

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF  
PLYMOUTH  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
MEETING  
DECEMBER 5, 2019**

**ITEM 1**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**COMMISSION MEMBER ROLL CALL**

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF  
PLYMOUTH  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
MEETING  
DECEMBER 5, 2019**

**ITEM 2**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**



## **Meeting of the Plymouth Township Historic District Commission Wednesday, December 5, 2019 - 7 p.m.**

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*Next Meeting date March 26, 2020*

### **1) CALL TO ORDER**

#### **a) Commission member roll call**

### **2) Approval of the December 5, 2019 agenda**

### **3) Enactment of the Consent Agenda**

#### **a) Approval of the October 23, 2019 meeting minutes**

### **4) COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS**

### **5) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

### **6) NEW BUSINESS**

#### **a) Shearer Cemetery – *Wendy Harless***

- 1. Darrin Silvester, Plymouth Historian, Plymouth-Canton Teacher and expert on Shearer Cemetery is our guest**
- 2. Next Steps**

#### **b) Discussion on HDC Benefits – *Laura Haw***

#### **c) How to Write a Historic District Study Committee Report - *Laura Haw***

#### **d) Historic Plaque Program Discussion – *Laura Haw***

## **7) OLD BUSINESS**

**a) Plymouth Tourism Brochure and Mapping Exercise – *Jack Dempsey and Laura Haw***

1. Discussion of potential sites to include.

**b) Plymouth Township Historical Marker – *Jack Dempsey***

1. The State has approved with changes

**c) HDC Flow Chart Review – *Laura Haw***

**d) Photo Inventory of Resources Update – *General Discussion, no enclosed materials***

## **8) COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS**

## **9) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

## **10) ADJOURNMENT**

***The Public is invited and encouraged to attend all meetings of the Historic District  
Commission of the Charter Township of Plymouth***

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF  
PLYMOUTH  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
MEETING  
DECEMBER 5, 2019**

**ITEM 3**

**ENACTMENT OF CONSENT  
AGENDA**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**OCTOBER 23, 2019 MEETING**

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2019**

Chairperson Harless called the special meeting of the Historic District Commission to order at 7:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jack Dempsey  
Dennis Cebulski  
Kevin Gurtowsky  
Wendy Harless  
Sybil Hunter  
Jim Salamay (in at 7:10 p.m.)  
Carol Souchock

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Laura Haw, AICP, NCI, Planning Consultant  
Alice Geletzke, Recording Secretary  
1 Member of the Public

**2. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 23, 2019 AGENDA**

Moved by C. Souchock and seconded by D. Cebulski to approve the agenda for the special meeting of October 23, 2019. Ayes all.

**3. ENACTMENT OF CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Approval of September 26, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Spelling corrections were made to the names of K. Gurtowsky and C. Souchock.

Moved by D. Cebulski and seconded by K. Gurtowsky to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 26, 2019, as corrected. Ayes all.

**4. BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS**

J. Dempsey indicated he'd received an e-mail regarding a bill introduced in both houses of Congress called the Historic Tax Credit Growth and Opportunity Act. He also had questions regarding the project planned on the Court House Grill property and any opportunities to salvage structural items prior to demolition, if that should occur. The possibility of storing these items in the DPW area was mentioned.

C. Souchock had comments regarding the possibility of training for the commission and the award of grants by the Michigan Council for Arts and Public Affairs.

Chairperson Harless indicated that she received information from Supervisor Heise that the Township owns the Shearer Cemetery and is interested in making it a historic district. She suggested that commissioners inspect the site and return with ideas for the December meeting.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2019**

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

a. Historic District Creation Flow Chart - *Wendy*

1. Review the draft flow chart

Commissioners made suggestions to clarify the language in the suggested flow chart.

Moved by S. Hunter and supported by J. Salamay to accept the flow chart with suggested changes. Ayes all.

b. Plymouth Tourism Brochure – *Jack*

A brochure was distributed which was produced by the Plymouth Preservation Network regarding the City's Kellogg Park Historic District. Commissioners discussed the possibility of a brochure showing the Township's tourism, showing historical sites and sites illustrating the quality of life in the Township. The possibility of including this on-line initially and printing copies at a later date was mentioned. Chairperson Harless suggested that members compile a wish list for what might appear in the brochure for the December meeting, what size might be preferred, and the amount to print.

c. Discussions on the Open Meetings Act – *Laura*

1. Communication from the Township Attorney dated April 6, 2017 (originally provided to the Planning Commission but applicable to other appointed bodies); and the
2. Open Meetings Act Handbook

Ms. Haw recommended erring on the side of caution with e-mails, keeping in mind that a group e-mail can be used for disseminating information; but if input is requested, it is best to wait until a meeting or provide written comment directly to the Township to be read into the record at the next meeting.

**6. OLD BUSINESS**

a) Fee Schedule 2<sup>nd</sup> review – *Laura and Jack*

Commissioners reviewed the information on fees charged by other communities as gathered by Ms. Haw.

Moved by J. Salamay and supported by C Souchock that no fees be charged until August, 2020. Ayes all.

b) Web site text 2<sup>nd</sup> review – *Wendy*

Moved by K. Gurtowsky and seconded by S. Hunter to approve the second draft of the web site text. Ayes all.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2019**

**7. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS**

A resident of the Township discussed with Commissioners some of the regulations for becoming a historic district and what might be the advantages of doing so.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by C. Souchock and seconded by D. Cebulski to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Ayes all.

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Wendy Harless, Chairperson  
Plymouth Township Historic District Commission



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF  
PLYMOUTH  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
MEETING  
DECEMBER 5, 2019**

**ITEM 4**

**COMMISSION MEMBER  
COMMENTS**

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF  
PLYMOUTH  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
DECEMBER 5, 2019**

**ITEM 5**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF  
PLYMOUTH  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
MEETING  
DECEMBER 5, 2019**

**ITEM 6A**

**NEW BUSINESS  
SHEARER CEMETERY**



Charter Township of Plymouth  
9955 N. Haggerty Road  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
[plymouthtp.org](http://plymouthtp.org)

## APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC DESIGNATION

Community Development  
(Planning and Zoning)

**NOTE:** A single building or structure can qualify to become a historic district.

No fee is required for this application.

If you have any questions on the process or application, please contact the Community Development Department at:  
[planning@plymouthtp.org](mailto:planning@plymouthtp.org) or (734) 414.1453.

### APPLICATION DETAILS

<b>DATE:</b> October 28, 2019	<b>PROPERTY ADDRESS:</b> n/a - North Territorial (see attached legal description)	
<b>REQUESTOR NAME:</b> Mr. Jack Dempsey	<b>CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:</b> 734.414.1393	<b>CONTACT EMAIL:</b> <a href="mailto:jdempsey@plymouthtp.org">jdempsey@plymouthtp.org</a>
<b>CONTACT ADDRESS:</b> 9955 N. Haggerty Road Plymouth City MI State 48170 Zip Code		<b>PROPERTY TAX ID NO.(S):</b> R - 78 - 033 - 99 - 0002 - 000 R - 78 - - - - - R - 78 - - - - -
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>		

### DESCRIBE WHY YOUR PROPERTY SHOULD BE DESIGNATED AS HISTORIC

(See reverse side for Historic Property Description from Ordinance 1016 for Information)

See attached preliminary information.

HAVE YOU ATTACHED ANY SUPPORTING MATERIALS (PHOTOS, DRAWINGS, DOCUMENTS, ETC)? ☒ Yes ☐ No

### TOWNSHIP USE ONLY

<b>APPLICATION NO.:</b> HD01-1019	<b>PROJECT NAME:</b> Shearer Cemetery Historic Designation
<b>NOTES:</b> Subject property is approximately 0.63 acres and directly southeast of Canterbury Court of the Beacon Meadows subdivision. The site is zoned the R-1-H residential district where cemeteries are considered a Special Land Use. Note - this site should be rezoned to Public Lands. Designated on the Future Land Use Map of the 2015 Master Plan as "residential low intermediate density". This should also be changed during the 2020 Master Plan review.	



# PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

155 S. MAIN STREET  
PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN 48170  
(313) 455-8940



## FAX COVER SHEET

COMPANY/FIRM: Ply. Township

ATTENTION: Kathleen Keen-McLanahan

RE: Shearer Cemetery - If I find more info.  
I'll let you know

FROM: Beta Stewart

DATE: 3/4/99

NUMBER OF SHEETS: \_\_\_\_\_ (INCLUDING COVER SHEET)

## TELECOPIER TRANSMITTAL

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS FACSIMILE MESSAGE IS PRIVILEGED OR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION INTENDED ONLY FOR THE USE OF THE INDIVIDUAL OR ENTITY NAMED BELOW. IF THE READER OF THIS MESSAGE IS NOT THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, OR THE EMPLOYEE OR AGENT RESPONSIBLE TO DELIVER IT TO THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT ANY DISSEMINATION, DISTRIBUTION OR COPYING OF THIS COMMUNICATION IS NEITHER ALLOWED NOR INTENDED. IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS COMMUNICATION IN ERROR, PLEASE IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY US BY TELEPHONE AT THE ABOVE NUMBER, AND RETURN THE ORIGINAL MESSAGE TO US THE ABOVE ADDRESS VIA THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE.

