

# The Channel

1. Lake Michigan-Portage Lake Channel,  
south of Second Street, Portage Point



On May 7, 1871, homesteaders from around Portage Lake completed at this point the digging of a ditch 4 feet wide between Portage Lake and Lake Michigan. The level of Portage Lake was lowered from 8 to 14 feet after a torrent of water took out trees and sand along the edges of the ditch, which became a crevice 400 to 500 feet wide varying in depth between 12 to 20 feet.

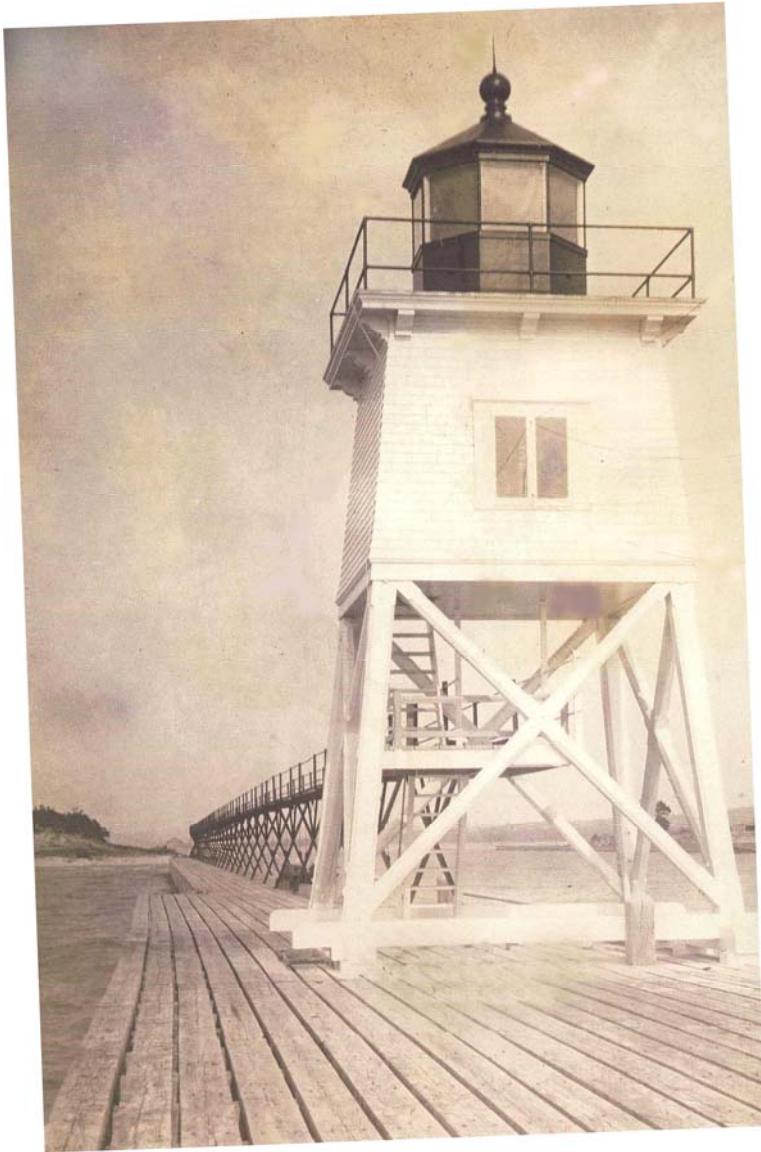


A project to build a harbor of refuge at Portage Lake, of which the Channel would be a part, was adopted in 1879 by the United States Government. Work began on the wooden substructures of the outer piers in 1883 and continued through 1901. The cement superstructures were added to the outer piers in 1939-1940; the

wooden inner piers were rebuilt of stone and cement in 1939-1940. In 2001, contracts were let to renovate the piers again.

# Captain John Langland Park

2. Captain John Langland Park, turnaround at the west end of Second Street, Portage Point, on Lake Michigan



Above: Captain  
Langland  
Left: Original  
Lighthouse

The first Government pierhead light,

Tom Gerhardt, May 2008

which was kerosene, was placed at the end of the north pier in 1891 and was tended by Captain John Langland; Langland remained at Portage Lake in his official capacity as light tender until the light was automated and lighted with acetylene gas in 1917. A metal catwalk leading to the wooden light was built in 1901. A steel light tower replaced the wooden structure in 1930. This tower was removed in 1985; a steel cylinder with a light was installed at that time.



T. O. Telford  
and R. F.  
Wendel Visit  
Captain  
Langland at the  
Pierhead Light



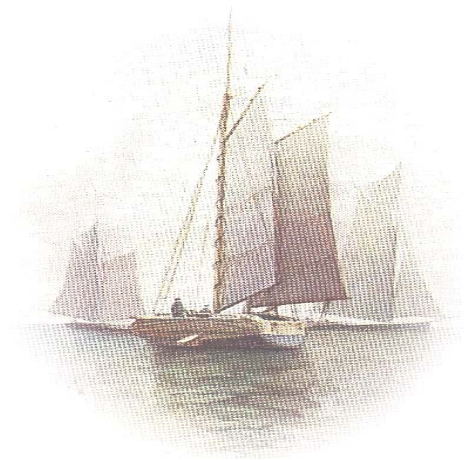
# Monument at Captain John Langland Park



