it does not tell the whole story of the people who lived and worked there. For example, did the average mill worker earn enough to live on? Is the shell midden a remnant of supplementary food resources exploited by people who didn't earn enough to support themselves? Was wood actually transported and reused in Fishtown? Did mill workers "owe their souls" to the banks and store owners of Singapore, as was often the case in mining and mill towns?

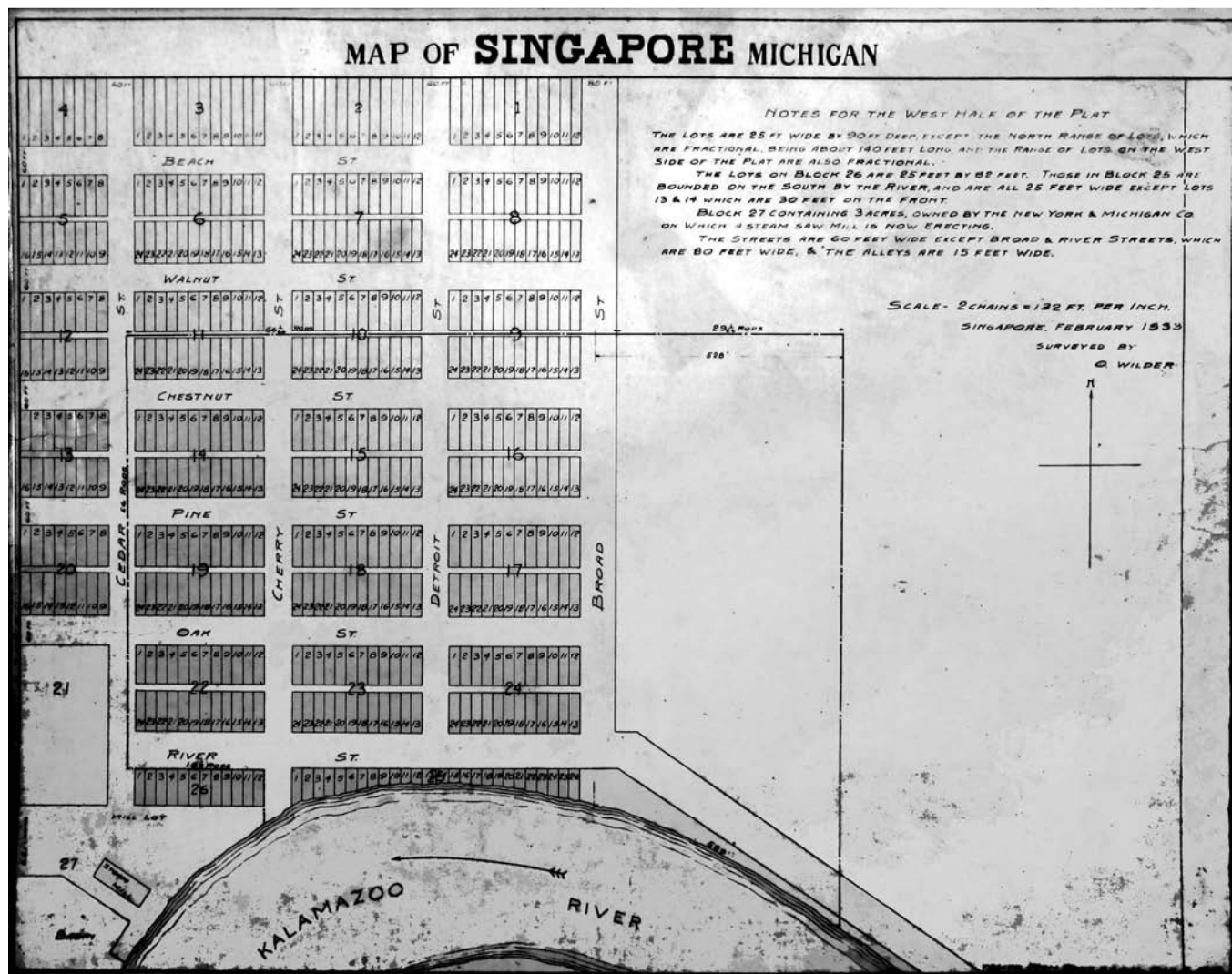
#### Significance:

The Singapore site may be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D. If the site can be located, as seems probable, it may offer an outstanding opportunity to add to our knowledge of the lumber era in Michigan. Although logging camp sites are plentiful, Singapore presents a rare opportunity to study an entire lumber town that has been undisturbed by later development. In addition, the legend of Singapore has become an important part of Saugatuck's tourist industry. According to the Michigan Historical Marker that commemorates Singapore, it is one of Michigan's most famous ghost towns.

#### Location Map (location is approximate):



Site Map: Singapore half plat map, 1833, courtesy Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society





Photographs:



New channel, showing general location of Singapore, S. Grammer, August 2009



General location of Singapore at new channel river bend, photo by Scott Grammer, August 2009



General location of Singapore past new channel river bend, photo by Scott Grammer, August 2009

**Oak Openings Camp (Pine Trail Camp), 3525 Dugout Road, Saugatuck Township**

Potentially eligible for listing in the National Register, Criterion A

**Description:**

Located next to the Kalamazoo River at the intersection of 66<sup>th</sup> Street and Dugout Road, Pine Trail Camp has fourteen buildings, a pool, campfire bowl, and tennis courts on a forty acre site. The camp has a mix of heavily forested area and open fields, and slopes gently toward the Kalamazoo River. The oldest building, the Hilton staff house, is a one-and-a-half story, side-gabled house with two rear ells. Its appearance indicates that it was built in mid- to late-nineteenth century, prior to the camp. The camp cottages along the river are simple one-story buildings built on wood pylons with gable roofs and clapboard siding. Newer structures built after 1961 include the chapel and dining hall.

**History:**

Originally called Summer Bluff Farm, the property was developed by Frederick Kleeman in the mid- to late-nineteenth century as a vineyard and fruit farm. The Thompson family of Chicago then acquired the property and hired people to farm it. In the 1930s they turned the property into a summer camp for girls called Oak Openings Camp. It was named after the James Fenimore Cooper novel that was set in the area. The camp was run by three Illinois women and was more of a finishing school than a camp. Later the program became more outdoors oriented, and campers hiked to Holland (camping overnight on the beach), had dinner in town, and returned by bus. They canoed up the Kalamazoo River to New Richmond for ice cream. The camp closed in the 1940s. In 1961 a group of Baptist churches in Illinois purchased the camp for a summer camping ministry. It continues in use as a religious summer camp and is privately owned.

**Archaeological Assessment: Minimal Archaeological Potential**

This portion of the survey is currently privately owned and cannot be evaluated fully because access was not granted.

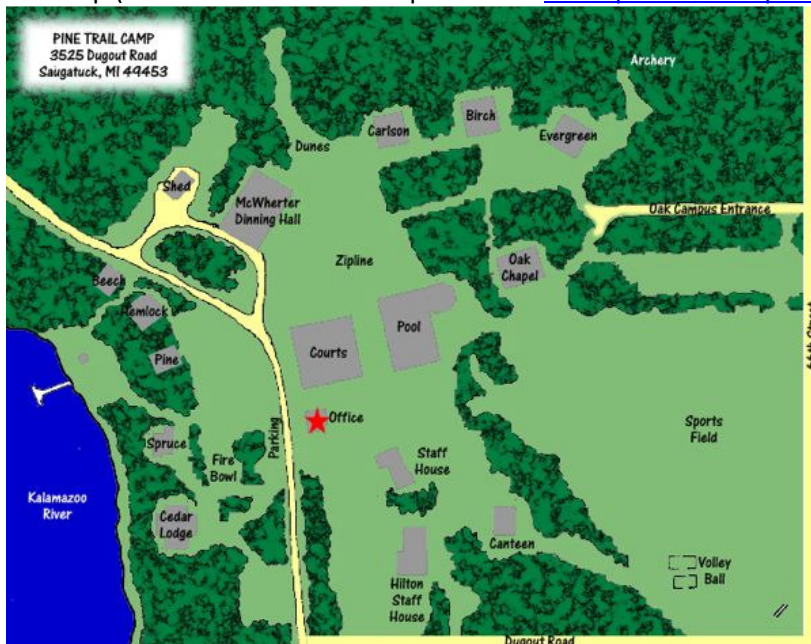
**Significance:** Pine Trail Camp may be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A as an example of a pre-World War II summer camp. The camp retains most of its original buildings in a landscape that contributes strongly to the camp's historic character. The newer buildings tend to be located away from the river on the camp's outskirts, and historic district boundaries might be drawn to exclude some of them. Children's camps play an important role in Saugatuck's history as a summer resort. More information is needed about the history of Oak Openings Camp and about other camps that survive in Southwest Michigan in order to complete an evaluation of the camp's National Register eligibility.



Location map:



Site Map (From the Pine Trail Camp Website: [www.pinetrailcamp.com](http://www.pinetrailcamp.com)):





Photographs:



Hilton staff house, looking northeast, August 2009



Hilton staff house, south elevation, August 2009





Hemlock House, looking west, August 2009



1930s cottage, looking southwest, August 2009

## **Ox-Bow, Shriver's Bend, and Tallmadge Woods, Rupprecht Way, Saugatuck Township**

Portion listed on the State Register of Historic Sites; Eligible for listing in the National Register, Criteria A, C, and D

### **Description:**

Nestled in the wooded dunes between the cut-off section of the Kalamazoo River (Ox-Bow Lagoon) and the main river, Ox-Bow and Tallmadge Woods is a 115 acre site with forty buildings. The centerpiece of the campus is the meadow along the lagoon and the Ox-Bow Inn at the back of the meadow. The remainder of the campus surrounds the inn and meadow. The Ox-Bow Inn (1873–96) is a two-story Greek Revival and Italianate house with late nineteenth-century additions and a recent (2006) addition at the rear. To the east is the Bogart (c. 1874), a two-story, side-gabled house. West of the inn is the White (c. 1875), a one-and-a-half-story side-gabled house with a full width porch; and the Red (c. 1900), originally an outbuilding and horse stable that is two stories tall with a gable roof and shed roof dormer. The Hot Dog Stand (c. 1920) is in front of the Red.

To the west of the campus core, along a curving path, are rectangular, wood-sided, gable-roofed cottages of varying design, all built in the 1920s and generally in the Craftsman style. Newer cottages and classroom buildings from the 1970s and early 2000s are interspersed on the north and east sides of the campus. Tallmadge Woods is located north and west of the campus core and consists of a tall dune with grass on the south side and woods to the north. At the top of the dune there are views of the surrounding dunes, river, and lake. The remainder of the site is heavily wooded with mature trees and is crossed by paths. Impromptu artwork from the students is occasionally found.

### **History:**

The Ox-Bow property was originally developed by Charles Shriver and his brother Henry in the 1870s and called Shriver's Bend. The Shriver brothers were fishermen and built homes on the river for easy access to Lake Michigan. Boats often had trouble navigating the bend, and when the water was low they could not travel upriver. The wharves from the original river mouth extended to Shriver's Bend, and between 1873 and 1896 Charles Shriver expanded his home several times to create Shriver's Inn--later called Riverside Hotel--that catered to boat captains docked nearby. Charles Shriver constructed three additional buildings: a caretaker's cottage (the White), a horse stable (the Red), and a tool shed (the Lutz). Henry Shriver's residence (the Bogart) was constructed about 1874 but remained a private residence until it was willed to the school in 1984.

Frederick F. Fursman, a noted Chicago painter, co-founded the Saugatuck Summer School of Painting with Chicago newspaper artist Walter Clute. Affiliated with the Art Institute of Chicago, Fursman and Clute began teaching summer painting classes at the Bandle Farm, upriver from Shriver's Bend and later taught classes down river at the Park House as well as at the Riverside Hotel. In 1914 the school began renting the entire Riverside Hotel as its exclusive summer school location, and in 1920 the school purchased the seven-and-a-half acre Charles Shriver property.

