

Preservation Speech at Felt Mansion
May 8, 2007

Thesis: Preservation is a synonym for Economic Development.

OR

In Every Community there is as building, which if in distress will cause the community to Rally to its Survival and the ripple effect will be the uplifting of the neighborhood itself.

Oak Park 1960's

- King Riots—block busting---red lining---fear stalks the streets
- Community Action Committee
- Historic Survey---more buildings Per Capita
- National Registry
- Home and Studio for sale
- National Trust partnership
- Raised money to acquire
- Training program for Interpreters---100's sign up
- \$12MM paint up/fix up in historic district
- All American City Award
- New Industry---tourism
- Racial Resegregation no longer fear

Douglas 1990's

- Town Center full of derelict buildings
- Houses shabby/run down---for sale in the \$20's \$30's
- One couple purchased downtown building and restored
- DHPC focus---Village Hall
- Historical Society did survey of Saugatuck and Douglas
- New focus on historic elements---much needed renovations
- Historic District Study Committee defeated by developers (take Myths)
- Education needed---show How TO
- Builders Conference
- Publication of Raising the Roof
- Historic restoration and attention by individuals not government
- Walking Tours/ News Paper Articles
- Museum Exhibits—Historic buildings---Tues. Till Noon
- Successful School House purchase by Historical Society
- Now pressure on overdevelopment
- MLUI working with many groups