# Portage Lake Yacht Club

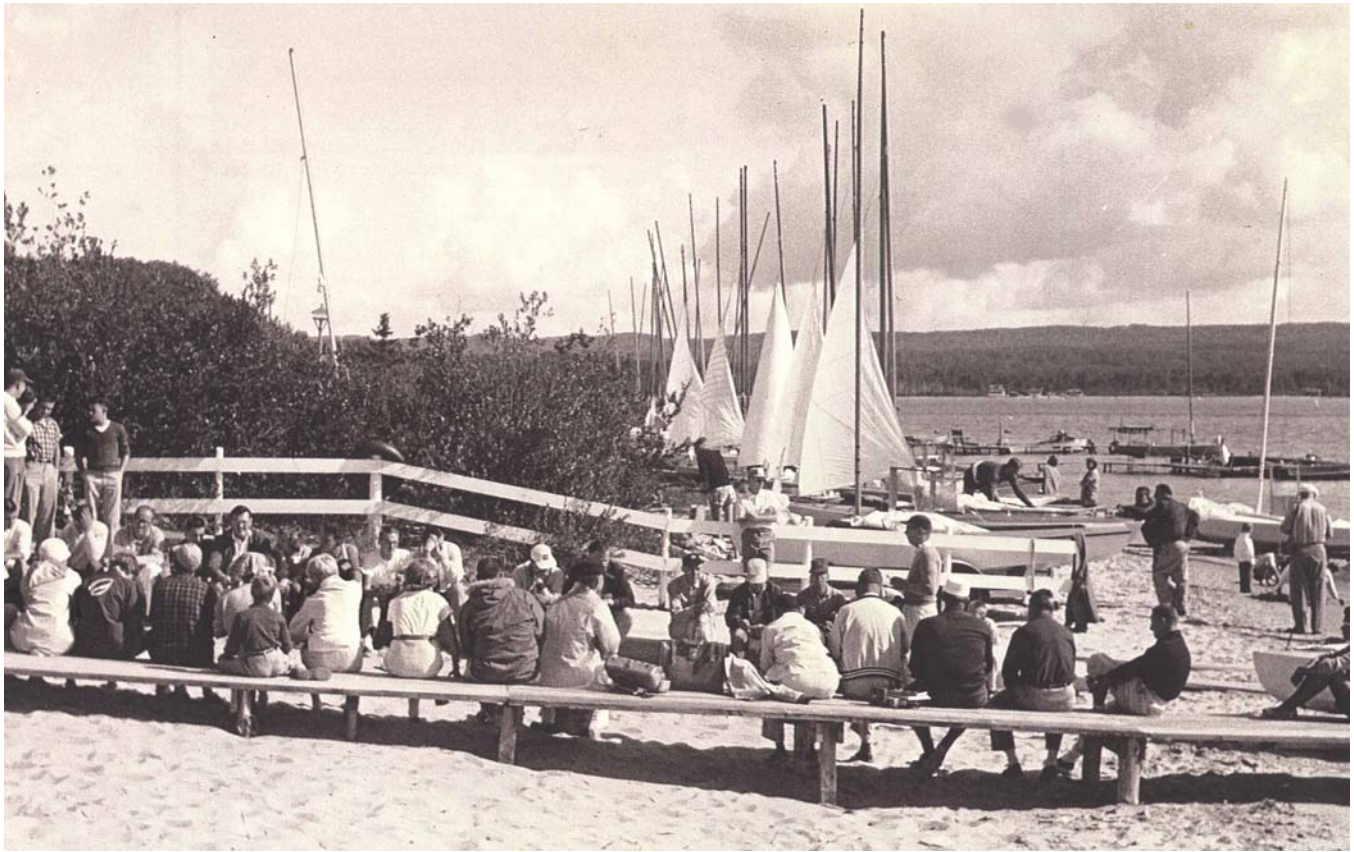
3. Portage Lake Yacht Club, northeast of Portage Point Drive and Second Street, Portage Point

1931 Clubhouse at  
Portage Point Inn



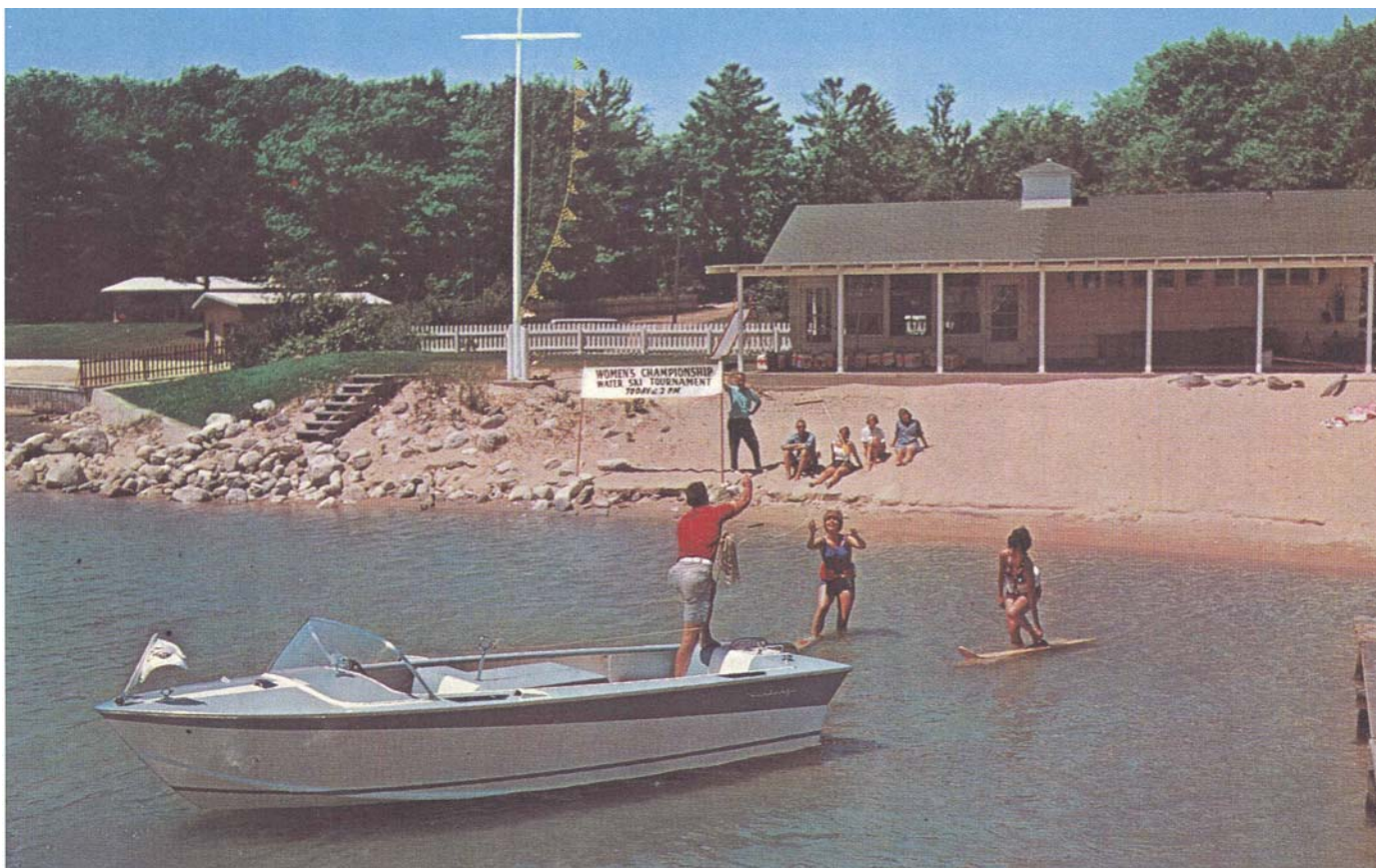
In 1944, land was purchased for a permanent Clubhouse for the Portage Lake Yacht Club, which had been housed after its founding in 1931 in the former Northern Michigan Transportation Company dockhouse at the Portage Point Inn.