# Abandoned cemetery

(Part II)

The abandoned cemetery on North Territorial Road in Plymouth Township was established in 1827 by one of Plymouth's earliest settlers—John Tibbitts.

Tibbitts arrived here in the spring of 1824, several months after the arrival of the first settlers—William and Allen Tibbitts.

JOHN TIBBITTS established his farm on North Territorial Road, just west of Beck.

The first tax roll taken in Plymouth Township in 1827 shows that Tibbitts owned 428 acres. His taxes that year were \$4.64. Until recently, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Garber had their residence on part of the old Tibbitts property. It is now a real estate development.

Tibbitts' barn was the place where the first meeting of Plymouth Township was held and the name Plymouth was adopted in 1827. At the meeting, Tibbitts was elected township clerk. For the remainder of his life he was active in township affairs—Poor Director from 1830-47, school inspector 1848-52, and township supervisor from 1853-54.

Tibbitts is mentioned in a number of the pioneer days written by A.B. Markham in 1877. Markham, one of the first to arrive in the area, included a list of "old timers" in his recollections. He listed Tibbitts as the first settler brought to the Plymouth area, and that a daughter of the Tibbitts was the second girl married in Plymouth. With engaging insight, Markham goes on to say "these items may appear to be trifles, but they are pioneer history."

THE GRAVESTONES OF Mr. and Mrs. John Tibbitts were among those that Dr. Robert Bowen found and removed when he visited the cemetery in 1858 as a young student.

Mrs. Tibbitts died Oct. 3, 1856, at age 74. She was born in 1782, the year the



PLYMOUTH—  
PAST AND  
PRESENT  
by  
Eva Bates

Century ending the Revolutionary War was signed with Britain.

John Tibbitts, who was born the same year as his wife, died Aug. 27, 1856, at age 77—six months before the Civil War began.

The Tibbitts were not the first to be buried in the cemetery they established. Beginning in 1809, at least eight burials took place at the site before Mrs. Tibbitts was buried there. Their names, and the others Dr. Bowen recorded, all will be published in Part III of this article.

Mrs. Elizabeth Hathaway Purdy, the first wife of another township supervisor—was among those buried in the old cemetery. Born in 1789, she died Oct. 13, 1846, at age 51. Her husband, James Purdy, served as school trustee in 1817, poor director in 1830, township supervisor in 1831, 1834, 1837, 1840, 1843, 1846, 1849, 1852, 1855, 1858, 1861, 1864, 1867, 1870, 1873, 1876, 1879, 1882, 1885, 1888, 1891, 1894, 1897, 1900, 1903, 1906, 1909, 1912, 1915, 1918, 1921, 1924, 1927, 1930, 1933, 1936, 1939, 1942, 1945, 1948, 1951, 1954, 1957, 1960, 1963, 1966, 1969, 1972, 1975, 1978, 1981, 1984, 1987, 1990, 1993, 1996, 1999, 2002, 2005, 2008, 2011, 2014, 2017, 2020, 2023, 2026, 2029, 2032, 2035, 2038, 2041, 2044, 2047, 2050, 2053, 2056, 2059, 2062, 2065, 2068, 2071, 2074, 2077, 2080, 2083, 2086, 2089, 2092, 2095, 2098, 2101, 2104, 2107, 2110, 2113, 2116, 2119, 2122, 2125, 2128, 2131, 2134, 2137, 2140, 2143, 2146, 2149, 2152, 2155, 2158, 2161, 2164, 2167, 2170, 2173, 2176, 2179, 2182, 2185, 2188, 2191, 2194, 2197, 2200, 2203, 2206, 2209, 2212, 2215, 2218, 2221, 2224, 2227, 2230, 2233, 2236, 2239, 2242, 2245, 2248, 2251, 2254, 2257, 2260, 2263, 2266, 2269, 2272, 2275, 2278, 2281, 2284, 2287, 2290, 2293, 2296, 2299, 2302, 2305, 2308, 2311, 2314, 2317, 2320, 2323, 2326, 2329, 2332, 2335, 2338, 2341, 2344, 2347, 2350, 2353, 2356, 2359, 2362, 2365, 2368, 2371, 2374, 2377, 2380, 2383, 2386, 2389, 2392, 2395, 2398, 2401, 2404, 2407, 2410, 2413, 2416, 2419, 2422, 2425, 2428, 2431, 2434, 2437, 2440, 2443, 2446, 2449, 2452, 2455, 2458, 2461, 2464, 2467, 2470, 2473, 2476, 2479, 2482, 2485, 2488, 2491, 2494, 2497, 2500, 2503, 2506, 2509, 2512, 2515, 2518, 2521, 2524, 2527, 2530, 2533, 2536, 2539, 2542, 2545, 2548, 2551, 2554, 2557, 2560, 2563, 2566, 2569, 2572, 2575, 2578, 2581, 2584, 2587, 2590, 2593, 2596, 2599, 2602, 2605, 2608, 2611, 2614, 2617, 2620, 2623, 2626, 2629, 2632, 2635, 2638, 2641, 2644, 2647, 2650, 2653, 2656, 2659, 2662, 2665, 2668, 2671, 2674, 2677, 2680, 2683, 2686, 2689, 2692, 2695, 2698, 2701, 2704, 2707, 2710, 2713, 2716, 2719, 2722, 2725, 2728, 2731, 2734, 2737, 2740, 2743, 2746, 2749, 2752, 2755, 2758, 2761, 2764, 2767, 2770, 2773, 2776, 2779, 2782, 2785, 2788, 2791, 2794, 2797, 2800, 2803, 2806, 2809, 2812, 2815, 2818, 2821, 2824, 2827, 2830, 2833, 2836, 2839, 2842, 2845, 2848, 2851, 2854, 2857, 2860, 2863, 2866, 2869, 2872, 2875, 2878, 2881, 2884, 2887, 2890, 2893, 2896, 2899, 2902, 2905, 2908, 2911, 2914, 2917, 2920, 2923, 2926, 2929, 2932, 2935, 2938, 2941, 2944, 2947, 2950, 2953, 2956, 2959, 2962, 2965, 2968, 2971, 2974, 2977, 2980, 2983, 2986, 2989, 2992, 2995, 2998, 3001, 3004, 3007, 3010, 3013, 3016, 3019, 3022, 3025, 3028, 3031, 3034, 3037, 3040, 3043, 3046, 3049, 3052, 3055, 3058, 3061, 3064, 3067, 3070, 3073, 3076, 3079, 3082, 3085, 3088, 3091, 3094, 3097, 3100, 3103, 3106, 3109, 3112, 3115, 3118, 3121, 3124, 3127, 3130, 3133, 3136, 3139, 3142, 3145, 3148, 3151, 3154, 3157, 3160, 3163, 3166, 3169, 3172, 3175, 3178, 3181, 3184, 3187, 3190, 3193, 3196, 3199, 3202, 3205, 3208, 3211, 3214, 3217, 3220, 3223, 3226, 3229, 3232, 3235, 3238, 3241, 3244, 3247, 3250, 3253, 3256, 3259, 3262, 3265, 3268, 3271, 3274, 3277, 3280, 3283, 3286, 3289, 3292, 3295, 3298, 3301, 3304, 3307, 3310, 3313, 3316, 3319, 3322, 3325, 3328, 3331, 3334, 3337, 3340, 3343, 3346, 3349, 3352, 3355, 3358, 3361, 3364, 3367, 3370, 3373, 3376, 3379, 3382, 3385, 3388, 3391, 3394, 3397, 3400, 3403, 3406, 3409, 3412, 3415, 3418, 3421, 3424, 3427, 3430, 3433, 3436, 3439, 3442, 3445, 3448, 3451, 3454, 3457, 3460, 3463, 3466, 3469, 3472, 3475, 3478, 3481, 3484, 3487, 3490, 3493, 3496, 3499, 3502, 3505, 3508, 3511, 3514, 3517, 3520, 3523, 3526, 3529, 3532, 3535, 3538, 3541, 3544, 3547, 3550, 3553, 3556, 3559, 3562, 3565, 3568, 3571, 3574, 3577, 3580, 3583, 3586, 3589, 3592, 3595, 3598, 3601, 3604, 3607, 3610, 3613, 3616, 3619, 3622, 3625, 3628, 3631, 3634, 3637, 3640, 3643, 3646, 3649, 3652, 3655, 3658, 3661, 3664, 3667, 3670, 3673, 3676, 3679, 3682, 3685, 3688, 3691, 3694, 3697, 3700, 3703, 3706, 3709, 3712, 3715, 3718, 3721, 3724, 3727, 3730, 3733, 3736, 3739, 3742, 3745, 3748, 3751, 3754, 3757, 3760, 3763, 3766, 3769, 3772, 3775, 3778, 3781, 3784, 3787, 3790, 3793, 3796, 3799, 3802, 3805, 3808, 3811, 3814, 3817, 3820, 3823, 3826, 3829, 3832, 3835, 3838, 3841, 3844, 3847, 3850, 3853, 3856, 3859, 3862, 3865, 3868, 3871, 3874, 3877, 3880, 3883, 3886, 3889, 3892, 3895, 3898, 3901, 3904, 3907, 3910, 3913, 3916, 3919, 3922, 3925, 3928, 3931, 3934, 3937, 3940, 3943, 3946, 3949, 3952, 3955, 3958, 3961, 3964, 3967, 3970, 3973, 3976, 3979, 3982, 3985, 3988, 3991, 3994, 3997, 4000, 4003, 4006, 4009, 4012, 4015, 4018, 4021, 4024, 4027, 4030, 4033, 4036, 4039, 4042, 4045, 4048, 4051, 4054, 4057, 4060, 4063, 4066, 4069, 4072, 4075, 4078, 4081, 4084, 4087, 4090, 4093, 4096, 4099, 4102, 4105, 4108, 4111, 4114, 4117, 4120, 4123, 4126, 4129, 4132, 4135, 4138, 4141, 4144, 4147, 4150, 4153, 4156, 4159, 4162, 4165, 4168, 4171, 4174, 4177, 4180, 4183, 4186, 4189, 4192, 4195, 4198, 4201, 4204, 4207, 4210, 4213, 4216, 4219, 4222, 4225, 4228, 4231, 4234, 4237, 4240, 4243, 4246, 4249, 4252, 4255, 4258, 4261, 4264, 4267, 4270, 4273, 4276, 4279, 4282, 4285, 4288, 4291, 4294, 4297, 4300, 4303, 4306, 4309, 4312, 4315, 4318, 4321, 4324, 4327, 4330, 4333, 4336, 4339, 4342, 4345, 4348, 4351, 4354, 4357, 4360, 4363, 4366, 4369, 4372, 4375, 4378, 4381, 4384, 4387, 4390, 4393, 4396, 4399, 4402, 4405, 4408, 4411, 4414, 4417, 4420, 4423, 4426, 4429, 4432, 4435, 4438, 4441, 4444, 4447, 4450, 4453, 4456, 4459, 4462, 4465, 4468, 4471, 4474, 4477, 4480, 4483, 4486, 4489, 4492, 4495, 4498, 4501, 4504, 4507, 4510, 4513, 4516, 4519, 4522, 4525, 4528, 4531, 4534, 4537, 4540, 4543, 4546, 4549, 4552, 4555, 4558, 4561, 4564, 4567, 4570, 4573, 4576, 4579, 4582, 4585, 4588, 4591, 4594, 4597, 4600, 4603, 4606, 4609, 4612, 4615, 4618, 4621, 4624, 4627, 4630, 4633, 4636, 4639, 4642, 4645, 4648, 4651, 4654, 4657, 4660, 4663, 4666, 4669, 4672, 4675, 4678, 4681, 4684, 4687, 4690, 4693, 4696, 4699, 4702, 4705, 4708, 4711, 4714, 4717, 4720, 4723, 4726, 4729, 4732, 4735, 4738, 4741, 4744, 4747, 4750, 4753, 4756, 4759, 4762, 4765, 4768, 4771, 4774, 4777, 4780, 4783, 4786, 4789, 4792, 4795, 4798, 4801, 4804, 4807, 4810, 4813, 4816, 4819, 4822, 4825, 4828, 4831, 4834, 4837, 4840, 4843, 4846, 4849, 4852, 4855, 4858, 4861, 4864, 4867, 4870, 4873, 4876, 4879, 4882, 4885, 4888, 4891, 4894, 4897, 4900, 4903, 4906, 4909, 4912, 4915, 4918, 4921, 4924, 4927, 4930, 4933, 4936, 4939, 4942, 4945, 4948, 4951, 4954, 4957, 4960, 4963, 4966, 4969, 4972, 4975, 4978, 4981, 4984, 4987, 4990, 4993, 4996, 5000.