Thomas Eddy Tallmadge (1876–1940), a prominent Chicago architect and acknowledged as the first American architectural historian, came to the summer school in Saugatuck in 1915 and purchased 105 acres immediately north and west of the Shriver property. In 1923 he designed and built a cottage for himself on the closest five acres and designed a cottage for Chicago mural painter John Norton nearby. In Saugatuck, Tallmadge designed Kemah Cottage, the Saugatuck Women's Club Auditorium, and remodeled the old Pine School into a residence for Frederick Fursman. Numerous other artists studied and taught at the school over the years, including Wisconsin artist Elsa Ulbricht (basketry, weaving, jewelry, and stenciling); Chicago architect Arthur Deam, who designed two buildings on the campus; and Cora Bliss Taylor, who then opened an art school in downtown Saugatuck. In the 1950s a large group of well-known artists arrived at the school, including sculptor Claes Oldenberg. Today Ox-Bow continues in operation as a summer art school affiliated with the Art Institute of Chicago.

For more information on Ox-Bow, see *A Portrait of Ox-Bow: Architecture, Art, Artists* by Judy Bowman Anthrop, 2009.

#### Archaeological Assessment: Excellent Archaeological Potential

Given the amount of activity that historically took place at Shriver's Bend, it is likely that the area surrounding the school and possibly portions of Tallmadge Woods retain significant undisturbed archaeological deposits, particularly around the Ox-Bow Inn and on the shore of the old channel. Portions of the old dock remain around Shriver's Bend and extend out through the old channel into Lake Michigan. Areas of disturbance have largely been confined to cabin locations and have involved normal maintenance and repair and some new construction. While the spaces between the cabins are probably relatively undisturbed, sections of the shoreline next to Shriver's Bend have been disturbed by art school participants burying time capsules each year following the end of the school season. It is not known what, if any, historic material was found when the time capsules were buried.

Local informants indicate that historic artifacts continue to be found at Shriver's Bend near the channel and by the Ox-Bow Inn. In addition, when the school began historic rehabilitation of the inn they uncovered a historic dump. Locals were permitted to sift through the dump, and they collected numerous intact historic vessels and bottles including diagnostic, datable historic medicine bottles, beer bottles, and creamware dishes. Among the diagnostic bottles were a Holland Brewery bottle (1897-1901), Canadian Whiskey bottle (1894), and a J. Hosteter "Stomach Bitters" bottle that apparently contained "invigorant" popular during the Civil War. Some historic materials have periodically washed out of the bank directly across from the inn, but the majority of the artifacts were recovered from the dump.

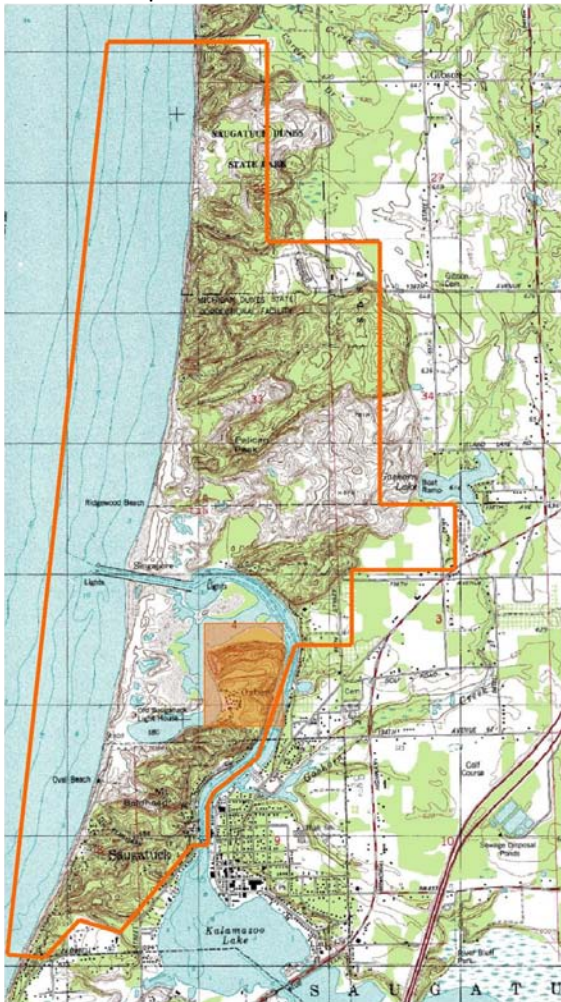
Given the mass and scale of historic activity at the location, local informant confirmation of the presence of historic artifacts, and the research potential concerning nineteenth-century tourism in Saugatuck and the role of Shriver's Inn, this site has excellent archaeological potential.

#### Significance:

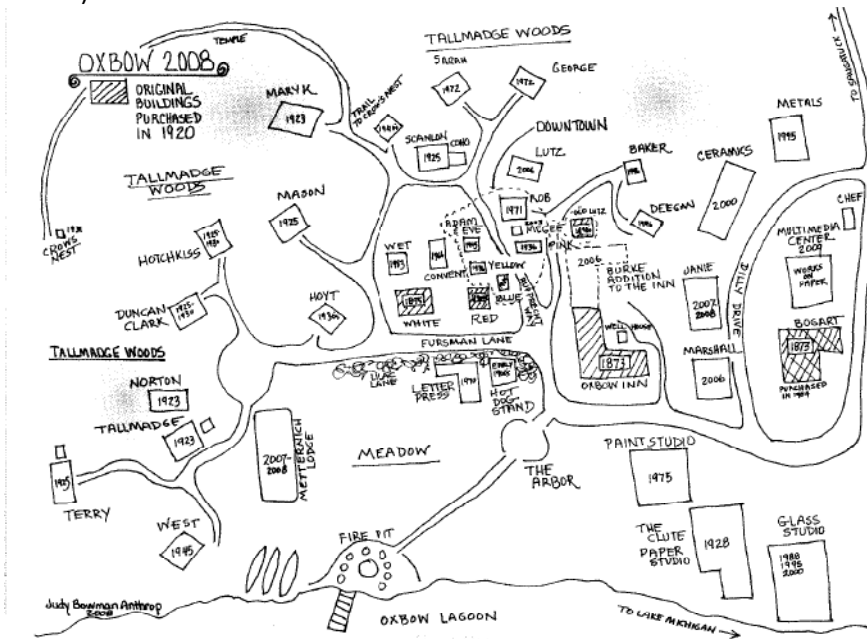
Four buildings, including the Ox-Bow Inn, are listed on the State Register of Historic Sites. The entire Ox-Bow and Tallmadge Woods campus appears to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its role in Saugatuck's early tourism industry and as a nationally-known art school. The Ox-Bow summer school was the center of the artists' colony that both strengthened and distinguished Saugatuck as a resort. It played a key, and perhaps the most important role in making the Saugatuck area a cultural outpost of Chicago. The property also appears to be eligible under Criterion C for the work of noted architect Thomas Tallmadge and as a distinctive example of an art school complex. Criterion D applies for the property's potential to yield information about early tourism in the Saugatuck area.



## Location Map:



Site Map (from *A Portrait of Ox-Bow: Architecture, Art, Artists* by Judy Bowman Anthrop, 2009, courtesy of the author):





Photographs:



Ox-Bow Inn, Hot Dog Stand and meadow, looking northeast, August 2009



Tallmadge, looking south, August 2009





Norton, looking northeast, August 2009



Markers that summer classes designed to mark the location of buried mementos, August 2009





Red, looking north, August 2009



White, looking north, October 2009





View from the top of the dune (Crow's Nest) over Ox-Bow Lagoon, southwest toward Lake Michigan, August 2009



Looking southwest over Ox-Bow Lagoon at Shriver's Bend, remains of old harbor structures in water, August 2009

**Fishtown**, located on the shores of the old channel in the middle of Shriver's Bend and extending along the old channel shore near the old harbor, Saugatuck Township

Potentially eligible for listing in the National Register, Criterion D

**Description:**

The Fishtown site is located across the old channel from the Ox-Bow, in the middle of Shriver's Bend. Today, both banks are still dominated by low lying dunes and dune ridges with young trees, shrubs, and grasses having taken root on the shoreline on both sides of the old channel. Local informants report domestic and structural debris in at least two distinct locations at the Fishtown site.

**History:**

Fishtown was established sometime after 1867. Although originally on the south shore of the river; the community may have developed more fully on the north shore in response to a government pier that was built between 1869 and 1870. The pier, its pilings, and the dredge spoil dug up from the channel may have made it difficult for wind-powered fishing craft to return into the channel from the southern side. By 1881, Fishtown was well established, with eighteen buildings on the north side of Shriver's Bend. At its peak, Fishtown had a maximum of twenty-five closely-spaced buildings. Some of these buildings were shanties/cabins that housed individual fishermen and, in some cases, entire families. Additional buildings probably included net houses where equipment was stored, fish houses where fish were cleaned, and ice houses where fish was stored. Following the opening of the new channel in 1906, shifting sand ultimately closed the mouth of the old channel, cutting off access to Lake Michigan. Some of the shanties were reportedly moved (*e.g.*, to the Ox-Bow), but most were simply abandoned. After the fishermen left Fishtown in the early twentieth century, seasonal residents occupied the location, constructing cabins of imported materials (in one case a houseboat) or recycled materials recovered from abandoned Fishtown shanties.

**Archaeological Assessment: Excellent Archaeological Potential**

Little is known about the people who made Fishtown their home, and archaeology may be the only method to examine their lifeways fully. Narratives and photo-documentary evidence of life in Fishtown suggest that many residents eked out a meager living based on subsistence fishing. Archaeology may reveal whether these people were fishing primarily or exclusively for subsistence or whether some of them were engaged in commercial fishing or perhaps also fishing for recreation. Domestic artifacts from the site could shed light on the residents' standard of living. Archaeology has the potential to answer additional questions about life in Fishtown. How does the community compare to other subsistence fishing village sites on the coasts of Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, and Lake Superior? Does human response to seasonal availability of certain fish species change, and is it reflected in the material culture of the sites? Can any remnant structural wood or planking in Fishtown be sourced to local wood supplies generally or to Singapore specifically? The relationship to Singapore is an interesting one, particularly in the context of individuals attempting to build temporary structures with as little expense as possible. It is possible that remnants of the Singapore site were transported and reused for the construction of Fishtown cabins, piers, or docks.

Local informants indicate that structural elements of several Fishtown cabins are still visible on the bank across from the Ox-Bow Inn and along the channel midway between Shriver's Bend and the old lighthouse site. Lantern glass, earthenware, and porcelain have been reported from one location at the site. At another location, local informants have reported a well or cistern that is framed by a brick and mortar wall with accompanying evidence of earth moving. Stone pavers at this location suggest that someone deliberately created a walkway to make walking in the dune easier. Daffodils at the Fishtown site may have been deliberately planted around cabin locations.



#### Significance:

The Fishtown site may be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D. Archaeological investigation of the Fishtown site may yield significant information about Saugatuck's Fishtown and about the nature of late-nineteenth century fishing communities in general. The development was part of the Michigan Whitefish era. In the mid-1800s fishing boats brought in twelve thousand to fifteen thousand pounds of fish a day, a source of local and exported food.<sup>14</sup> Surface collection and mapping is needed to confirm informants' reports of structures and artifacts at the site and to determine the extent of the remains.

#### Location Map:



Site Map: Not Available

<sup>14</sup> *Commercial Record*, Saugatuck, May 24, 1895.



Photographs:



Looking from Ox-Bow across the old channel toward Fishtown area, August 2009



Looking southwest across Ox-Bow Lagoon toward Fishtown area, August 2009

## **The *Condor*, Ox-Bow Lagoon, Saugatuck Township**

Potentially eligible for listing in the National Register, Criterion D

### **Description:**

Reported by local informants and recorded in the Michigan Site File, the *Condor* is described as a small, thirty-ton schooner, fifty-eight feet long.

### **History:**

Built in Sheboygan, Wisconsin in 1871, the *Condor* transported freight on Lake Michigan for thirty-three years before it sank in the old channel. Narrative accounts describe the ship as almost having a “death wish,” as it was apparently assisted on at least six occasions by lifesaving crews before it finally sank. On April 1, 1904, the *Condor* was lying at anchor in the old harbor when it was crushed by ice moving out to the lake during the spring breakup.<sup>15</sup> Shortly after the sinking of the *Condor*, the new channel was cut and the old channel was abandoned. Subsequently, the *Condor* was left *in situ* and was not disturbed by shipping traffic or channel dredging. The ship lay at dock with its masts above water for an undetermined period of time. Locals reportedly took the *Condor*’s rigging and fittings before the ship finally sank deeper in the muck and deeper water. The ship’s wheel, anchor, anchor chain, and a brass lantern were salvaged by local divers William Green and Bob Tomayor in 1938 and 1939. The divers reported the ship to be in good condition at that time.