Tom Gerhardt, May 2008





Present Clubhouse



Tom Gerhardt, May 2008



# Portage Creek

6. Streambed of Portage Creek, looking south from the 2200-2300 block of Lakeisle Avenue



Early View of  
Outlet Avenue  
at Portage Lake



Streambed of Portage Creek

All of the water that came into Portage Lake through springs ran out through Portage Creek before the digging in 1871 of what became the Channel. This swiftly running stream curved from a point opposite of

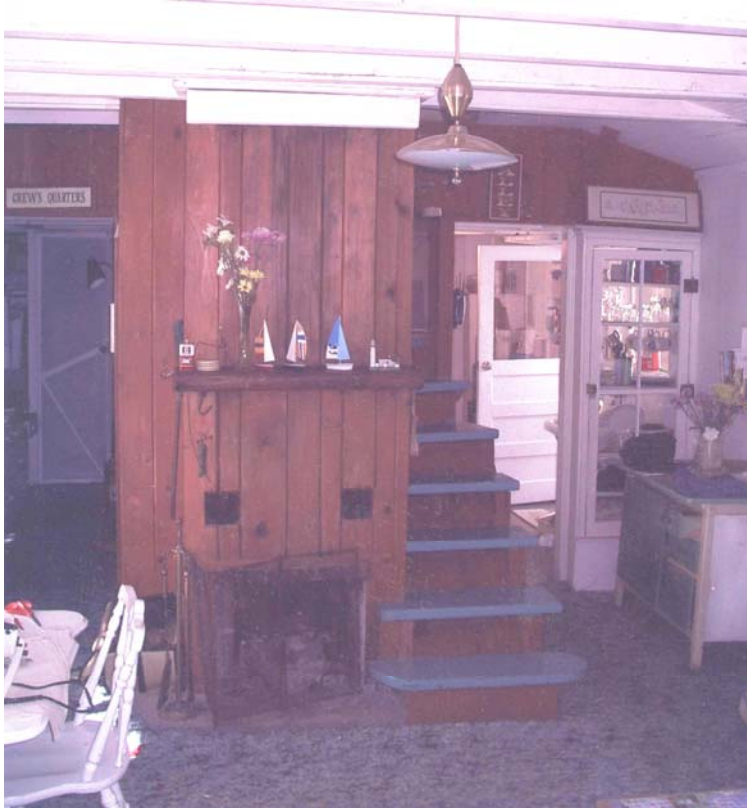
what is now Outlet Avenue, running northward across the present Lakeisle Avenue, and curving once more to empty into Lake Michigan at a point now near the cottage at 9034 Lakeside Avenue. The field notes of the original surveyors had identified the inland Lake as “O-nek-a-ma-engk” or “Portage.” The early settlers were told by the Indians still remaining in the area that “O-nek-a-ma-engk” meant to portage or carry across, which is exactly what the Indians had to do when traversing the land between these lakes. The first certificate for land purchased in what is now Onekama Township was issued to James Stronach in 1845 by the United States Government. His land included the original outlet from Portage Lake.



# Fenmoor Cottage

7. R. E. Harris Cottage, 2254  
Lakeisle Avenue

“Fenmoor”  
Cottage



“Fenmoor”  
Day Cabin



## "Fenmoor" Pilothouse



At what was to become the settlement of Portage, Joseph Stronach, James' uncle, built a water-powered mill, which was located near a present-day landmark on the edge of the streambed of Portage Creek. The 1930 Roscoe E. Harris "Fenmoor," was built by this Lake Forest, Illinois, physics professor from his own plans to resemble a steamboat. The whimsical cottage's symbol on the smokestack is topographic for swamp; and the cottage's name, "Fenmoor," is interpreted as moored in swamp, as the course of Portage Creek, even when it is not inundated from the high waters of the Lakes, often is marshy from a nearby spring-pond.

The R.E. Harris cottage appears on both the National Register of Historic Places and the Michigan State Register of Historic Sites.

# Portage Park Resort and Additions

8. Portage Park Resort and Additions, Portage Point north of and including Outlet Avenue; North Point and along the northern shores of Portage Lake

Cemeetery at  
Old Portage  
(Location  
Unknown)



The area where the settlement of Portage was located was included in Manistee Township at the time of Manistee County's organization in 1855. Onkama Township became a separate entity in 1867. After several parties had owned the enterprise at Portage, a land contract

was issued in 1866 for the mill's sale to Porter and Bates, which later became Porter and Company of Chicago. To harness the swift waters of Portage Creek to operate the water-powered mill and to facilitate the floating of the logs to it, a dam had been erected causing the waters of Portage Lake to rise higher and higher. The water level of Portage Lake would fluctuate, often as much as 5 or 6 feet, flooding the lands of those people residing and/or farming around the Lake. Also, Porter and Company would not allow these settlers without paying a heavy toll to use the bridge pier that was built out into Lake Michigan just north of the present location of the Sunset House on the Lakeisle Avenue Road End just west of Lakeside Avenue.



Early  
Sunset  
House



## Some Early Portage Park Views



8793 (Upper) and 8817 (Lower) South Portage Point Drive



So, the homesteaders dug in 1871 what became the Channel that lowered the level of Portage Lake. The lowering of the Lake left high and dry 3,000,000 feet of logs and caused the closing of the water-powered mill. Augustine W. Farr in 1870 had become the general agent and manager of the Portage Mills for Porter and Company. In



Early  
Portage Park  
Name Signs

1882, a couple of years after the steam-powered mill was moved to the present-day Onekama, Farr purchased the property. The original Portage Park Resort was platted in 1915, after the Northern Michigan Transportation Company acquired the property from Farr by a land contract issued in 1909.

The plat for Portage Park Addition was recorded in 1917 and included land east of Portage Park along the Portage Lake shoreline. The plat for Portage Park Addition No. 1 was filed in 1921; it included more land along Lake Michigan as well as north of Portage Point Drive.

8775 Norwood  
Avenue





8876  
Lakeside  
Avenue

# Golf Course

9. Golf Course, site northeast of West and South Greenway, now North Point Park



A golf course was located in the center of North Point, which was later also known as “Andy’s Point.” Mention of this 7,000-yard, 18-hole golf course being nearly finished is found in the June 27, 1916, *Manistee News-Advocate*. Planning began in 2001 for what is now North Point Park on this site.





## Early Golf Course and Artesian Well

# Little Eden Camp

10. Little Eden Camp, 3721  
East Portage Point Drive

## St. Mary's Summer School and Camp



In 1910, a large barn on the Farr farm was moved down near the Lakefront to be transformed into a hotel. By 1913, Camp Onekama, a boys' camp, was established there. An article in the *Manistee News-Advocate* of April 19, 1924, states that preparations were being made

for St. Mary's Summer School and Camp, as the "large old barn," known to many as the "Seymour Inn," was being renovated.

### Seymour Inn



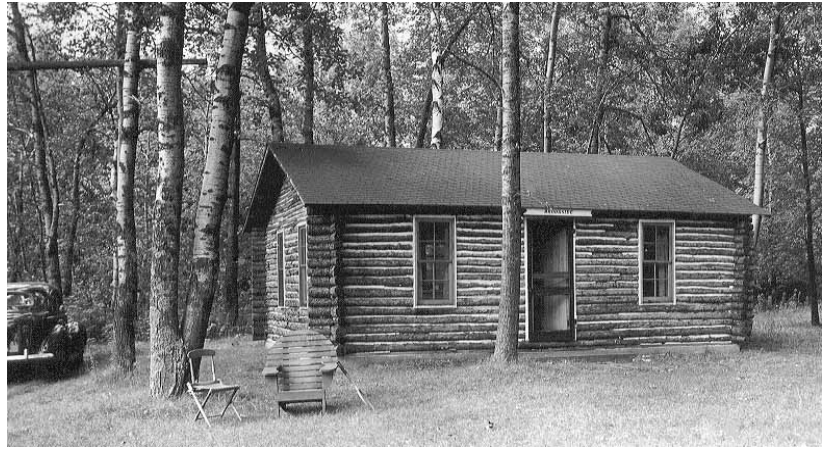
The Reverend Francis L. Carrington, dean of St. Mary-St. Margaret Episcopalian Girls' School in Knoxville, Illinois, was superintendent. The Camp was later called "Camp Carrington." This summer girls' camp was also used as Carrington's Michigan Junior School for Boys several winters.