The Purdys were married in 1808 and first settled on a farm in Remuda. Purdy sold that farm and moved to a farm in Plymouth in 1828, four years after the first settlers arrived. He was among those instrumental in organizing the Presbyterian Church in Plymouth. He and Ira Brownson were named first elders of the church.

A tribute to Elizabeth Hathaway Purdy is contained in a manuscript written by her brother-in-law in 1853. He writes that her death was a great loss "for a better woman as a companion, a housekeeper, a mother and kind neighbor could hardly be found."

THE SHEARER GRAVESTONES which Dr. Bowen found belonged to

the wife and daughter of State Senator Jonathan Shearer, who lived on a farm not far from the cemetery.

Also represented by a stone in the cemetery was Shearer's wife, Christina Devall, a native of Newport, Rhode Island. Dr. Bowen was not able to find details of her birth and death. Mrs. Shearer, of French descent, was a teacher at one of Plymouth's earliest schools—the Miller District. A lot school house, it was located on the Maroon Miller farm on North Territorial Road.

# ry was started by pioneer

car of State Senator who lived on a farm cemetery by a stone in the area's wife, Christ- alive of Newport. Bowen was not able her birth and death. French descent, was Plymouth's earliest. District. A log res located on the n on North Territo-

The Shearers were married in 1823 in Phelps, N.Y. They arrived in Plymouth in 1834, 11 years after the community was founded. They came here from Coleraine, Mass. Shearer, born Aug. 25, 1784, was 40 when he set- tled in Plymouth Township. When Plymouth's first railroad line was built in 1871, it went through a hill north of the cemetery which an old photo identifies as Shearer's Cut. A street in the township, running east off Sheldon Road opposite the Western Electric plant, was named Shearer

Drive. It disappeared recently when the Jeffries Freeway was under construction. Shearer lost no time in getting estab- lished the year after he arrived here he was elected supervisor of Plymouth Township, a position he also held in

1867 and 1868. From 1838 to 1841 he was chairman of the Wayne County Commission. (Part III will continue the story of Senator Shearer, and will include a complete list of the names on the 21 gravesites.)



# Fate of cemetery

By SAM HUDSON  
(Part III)

In 1841, Jonathan Shearer, a resident of Plymouth whose wife and daughter are buried in the old cemetery on North Territorial Road, was elected to the Michigan Senate.

He served as Senator for three sessions. The district then comprised the counties of Wayne, Macomb, St. Clair, Sanilac and Huron. In 1851, he was elected to the House of Representatives where he served two years.

Senator Shearer was a close friend of another prominent Plymboothite, Ebenezer J. Pennington. Pennington, the first person from Plymouth to be elected to the U.S. Congress, served in Washington from 1851 to 1853.

**SHEARER WAS AMONG** those who secured the establishment of the State Normal School, now known as Eastern Michigan University, in Ypsilanti. He died at his home in Plymouth in 1881, age 61.

Although his gravestone was not among those that Dr. Robert Bowen found in 1924, it is possible that he could have been buried near his wife and daughter. Records were still taking place at the site as late as 1894.

The young daughter of a Plymouth Township highway commissioner was among those buried at the cemetery. Her name was Hattie. She was only three when she died. Dr. Bowen notes that the high mortality period for people in most societies is the 3-5 years category, and that the people represented by the 21 gravestones he found had a life expectancy of 41 years.

Hattie was the daughter of J.I. Johnson, highway commissioner in 1888. She was born in 1883 and died August 23, 1885.

In addition to Christina Shearer, at least one other school teacher was buried at the old cemetery on North Territorial Road. Christanna D. Miller, wife of William Miller, whose farm was northwest of what is now Junction Street, taught school at a log school house in Plymouth.

Called the Bradner school, it was located on land adjoining the Charles Bradner farm. Mrs. Miller, born in 1829, died on April 28, 1894, age 37. Her gravestone was among the 21 recorded

by Dr. Bowen 22 years ago who visited the site as a graduate student in anthropology.

**I WENT TO VISIT** the old cemetery in August of this year. Of those Bowen had on his list, I found only gravestones of Mrs. Elizabeth P. M. Gilt, William Blackmer, D. Myers, and a fragment of the gravestone of Betsey Shearer. There another gravestone, but it was in under a fallen tree.

The trees at the site have grown considerably since 1902, and the ground cover is exceptionally dense. There may be more gravestones at the site but this is not the best time of the year to hunt for them.

