

# PICKET FENCES

Spring 2010

Volume Seven No. One

"OLD IS THE  
NEW GREEN"  
NATIONAL TRUST FOR  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
2010 THEME

## WE'RE LOOKING FOR THE BEST STEWARDS OF PORTAGE'S STORY

The Historical District properties are located throughout the city and serve as reminders of our once agricultural town's past. Each shows us a glimpse into a time we can only imagine. They offer a rare connection to those whose names are still listed on our street signs, our first township and city officials, and so many whose lives still affect our realities today.

The Preservation Award recognizes the efforts of those who further the efforts of historical preservation in Portage and awareness of the district. The Commission would like to request your nomination of the historic homeowner who you feel best fulfills the criteria. Any citizen who completes a nomination form and delivers it to the City Manager's office in City Hall will be thanked with a copy of the official guide to the Portage Historic District, *Where the Trails Crossed*.

### PRESERVATION AWARD GUIDELINES

As you view the properties in the historic district, and are selecting the property whose homeowners you feel are most deserving of the Preservation Award, please consider the following guidelines:

1. Positive impact on historic preservation in Portage.
2. Authenticity of design and materials-

## Now Accepting 2010 Preservation Award Nominations



*A peek into the past: the Brooks home was built around 1870. It was once an 80 acre farm. The property includes several outbuildings including a barn, carriage house, and guest quarters.*



*The Henry and Harriet Brooks Italianate house at 6638 Angling Road, as it appears today.*



*The Italianate style was very popular in the late 19th century.*

*Please join us in  
commending those  
who are protecting  
our city's heritage for  
future generations.*



*The former Rossiter Howard home at 5719 Angling Road shown before and after restoration work. The classic Greek revival style building offered unusually large windows.*



*The Ames farmhouse near West Lake, as it appears today.*



appropriateness to original structure and site.

3. Reversing of inappropriate modifications.
4. Research and documentation.
5. Creativity and attractiveness.
6. Landscaping, as it contributes to the site and/or project.
7. Education, and increasing the awareness of Portage history.

## **HISTORIC DISTRICT PROPERTIES**

The Portage Historic District offers a vast array of styles of architecture and properties. Tying the stories of the families that built these properties and spent their years there can enrich their meaning.

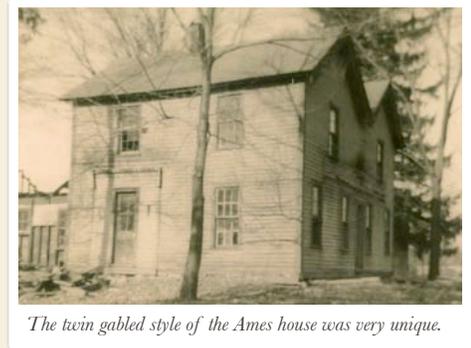
The Italiante farmhouse standing at 6638 Angling Road was built around 1870 by Henry and Harriet Brooks. Both Henry and Harriet were children of nearby farmers Isaac Brooks and Stephen Howard, both very early settlers of the area. Their property was once an 80 acre farm; the land given to them by Henry's father.

The twin gabled farmhouse located at 2106 Forest was built by Henry C. Ames and his wife Ellen Ames in the 1870's. Henry was very Active in Township government. Their farm was originally 120 acres, and was the original sites for cottages on West Lake.

The home at 5719 Angling Road was one of the Howard family residences. This property was built by Rossiter and Julia Howard. Rossiter's family was one of the original families to settle in the township. His brother Stephen constructed the first brick home in the township at 3821 West Milham. There are many more stories about our other Historic District properties, and we are eager to hear about which one you think best represents the spirit of the Preservation Award.

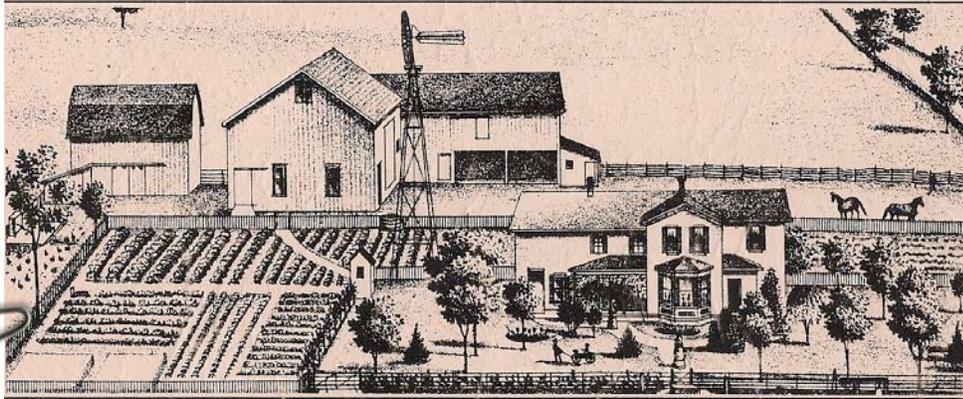
Portage Historic District properties include:

- 4415 East Milham (1895)
- 5830 Portage (1850's)
- 1617 East Milham (1850's)
- 2027 East Milham (1832, cemetery)
- 1324 West Milham (1846)
- 5720 Oakland (1860's-1870's)
- 5134 Oakland (1852)
- 5719 Angling (1852)
- 5029 Angling (1870's-1880's)
- 5260 Angling (1868)
- 3821 West Milham (1859)
- 6638 Angling (1870's)
- 3221 West Milham (1850's-1860's)
- 6235 Oakland (1864, school)
- 1705 West Milham (1835, cemetery)
- 6869 Sprinkle (1862)
- 1521 East Centre (1910)
- 903 East Centre (1915)
- 515 East Centre (1853)
- 7737 Westnedge (1894, cemetery)
- 7336 Garden Lane (1930)
- 7736 Garden Lane (1856, school)
- 904 Schuring (1910)
- 7119 Oakland (1850's)
- 7706 Innisbrook (1870)
- 8021 Oak (1926)
- 8643 Westnedge (1920)
- 2106 Forest (1870's)
- 8009 Cox's Drive (1927, school)
- 9844 Sprinkle (1850's)
- 2112 Vanderbilt (1878)
- 9426 Westnedge (1870)
- 922 West Osterhout (1853)
- 703 East Osterhout (1920's)
- 506 Bacon (1860's, school)
- 704 Bacon (1870)
- 10327 Westnedge (1858, cemetery)
- 10209 Portage (1870)
- 2663 Mandigo (1860's, 1870's)



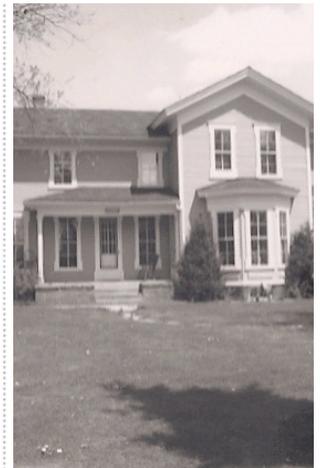
*The twin gabled style of the Ames house was very unique.*

Please drop off your completed Preservation Award nomination form to the City Manager's office in City Hall and receive a free copy of the official guide to the Portage Historic District, *Where the Trails Crossed*



2112 Vanderbilt. Steel plate engraving from the 1892 Kalamazoo County History Book.

*The Cady home is an excellent example of the Italianate style popular in the 1870's and boasts historically accurate preservation.*



*The home as it appears today.*

### MSU EXTENSION'S LINDA WHITLOCK TO DISCUSS HISTORICALLY APPROPRIATE LANDSCAPING AT 2010 GATHERING

Linda has been a resident of Portage for nearly 25 years. She has a Masters' degree from University of Michigan in Communication, and a Landscape Management degree in the Agricultural Technology Institute at Michigan State University. Her internship was spent at the Henry Ford Estate in Dearborn where she developed a passion for historical gardens and gardening. Currently she is the Consumer Horticulturist at MSU Extension in Kalamazoo County.

### ANNUAL HISTORIC HOMEOWNERS GATHERING TO TAKE PLACE AT THE PORTAGE DISTRICT LIBRARY

The Annual Historic Homeowners gathering will take place on Thursday May 20th from 6:30 to 8:30 at the Portage District Library. Please join us in celebrating preservation with light refreshments and presentations from Linda Whitlock and Commission Chair Mark Reile. There is no admission charge; donations to the Historic District Commission are greatly appreciated. Please RSVP to Susan Woerner at 329-1022.

### NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION ANNOUNCES THEIR 2010 THEME: "OLD IS THE NEW GREEN"

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has announced their theme for 2010 Preservation Week: "Old is the New Green". This concept is centered around preserving and reusing historic buildings, which drastically reduces the effect on the environment over demolition and construction of new buildings. Retrofitting historic buildings reduces waste, emissions, and reduces the demand on natural resources.

The Trust's website, [preservationnation.org](http://preservationnation.org) is full of guidelines and tips for home and building owners who want to make their historic property greener. Many of these changes can be done for very little or no expense. Options to upgrade your property's insulation, windows, and energy and water usage are discussed.

Reinvestment in historic buildings and communities is crucial in the efforts to promote a healthy environment and fight climate change. Adaptive reuse allows historic properties to find second lives as one of the greenest building options.

Mark your calendar! The 2010 Annual Historic Homeowners Gathering will take place on Thursday May 20th at 6:30 at the Portage District Library.

*There is currently a vacancy on the  
Portage Historic District Commission.*

*The City Council will interview applicants  
for the vacancy on May 11th. If you are  
aware of anyone who may enjoy serving  
on the HDC, please ask them to submit an  
application to the office of the City Clerk  
by April 9th. Applications are available at  
the office of the City Clerk (329-4412) or on  
the city website*

*([www.portagemi.gov/government/  
boards\\_and\\_commissions.asp](http://www.portagemi.gov/government/boards_and_commissions.asp)).*

## *Where the Trails Crossed*

### Now Available

The official guidebook to the Portage Historic District is now available at the Portage Senior Center and City Hall for \$7. The guidebook includes photos and written histories of the properties in the district and is a must have for anyone with an interest in local history.

## PICKET FENCES

FROM:

PORTAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
COMMISSION  
Portage City Hall  
7900 South Westnedge Avenue  
Portage, MI 49002  
(269) 329-4400

Spring 2010

*Building History*

Please call the Portage City Hall at (269) 329-4400 to apply for a Certificate of Appropriateness before starting any projects to your historical home.

## HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

MAIL TO:

Mark Reile	Chairperson
Ann Marie Kreuzer	Secretary
Jeanette Field	Commissioner
Katie vanLonkhuyzen	Commissioner
Kathy Fosmoe	Commissioner
Rose Mary Higginbottom	Commissioner
Susan Woerner	Commissioner
Michelle Dunlap	Commissioner
Mary Beth Block	City Liaison
Amy Noonan	PCHS Youth Participant