St. Mary's  
Chapel



## Cottage at St. Mary's



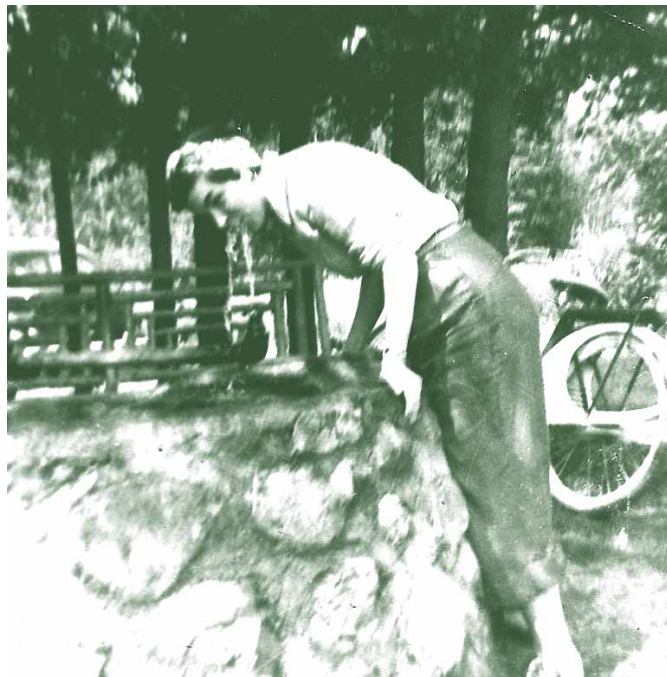
The *Manistee County Pioneer Press* of June 4, 1937, announced that Reverend Arthur Taylor, State Director of Intermediate Groups of the Church of the Brethren, was changing the name of the Camp to "Little Eden" and would manage the property, which he purchased. Although the Camp was regarded as nondenominational, the main building was to be used exclusively for religious purposes, such as conventions and group meetings. The family camping tradition continued when the Taylors sold the Camp in 1944 to a Mennonite Church group, the Little Eden Camp Grounds Association, Inc., of Archbold, Ohio. In 1988, the main building was demolished and a new log-sided structure was erected.



# Artesian Well

11. Artesian Well, on Portage Point Drive  
northwest of Little Eden Camp

The Early Rockery  
of the Artesian Well  
Was Built around an  
Iron Kettle



In a shady semicircle of cedars, Little Eden Camp's artesian well continues to flow, offering pleasant-tasting water as a friendly gesture to passersby and many who regularly bottle it for drinking water. An early remembrance of this well is in 1924, so it is probable that horses

even drank from the original basin, which was in use until the present rockery was built in 1990.



After Portage  
Point Drive Was  
Widened in  
1989-1990, the  
Present Rockery  
Was Built

# Canfield Properties

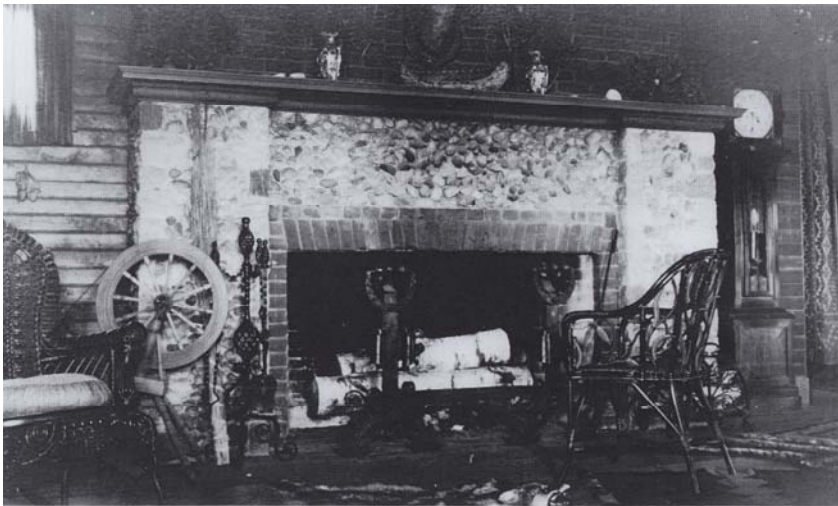
## 12. Canfield Cottage and Carriage House, 4138 and 4092 East Portage Point Drive

On April 19, 1900, the *Manistee Daily News* reported that work was about to start on Charles Canfield's cottage "of liberal dimensions." A son of Manistee Lumberman John Canfield, Charles was mayor of Manistee at the time "The Moorings" was constructed. His yacht was sometimes moored in Portage Lake in front of the property.





Present Day  
Canfield  
Cottage



The  
Cottage's  
Fireplace

The cottage has been used as the Canfield House bed-and-breakfast. The stylish carriage house was completed in 1903 at a cost of around \$3,000. Manistee Contractor R. J. B. Newcombe, who did such notable structures as Manistee's Congregational Church, built



the cottage and carriage house. The Holland Capper family of Manistee converted the carriage house into a summer home.



The Canfield  
Carriage House  
and Artesian  
Well





# Kline Walnut-Grove Farm

13. Kline-Walnut Grove Farm,  
5968 Eight Mile Road



Walnut  
Grove  
Farmhouse

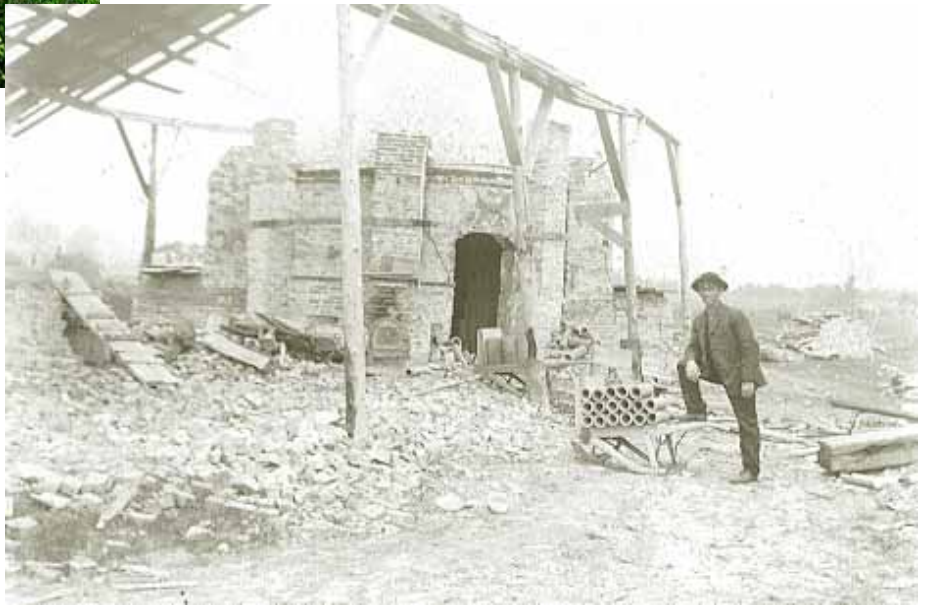
Milkhouse  
with  
Centennial  
Farm Sign



In 1861, Henry August Kline purchased the land for what later became Walnut Grove Farm. Henry's son, William Henry Kline, built this brick house in 1907.