I also found several beer cans, in one corner of the lot, a wooden apparently erected by boys.

Who is responsible for the little that an acre of heavily wooded with its remaining remembrance citizens prominent in the life of community during its early days? W.W. Edgar of the Plymouth Observer tried to determine the answer to question four years ago. He reports the results of his endeavor in an article which appeared in the July 1974 issue of this newspaper.

Edgar was told by an official of Michigan State Cemetery Commission that the North Territorial Road Cemetery is one of several hundred sites around the state once used for family burial plots. Because the cemetery is owned by the state, the plots are left to the ravages of time and the weather.

Plymouth Township officials Edgar that many unsuccessful attempts have been made to establish ownership of the cemetery. He learned that after the Tibbits passed away, the cemetery was called "the old St. Paul Farm Cemetery," and, at an time, "the Lee Farm Cemetery." recorded by Dr. Bowen is the Amanda Lee, wife of Martin Lee. In 1882, Mrs. Lee died December 1880).

If ownership of the old cemetery ever established, there are those who would like to see the property cleaned and placed on the township rolls.

# of cemetery still unsettled

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Christina Shearer, at  
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Mrs. Miller, born in  
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by Dr. Bowen 22 years ago when he  
visited the site as a graduate student  
in anthropology.

I WENT TO VISIT the old cemetery  
in August of this year. Of those Dr.  
Bowen had on his list, I found only the  
gravestones of Mrs. Elizabeth Purdy,  
M. Gilk, William Blackmar, Daniel  
Myers, and a fragment of the grave-  
stone of Betsy Shearer. There was  
another gravestone, but it was buried  
under a fallen tree.

The trees at the site have grown con-  
siderably since 1966, and the ground  
cover is exceptionally dense. There  
may be more gravestones at the site,  
but this is not the best time of the year  
to hunt for them.

I also found several beer cans, and,  
in one corner of the lot, a wooden hut  
apparently erected by boys.

Who is responsible for the little less  
than an acre of heavily wooded land  
with its remaining remembrances of  
citizens prominent in the life of the  
community during its early days?  
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Eddie was told by an official of the  
Michigan State Cemetery Commission  
that the North-Territorial Road Ceme-  
tery is one of several hundred similar  
sites around the state once used as  
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cannot establish who owns the land,  
these plots are left to the encroach-  
ment of weeds and vandals and the  
ravages of time and the weather.

Plymouth Township officials told  
Edgar that many unsuccessful  
attempts have been made to establish  
ownership of the cemetery. He learned  
that after the Tibbits passed away, the  
cemetery was called "the old Shearer  
Farm Cemetery," and, at another  
time, "the Lee Farm Cemetery." (One  
of the names on the gravestones  
recorded by Dr. Bowen is that of  
Amanda Lee, wife of Martin Lee. Born  
in 1803, Mrs. Lee died December 10,  
1839).

If ownership of the old cemetery is  
ever established, there are those who  
would like to see the property devel-  
oped and placed on the township tax  
rolls.



PLYMOUTH  
PAST AND  
PRESENT  
by  
Sam Hudson

"It sure would make a beautiful  
building site," a township official told  
Eddie.

Those who support the view may  
assume that the remains of those  
buried at the cemetery have found  
another sleeping place.

"I can recall helping my father dis-  
inter bodies out there," Eddie was told  
by Plymouth funeral director Edwin  
(Bud) Schrader. "But don't ask me  
where they were taken—I just don't  
remember, it was so long ago."

BOWEN BELIEVES that the ceme-  
tery should be permanently set aside  
as a historic site and protected from  
possible further desecration.

There is no doubt that the plot has  
historical significance. We have few  
such places in the Plymouth area, and,  
as time goes on, what few we have will  
assume greater importance.

The names and dates Dr. Bowen  
recorded from the gravestones in 1966  
are printed below for purposes of his-  
toric record. It is possible that a  
descendent or descendants of some of  
those buried in the cemetery may recog-  
nize their kin. If so, they may have  
further information which will help to  
establish ownership of the plot. Or  
they may have interest in starting a  
movement to restore what is left of the  
neglected cemetery.

One final thought. Although the State  
Cemetery Commission reported that  
the cemetery was a family plot, not a  
licensed cemetery as we have today, it  
is strange that many people other than  
the Tibbits, the Shearers, and the Lees  
were buried there.

Perhaps the place was actually  
declared a public cemetery at one  
time. (Tibbits is said to have estab-  
lished it in 1832, and the use of  
detached, that is non-family, ceme-  
teries began in the U.S. as early as 1831).  
If so, and this could be proven, the law  
indicates that the community in which  
such a cemetery is located is respon-  
sible for its maintenance.

## HERE IS THE LIST:

1. Lyon, Miles, born 1790, died Aug. 26, 1839 at age 49;
2. Saxler, William, born 1774, died Oct. 15, 1839 at age 65;
3. Lee, Amanda, wife of Martin Lee born 1803, died Dec. 10, 1839 at age 36;
4. Hathaway, Eliz., wife of James Purdy, born 1789, died Oct. 13, 1840 at age 51;
5. Huth, wife of Jereman Angell, born 1789, died Aug. 24, 1849 at age 60;
6. Willis, Horace, son of Horace and Lydia Angell, died Sept. 26, 1849;
7. Gilk, M., born 1772, died Aug. 24, 1850 at age 78;
8. Blackmar, Celestia, daughter of Wm. and L. Blackmar, born 1844, died June 16, 1851 at age 7;
9. Hobb, R., wife of John Tibbits, born 1783, died Oct. 3;
10. Shearer, Betsy A. daughter of J. & C. born 1835, died May 15, 1857 at age 22;
11. Tibbits, John, born 1783, died Aug. 24, 1860 at age 77;
12. Blackmar, Wm., born 1807, died Mar. 17, 1862 at age 55;
13. Myers, Daniel, born 1836, died May 4, 1866 at age 30;
14. Hattiel, daughter of J.L. & R. Johnson, born 1863, died Aug. 23, 1866(?) at age 3;
15. Miller, Christianna D., wife of William Miller, born 1829, died April 20, 1866 at age 37;
16. Unknown, died 1868;
17. Annam, daughter of G. & C. Leegborn 1868, died Jan. 10, 1879 at age 11;
18. Unknown, born 1842, died 1886 at age 44;
19. Smith, S. of—Angell(?), born 1886, died Jan. 11, 1889 at age 2;
20. Mathews, David W. Co. F., Mich. L.A.;
21. Shearer, Christiana, wife of J. Shearer.

21



*Yours truly*  
*D. Shearer*

THIRD PRESIDENT OF THE MICHIGAN STATE  
PIONEER SOCIETY.

Jonathan Shearer, pioneer and farmer of Plymouth, Michigan, was born in Franklin county, State of Massachusetts, August 23d, 1796. His father, William Shearer, at that time a farmer, was an honored soldier and officer in the war of the revolution. His mother, Elizabeth Morton, was the daughter of a prominent merchant and ship owner of Boston, in his day. Jonathan was the seventh son of his parents, with whom he resided most of the time until he became of age. At the call of his country at the early age of seventeen years, he served as a volunteer under General Macomb in the campaign of 1814. He received his education in the academy of Professor Hitchcock of Deerfield, Massachusetts, and of Professor Chase of Rensselaer county, New York.

After leaving school he studied medicine two years and law one year, and then abandoned the idea of a professional life and adopted that of a farmer. In the year 1822 he removed to the town of Phelps, Ontario county, State of New York, where he bought a farm and was married the same year to Christina Duvall, a native of Newport, Rhode Island. They had six children, only two of whom, George W. M. Shearer, who now resides in Jackson, and Joseph J. Shearer, in Greenville, Michigan, survive him. At the time of his settlement in Phelps, the country was comparatively new and unimproved, but soon after that, the Erie canal was opened through to Buffalo, lands rapidly raised in value, he having in the meantime improved his farm, built good buildings, and was very successful in his farming and business operations. After a residence in Phelps of fourteen years, he sold his farm there in the early spring of 1836, and turned his course westward, and fell in with the great mass then swarming to Michigan and other western States. He made an extensive prospecting tour through a great portion of the lower peninsula of this State, mostly on foot, at which time he selected and purchased about 1,300 acres of new, unimproved lands—a section of 640 acres in the county of Ingham, and the remainder in Genesee and Lapeer counties—besides a farm of 120 acres in the town of Plymouth, Wayne county, for a homestead, on which improvements were just commenced. He removed his family there in

Arbor, then just established, which position he occupied until 1874, when he resigned.

He was for some years a member and the president of the Board of State Charities.