### **Archaeological Assessment: Good Archaeological Potential**

The *Condor* has good archaeological potential because of the location of its sinking. Other than salvage efforts and possibly efforts by treasure hunters, the ship has been left relatively undisturbed. The lower decks of the ship, its fittings, etc., may still be accessible. Nevertheless, this potential must be balanced against the difficulties and expense associated with underwater archaeology. More information is needed to evaluate the *Condor*’s role in late-nineteenth century shipping and the nature of the ship itself. For example, was the *Condor* a typical schooner of the period or was its design unusual or unique? In addition to the difficulties of wet-site excavation and preservation in what is now considered a lagoon, site stewards must consider the preservation, restoration, and curation of artifacts that have been submerged for over a century.

### **Significance:**

The *Condor* may have the potential to yield information about Lake Michigan shipping during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Exploration is needed to determine the ship’s condition and integrity, and research is needed on the ship’s history and sinking in order to assess its research potential.

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<sup>15</sup> David D. Swayze, “Great Lakes Shipwrecks C,” *The Great Lakes Shipwreck File: Total Losses of Great Lakes Shipwrecks, 1679–1999* (Lake Isabella, MI: David D. Swayze, 1998–2001), <http://boatnerd.com/swayze/shipwreck/c.htm>.



Location Map (approximate, exact location is unknown):



Photograph of Old Harbor looking east, August 2009





## **Lighthouse Cottage and Old Harbor, on Ox-Bow Lagoon, Saugatuck Township**

Eligible for listing in the National Register, Criteria C and D

### **Description:**

The site contains a one-and-a-half-story cottage that was designed and constructed by Chicago architect Arthur F. Deam in 1962. The cottage was designed to resemble the 1859 lighthouse, and it used part of the foundation and other salvaged materials from the lighthouse. The cottage features vertical wood siding and a steep pyramidal roof with dormers on all four sides and a cupola on top. The porch on the west side incorporates a pediment with "1859" carved in it from the old lighthouse. Heavy timbers and railings from the old lighthouse were used in the porch and in the structure of the cottage. Some interior doors were re-used. A path leads from the cottage to a wooden dock at the edge of the Ox-Bow Lagoon. The dock steps up to a large platform with wooden benches near the edge. The remains of a barn and boathouse are also on the property.

### **History:**

In 1838 the U.S. government constructed a lighthouse near where the Kalamazoo River entered Lake Michigan. The lighthouse was damaged by shifting sands and collapsed, and a new lighthouse was constructed in 1859. Between 1904 and 1908 the new harbor was constructed to the north, and shifting sands closed the old river mouth. The lighthouse was decommissioned in 1914. Beginning in 1915, Frederick F. Fursman leased the lighthouse from the government for use as a summer cottage while he was at the Ox-Bow school, located across the lagoon. This provided him separate yet close quarters to the school, which he co-founded. Fursman relocated to a house in Saugatuck in 1920, and from 1935 to 1937 Chicago architect Arthur F. Deam sublet the lighthouse from Fursman. When the federal government sold the property in 1937, Deam was the successful bidder. Deam first came to Saugatuck in 1930. He served on the Ox-Bow school board of directors for twenty-six years and sometimes taught in the school. He designed two buildings on the Ox-Bow campus: the lithography studio and the girls' dormitory. He and his family summered at the lighthouse until a 1956 tornado destroyed the lighthouse, barn, boathouse, and privy. Deam then designed a new cottage for the same site, keeping the height of the cupola at the height of the lighthouse and using a design reminiscent of the old building. He and his family constructed the new cottage in 1962.

Arthur F. Deam (1895–1974), FAIA, was an accomplished architect and professor. He graduated from Ohio State University and Columbia University and studied at the Academy in Rome after winning the Prix de Rome architectural prize in 1923. He practiced in Chicago, New York, and Philadelphia, primarily designing public buildings. He taught at the Armour Institute of Technology for many years and subsequently was in charge of architectural design at the Illinois Institute of Technology. From 1945 until he retired in 1956, Deam was the chairman of the architecture department at the University of Pennsylvania. The property remains in the ownership of the Deam family.

### **Archaeological Assessment: Excellent Archaeological Potential**

The original 1838 lighthouse location was near the Old Harbor on the shore of Lake Michigan. Evidence suggests that this lighthouse was poorly built and was located too close to the lake. It appears that this lighthouse location is now in the lake, and it is likely that nothing of the lighthouse or its supporting structures remains.

Although the 1859 lighthouse was destroyed by the 1956 tornado, there are substantial remains. Materials from the lighthouse were salvaged and either reused in the lighthouse cottage or saved. Remnants of support buildings for the lighthouse include the boathouse, an outbuilding that local informants identify as a small barn or storage building, the cistern, and the 1859 privy. In addition, the 1859 well pump is still functional and in use.

The lighthouse site has excellent archaeological potential, as remnants of structures and activity areas are largely undisturbed. The site can contribute to knowledge of life at the lighthouse when it was in operation during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and during its subsequent years as a vacation home.



Photographs:



Lighthouse cottage, looking north from dock, August 2009



West elevation of cottage showing pieces used from old lighthouse, August 2009





View of Old Harbor with lighthouse cottage boat dock, looking southeast toward Mt. Baldhead, August 2009



Looking east at lighthouse cottage and Ox-Bow Lagoon, old harbor structure visible above water surface, August 2009



Looking west into Lake Michigan at Old Harbor structure remains visible in the water, August 2009

## **Mt. Baldhead Dune and Park**, between Park Street and Lake Michigan, Saugatuck

Eligible for listing in the National Register, Criterion A

### Description:

Mt. Baldhead Dune and Park are located between Park Street at the Kalamazoo River and the east side of the Oval Beach property. The 262 foot high wooded dune towers over the landscape and is topped by a former radar tower. The metal tower (1957) has a large white sphere on top and a one-story, flat-roof concrete block equipment building at its base. A series of recently-constructed wooden walkways around the top offer views of downtown Saugatuck and Lake Michigan. A set of 282 wooden steps and landings (recently rebuilt) descend the east side of the dune through the woods. At the base of the steps there is an open picnic pavilion with vertical posts supporting a hip roof; this may be the picnic shelter constructed in 1886. A wood-sided, one-story restroom building has exposed rafter tails under a hip roof. On the wooded dunes to the north of stairway, paths from Oval Beach pass near the Ox-Bow Lagoon and across and over the dunes through a mature forest area.

### History:

The village of Saugatuck purchased Mt. Baldhead and the lake frontage in 1884 from the lumbermen who owned and had logged the property in 1850. A stairway was built to the summit, and in 1886 a picnic shelter was constructed on the east base. A wooden observation tower that the village constructed on top was removed by 1916. The village promoted Mt. Baldhead as a public park and picnic area, a rarity at the time, and groups came from as far away as Chicago to picnic and climb Mt. Baldhead. "And they did come, on foot, by carriage, on horseback and by boat from points as far away as Chicago. Boat excursions from Holland, Allegan and New Richmond were frequent and others from Grand Haven and South Haven were not uncommon. The summer picnic business at *Mount Baldhead Park* made the franchise for the ferry a really valuable possession."

<sup>16</sup>

Mt. Baldhead continued in public use, and the village continued to acquire land to the north and west from various property owners and in a state tax sale. The village attempted unsuccessfully to use the popularity of the Mt. Baldhead park to entice a railroad to put its route through Saugatuck, and eventually found itself with a large parcel of land around Mt. Baldhead. The small lots along Park Street were sold off between 1896 and 1903, and in 1899 the southern 143 acres were sold to the Chicago Presbyterian camp. The stairway was replaced in the 1920s, in 1957, and was recently rebuilt. During the Cold War the U.S. government constructed a radar tower on top of Mt. Baldhead as part of the DEW (Distant Early Warning) line across the northern U.S. to detect incoming enemy aircraft from the north. About this same time the village undertook a massive tree planting effort on the west slope of the dune to prevent it from moving farther east. The property remains in the ownership of the city of Saugatuck.

### Archaeological Assessment: Minimal Archaeological Potential

There are accounts of Native American ceremonies and burials taking place on Mt. Baldhead, but descriptions suggest short-term occupations that would leave little trace. With respect to the public park, stairs, and observation tower, little evidence is likely to remain. However, there is the potential for some archaeological evidence within the dune network leading to and from Lake Michigan and near the observation deck. This material would be scattered and unlikely to provide any additional information beyond what is already documented. Although the potential to find prehistoric and historic artifacts exists, any artifacts recovered are unlikely to yield information significant enough to warrant National Register listing under Criterion D.

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<sup>16</sup> James Sheridan, *Saugatuck Through the Years*, 300.



Significance: Mt. Baldhead appears to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A as an early public park that played an important role in recreation and tourism in Saugatuck and the Southwest Michigan region. In addition, the radar tower is a significant remnant of the Cold War era.

Location Map:



Site Map: Not Available



Photographs:



Picnic pavilion and signage, east base of Mt. Baldhead, looking north, August 2009



Restroom building and steps on east base of Mt. Baldhead, looking west, August 2009



Former radar tower and equipment building looking north, August 2009



## **Saugatuck Pump House and Gardens (Pump House Museum), 735 Park Street, Saugatuck**

Eligible for listing in the National Register, Criteria A and C

### **Description:**

The one-story red brick pump house is located on the banks of the Kalamazoo River, below the level of Park Street. It has a rectangular footprint and hip roof with bracketed eaves. The east elevation faces the river and has a newer entrance door with sidelights and transom. There are two sets of three double-hung windows on each side of the entrance. The window openings have stone sills and wooden entablatures. The north side has a pair of double-hung windows. The gardens (c. 2000) extend from the river side of the pump house to the north, and a concrete walkway crisscrosses through the gardens to provide barrier-free access to the pump house. A pavilion (2001) acts as a gateway and is located just off the small parking area along Park Street. The pavilion has four brick piers on concrete bases that support a curved hip roof supported with triangular brackets on the outside surfaces of the piers. A wooden stairway leads from the gateway across the walkways to the lower level. Interpretive signage is placed at various points along the walkway.

### **History:**

The pump house was constructed in 1904 as part of the village's first water system, which was installed in 1902. Civil engineer Harry Bird designed the system, and Chicago engineer John W. Alvord (1861–1943) designed the pump house. Gasoline engines in the pump house pumped water up to a reservoir on the top of Lone Pine Dune. From there the water flowed by gravity through pipes to buildings and street hydrants in the village. In 1910, when the village started generating electricity, Alvord designed an addition to the building for generators and related equipment. By the 1920s the village found it more cost effective to purchase electricity from the Southern Michigan Power Company (now Consumers). In the 1950s water pumping operations moved to larger facilities, and the pump house fell into disrepair. In the early 1970s the building was slated for demolition when Dr. and Mrs. William Shorey of Chicago offered to restore the building if they could use it as a summer cottage. Mrs. Shorey was an artist with ties to Ox-Bow, and this arrangement continued until Dr. Shorey's death in 1993. Since that time the city has leased the building to the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society for use as a museum.

Alvord first came to Saugatuck in the summer of 1899, and in 1900 he purchased property in the vicinity of Shorewood and constructed a summer home. He was the engineer for Cicero, Illinois, and from 1890 to 1893 he supervised the dredging, grading, and filling of the grounds and access roads for the World's Columbian Exposition for Daniel Burnham. With two partners, Alvord established his own engineering firm, Alvord, Burdick and Howson, in Illinois. The firm designed numerous municipal water and waste systems throughout the Midwest, including Grand Rapids, Michigan, and St. Louis, Missouri. Alvord was one of the founders of Shorewood. He platted the subdivision and designed the roads and later the collective water system. He served as president of the Shorewood Association from 1902 until 1924, and as secretary from 1931 until his death in 1943.