Bay Window of  
Walnut Grove  
Farmhouse



Farm Brickyard



Steam-Powered  
Equipment at  
Work on the Farm



## Everyone Helped on the Farm



The dwelling was the first to have electric lights in the area, with the generator being run by a waterwheel on the land across Eight Mile Road (Onkama did not have public electricity until 1927). To cool dairy products, artesian well water ran through the milkhouse, which like the early house is built of brick made in William Henry Kline's brickyard that was on the backlot of the Farm. The farmhouse has been renovated by John H. (William Henry's grandson) and Virginia Kline.

The Kline Walnut Grove Farm has received the Michigan Centennial Farm designation.

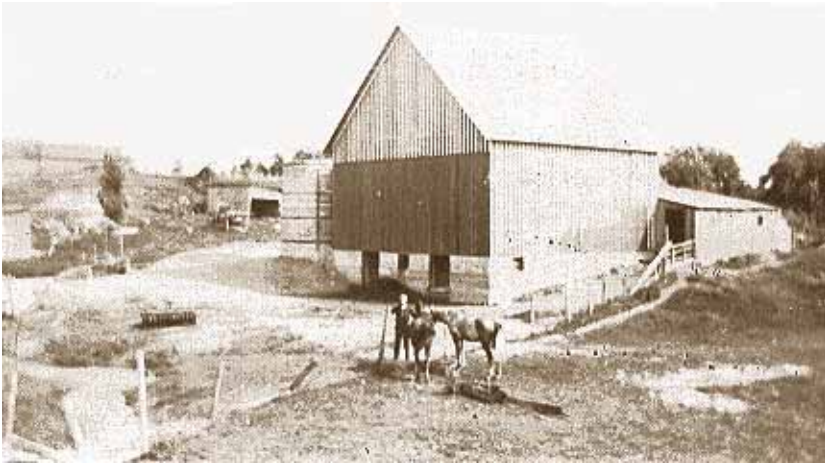
# Kline Farm

14. Kline Farm,  
5901 Eight Mile Road



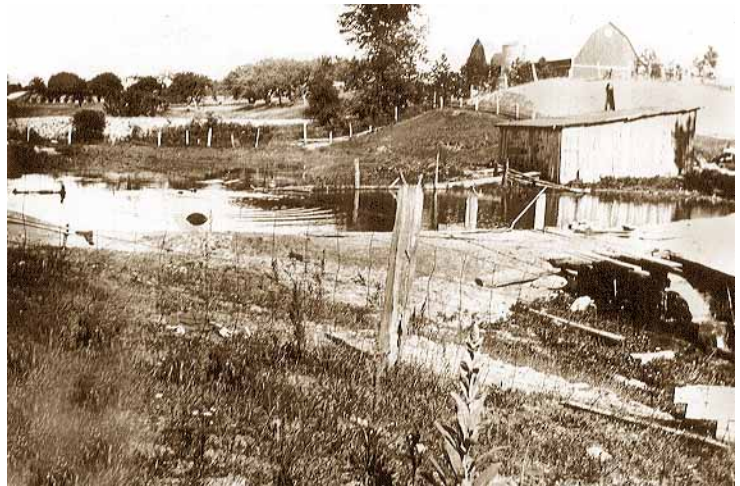
Early View of William W. Kline  
Centennial Farmhouse

Henry August Kline also purchased this property on the other (south) side of Eight Mile Road in 1862. William W. Kline, a son of William Henry's, farmed this land after he was married. The farm is run today by Mrs. William L. (Audrey) Kline, who married William W.'s son.



Early Barn on  
William W.  
Kline Farm

Pond on William W.  
Kline Farm Where  
Waterwheel Was  
Located



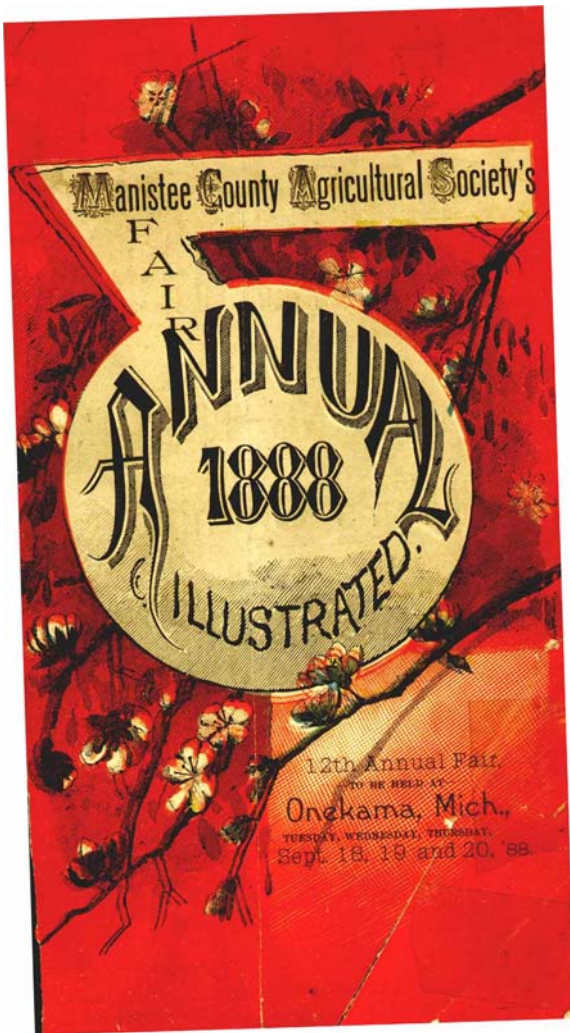
The Kline Farm has received the Michigan Centennial Farm designation.



# Fairgrounds

## 15. Manistee County Fairgrounds, northeast of M-22 and Jones Road

After the first ten fairs of the Manistee County Agricultural Society were held on grounds west of the Village of Bear Lake, the Fair moved to Onekama in 1887 and occupied these Fairgrounds.