Noon after taking up his residence in Detroit he became deeply interested in the early history of that city and of the northwest. In 1854, as president of the Young Men's Society, he read a paper on "The Early History of Detroit." Soon after, he with others, engaged in reviving the old Historical Society of Michigan, and for some years it had frequent meetings. Mr. Walker prepared several papers, which were read before the society; among them were the following: "De La Motte Cadillac and the First Ten Years of Detroit;" "The Early Jesuits in Michigan;" "Michigan from 1796 to 1805;" "The Civil Administration of General Hull."

In 1871 he read before the Historical Society of Wisconsin a paper, now published in the third volume of the Pioneer Collections, "The Northwest During the Revolution."

#### JONATHAN SHEARER, THIRD PRESIDENT OF THE MICHIGAN STATE PIONEER SOCIETY.

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June, 1836, where he resided until his death, which occurred September 20th, 1881. He was in independent circumstances pecuniarily, and died at the ripe old age of 85, in the possession of all his faculties, full of honors as of years.

He was elected and served five years as supervisor of his adopted town of Plymouth, two years as superintendent of the county poor, three years as a county commissioner, during which time he was largely instrumental in purchasing and establishing the present Wayne county poorhouse and farm.

In 1841, he was elected State senator for the district then comprising the counties of Wayne, Macomb, St. Clair, Sanilac, and Huron, to serve an unexpired term of one year. The next year he was re-elected for two years, the full term, in the same district, thus serving in the Senate for the sessions of 1842, '43, and '44. In 1851, he was elected a member of the House of Representatives, where he served for two years, and in 1867 he was elected and served as a member of the State Constitutional Convention.

While in the Senate he was very active in securing the passage of a law to establish county agricultural societies, and under which law, as amended in 1847, the present State Agricultural Society was organized, and of which he was an officer for a number of years.

He was one of the early and efficient members of this Pioneer Society, was elected and served as its third President for the years 1876-7, and did much to help establish it in the hearts of the people of Michigan, as an instrumentality for obtaining a correct knowledge of the early settlers, pioneers, and history of the State.

Mr. Shoarer was an indefatigable and intelligent worker in all the offices so honorably filled by him.

He was a good and successful farmer, was always an enthusiastic promoter of every project favoring agriculture and its improvement, a liberal and successful exhibitor, and supporter of our early county and State fairs.

He was a man of great energy and perseverance, earnest in his purposes, a warm but conservative democrat all his life, but ever holding the public interest as his first and sacred duty. He was a citizen and pioneer of which any State might well be proud; for it is to the labors, trials, and indomitable energies and services for the *right*, of such men that Michigan can ascribe her present enviable position among the great States of this prosperous and free government.

#### THE OLD THOMPSON TAVERN AT DEARBORNVILLE.

Mr. Thompson, the original proprietor of the old log tavern at Dearbornville, left it in the autumn of 1836, and was succeeded by his son-in-law, John Cochran. In the spring of 1837 Capt. Webb, who was stationed at the arsenal, claimed that the building stood on Government ground, and ordered it moved off. His order not being complied with, he took about fifty ordnance men and men in the Government employ at the arsenal, with tackles and falls, and tore it down. Col. Joshua Howard was United States marshal, and resided at Dearborn; he laid out the village, and was overseer of the Government buildings. In order to prevent trouble, on the evening previous to the date decided upon for the destruction of the tavern, he went there and remained over night; the next morning the siege commenced. Col. Howard ordered the soldiers away, and tried to prevent the destruction of the building, but they paid no heed to him.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF  
PLYMOUTH  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
MEETING  
DECEMBER 5, 2019**

**ITEM 6B**

**DISCUSSION ON HDC BENEFITS**



# Memorandum

**TO:** Historic District Commission  
Charter Township of Plymouth, Michigan

**FROM:** Laura E. Haw, AICP, NCI, Senior Principal Planner  
Natalie Bond, Assistant Planner

**SUBJECT:** Item 6.B – HDC Benefits

**DATE:** November 20, 2019

## **BRAINSTORMING SESSION - HDC BENEFITS**

At the October HDC meeting it was raised by a member of the public, what the benefits of creating a Historic District are. Please come ready to share some ideas that we can formally post on the website and include in any promotional material, such as:

- Preserve and highlight the historical landmarks with the Plymouth community.
- Drive economic growth through increased tourism and interest.
- Educate the community about local history.

The above advantages are more related to community-wide benefits; we should also consider the direct benefits to property owners.

Should you have any questions prior to the meeting, please do not hesitate to contact us at the Township, at [planning@plymouthtwp.org](mailto:planning@plymouthtwp.org). Thank you.



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF  
PLYMOUTH  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
MEETING  
DECEMBER 5, 2019**

**ITEM 6c**

**HOW TO WRITE A HISTORIC DISTRICT  
STUDY COMMITTEE REPORT**

## **DRAFT 12/2002**

### **“How to Write a Historic District Study Committee Report”**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

The purpose of the historic district study committee report is to establish the legal basis for the creation of a local historic district. Historical data about a proposed district is collected, analyzed, summarized and presented in the report in a clear and concise manner to illustrate the historic significance of a district. The report should justify why a local historic district is being created and establish the boundaries for the district. The report serves as a source of information for a variety of audiences including:

- the historic district commission as it fulfills its duties as the regulatory body for the district
- planners when decisions on development projects are made within the community;
- professional consultants hired to do historic reviews for federally funded projects; and
- teachers and others in the community interested in using the information to create educational programs about a community's heritage.

#### **Components of the Report**

Section 399.203 of Public Act 169 of 1970 (PA 169), as amended, *Michigan's Local Historic Districts Act*, requires that a historic district study committee report contain, at a minimum, six (6) items: 1) the charge of the committee; 2) the composition of the committee membership; 3) the name of the proposed historic district(s); 4) the written and visual boundaries of the district; 5) the history of the proposed district; 6) the significance of the district highlighted by information on a number of the individual resources within the district that relate to that significance. Over the years, the State Historic Preservation Office has found it appropriate to include additional information in the report and in August 2002, the Michigan Historical Center established criteria that requires the following information to be included in the historic district study committee report: a boundary justification, a list of historic and a list of non-historic resources in the district, photographs of the resources highlighted in the report, the total count of the number of resources in the proposed district and percentage of historic to non-historic resources. Below is an explanation of the type of information it would be helpful to include in each component of the report.

#### **Charge of the Committee**

The local unit of government, through a resolution, must appoint the members of the historic district study committee. In the study committee report, the charge should contain the following information:

- Name of the municipal body that appointed the historic district study committee
- Date the resolution to appoint the historic district study committee was adopted

- A short verbal description of the general geographic area the committee was asked to study

### **Composition of Committee Membership**

The name of each study committee member should be listed in the report. Because PA 169 requires that the majority of study committee members have a “demonstrated interest” in historic preservation, it is a good idea to show how committee members fulfill this requirement by listing their historic preservation interests and affiliations. This need not be a lengthy description. For example, the study committee member list could look something like this:

John Doe, member, Elk County Historical Society  
 LeeAnn Pratt, architect, Smith and Wells, Inc.  
 Tom Baker, property owner, Lincoln Heights Historic District  
 Sue Richards, planner, Elk City  
 Eileen Jones, compiled a comprehensive history of Elk City for the city’s Centennial celebration  
 Brian Harris, member, Elk County Historic District Commission  
 Todd Baron, archaeologist, Elk College

### **The Historic District(s) Studied**

This is simply the name(s) given to the proposed district(s) that result from the study. For example, “Elk Park Historic District” or the “Adolph Stephenson Farmstead Historic District.” District names are typically based on the historic name associated with the property or area.

### **The Boundaries of the Proposed District(s)**

PA 169 requires that the study committee report include both a written boundary description and a visual depiction of the boundary on a map. The purpose of the maps is to enable readers of the report to determine which individual properties in a given area are or are not included in the district. Thus, the maps should be of a level of detail and quality where this can clearly be seen. Sometimes, more than one map may need to be included in the report.

#### **Verbal Boundary Description**

The verbal boundary description should be a legal description of the district boundary. The description should be written so that federal, state, and city planning agencies or a property owner can clearly identify the district’s limits and what properties are included in it. Depending on the size of the district the verbal description of the district could be:

- Legal parcel number
- Block and lot number
- Metes and bounds, or
- Dimensions of a parcel of land, reckoning from a landmark, such as a natural or cultural feature. The description should begin at a fixed reference point and then follow the perimeter of the district, including dimensions and directions.

While parcel numbers can be used, we do not recommend that they be the sole source of identification for the district. Parcels can be merged or eliminated which can cause confusion when trying to identify a district's boundaries in the future. If parcel numbers are used, we recommend also including a metes and bounds description of the district's boundaries.