### **Archaeological Assessment: Minimal Archaeological Potential**

Although the pump house remains in its original location and its role in Saugatuck history is undisputed, its potential for significant archaeological remains is minimal. Disturbances created by the road and parking area for Mt. Baldhead make it likely that few, if any, archaeological resources survive. In addition, the construction of the adjacent tiered garden, walking area, and pavilion has probably destroyed any intact cultural soil horizons adjacent to the pump house. If any archaeological remnants exist, they would likely be found within the builder's trench surrounding the foundation.

### **Significance:**

The pump house appears to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A as a key element of Saugatuck's first water and electrical systems. Whereas most elements of these systems were inconspicuous or invisible, the pump house stands proudly to represent progress. The pump house also appears



to be eligible under Criterion C as an example of an early twentieth century pump house and as the work of prominent engineer John W. Alford.

Location Map:



Site Map: Not Available

Photographs:



Front of pump house from river, looking west, photo by Scott Grammer, August 2009





Pump house, looking south from gardens, August 2009



Entry gate and gardens, looking west, August 2009

**Saugatuck Chain Ferry**, Crosses the Kalamazoo River from the foot of Mary Street to Park Street, Saugatuck

Eligible for listing in the National Register, Criterion A

**Description:**

Constructed in 1965 by R. J. Peterson and the River Queen Boat Works in Douglas, the current ferry is a steel scow with decorative metal railings and an open metal roof with painted wood trim in a “gingerbread” motif. A metal hand crank turns a geared wheel that engages a chain lying on the bottom of the river to propel the boat back and forth. The landings on both sides of the river are concrete with removable metal walkways leading to and from the docked boat. On each side of the river there is a wooden pavilion with wood shingled roof topped by signs that say “Saugatuck Chain Ferry.” On the west side of the river is a concrete bench designed in 1928 by Ox-Bow artists Thomas E. Tallmadge, Frederick F. Fursman, and Carl Hoerman as a memorial to longtime ferryman Jay D. Meyers. The bench sits on a raised concrete pad and is S-curved in profile with scroll and floral relief decoration on the sides. A bronze plaque in the center of the back reads, “In memory of Jay D. Meyers for twenty-two years the beloved ferryman, 1906–1928.”

**History:**

Chain ferry service began at this location in 1857 after the collapse of a drawbridge the previous year. Chain ferries were common in that era; the village of Saugatuck constructed the first ferry and bid out the operation of the service. The original scows (flat, barge-type boats) were built of wood with wooden cranks and gears to move the ferry across the river. They were designed to carry passengers, animals, cargo, and wagons. The ferry operated year-round as the primary means of crossing of the river, although when the river froze in the winter, planks were laid to walk across. When tourism and the popularity of picnicking at Mt. Baldhead increased, two boats were used: one exclusively for passengers and another that was able to hold four automobiles at a time. By the 1940s the ferry wasn’t needed due to road and bridge improvements. The automobile scow was abandoned, and the service was only offered intermittently during tourist season for passengers. Service had been abandoned for an unknown period of time when in 1965 R. J. Peterson purchased the franchise and built the current boat to serve during the summer season. The city of Saugatuck still owns the ferry.

**Archaeological Assessment: Minimal Archaeological Potential**

Although the chain ferry has been in its present location and essentially in its original configuration since 1857, encroaching development on either side of the river has likely destroyed or at best capped any archaeological deposits. The site likely had little in the way of an archaeological footprint. People, livestock, and goods congregated in the area prior to crossing the river, but their presence was too brief to have left much evidence behind. Any evidence was probably destroyed by subsequent construction of buildings, road, and ramps leading to the ferry. When the ferry was rebuilt in 1965, it is possible that any remaining elements of the original ferry structures or traces of historic activities were destroyed.

**Significance:**

The chain ferry appears to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A as a rare survivor of what was once a common means of transportation and as an important element of the history of tourism in Saugatuck. Consideration G applies because the ferry boat is less than fifty years old, although the site dates to 1857 and the memorial bench to 1928. According to the City of Saugatuck, it is the last remaining licensed chain ferry in the United States. The memorial bench designed by Ox-Bow artists represents the pervasive nature of art in Saugatuck life.



Location Map:



Site Map: Not Available

Photographs:



Looking east across the Kalamazoo River at ferry and east landing, August 2009





Detail of ferry showing chain guide and crank on right side, August 2009



Concrete bench memorial to ferryman Jay Meyers at west landing, looking south, August 2009

## **Oval Beach and Road, between Park Street and Lake Michigan, Saugatuck**

Oval Beach does not appear to be eligible for listing in the National Register

### **Description:**

The asphalt road to Oval Beach turns west off Park Street near the chain ferry landing and winds up and over the forested dune and down to the gatehouse at Oval Beach. The road has a narrow sand shoulder and there are scenic woods on both sides. The gatehouse (2009) at Oval Beach is a small, one-story building with wood siding and a stone base. Windows allow the parking attendant to collect vehicle tolls. The drive accesses four asphalt-paved parking lots, three along the lake and one on the other side of a small dune to the east. The north parking lot (1967) is the largest, rectangular in shape with two rows of double-loaded parking spaces. The lot to the east (1980s), beyond a small dune, has one row of double-loaded spaces and wooden walkways to the beach. There are two small lots to the north and south of the toll booth. The south lot has one row of double-loaded spaces. The north lot has a two-lane road with a row of parking spaces on the east side. There is a one-story beach house consisting of two side-by-side, hexagonal concrete buildings under one roof. One side contains restrooms and lifeguard offices; the other side has a concession stand, with a concrete patio and picnic tables overlooking the beach and Lake Michigan. The sandy beach area slopes gradually down from the north parking lot to Lake Michigan. The south half of the beach has a grassy slope with a small sand area next to the lake.

### **History:**

As Saugatuck grew into a resort town in the late 1800s, swimming was a popular tourist activity. Beginning in the late 1870s excursion boats would travel from downtown to the basin near the mouth of the Kalamazoo River, and swimmers would swim in the basin where the water was warmer and calmer than in Lake Michigan. Some climbed over the dune to the Lake Michigan beach. The boat owners maintained a beach house that sold concessions and bathing necessities. Although the village acquired the Mount Baldhead property with lake frontage in 1884, it wasn't until after the advent of the automobile and vacationers who wanted to drive their cars to the beach that the village acted to create an access road and lakefront parking area. In 1925 Camp Gray sold the village land along its northern boundary and four hundred feet of beachfront for one dollar so the public would stop using the camp's access road to the beach. Soon after, Michigan's State Highway Department announced plans for a scenic road system that would provide automobile tourists with access to dune and beach areas. Saugatuck's beach road was planned as part of this system, but it wasn't until 1935 that it was funded through a village bond and the federal work relief program. In 1936 local unemployed men constructed the access road and oval-shaped parking lot. The shape of the parking lot gave Oval Beach its name. Saugatuck's Oval Beach was one of several "Sunset Ovals" on the Lake Michigan shore.

The access road and beach opened with a ceremony and parade from downtown Saugatuck in July 1936. The village provided lifeguards for the beach. In 1950 the village started charging a parking fee. The first toll collector's booth was constructed in 1960 along with a tall flagpole to let visitors know when the beach was open. In the 1960s the demand for parking increased, and in 1967 a second parking lot was added to the north of the beach house. About this time high water levels in the lake rose to the edge of the oval parking lot. In 1973 the west half of the lot was undermined and collapsed. The small parking lots to the north and south of the toll booth are probably remnants of the east half of the original oval lot. The lot east of the 1967 north lot was constructed in the 1980s. The first beach house, with refreshment stand, was constructed in 1940. The building was destroyed in the 1956 tornado, and a new two-story building with a second-floor apartment was constructed. This was demolished in the 1990s due to erosion problems and replaced with the current beach house.

### **Archaeological Assessment: Minimal Archaeological Potential**

Historic maps stored at the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society show an Indian cemetery at the site of the Oval Beach parking area. However, any Native American remains at this location were probably destroyed by the construction of the Oval Beach road and parking lots. It is possible that the parking area has capped



archaeological features or burials that were not encountered during construction. But the failure to discover artifacts during construction suggests that the cemetery was not at this location. Further, given the dynamic nature of the dunes and changing water levels, it is possible that Native American-associated archaeological remains are within the parking area but were covered by sand or water during periods of high water and flooding.

There may also be dump sites associated with the Forward Movement Association Park. The northern portion of what is now the Presbyterian Camps adjoins the Oval Beach parking area, which was originally part of the camp. The parking lots could well have damaged any components associated with the Forward Movement Association Park or, in the alternative, could have capped those components. Without additional dune studies or remote archaeological testing, not enough information is available to make a determination of National Register eligibility under Criterion D.

#### Significance:

The Oval Beach and access road are significant as elements of the state of Michigan's scenic road and beach access project and for their prominent role in the development of Saugatuck as a resort. Unfortunately, because the beach area has lost integrity it is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Most of the original oval parking lot is gone, and two large, new parking lots and two new buildings have been added. The site no longer retains its historic oval configuration. The access road may be a contributing feature a larger cultural landscape historic district.

#### Location Map:



Site Map: Not Available

Photographs:



Looking south along Oval Beach, August 2009



Looking south across north parking lot, beach house in center, August 2009





Looking south across two southern parking lots, gatehouse and flagpole in the center, August 2009



Looking west along access road, August 2009





Looking west along access road, August 2009

**Forward Movement Association Park (Camp Gray, Presbyterian Camps), 631 Perryman Street, Saugatuck**

Eligible for listing in the National Register, Criterion A

**Description:**

The Presbyterian Camps occupy a 130 acre campus between Park Street and Lake Michigan, south of Oval Beach and north of Shorewood. The landscape consists of tall, heavily forested dunes with gravel roads and walking paths throughout. There is a beach area along Lake Michigan. With the exception of the central dining hall and 1968 cabins, the buildings stand on wood or concrete block piers. A few of the buildings are built into hillsides and have two levels. Much of the camp is connected through raised wooden walkways and steps, including the tall High Walk footbridge between the center of campus and the High Walk cabin area. The campus is divided into three areas. Camp Gray is located farthest north and contains buildings from the Forward Movement era. It has six cabins, a central dining hall, bathhouse, and chapel. Some buildings are on top of the dune and others are closer to the lakeshore. The staff cabins and bathhouse are located in the upper section of the camp, near the top of the dune. All of the cabins are one story with clapboard siding and hip roofs with exposed rafter tails.

The center of the property, called Westminster Woods, is anchored by the large dining hall (1965), a one-story wood-sided building with a hip roof and basement. A two-story director's house (c. 1980) stands just to the northwest. To the south is the arts and crafts building (c. 1920, former administration building), a one-story building with a lower level built into the side of the dune. Farther south, beyond the outdoor chapel area overlooking Lake Michigan, is a row of one-story, wood-sided cottages closely spaced along the top of the dune overlooking Lake Michigan. A number of them were constructed about 1911 and are connected by a concrete sidewalk constructed about the same time. The cottages have screened front porches leading to side-by-side bedrooms with a bathroom behind each bedroom. They have hip roofs with exposed rafter tails. One of the cottages has been replaced with a compatible new building, and most of them have been insulated and updated for year-round use while retaining their historic appearance. To the east of the dining hall, across a high wooden footbridge (the High Walk), is a cluster of five, one-story, all-weather cottages built between 1968 and 1970. They have asymmetrical gable roofs, vertical wood siding, and concrete block foundations. One is constructed into the side of the dune and is two stories. The cabins are connected by raised wooden walkways.

Farthest south is Camp Kemah, which contains cabins and a series of wooden platforms and frames for tents. There is a dining hall, concrete block bathhouse, and several original or early cabins, some on their original log piers. The raised cabins are perched on the side of the dune, supported by piers. They are wood-sided with gable roofs and exposed rafter tails. The east side of the property is undeveloped, with hiking trails through mature forests and some open areas used for playing fields. A part of the camp, a cottage area called "Emerson Hill" has a number of worker cottages that are being restored - most of which were used by the Black kitchen-waiting staff at the Camp.