Late Nineteenth  
Century Fair Exhibit



Early  
Fair  
Visitors



Early View of  
Current Fair  
Pavilion



# The Bible Camp

16. Portage Lake Covenant Bible Camp,  
4158 Camp Delight Road

Early “Near-  
To-Nature  
Houses” in  
Camp Delight



In 1912, Ben Hansen and Harry E. Kruse of Manistee opened Camp Delight at Portage Lake on Eagle Point. A recreation hall was built at the Camp, which was touted in 1920 in *The Manistee-Portage Region* as “a group of near-to-nature houses in sylvan surroundings on the shore of Portage Lake.” This Camp was named “Portage Lake Covenant Bible Camp” in 1947, after the property in 1946 came under the ownership of the Youth Conference of the Lower Michigan



Mission Covenant Churches. The Camp was later placed under the operation of the Great Lakes Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church. A log chapel was created out of the earlier recreation hall before this structure was demolished and replaced by a newer one in the 1990's.

Early Recreation Hall



Log Chapel



# Wick-a-te-wah

17. Wick-a-te-wah, north of Crescent Beach Road, accessed by Leonard Street



In 1902, a road to Wick-a-te-wah, the cottage property with an Indian name meaning a place of rest, had been built and men were clearing avenues through the property, which was being developed by H. Ward Leonard of Manistee.

## Some Early Views of Wick-a-te-wah

3512 Crescent Beach Road





## House and Former Arbor at 3813 Lakeshore Drive





3827  
Lakeshore  
Drive



# Leonard Cottage

18. Leonard Cottage, southeast corner of Leonard Street and Lakeshore Drive

On August 3, 1904, the *Manistee Daily News* told that “H. Ward Leonard is now making cement blocks for a cottage which he will own.” The molds he was using for these blocks were the Manistee pattern manufactured by the Michigan Iron Works.



Leonard's cottage, which became known as “Bittersweet,” is indeed built of ornamental blocks, as were a number of the cottages in Wick-a-te-wah.





Ornamental cement benches and drinking fountains also appeared on various properties in this resort and still can be seen today.



# Red Park Resort

19. Red Park Resort, surrounding the intersection of Crescent Beach Road, Miller Road, and C. G. Davis Avenue



The week before C. G. Davis made his first purchase of land for Red Park from Charles Secor brought advance notice of the “Delightful Resort” in the *Manistee Daily News* of June 11, 1895: “On the south shore of Portage Lake within three-quarters of a mile of Lake Michigan, C. G. Davis, the landscape gardener of this city [Manistee],



has purchased 35 acres of land.... The spot...can be reached by driving or water, a good dock already extending into the water from the grounds.”

Formerly at  
Intersection of  
Miller and  
Crescent  
Beach Roads



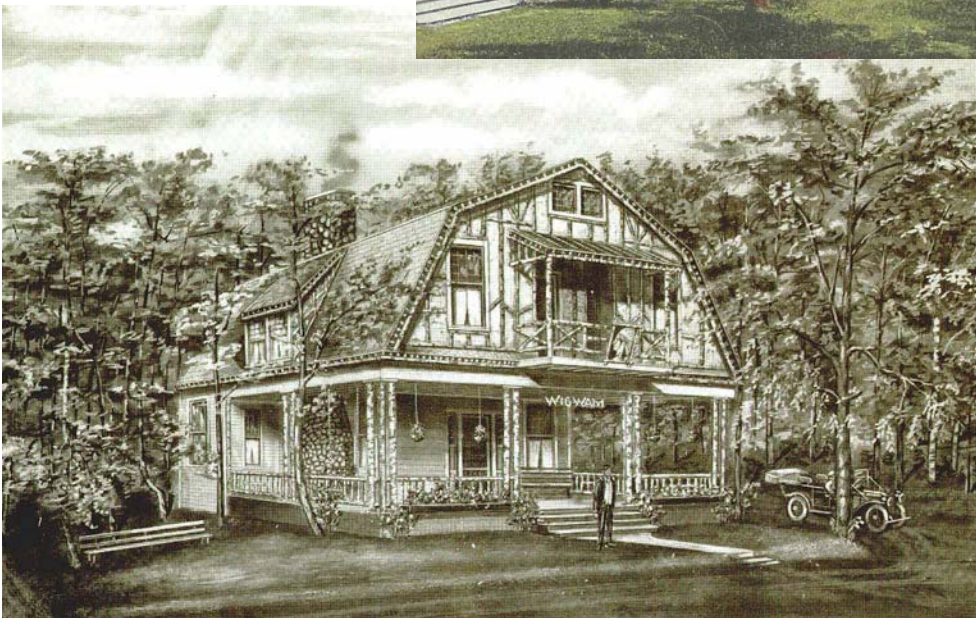
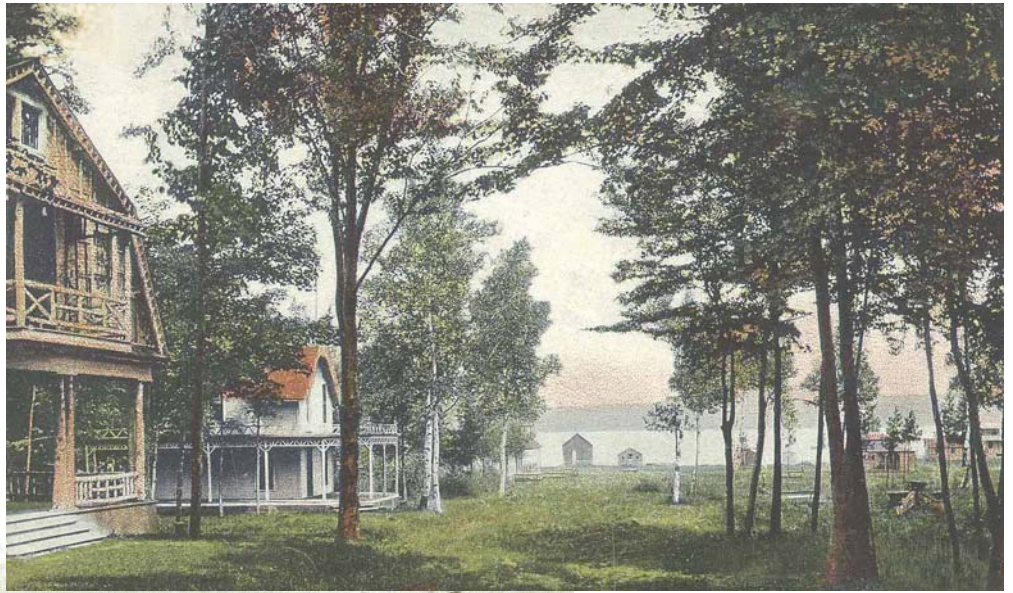
Mineral Spring  
at Northwest  
Corner of  
Crescent Beach  
Road and Morey  
Street

The “grounds” of the Park eventually featured a bandstand; ornamental flower planters and beds; fountains; mineral springs; lampposts; bridges crossing the stream running through the acreage; and a building for a hotel, restaurant, and store.