### **Visual Boundary Description**

The visual boundaries of the proposed district should be clearly and boldly drawn on a map so they are easily distinguishable in the original report and on any copies that are made of the map(s). The final map should be of a size and format that will allow it to be bound within the body of the report: 8 ½ by 11 inches for most districts or 11 x 17 inches with 2 vertical folds for larger districts. Each map should include all of the following:

- Name of the proposed district
- Name of the community and county
- Date the map was created
- Key identifying any symbols used on the map
- North arrow
- All streets in the proposed district with their names clearly labeled
- Street addresses for all properties in the proposed district
- Lot Lines
- Footprints or an outline representation (rectangles or squares) of the individual resources surveyed in the proposed district
- The boundary of the proposed district clearly drawn in a bold line on the map.

For larger districts, a series of maps may be required, one that shows the location of the proposed district within the community and others that show smaller areas of the district in more detail. For example, if you are designating a large district that includes 200 residential properties and a park, you would include an overview map of the whole district that shows its location within the larger community; a series of maps each showing a portion of the district and enabling the reader to see street addresses and number, until the entire district has been depicted; and a site map of the park indicating the location of existing historic features, such as paths, fountains, historic plantings, and monuments. For a farmstead, it may be necessary to draw a site plan to indicate where historically significant features such as orchards, farm fields, silos, barns and outbuildings are located in relation to the farmhouse.

### **Boundary Justification**

The report should include a boundary justification that addresses each directional boundary of the proposed district. Boundaries should be justified by using three guidelines: geographical features, the historic significance of the district, and/or the integrity of the resources in the proposed district. An example:

"The northern district boundary is the Bendy River; the eastern boundary is I-59 which, when it was constructed in 1957, bisected the original plat for the neighborhood; Elm Street was chosen as the southern boundary because it marks a change in housing types from a concentration of early 20<sup>th</sup> century two-story frame houses to the north and a neighborhood of post-World War II brick ranch houses to the south; Green Street was chosen as the western

boundary as there is a significant loss of material integrity in the resources beyond this point."

For a single resource property you may simply state something like, "The boundaries are those of the original lot platted in 1882."

### **History of the Proposed District**

The purpose of the history is to place the district and its resource(s) within its historic context at the local, state, and national level, as need be. The historic context is simply a compilation of the significant time periods, the significant people, and the important trends that shaped the development of the proposed district. The history should be based on facts that can be documented through primary and secondary sources. Beware of including oral traditions that have been passed down for generations but that cannot be substantiated. When writing the report, existing resources in the district should be linked directly to the district's historic significance. Here is a shortened example of a history statement for a residential district.

"In the early 1900's Middletown became a center for the development of the early automobile. Travis Jones, who's Jonesmobile became the most popular car in America between 1910 and 1930, built a factory at 915 Washington Boulevard in 1910 (demolished 1977). The construction of the factory resulted in a boom in population for Middletown as workers left the surrounding farms to take advantage of the high wages offered in the Jones factory. To house these workers, the Oakdale neighborhood was constructed by Dorian Blue, a prominent real estate agent in the city. The Oakdale neighborhood is made up of single story, gable front frame houses that line Oak, Elm, Water and Front Streets between Washington Boulevard and the Green River at the southeastern corner of the district. The homes have little ornamentation but are distinguished by their pressed tin roofs. This was the first subdivision developed in Middletown in response to the needs of the rapidly expanding automobile industry.

In addition to the Jones factory, two other car manufacturers built plants in Middletown between 1904 and 1930. The Casey Steam-Powered automobile was only in production for two years (1904-1906) and did not have a big impact on the development of the automobile or the city of Middletown. However, its founder, James Casey, become Vice President of Jones Automobile in 1912 and was responsible for the design of the company's most popular car, the Model B. Casey was also a founding member of the Good Roads Movement in Michigan and worked to develop a paved highway between Middletown and Detroit. While the Casey factory building no longer exists, James Casey's commanding stone Colonial Revival home designed by Grand Rapids architect Samuel Osgood, is located at 12 Addison Street. Addison Street is the stately avenue of estate homes that fronts the Bendy River on the western edge of the district. Casey Park, located in the northeast section of the district was created on land donated to the city of Middletown by James Casey in 1923. Casey hired the nationally known landscape architect, Jens Jensen, to develop the plan for the park."

If individual properties in the district are significant because of a specific architectural style, they should be discussed in terms of similar resources in the proposed district or in the community overall. You do not need to write lengthy descriptions of

architectural styles. Instead, provide the distinguishing characteristics of the specific property that shows how it is representative of the style. An example:

"The Ira George House at 15 Lincoln Avenue is an excellent example of the Italianate style. The 2-story structure has a square floor plan and is distinguished by its decorative full-length front porch, cupola, round arch windows and large, ornamental roof brackets. This high style structure is one of only 6 Italianates found in the district and the only one constructed of brick. "

Do not fall into the trap, as many communities do, of only explaining the significance of the proposed district in terms of its architecture. It is important to include information on the significant people and events that shaped the district as well.

PA 169 states that the report must highlight individual resources within the proposed district. We recommend that you include a representative example of *all* the property types found in the district. For example, if a predominately residential district includes a school, church, park or commercial structure, these resources should be highlighted in the report along with a variety of the residential homes. Be sure that you include representative examples of the property type found in the majority in the district—don't just concentrate on the unique or special properties. For example, if the majority of the homes are bungalows or simple upright and wing homes, include one or more as representative examples in addition to highlighting the high style or more unusual resources--don't just focus on the district's high style architecture.

### **Statement of Significance**

Each resource needs to be evaluated using the evaluation criteria for the National Register of Historic Places. There are four primary criteria:

- Criterion A: Association with Significant Events
- Criterion B: Association with Significant People
- Criterion C: Design/Construction Significance
- Criterion D: Information Potential

In the report, state the criteria that the district meets (it may be more than one) and how it meets the criteria. For example, "The Oakville District is significant under National Register Criterion A for its association with the developing automobile industry; Criterion B for its association with early automobile pioneer and former Michigan Governor John Doe who lived there from 1897 to 1922 and Criterion C as a representative example of late 19<sup>th</sup> century vernacular architecture."

### **Photographs**

Remember when taking photographs of resources in the district that you are documenting the way the district looks at the time it was established. This visual record will become a useful tool for the historic district commission when they are reviewing proposed work to a property. They will be able to tell what alterations already existed at the time the district was created. Be sure the resource is unobstructed by trees or cars and that architectural details are clearly visible in the photograph. Photographs should be oblique shots that encompass 2 sides of the building. For multiple resource districts, take at least one photograph of each individual resource. If there are other features on a property that contribute to its historic significance such as a carriage barn, entry gateposts, a historic fence or

garden, photographs should be taken of each feature, if possible. Representative streetscape shots should also be taken to show how the resources relate to each other in terms of set back, vegetation, etc. For single resource districts, we recommend documenting all exterior elevations of the building as well as any special or outstanding features.

### **Resource Count and Percentage**

Historic resources are typically those that are 50 years of age or older, unless the resource is proven to have exceptional significance. Historic resources must retain their integrity—the physical features that represent the period in which the property was built and/or its period of historic significance. Integrity is determined by looking at seven qualities: location (is the property on its original location), design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association (with people and events).

Each resource in the proposed district should be evaluated to determine if it is a historic (contributing) or non-historic (non-contributing) resource. To make that determination look at the resource in terms of how it relates to the historic context that was developed, the National Register Criteria for Eligibility and the resource's integrity. PA 169 requires that a percentage of historic to non-historic properties be developed. It is a good idea to include this in the study committee report to show the study committee has met this obligation.

### **Lists of Historic and Non-Historic Properties**

It is recommended that a list of the historic properties by street name and address and a list of the non-historic properties by street name and address in the district be included in the report. This will greatly facilitate the use of the report by the historic district commission, building officials, and local planners. It will also enable residents to know if a particular property qualifies for preservation tax credit incentives.

### **Bibliography**

Each report should include a bibliography of the historic resources used to develop the history of the district. The bibliography can be presented in any standard, accepted format such as the *Chicago Manual of Style*.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF  
PLYMOUTH  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
MEETING  
DECEMBER 5, 2019**

**ITEM 6D**

**HISTORIC PLAQUE PROGRAM  
DISCUSSION**





# Memorandum

**TO:** Historic District Commission  
Charter Township of Plymouth, Michigan

**FROM:** Laura E. Haw, AICP, NCI, Senior Principal Planner  
Natalie Bond, Assistant Planner

**SUBJECT:** Item 6.D – Historic Plaque Program Discussion

**DATE:** November 20, 2019

## **BACKGROUND**

The HDC previously discussed an opportunity to create a Historic Plaque Program, similar to programs that Ann Arbor and Birmingham offer, in an effort to highlight local, state or natural historic resources.

Enclosed, please find information on Ann Arbor's program and the associated costs. It was determined that the HDC would research at least three quotes before moving forward.

Should you have any questions prior to the meeting, please do not hesitate to contact us at the Township, at [planning@plymouthwp.org](mailto:planning@plymouthwp.org). Thank you.