**History:**

George W. Gray (1834–1913), an accomplished Methodist clergyman, founded the Forward Movement in Chicago in 1894. The movement's purpose was to improve society and to minister to the homeless and to out-of-work families, many of whom had come to Chicago to construct the 1893 Columbian Exposition. In 1899 Gray met Saugatuck native Edwin House in Oak Park, Illinois, and House persuaded Gray to consider Saugatuck for a summer camp for the Forward Movement. Before the year's end, the village of Saugatuck gave property for the camp to the Forward Movement Association with the understanding that Gray would invest at least five thousand dollars in improvements. At that time the village was anxious to attract more visitors to the area. Gray initially constructed a main building, called Swift Villa, which contained the dining hall, housing, and a soda shop. Mrs. Swift of Chicago meatpacking fame donated money for the building. Other prominent Chicagoans donated money for additional cabins, and by about 1903 there were eighty-seven buildings on the property. Named the Forward Movement Association Park, the camp was known as "the Chautauqua for the poor." Camp

visitors included those who could pay for room and board as well as children from Chicago's poor neighborhoods. Special funds were raised so that working women and their children could come to the camp for free for one week each summer. The camp offered summer classes in science and the study of nature (boasting a star viewing platform on top of the highest hill), a school of expression, scientific study of the Scriptures, and a school of dramatic art. Camp programs emphasized nature and literature: a plaque in Swift Villa was dedicated to Ralph Waldo Emerson, and paths and roads in the camp were named for famous literary figures such as Browning and Tolstoy. The camp had its own post office branch. In 1909 Stoughton Hall was constructed to house sixty girls.

After George W. Gray died in 1913, the camp was renamed Camp Gray in his honor. In 1917 Amelia Earhart stayed at the camp. In 1921 the Presbytery of Chicago acquired the camp, continuing the summer camping program. In 1954 the Swift Villa burned, and in 1965 the present dining hall was constructed on the site. Other fires destroyed the caretaker's house and at least one cottage, and five buildings were damaged in the 1956 tornado, including Stoughton Hall which was destroyed. Through the years decayed buildings have been removed, and new ones have been constructed that are compatible in size and shape with the historic buildings. In 1970 the first all-weather cabins were dedicated, allowing use of the camp year-round. The camp program continues today under the ownership of the Presbytery of Chicago. It is currently threatened by sale for private development.

#### Archaeological Assessment: Good Archaeological Potential

Most of the historic portions of the camp have been relatively undisturbed by later development. Areas of disturbance have largely been confined to the Oval Beach vicinity and to building locations, where there has been normal maintenance and repair and a limited amount of new construction. It is possible that entire areas of the Forward Movement era and early Presbyterian era of the camp are undisturbed, and dump sites from these periods may yet be found. Although the purpose and goals of the Forward Movement and Presbyterian camps are well documented, less is known about camp life, particularly for the Forward Movement era. Archaeological evidence could provide information about camp life; a dump site would be an especially rich source of information.

#### Significance:

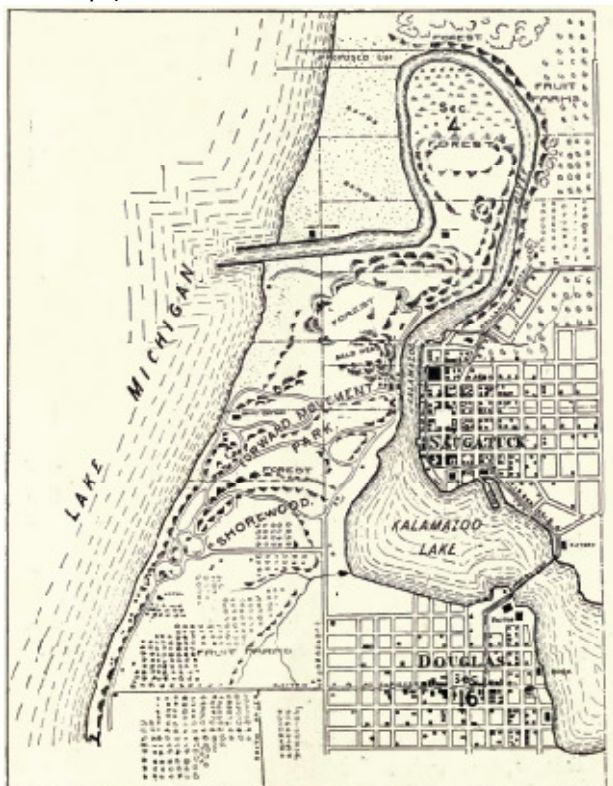
The Presbyterian Camps appear to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A as one of the earliest summer camps for children in the state of Michigan. The Forward Movement Association exemplifies the social service activities of religious organizations at the turn of the twentieth century, and the camp's nature and science programs represent the early development of children's summer camps. It was a liberal Christian movement from Chicago that was inspired, in part, by the transcendentalist works of Ralph Waldo Emerson. The camp retains a number of its original buildings, and the overall landscape embodies the character and feeling of an early to mid-twentieth-century summer camp.



Location Map:



Site Map (from the 1909 Forward Movement Association Booklet):





Photographs:



Camp Gray area, Peniel Hall (dining hall) and staff cabins beyond, looking west, August 2009



Staff cabin, looking west, August 2009





Camp Gray cabins near lakeshore, looking northwest, August 2009

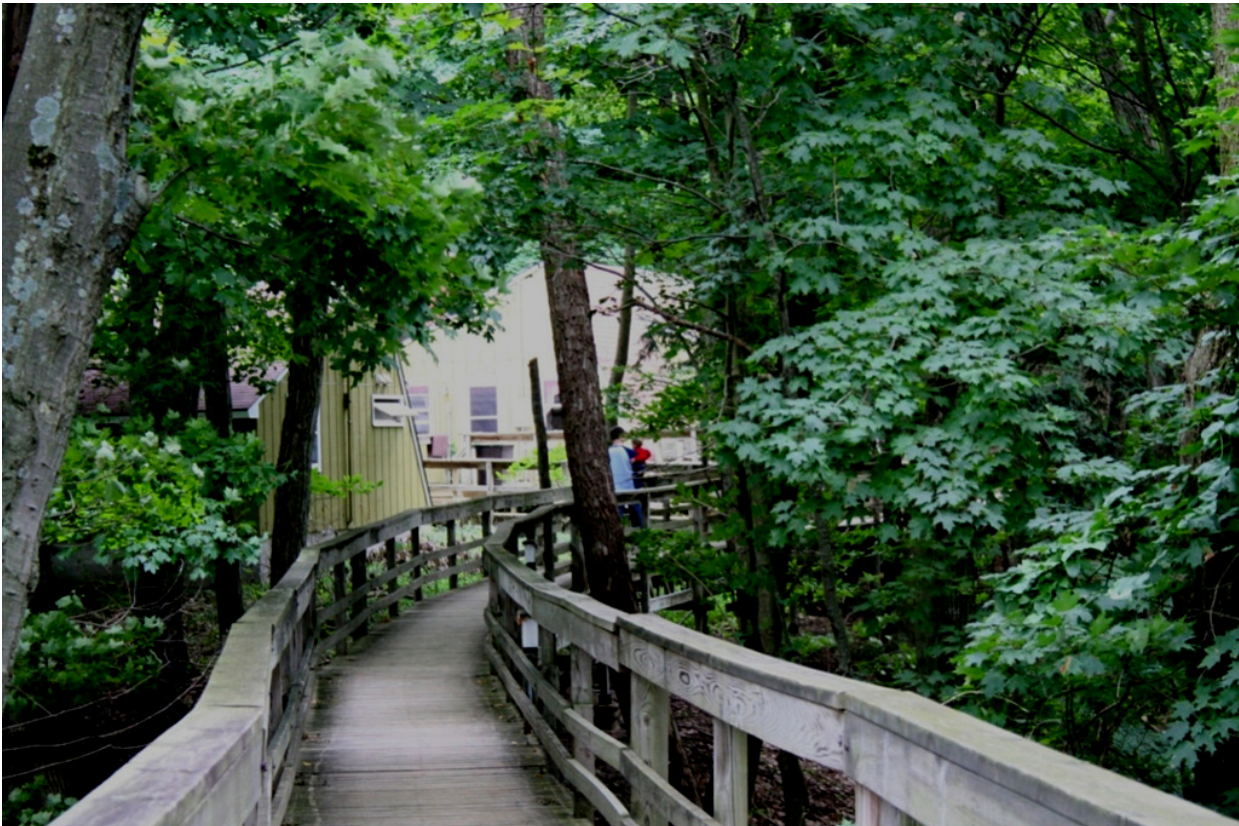


Arts and crafts building (former administration building), looking south, August 2009





Looking south at cottages facing lake at top of dune, August 2009



View from footbridge toward cabins constructed 1968-1970, looking south, August 2009





Alvord Cabin in Camp Kemah area, original log piers, looking northeast, August 2009



Camp Kemah bathhouse looking southeast toward platform tent area, August 2009





Meadow and woods area at the south end of campus, looking east, August 2009



**Shorewood**, between Campbell Road and Lake Michigan, Saugatuck

Eligible for listing in the National Register, Criteria A and C

**Description:**

Shorewood consists of a twenty-seven acre subdivision with seventy-four lots along the edge of Lake Michigan, just north of the Douglas village limits. Shorewood Drive, a single-lane, asphalt-paved road, meanders from Campbell Road, curving down the side of the heavily-wooded dune to the south property line of the Presbyterian Camps. The road is bordered by a rustic fence made of tree branches. Houses are located on both sides of the road, the lower ones with Lake Michigan beach frontage and the upper ones near the top of the dune with lake views. The houses are a collection of large cottages in architectural styles representative of the 1900s and 1910s, such as Shingle, Queen Anne, Arts and Crafts, and Prairie styles. Sandrift Cottage, constructed in 1912, is an outstanding example: a one-and-a-half-story Arts and Crafts style cottage with horizontal board and batten siding and half-timbering in the gable ends. Large shed-roof dormers project from the roof, which has rolled edges to imitate a thatch roof.

**History:**

Shorewood began in 1881 as popular tent camping spot. The Shorewood Association was formed in 1902 by a number of cottagers, mainly from Oak Park, Illinois, who purchased a block of land where they could build their cottages in a manner that respected the natural landscape. In addition to Oak Park, many Shorewood cottagers came from Chicago and from Lawrence, Kansas. The 1902 plat for Shorewood uses a naturalistic design, with curvilinear roads that follow the contours of the land. The Shorewood Association retained control of the land and regulated cottage construction, which was mostly completed by 1913 although some of the lots remained vacant. The association still exists, with many of the original families occupying the cottages.

One of the founding members of Shorewood was Chicago engineer John W. Alvord (1861–1943), who designed the Saugatuck pump house. Alvord purchased property on Lake Michigan south of Shorewood in 1900. He platted the subdivision and designed the roads and later the collective water system. Alvord served as president of the Shorewood Association from 1902 until 1924, and as secretary from 1931 until his death in 1943. Alvord was the municipal engineer for Cicero, Illinois, and from 1890 to 1893 he supervised the dredging, grading, and filling of the grounds and access roads for the World's Columbian Exposition for Daniel Burnham. With two partners, Alvord established his own engineering firm, Alvord, Burdick and Howson in Illinois. The firm designed numerous municipal water and waste systems throughout the Midwest, including Grand Rapids, Michigan, and St. Louis, Missouri. Alvord's two business partners also had cottages in Shorewood and served in leadership positions in the association. Louis R. Howson (1908–1985) became a partner in Alvord's firm in 1921 and built a cottage in Shorewood in 1922. He served as president of the association from 1924 until 1979. Alvord's other partner, Charles B. Burdick, bought a Shorewood cottage in 1929. In 1944 Burdick and Howson authored "44 Years at Shorewood," a history of the community. During the course of this survey, in October, 2009, it was discovered that Shorewood had its own golf course (now disappeared)—one of Michigan's earliest golf courses, a "sand" course that stretched alongside Campbell Road. A drawing of this was recently uncovered in the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society archives.

**Archaeological Assessment: Minimal Archaeological Potential**

Shorewood has been continuously occupied, with periodic maintenance, repair, construction, and modification to individual properties along Shorewood Drive. Any historic or prehistoric archaeological remains are likely to be located on private property, yet Shorewood homeowners have not reported recovering artifacts on their properties. Although there have been reports of artifacts found near the lakeshore, specific locations have not been recorded.