# Historic Views of Some Red Park Cottages

2942 Crescent  
Beach Road  
and 7334  
William Forth  
Avenue



2942 Crescent  
Beach Road

7376 William  
Forth Avenue





# Woodbine Cottage

20. "Woodbine" Cottage, northeast corner of C. G. Davis Avenue and Crescent Beach Road



Manistee Contractor R. J. B. Newcombe built for his family, "Woodbine," in 1895. It has the distinction of being the first cottage completed at Red Park. The origin of the name, "Red Park," has frequently been debated. Some agree that the Park was named for the color of paint used there, while others have attributed the name to the red cardinal flowers blooming in the area, the red of the bark on the cedars, or the designation for a town in Denmark interpreted as "Red Barn."



# Camp Tosebo

21. Camp Tosebo,  
7228 Miller Road



Red Park Pavilion

The whimsical architecture of Red Park included a pavilion, which was underway in August, 1895. The pavilion and the grounds of Red Park were embellished by the use of woodwork that was salvaged by

Newcombe from the 1874 Gothic Revival Manistee residence of James Shrigley, which the contractor renovated in 1894 for Edward Buckley. In 1901-1902, Noble Hill of Woodstock, Illinois, built

“Vista” cottage in Red Park, which had become the summer mecca of a number of well-known Manistee families, including those of Lumbermen Patrick Noud and Louis Sands as well as of Fred Cron and L. Wellman. Hill was headmaster of the Todd Seminary for Boys and in 1912 brought some of the boys to Red Park for a summer continuation of this boarding school.



“Vista” Cottage  
(Razed)





Fred Cron Cottage  
That Later Became  
Camp Tosebo's  
Welcome House

Red Park  
Pavilion



In 1914, Hill purchased from Christ Peterson of Manistee the Red Park pavilion and hired Swedish-born Charles A. Anderson, also of Manistee, to turn it into the Clubhouse for the camp. Anderson later built such notable projects as the 1927 Manistee High School and the 1930 Onekama School. The Clubhouse project cost \$10,000.



Camp  
Tosebo  
Clubhouse



Camp  
Tosebo  
Trunk  
House

In 1919, the name “Camp Tosebo” appeared in the booklet and register for the Camp. “Tosebo” was named in honor of the *TOdd* *SEminary BOys*. Some forty to sixty boys were “in residence” at one

time in summer sessions. Tosebo shared in Todd's prestige of having students who later became famous, such as Orson Welles who signed in at the Camp in 1932. Todd closed in 1954; the Camp was sold by the Hill family in 1962 and closed around 1978.



One of Two  
Camp Trucks,  
Bodies of  
Which Were  
Modified at  
Todd School

## Camp Tosebo Campground



The Clubhouse has recently operated as The Old Camp Tosebo Inn, a bed-and-breakfast. Four cottages, the Trunk House and Shower House, two Bunkhouses and the Craft House on the Campground, and the Boathouse near Portage Lake also are part of this complex.

Camp Tosebo appears on both the National Register of Historic Places and the Michigan State Register of Historic Sites.





# Crescent Beach

22. Crescent Beach, north of Crescent Beach Road, west of the intersection of Crescent Beach and Lakeshore Roads



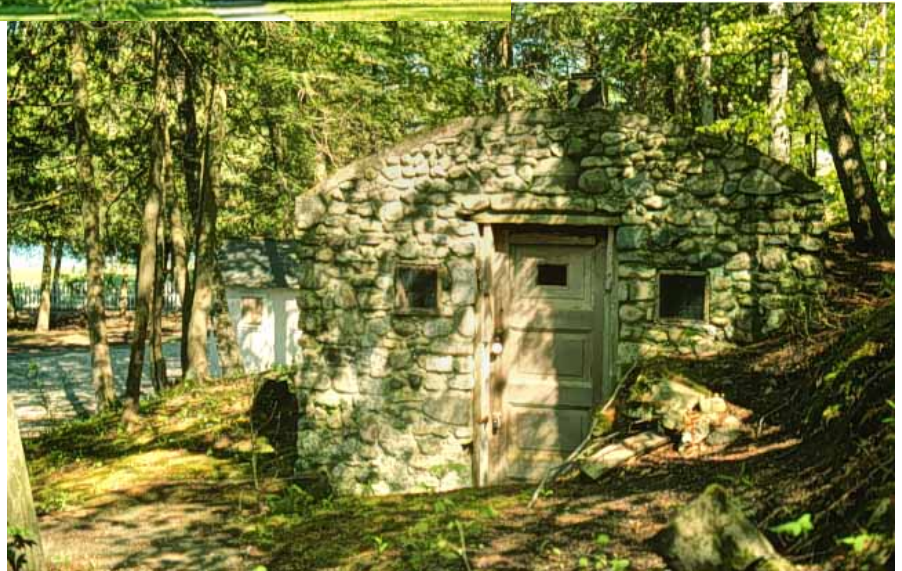
2370  
Crescent  
Beach  
Road

Descendants of Manistee Lumberman Louis Sands own summer homes in this area that extends to the shoreline of Portage Lake. The caretaker's house at 2370 Crescent Beach Road has a small greenhouse at one side of it. The dwelling at 2234 Crescent Beach Road was built for R. W. Smith, Sands' son-in-law, in 1909. The cellar behind this house was used to cool milk and cream from cows the

Sands descendants kept in a barn on the property. A gas well provided heat and light in the cottages during the early years.