## Historic Property Plaques

The Ann Arbor Historic District Commission considers requests for bronze plaques honoring significant historic buildings in the City of Ann Arbor. Plaques show the original or earliest known owner's name and the year in which the structure was built. Current property owners may apply to the Commission and, if approved, purchase a bronze plaque for their building.



### What criteria will be applied?

The Historic District Commission will consider all of the following when reviewing an application for a historic property plaque.

- a) The building must be at least one hundred years old, as documented by a combination of records (title search, tax records, wills, etc.).
- b) The building must have been maintained, over time, in its original condition, or must have undergone historically appropriate restoration or rehabilitation.
- c) The building may not have historically inappropriate features, enclosures or repairs.
- d) The principal facades of the building visible from the street or any public right of way must maintain integrity of form, materials, and architectural features consistent with the dominant period of the building.

If one or more of the criteria cannot be met, staff and the Commission will consider whether the building has special historic or architectural significance on a case by case basis.

The property must meet one of the following four criteria:

- 1) Listed or determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or State Register of Historic Sites
- 2) Included in the Individual Historic Properties Historic District listed in Title IX of the Ann Arbor Register of Historic Places prior to 2001
- 3) Received an award from the Ann Arbor Historic District Commission
- 4) Others may be approved for a historic property plaque by the Ann Arbor Historic District Commission on a case-by-case basis

### How to Apply for a Historic Property Plaque

- 1. The current property owner should fill out the application and return it to the Historic Preservation Coordinator via email to [hdc@a2gov.org](mailto:hdc@a2gov.org), or by dropping

it off at the Planning & Development desk on the first floor of City Hall, 301 E Huron Street.

2. Be sure to include a description of how the property qualifies for a plaque (from the list above), and any information or history unique to the home. The application will be evaluated based on the information it provides.
3. After an initial screening by staff for completeness and content, the request will be placed on a Historic District Commission agenda for consideration. If the request is approved, the historic preservation coordinator will contact the plaque manufacturer (Arnet's, Inc. at 4495 Jackson Road) with the correct historic name and date of construction of the house. The cost of the plaque fluctuates based on the price of bronze, usually between \$175 and \$225. Arnet's will fax a proof to the Historic Preservation Coordinator, which the applicant must sign off on. Once the proof has been approved, Arnet's will manufacture the plaque and notify the applicant when it is ready to pick up. The applicant picks up and pays for the plaque at Arnet's at 4495 Jackson Road.
4. The applicant must mount the plaque on a visible spot at the front of the building, preferably near the front door, in a location that does not destroy or obscure historic architectural features of the building.

Questions? Please contact the Historic Preservation Coordinator at [hdc@a2gov.org](mailto:hdc@a2gov.org) or 734-794-6265 x42608.

**ANN ARBOR HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

**APPLICATION for HISTORIC MARKER**

100 N. Fifth Avenue Ann Arbor, MI 48104 (734)794-6265 x42608 Fax: (734) 994-8312  
Historic District Email: [hdc@a2gov.org](mailto:hdc@a2gov.org); [www.a2gov.org](http://www.a2gov.org)

**Section 1: Applicant Information**

Name of Property Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of owner: \_\_\_\_\_ date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 2: Historical Information (attach additional sheets as necessary)**

Address of Property: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Historic District, if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of First Owner of building: \_\_\_\_\_

*Bibliographic Source:* \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Construction: \_\_\_\_\_

*Bibliographic Source:* \_\_\_\_\_

Additional history of the property—including ownership, evolution of the building and its use:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(continue on reverse or on additional sheets)

**Section 3: Photographs (attach or submit electronic copies of photos of the building)**

**Staff Use Only**

Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of HDC Action: \_\_\_\_\_

Staff signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Action: \_\_\_\_\_ HDC Approval \_\_\_\_\_ HDC Denial \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF  
PLYMOUTH  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
MEETING  
DECEMBER 5, 2019**

**ITEM 7A**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**PLYMOUTH TOURISM BROCHURE AND  
MAPPING EXERCISE**



# Memorandum

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**TO:** Historic District Commission  
Charter Township of Plymouth, Michigan

**FROM:** Laura E. Haw, AICP, NCI, Senior Principal Planner  
Natalie Bond, Assistant Planner

**SUBJECT:** Item 7.A - Mapping Exercise

**DATE:** November 20, 2019

## **MAPPING OF HISTORIC ASSETS**

Enclosed is a Township map with several sites called out for inclusion in a future Plymouth Tourism Brochure. Please start brainstorming potential locations to add.

At the December meeting, a larger "tabletop" version of the map will be provided for everyone to mark up and discuss.

Should you have any questions prior to the meeting, please do not hesitate to contact us at the Township, at [planning@plymouthtp.org](mailto:planning@plymouthtp.org). Thank you.

# Historic Resources and Assets

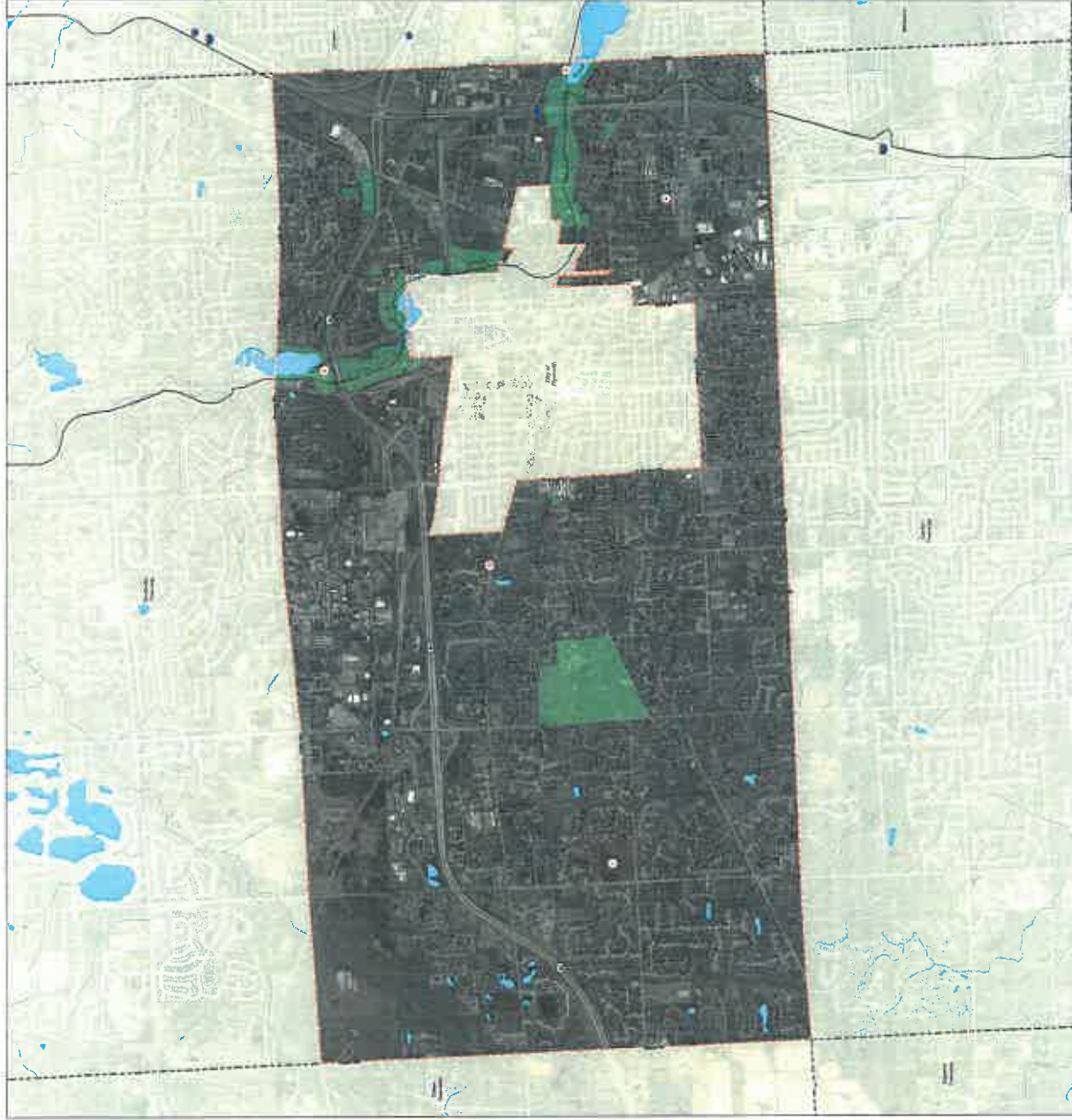
## Charter Township of Plymouth, Michigan