### Significance:

Shorewood appears to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A as an example of an early twentieth century planned resort community. Shorewood also appears to be eligible under Criterion C for its cottage architecture and naturalistic landscape design.

### Location Map:



### Site Map, courtesy Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society:





Photographs:



Sandrifft Cottage, looking west, note rustic fence in foreground, August 2009



View of cottages from lakeshore, looking east, August 2009

**Lake Shore Chapel**, corner of Lakeshore Drive and Campbell Road, adjacent to Shorewood, Saugatuck

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places

**Description:**

Lake Shore Chapel is located at the entrance to Shorewood, high on the forested dune. The Arts and Crafts style chapel is a one-story, wood-sided building with an L-shaped floor plan and hip roof with deep overhanging eaves. A cupola tops the roof. The interior contains one large, open space for church services. The sanctuary has rows of chairs instead of pews and is not ornate. Studs and sheathing are exposed on the interior walls. There are multi-pane casement windows throughout the building. A free-standing bell tower next to the chapel has an exposed wooden frame, recently reconstructed, with a gable-roofed belfry on top. A separate children's chapel, one-story tall with hip roof and wood siding, matches the style of the main chapel.

**History:**

Families who lived in cottages nearby raised the money to build Lake Shore Chapel in 1904. Prior to construction of the chapel, these families held Sunday services in a private cottage as it was too far to walk to the village for Sunday worship. These summer residents were primarily from Oak Park, Illinois and Lawrence, Kansas. Susan and Frank White donated land for the chapel, and the Shorewood Association donated additional land for future expansion. The chapel was designed by Harry L. Walker, an architect from Atlanta, Georgia, and a student of Frank Lloyd Wright. The chapel is reminiscent of earlier chapel designs by Mr. Wright and Mr. Walker for Wright's Spring Green estate in Wisconsin.<sup>17</sup> It was constructed by a Grand Rapids carpenter Mr. Ackerman. The bell tower was constructed in 1928 because the cupola on the chapel roof would not support the bell. A separate children's chapel, designed by architect-artist Carl Hoerman was constructed in 1948. The property remains privately owned and is used for summer religious services.

**Archaeological Assessment: Minimal Archaeological Potential**

Although the chapel is historic, the manner of its construction suggests that it is unlikely to have a substantial builder's trench. Periodic maintenance and repair would have impacted any archaeological remains on the site.

**Significance:**

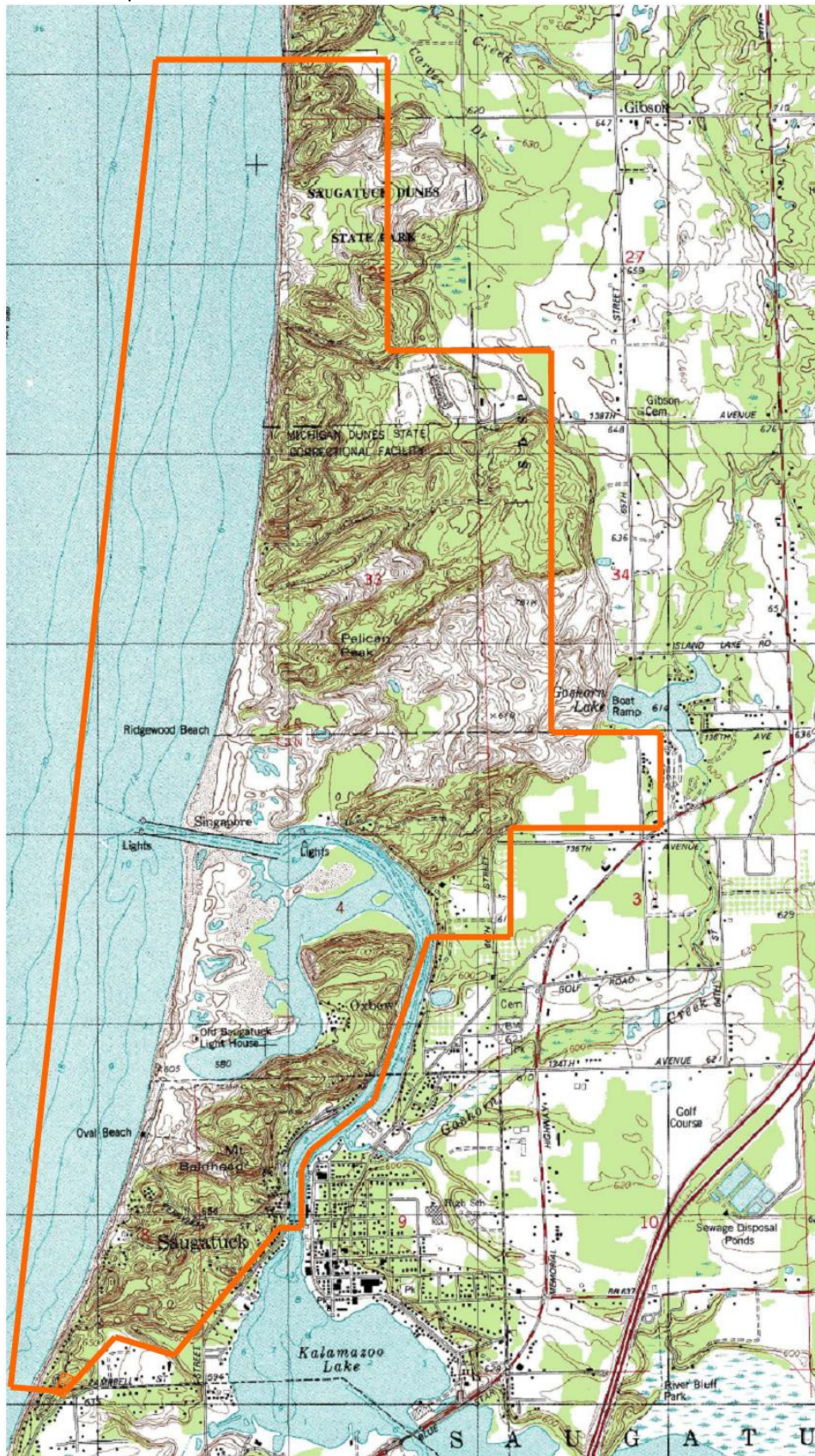
Lake Shore Chapel is significant as a unique example of turn-of-the-century chapel architecture in the Arts and Crafts style, and for its role in the development of the area's summer cottage life, including a reflection of the cultural influence of Chicago-Oak Park, Illinois summer population.

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<sup>17</sup> Schmiechen, *Raising the Roof*, 106.



Location Map:



Site Map: Not Available



Photographs:



Lake Shore Chapel, looking northeast, October 2009

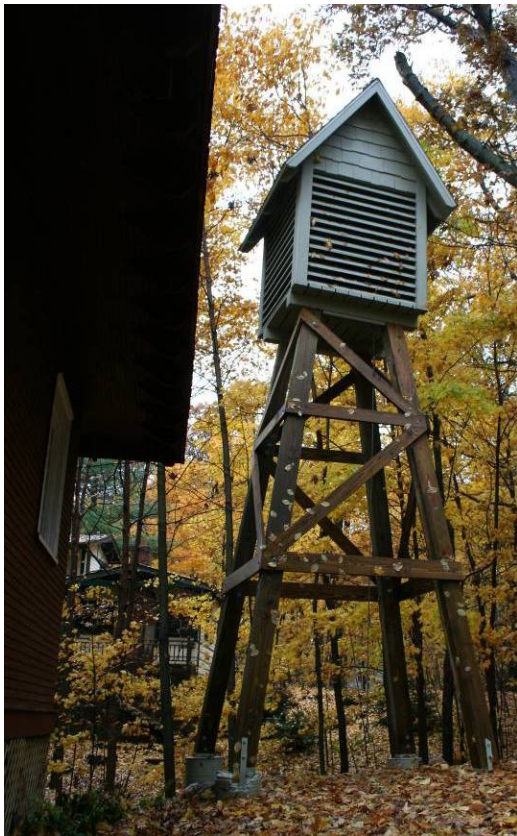


Lake Shore Chapel interior, looking west, August 2009





Children's Chapel, looking northeast, October 2009



Bell Tower, looking north, October 2009

## **PRESERVATION LAWS AND TOOLS**

This brief review of laws pertaining to the protection of cultural and historic resources is neither intended to be an exhaustive survey of federal or state law nor is it intended to provide legal advice or opinion as to the treatment of historic or cultural resources within the study area. From the legal perspective, historic preservation law is a relatively new body of law that is still developing. This area of law has thus far, at the federal level, been dominated by Constitutional applications concerning governmental regulatory takings. Most historic preservation law in Michigan has been developing at the administrative level and typically involves disputes pursuant to the Local Historic Districts Act and local municipal ordinances, as well as disputes concerning eligibility of properties to participate in state and federal historic rehabilitation tax credit programs. For additional information, contact the Office of Special Counsel on Historic Preservation with the Michigan State Housing Development Authority.

### **Federal Laws**

#### **Antiquities Act of 1906 (16 USC 431-433)**

The Antiquities Act of 1906 provided for the protection of archaeological resources on federal lands and prohibited the excavation or destruction of archaeological resources. The act established a permit system for conducting scientific archaeological investigations, which could be undertaken only by recognized institutions that would report results and maintain all collections for the public. While the act did provide for protection of archaeological resources, it did not provide for any effective deterrent to the destruction of archaeological sites.

#### **The Historic Sites Act of 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461 *et seq.*)**

While the Historic Sites Act is not well-known, it is considered the precursor to the NHPA of 1966. It should be understood in the context of developing recognition of the value of historic and cultural heritage preservation and increasing regulation of public use of historic sites, buildings, and objects. The act was enacted by the United States Congress largely to organize the myriad of federally-own parks, monuments, and historic sites under the National Park Service and the Secretary of the Interior. Most significantly, however, is that it explicitly states that historic preservation is a government duty – an assertion previously only hinted at in the Antiquities Act of 1906. Section 462 of the act enumerates a wide range of powers and responsibilities given to the National Park Service and the Secretary of the Interior, including codification and institutionalization of the Historic American Buildings Survey, authorization to perform preservation work, and authorization to survey and note significant sites and buildings, which later became the National Historic Landmark program.

#### **National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as Amended (NHPA) (Public Law 89-665; 16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)**

In the 1960s, Congress observed that the spirit of the nation was reflected in its heritage and that historically significant properties were being altered or lost at an alarming rate. Subsequently Congress declared that preserving the nation's heritage was in the public interest and passed the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA). The NHPA set as national policy the practice of giving federal assistance to state and local governments as well as encouraging historic preservation at the state and local levels. Congress sought to ensure that impacts of development are considered when federal projects are planned and carried out. Section 106 of this act requires that federal agencies consider the effects of their undertakings on historic properties – those eligible for or listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Section 36 CFR Part 800.4(b) requires that federal agencies make reasonable and good faith efforts to identify any cultural resources (both unrecorded and previously recorded) that may be affected by their undertakings, and evaluate the eligibility of these resources for listing in the NRHP.

#### **National Transportation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-680; 49 USC 303; 23 USC 138)**

This law was passed the same year as the NHPA. Section 4(f) is designed to protect historic and archaeological properties from destruction in projects using funds from the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), which



was created with the act. A project using USDOT funds must not adversely affect historic properties unless it can be shown that there is no prudent and feasible alternative.

**National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (Public Law 91-190; 42 USC 4331-4347)**

Congress passed this act to require federal agencies to review the impacts of their projects on the environment, including historic and cultural resources among many others. Federal agencies use this assessment system to comply with other federal laws in addition to NEPA. Agencies are required to complete environmental assessments (EA), and in some cases the more detailed Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) before obtaining a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

**Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (ARPA) (Public Law 96-95; 16 U.S.C. 470aa-11; 32 CFR 229)**

The Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 was enacted to protect and regulate the use of archaeological resources on public and tribal lands protected by the Antiquities Act of 1906. The act requires that a permit must be received from the federal land manager for the excavation and removal of archaeological resources on public land. ARPA was specifically designed to prevent looting and destruction of archaeological resources. ARPA has both enforcement and permitting components, including criminal and civil penalties against violators of the act.