2234  
Crescent  
Beach  
Road





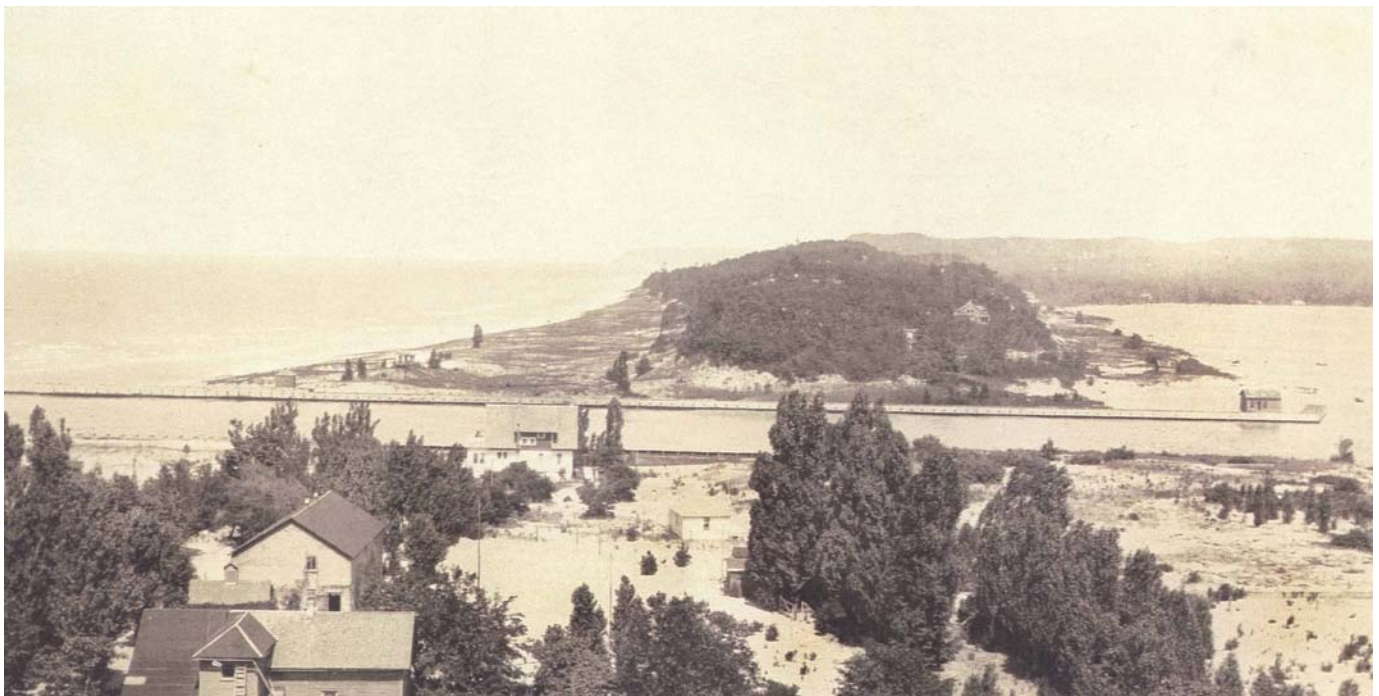


Kinney-  
Hardenbergh  
House, 2290  
Crescent  
Beach Road



# Williamsport

23. Williamsport, south of the Channel surrounding the end of Crescent Beach Road



Early View of the Lake Michigan-Portage Lake Channel Showing Buildings in the Williamsport Area

The day after the Channel opening in 1871, the tug “Caroline Williams” became the first boat to enter Portage Lake. In honor of this event, Williamsport was established by Andrew Shanks on his land on the south side of the Channel, where he operated a boardinghouse.

He also conducted a ferry service across the Channel. Members of the Ulrick Burkland (Berklund) family have lived in this area for years.  
Some Views of Historic Properties in the Williamsport Area

## 2110 Crescent Beach Road







2092  
Crescent  
Beach  
Road



1963  
Crescent  
Beach  
Road

1980  
Crescent  
Beach  
Road



Tom Gerhardt, May 2008



# Sandenburgh-Rogers House

24. \* ++ Sandenburgh-Rogers House,  
2046 Crescent Beach Road



A large frame dwelling with outbuildings that shows in early views of the Channel and Williamsport was the boardinghouse built in 1882-1883 by the Henry Sandenburghs. Around the turn of the last century, the Sandenburgh boardinghouse was surrounded by a few of the small number of buildings that Williamsport ever realized. The men who

worked on the Channel piers often were boarders of the Sandenburghs, who sold the property in 1909 to W. P. Rogers. The Rogerses named the property “Interlochen” and added to the lower story of the house a wraparound porch that appears in a photograph on a 1910 postcard. Rogers, who had been dean of the Cincinnati Law School, died in 1921. His wife, Belle, and daughters, Norine Rogers and Kathryn Gates, then were the principal family members under whose direction the house, outbuildings, and grounds acquired the notable and stylish appearance they have retained for many years. In 1936, the facade of the house was renovated once again to reflect the Colonial architecture of that era.

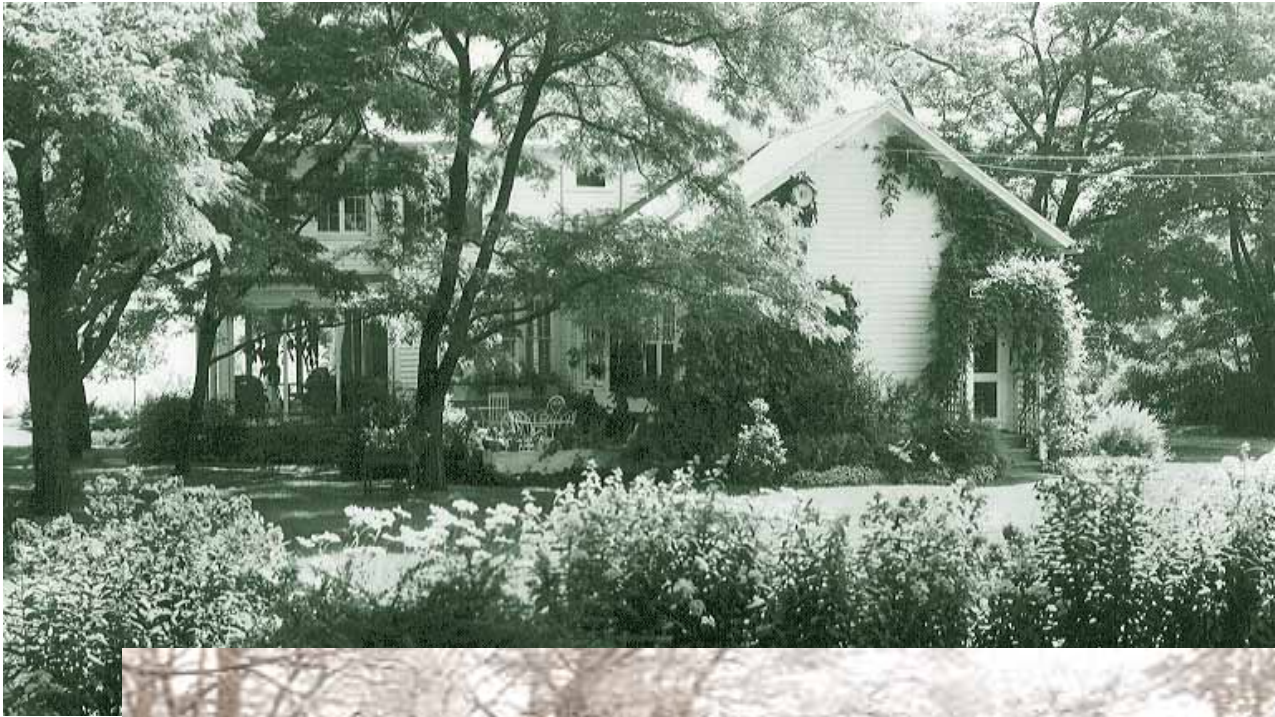
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### Sandenburgh-Rogers House as It Appears Today





Another addition to the rear for the present dining room was designed by Grand Rapids Architect J. Alexander McColl.



Upper Photo Is of Sandenburgh-Rogers House Before the Rear Addition Was Made That Appears in the Lower Photo



In the middle of the property is the 1935 studio where Mrs. Gates painted; it was a prefabricated structure provided by E. F. Hodgson of Dover, Massachusetts. A guesthouse, garage, stables, and maintenance building with apartment are also on the grounds.



Studio



Guesthouse





Stables



Gardens