November 8, 2019

- LEGEND**
- Plymouth Township Boundary
  - Other Municipal Boundaries
  - Non-Motorized Path
  - Lakes, Rivers, Streams, Drains
  - Parks
  - Historic Resources and Assets**
  - Miller Woods
  - Shearer Cemetery
  - Phoenix Mill
  - Township Historical Marker
  - Hines Metro Park



SOURCES:  
 Aerial Imagery: Google Earth  
 Historic Maps: Google Maps  
 Historic Photos: Google Maps  
 Historic Photos: Google Maps



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF  
PLYMOUTH  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
MEETING  
DECEMBER 5, 2019**

**ITEM 7B**

**PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL  
MARKER**



Large two-sided marker  
Different Text Each Side  
2" caption  
1 ½" text  
Wayne  
Plymouth  
Side One

## PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP

1 Pioneers from New England began  
2 settling and farming in this area around  
3 1825. Abram B. Markham, an early  
4 leader, built the first gristmill in the  
5 area. Settlers held "raising bees" to  
6 help new arrivals build their log  
7 homes. In April 1827, soon after the  
8 common council voted to name their  
9 community "Plymouth," the township  
10 officially incorporated under a law  
11 signed by Territorial Governor Lewis  
12 Cass. The first township meeting was  
13 held at the homestead of John Tibbits.  
14 He and many other early settlers are  
15 buried in Shearer Cemetery. Canton  
16 Township split off from Plymouth  
17 Township in 1834. In 1862 numerous  
18 residents of Plymouth enlisted in the  
19 24<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry, a regiment that  
20 fought at Gettysburg as part of the Iron  
21 Brigade. The regiment later served as  
22 honor guard for President Abraham  
23 Lincoln's funeral in 1865.

Large two-sided marker  
Different Text Each Side  
2" caption  
1 ½" text  
Wayne  
Plymouth  
Side Two

## CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH

1 The current boundaries of Plymouth  
2 Township were set after the village of  
3 Plymouth incorporated in 1867 and  
4 Northville became a township in 1898.  
5 Transportation improvements aided  
6 Plymouth Township's growth: a plank  
7 road in the 1850s; the Detroit, Howell  
8 and Lansing Railroad in the 1870s;  
9 an interurban trolley known as "The  
10 Dinky" in 1898; and paved roads in the  
11 early twentieth century. New factories  
12 brought jobs to the area. Henry Ford's  
13 Phoenix Mill, opened in 1922, had a  
14 largely female workforce. In 1938 the  
15 Burroughs Plant, designed by Albert  
16 Kahn's firm, opened. Both businesses  
17 produced war materiel during Word  
18 War II, contributing to the "Arsenal  
19 of Democracy." After the war suburban  
20 development grew rapidly. Plymouth  
21 became a charter township in 1979.

Michigan Historical Commission ~ Michigan History Center  
Registered Local Site No.  
This Marker is the Property of the State of Michigan, 2019

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF  
PLYMOUTH  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
MEETING  
DECEMBER 5, 2019**

**ITEM 7c**

**HDC FLOW CHART REVIEW**



# Memorandum

**TO:** Historic District Commission  
Charter Township of Plymouth, Michigan

**FROM:** Laura E. Haw, AICP, NCI, Senior Principal Planner  
Natalie Bond, Assistant Planner

**SUBJECT:** Item 7.C – HDC Flow Chart

**DATE:** November 20, 2019

## **FLOW CHART FOR HDC REVIEW**

Enclosed is the latest HDC Flow Chart.

The HDC Chair raised two good points related to the draft chart: it was recommended that we include item #1 to the final chart, and that the entire HDC discuss item #2 at the December meeting:

1. HD Commissioners requested that in the green box in the middle, "The Study Committee conducts thorough research of the property and draws up boundaries of the proposed Historic District (HD)" that we also add "Presented to the HDC".
2. The HD Commissioners requested all acronyms to be spelled out; the chart now spells them out in each box instead of lumped together. Is this clear to the public or should we also include a reference box?

Should you have any questions prior to the meeting, please do not hesitate to contact us at the Township, at [planning@plymouthtp.org](mailto:planning@plymouthtp.org). Thank you.

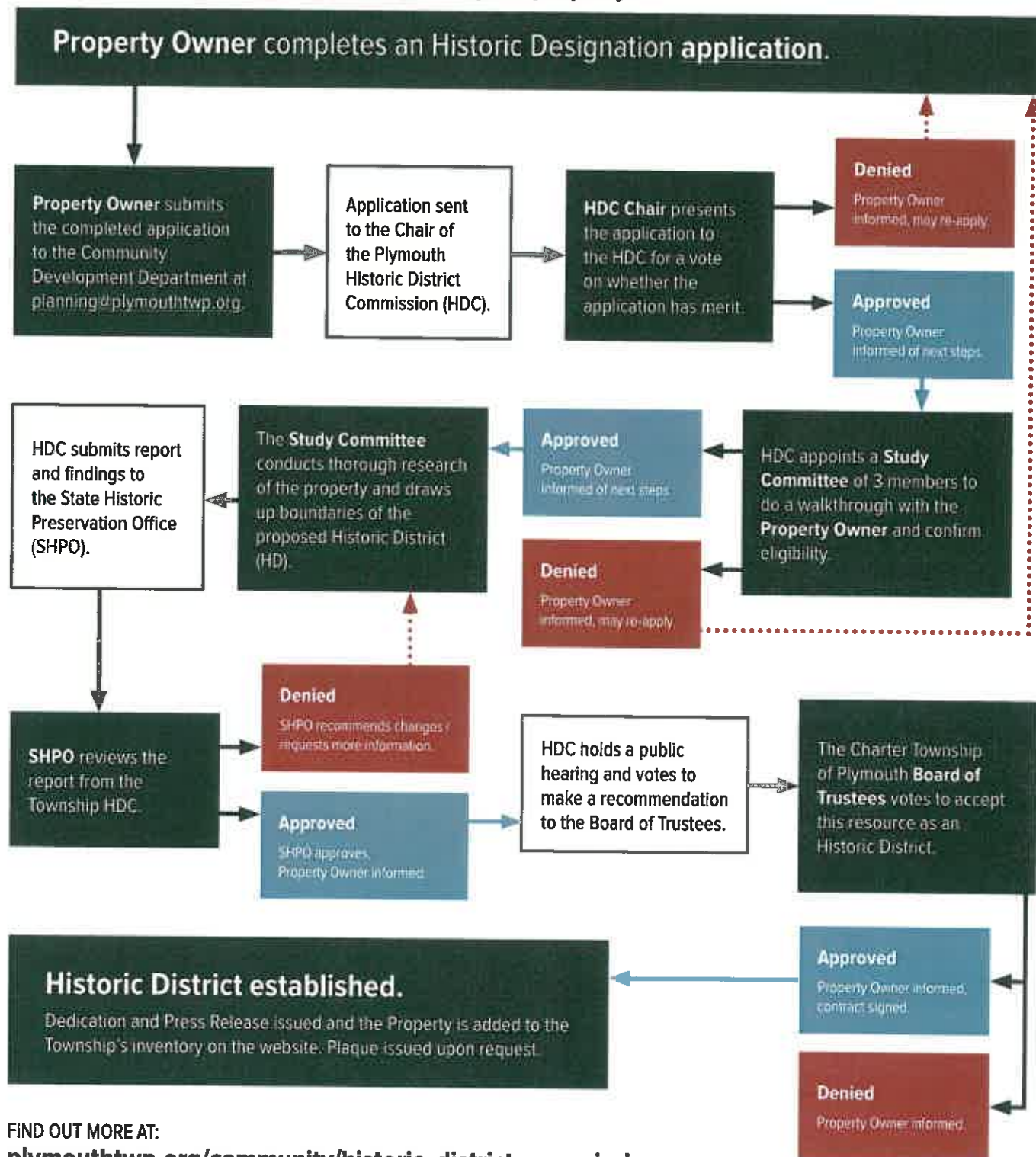


Charter Township of Plymouth  
9955 N. Haggerty Road  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
[plymouthtp.org](http://plymouthtp.org)

## HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

### Historic Designation Review and Permit Process

To request an historic designation for your property:



FIND OUT MORE AT:

[plymouthtp.org/community/historic\\_district\\_commission](http://plymouthtp.org/community/historic_district_commission)

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF  
PLYMOUTH  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
MEETING  
DECEMBER 5, 2019**

**ITEM 7D**

**PHOTO INVENTORY OF RESOURCES  
UPDATE**

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF  
PLYMOUTH  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
MEETING  
DECEMBER 5, 2019**

**ITEM 8**

**COMMISSION MEMBER  
COMMENTS**

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF  
PLYMOUTH  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
MEETING  
DECEMBER 5, 2019**

**ITEM 9**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS AND  
QUESTIONS**



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF  
PLYMOUTH  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
MEETING  
DECEMBER 5, 2019**

**ITEM 10  
ADJOURNMENT**