**Abandoned Shipwreck Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-298; 43 U.S.C. 2101)**

Under the Abandoned Shipwreck Act of 1988, the U.S. Government asserted title to abandoned shipwrecks embedded in a state's submerged lands and abandoned shipwrecks located on a state's submerged lands and included in or determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Upon asserting title, the U.S. Government transferred its title to the majority of those shipwrecks to the respective states to manage. The act encourages the creation of public underwater parks for preservation and states that investigations of historic shipwrecks that remain in federal jurisdiction require federal ARPA permits. Because Michigan's Great Lakes bottomlands cover thirty-eight thousand square miles, there are many historic shipwrecks within its territorial waters, and state laws augment federal legislation.

**Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) (Public Law 101-601, 25 U.S.C. 3001-3013)**

NAGPRA includes provisions for the protection of Native American graves, associated funerary objects, and objects of cultural patrimony. The law applies to federal agencies, federal and tribal lands, and museums receiving federal assistance. It defines a process for museums and tribes to consult and repatriate certain human skeletal remains, funerary objects, and objects of cultural patrimony where cultural affiliation can be established. On federal and tribal lands, avoidance of archaeological sites containing graves is encouraged, as are intensive surveys to identify such sites. Archaeological investigations or other land-modifying activities that inadvertently discover such items on federal or tribal lands require the federal agency to consult with affiliated Native American Tribes. Federal ARPA permits are required for archaeological investigations of burials on federal or tribal lands, in addition to consultation with affected groups. NAGPRA also includes prohibitions against trafficking in human remains and related cultural items.

**Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users of 2005 (SAFETEA-LU)**

This federal law requires state transportation agencies (MDOT in Michigan) to set aside ten percent of their yearly federal surface transportation program funds for enhancement grants. In Michigan the grant funds available are between twenty and twenty-five million dollars per year. The following types of activities are eligible for enhancement grants, six of which are related to historic preservation: preservation of abandoned railway corridors (including the conversion and use thereof for pedestrian or bicycle trails); provision of safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists; landscaping and other scenic beautification; acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites, including historic battlefields; inventory, control, and removal of outdoor advertising; scenic or historic highway programs (including the provision of tourist and welcome center facilities); historic preservation; archaeological planning and research; establishment of transportation museums; rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures, or facilities (including

historic railroad facilities and canals); and environmental mitigation to address water pollution due to highway runoff or reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality while maintaining habitat continuity. Grant applicants must be qualified cities or counties (Act 51 agencies), a match is required, and the project must be related to surface transportation. See [www.michigan.gov/tea](http://www.michigan.gov/tea) for more information.

## **Michigan Laws**

### **Local Historic Districts Act (LHDA), MCL 399.201 et seq. (Public Act 169 of 1970, as amended)**

In 1970, The Michigan Legislature declared historic preservation to be a public purpose. To implement the state's policy, the legislature enacted the Local Historic Districts Act (LHDA), which provides for the protection of Michigan's historic resources, the creation of historic district commissions, and the designation of local historic districts.

### **Aboriginal Records and Antiquities Act, MCL 324 et seq. (Public Act 58 of 1995)**

This act reserves to the state of Michigan all rights to prehistoric and historic sites and artifacts located on state-owned lands, including Great Lakes bottomlands. Investigation of these sites and artifacts may be conducted only with a permit. Items recovered without a permit are considered state property and must be relinquished to the state. Violation of this act is a misdemeanor punishable by fine and/or imprisonment.

### **State of Michigan Attorney General Opinion No. 7105 (issued April 17, 2002)**

Under the Incompatible Public Offices Act, the office of city councilperson is incompatible with the office of historic district commissioner. Notwithstanding this incompatibility, the Incompatible Public Offices Act contains an exception that permits the governing body of a municipality having a population less than twenty-five thousand to authorize a public officer or public employee to hold such dual public positions.

### **State of Michigan Attorney General Opinion No. 6957 (issued September 30, 1997)**

A local school district is not required to obtain a permit under the Local Historic Districts Act before commencing work affecting the exterior appearance of a school building located within a local historic district. The state, through enactment of the school building construction act and the Revised School Code, has exempted from local regulation the construction and remodeling of school buildings by local school districts.

### **State of Michigan Attorney General Opinion No. 6952 (issued September 9, 1997)**

Section 3(3)(b) of the Local Historic Districts Act does not require approval by petition of property owners before a local unit of government may, by ordinance, establish a contiguous historic district. If a petition is filed by a majority of the property owners in a proposed contiguous historic district, section 3(3)(b) of the Local Historic Districts Act imposes a mandatory 60-day period following the filing of the petition before a local unit of government may pass an ordinance establishing a contiguous district.

### **State of Michigan Attorney General Opinion No. 6919 (issued October 10, 1996)**

Under the Local Historic Districts Act, 1970 PA 169, a local unit of government may not enact an ordinance that restricts that unit from placing property in a local historic district without the consent of the property owner.

### **State of Michigan Attorney General Opinion No. 6585 (issued June 7, 1989)**

This opinion concerns the accidental discovery of human remains. It states that prior to disinterment, a local health department permit or court disinterment decree must be obtained. If a historic period cemetery is disinterred and moved, the remains must be reinterred in a cemetery within (or close by) the governmental unit where it was found. The cost of disinterring and moving burials should be at public expense, unless next-of-kin are willing to pay.



### **State of Michigan Attorney General Opinion No. 5514 (issued July 16, 1979)**

The jurisdiction of a county historic district commission is limited to portions of the county outside the limits of incorporated cities, villages or townships wherein the ordinance has been enacted by the local governmental unit which would conflict with the powers of the historic district commission. If a township enacts an ordinance pursuant to the Township Rural Zoning Act, any county enactment in conflict therewith is ineffective in such township.

### **Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, MCL 324.2140 et seq. (Public Act 451 of 1994).**

This act provides protection to historic resources when an encumbrance or easement is placed on the historic resource. Easements are a valuable historic preservation tool that preserves and protects the historic integrity of a historic resource's interior and exterior. (Please note that this differs from a conservation easement, as a historic preservation easement typically attaches to "bricks and mortar," whereas a conservation easement attaches to "greenspace"). Further, granting a historic preservation easement to a qualified grantor opens to the grantee a door to financial incentives designed to facilitate rehabilitation, restoration, and preservation of the historic resource. Special care must be taken when considering the grant of a historic preservation easement, as the easement, like all real property covenants, runs with the land. As a result, it will restrict what future owners can do to the property.

### **Preservation Planning**

Preservation planning is a process that organizes typical preservation activities such as identification, evaluation, registration, and treatment of historic properties in a logical sequence and time frame.<sup>18</sup> By developing historic contexts and understanding an area's historic resources, a plan can be developed with public participation to determine which resources are worthy of designation, and how to treat and protect those resources. A preservation plan can be incorporated into larger planning efforts in the area. More information can be found at the website of the National Park Service: [www.nps.gov/history/hps/pad/PlngStds/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/pad/PlngStds/index.htm)

Consideration should be given to hiring a professional preservation planner to evaluate the existing Tri-Community Plan and to prepare a historic preservation plan. Although beyond the scope of this project, following are some preliminary comments on the Tri-Community plan:

In general, the Tri-Community plan emphasizes the importance of historic and natural resources and makes numerous recommendations for ways to protect both. However, many of the recommendations are in terms that are voluntary for property owners. It appears that there is some unwillingness to legislate change that might restrict development or regulate property owners in order to protect community assets.

The plan mentions a subarea plan for the Ox-Bow peninsula including the "Denison property." Was this ever done?

The plan incorrectly states that Singapore was listed on the national register in the 1940s. Singapore was listed on the State Register of Historic Sites as an Informational Designation in 1958. Informational designation is for markers that are not physically associated with a site or a physical building. In this case the marker is not located near the actual site of Singapore.

The section on future land use should talk about expanding local designation to protect more historic properties, especially since page 183 lists historic preservation and protection as a key implementation strategy.

### **Advocacy and Education**

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<sup>18</sup> The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Preservation Planning. Accessed at: <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/pad/PlngStds/index.htm>

The Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society is at the forefront in museum exhibits and publications in the state of Michigan and has done much to educate residents and visitors about the area's history and special places. The society has joined with the Saugatuck Dunes Coastal Alliance to bring attention to the sites endangered by the proposed development on the "Denison or McClendon property." Both groups may want to consider additional educational efforts that focus on the historic sites most affected by the proposed project. Some ideas include:

Photo mock-ups showing the existing vistas and the same vistas after the proposed development.

Bus tours to Pine Trail Camp, Ox-Bow, Presbyterian Camps, Oval Beach, Mt. Baldhead, and Shorewood, with the owners' permission, to discuss the importance of these sites and see the vistas potentially affected by the project.

Educational programs to inform property owners about preservation and conservation easements and the benefits of local designation.

### **State and Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits**

Since most of the sites in the study area are owned by non-profits or municipalities, the tax credit incentive programs may be of limited value. However, should major rehabilitation efforts be needed, non-profits or municipalities can take advantage of these programs by bringing in a for-profit owner who can use the tax credits in exchange for putting equity in the project. Commonly called syndication, entities wishing to use the program should consult with a qualified attorney and accountant.

The federal historic rehabilitation tax credit provides a 20 percent federal income tax credit on qualified rehabilitation expenditures of a depreciating (income-producing) property that is listed in the National Register. The work must be approved by the State Historic Preservation Office and the National Park Service. Expenditures for rehabilitation must exceed the adjusted basis value of the building. Site work does not qualify. More information can be found at the National Park Service website: [www.nps.gov/history/tax.htm](http://www.nps.gov/history/tax.htm)

The state historic rehabilitation tax credit provides a 25 percent state income tax credit on qualified rehabilitation expenditures of any property that is locally designated, listed in the National Register of Historic Places (where population is less than five thousand people, as in Saugatuck), or subject to a preservation easement. The property may be income producing or owner occupied. Expenditures must exceed 10 percent of the State Equalized Value (SEV) of the property. Rehabilitation of historic landscape and site features are qualified expenditures. Homeowners in Shorewood could benefit from the state tax credits.

The federal and state tax credits can be combined for properties that qualify for both credits. Any project that qualifies and applies can receive a 20 percent federal credit and 5 percent state credit. Entities may apply for a special enhanced credit of up to an additional 15 percent, with a possible total of 20 percent federal credits and 20 percent state credits. The enhanced credit is capped and is a competitive award. More information can be found at the State Historic Preservation Office website: [www.michigan.gov/hpcredit](http://www.michigan.gov/hpcredit)

### **Local Historic Districts**

Local designation and easements provide the strongest protection for historic resources. Local designation is controlled at the local level and can be done without the owner's permission. The city of Saugatuck currently has a local historic district ordinance that appears to be in compliance with PA 169 of 1970, as amended. One historic district is currently in place, encompassing most of downtown Saugatuck. Important properties on "the hill," such as the National Register-listed First Congregational Church, are not protected. The city of Saugatuck



should consider locally designating the following properties from the study area: Chain Ferry, Pump House, Mt. Baldhead Dune and Park, Presbyterian Camps, Shorewood, and Lake Shore Chapel.

Neither Saugatuck Township nor Laketown Township has a local historic district ordinance. These jurisdictions can protect their historic properties by enacting a local historic district ordinance and designating local historic districts. Saugatuck Township should consider enacting a local historic district ordinance and designating Ox-Bow and Tallmadge Woods and the Lighthouse Cottage and Old Harbor. If further investigation shows that they meet designation criteria, Pine Trail Camp, Saugatuck Dune Rides, Fishtown, and Singapore should be designated. The only historic property in this study in Laketown Township is the Dorr E. Felt Mansion, which is owned by the township. Public ownership affords a certain amount of protection, and when the state of Michigan deeded the property it placed a covenant requiring that the mansion be used for public purpose and not be sold or razed. To further this protection, the township may wish to consider local designation or placing an easement with the Michigan Historic Preservation Network.

Per PA 169 of 1970, as amended, all political jurisdictions must follow the same process when establishing a local historic district. Communities without a historic district ordinance in place may adopt an ordinance and then appoint a historic district study committee to survey proposed historic districts, or appoint a historic district study committee to survey proposed historic districts and then adopt the ordinance with a district recommended by the study committee. Communities that have a historic district ordinance appoint a study committee to study new proposed districts unless they have a standing study committee.

In any case, the role of the historic district study committee is the same. Members are appointed by the city council or township board and are assigned a specific area or areas to survey. The survey involves inventorying all of the properties in the area, studying the history of the area, and applying the National Register criteria to determine whether there is a historic district and, if so, to delineate boundaries. The committee prepares a preliminary report presenting the findings, which include at a minimum: 1) the charge of the committee; 2) the composition of committee membership; 3) the historic district(s) studied; 4) the boundaries of each proposed historic district in writing and on maps; 5) the history of each proposed historic district; and 6) the significance of each district as a whole, as well as a sufficient number of its individual resources to fully represent the variety of resources found within the district, relative to the evaluation criteria (PA 169, 1970, as amended).

Once the committee adopts the preliminary report, a sixty-day waiting period begins, and the report is sent to the local planning commission and to the State Historic Preservation Office for distribution to the State Historic Preservation Review Board and the Michigan Historical Commission for comments. After the sixty days, the committee holds a public hearing. Notice of the hearing must be sent by first class mail to all of the property owners in the proposed district at least fourteen days before the hearing.

After the hearing the study committee makes its final decision about whether to recommend that the city council or township board create the historic district. If the recommendation is to create a district, the study committee submits its final report to the council or board with a draft ordinance that includes the legal boundary description of the proposed district. The council or board then follows its regular process in reviewing and adopting ordinances. If the study committee determines that the district should not be designated, it simply submits the final report with that recommendation to the council or board.

The flow chart in Appendix A presents a simplified diagram of the local historic district designation process. More information, including a manual on creating local historic districts, can be found at the State Historic Preservation Office website: [www.michigan.gov/shpo](http://www.michigan.gov/shpo)

## **Section 106 Review**

The Saugatuck Harbor Navigation Structures are listed in the National Register and are owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Any action that affects the property is subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. Any action, even if on private property, that uses federal funding or requires a federal permit or license will trigger a Section 106 review. Examples of federal involvement include a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit to work in navigable waterways or a joint Michigan Department of Environmental Quality/U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wetlands permit. While the review may not prevent a project from moving forward, historic properties must be identified and any adverse effects mitigated. Section 106 review also allows for public comment on the undertaking. More information can be found at the websites of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation: [www.achp.gov](http://www.achp.gov) and the State Historic Preservation Office: [www.michigan.gov/shpo](http://www.michigan.gov/shpo).

## Archaeology

Archaeological and historic resources, while distinctly different, should be viewed holistically and understood in terms of their relationship to one another. Soil layers and the artifacts contained within are significant components of a historic site, just as a keystone, earthwork, or planting can be crucial to maintaining the historic character of the site. Frequently, however, the need for construction and structural maintenance requires ground-disturbing activities that can not only destroy artifacts and interpretive potential for the site, but may also irreparably alter the historic character of the site. At sites without on-site archaeologists, stewards must understand that archaeology is an essential component for preservation and maintenance of the site's historic character.

One fundamental archaeological principle is to preserve undisturbed archaeological resources *in situ*. Oftentimes, the best option is simply to do nothing. Archaeology is a destructive process—the very sample with which the archaeologist is working is destroyed by excavation. Years of deposition and accompanying human behavior cannot be replaced, only reconstructed.

If subsurface examinations are desired, non-destructive options are available with the use of remote sensing techniques. Proton magnetometers, seismic sensors, and electrical resistivity (among other techniques) are frequently employed to localize and evaluate any subsurface features that may be present. In some cases, remote sensing can nullify the need to excavate at all and could be of particular value within the current study area. The relatively loose compaction of soil strata in the study area will present future archaeologists with a number of challenges because of the danger of slumping and sidewall cave-ins. The use of magnetometers and vibra-core subsurface techniques could prove to be effective alternatives to traditional excavation techniques.

In the event that excavation or mitigation efforts are pursued for sites within the study area, site stewards should consult with the archaeological team prior to excavation to determine how and where excavated artifacts, if any, will be preserved and curated. Frequently, stewards fail to consider fully all of the time, money, and space needed to preserve and store recovered artifacts. In addition, excavation records can be extensive and must also be properly stored in either hard copy or electronic copy that ensures future software compatibility for retrieval.

Once the decision is made to conduct subsurface testing, archaeologists will then follow a process similar to the three phases described below. The process will vary, however, as it is a mix of techniques and intensity driven by finances, topography, soil conditions, and threat to the resource.

Phase I: Phase I consists of basic survey and mapping accompanied by surface collection and subsurface testing to determine the presence or absence of sites. Preliminary information developed from Phase I survey as to the site's age, size, and integrity frequently dictates whether a Phase II or III excavation is warranted. This information can also be used to develop an archaeological management plan for a property. Phase I is the least expensive form of archaeology, with costs depending upon the size, topography, soil conditions, and the amount of subsurface testing required.



Phase II: During this stage, archaeologists frequently excavate small test units and conduct controlled surface collection to determine site integrity. Phase II is conducted on sites identified during Phase I to determine whether further investigation is necessary, if the site should be avoided during construction, or whether mitigation is necessary. If Phase II results show that the area has significant archaeological potential, then Phase III will likely be recommended.

Phase III: While all three phases contribute to the understanding and interpretation of a historic site, this stage is often the most important for complete site interpretation. Phase III is the “classic” archaeology with which most people are familiar. Phase III is the most costly and time consuming phase, since it may require complete or near total excavation of a site, particularly when ground disturbance will destroy all or a portion of the site. Excavation units are excavated layer-by-layer until a sterile soil horizon devoid of human activity is encountered. While excavating the site, archaeologists keep detailed records that document the excavation in painstaking detail using photography, videography, and hand-drawn renditions of features and artifacts *in situ*. Sites, features, and artifacts are often mapped with surveying equipment. This data is typically downloaded into software programs that enable archaeologists to develop two- and three-dimensional maps of the excavation and its relationship to the surrounding area.

## ACTION PLAN

The ultimate goal of this study and the joint project is to protect the study area from future development that would destroy the scenic and historic beauty of the area. During the course of this study two properties were under threat of development, the McClendon property north of the Kalamazoo River and the Presbyterian Camp between Oval Beach and Shorewood. It is of utmost importance for the Saugatuck Dunes Coastal Alliance and the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society to use their resources and volunteers to be diligent in monitoring all developments with the privately owned properties in order to protect this treasured cultural landscape. Alliances need to continue to be built with the private property owners as well as with like-minded organizations. Only the local community can protect the area by educating everyone on the importance the study area plays not only to the region's past, but also its future.

This action plan was begun by the consultants and then expanded at a meeting with representatives from the Saugatuck Dunes Coastal Alliance and the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society on October 30, 2009. At this meeting, actions were prioritized as short or long term, and a responsible person was assigned to implement each of the top short-term and long-term priorities. Short-term priorities are to be completed by the end of May 2010 (seven months) and long-term priorities are to be completed by December 2010 (fourteen months). Actions that were not prioritized are listed at the end. Top priorities identified are noted by a \*.

**GOAL: To protect and preserve the historical heritage of the Saugatuck Dunes coastal region in the Kalamazoo River watershed.**

<b>Strategy: Monitor proposed development and inform the public.</b>		
Action	Time Frame	People
*Monitor developers and contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Michigan DNR/DEQ to keep abreast of permit applications.	Short term	David Swan
*Present educational series on importance of endangered sites: newspaper series and photo mock-ups day and night.	Short term	Mary Voss, Jean Follett
Expand non-local advocacy.	Short term	
Prepare build-out analysis that would show impact of development on historic and cultural landscapes.	Long term	
Approach property owner with alternative plan that protects the area's resources; use video, township meeting, and face-to-face.	Long term	
<b>Strategy: Further identify historic resources and nominate them to the National Register of Historic Places.</b>		
Action	Time Frame	People
*Prepare National Register of Historic Places questionnaires for surveyed sites and submit to the State Historic Preservation Office for eligibility opinions.	Short term	Jack Sheridan and Harold Thieda



*Hire cultural landscape specialist to prepare a cultural landscape report and, if applicable, a management plan.	Long term	Tracey Shafroth
*Hire university or other professional archaeologist to conduct an archaeological assessment.	Long term	David Swan
*Conduct intensive level survey of the broad area; alert future developers of historic properties.	Long term	Harold Thieda, Mary Voss
*Prepare nominations to list eligible properties in the National Register of Historic Places.	Long term	Harold Thieda, Mary Voss
Pinpoint location of Singapore cemetery.	Short term	
Place Saugatuck Dunes on the National Register as a cultural landscape.	Long term	
Conduct non-destructive archaeological investigations at properties that are publicly owned or where access is granted.		
<b>Strategy: Use federal, state, and local legislation to protect historic properties.</b>		
Action	Time Frame	People
*Establish a study committee and local historic district ordinance in Saugatuck Township.	Short term	Jon Helmrich with assistance from MHPN field representative Nan Taylor
*Establish contacts and start process with the National Park Service to create a National Lakeshore.	Short term	Tracey Shafroth
Enact demolition delay ordinances.	Short term	
Begin the process of creating local historic districts in Saugatuck and Laketown townships.	Short term	
Protect eligible properties with historic preservation and conservation easements.	Short term	
Identify all federal grants, loans, and permits used or needed for proposed development projects and ensure that projects undergo Section 106 review.		
Ask Martha MacFarlane-Faes, Section 106 review coordinator at the SHPO, to keep the community informed of the Section 106 review process.		
Designate eligible properties in the city of Saugatuck as local historic districts.		
Conduct programs to inform people about the benefits of easements and local historic district designation.		
<b>Strategy: Use planning and zoning to protect historic properties.</b>		

Action	Time Frame	People
Establish coastal historic overlay zone for Tri-communities.	Short term	
Obtain a preservation planning specialist to review existing land use plans and zoning ordinances and advise on best practices to preserve historic resources.	Long term	
Recommend a historic overlay district in the regional historic preservation plan.	Long term	
Enact historic overlay zoning for all possible properties in Laketown Township, Saugatuck Township, Saugatuck, and Douglas.	Long term	
Prepare a regional historic preservation plan and integrate into local and regional land use plans.		
<b>Strategy: Promote historic preservation.</b>		
Action	Time Frame	People
*Submit applications to the National Trust for Historic Preservation for the 11 Most Endangered Places program ( <a href="http://www.nthp.org">www.nthp.org</a> ) and to the Cultural Landscape Foundation for Landslide 2010 recognition as an at-risk landscape ( <a href="http://www.tclf.org">www.tclf.org</a> ).	Short term	Tracey Shafroth and Jim Schmiechen
*Present educational series on historic preservation basics.	Short term	Vic Bella with assistance from Nan Taylor
Get national figures to advocate for us and study plan for celebrity press activists.	Short term	
Work to promote a cultural landscape photo exhibit at the Saugatuck Center for the Arts or Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society.	Long term	
Publicize Distinctive Destination more widely.	Long term	
Network with any state and national preservation organizations that would be able to help us.	Long term	
Show economic benefits of preserving historic resources with a detailed report.	Long term	
Conduct heritage tours to Pine Trail Camp, Ox-Bow and other historic properties, perhaps a bus tour of the entire coastal area to stress its importance.		
Use Beachtowns and other heritage tourism programs to raise awareness about historic places.		



Explore Heritage Area designation through the National Park Service.		
<b>Strategy: Obtain funding to support preservation activities.</b>		
Action	Time Frame	People
*Prepare application for city of Saugatuck to become a Certified Local Government (CLG).	Long term	Vic Bella
*Prepare grant applications to Preserve America, National Trust for Historic Preservation, National Park Service, and Michigan Department of Transportation (enhancement grants) to fund needed studies and assessments.	Long term	Tracey Shafroth, Harold Thieda, Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society
Apply to Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for Coastal Zone Management grant funds.	Short term	
Publicize and promote the use of federal and state historic rehabilitation tax credits.		

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## APPENDIX A

## APPENDIX B