

# Historical points of interest in the Dearborn Community

## Original Land Plat

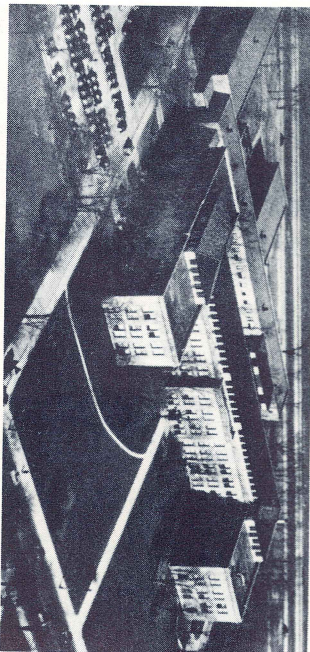
From this triangular area of land Dearborn grew. Joshua Howard, first Commandant of the Arsenal, bought this land and subdivided it. Settlers bought these plots of land and the town grew around the Detroit arsenal. Joshua Howard retired in 1835 and lived approximately where the Holiday Inn (on Michigan Avenue) is today.

## Ford Homes

Built just after WWI, these structures were intended to house employees who worked at the Ford tractor plant. The first group of 96 homes ranged in price from \$7,500 to \$8,500. The second group built consisted of 154 scattered units approximately \$1,500 more expensive than the first. Mostly Ford office and engineering workers occupied these beautiful homes.

## Twin Ponds

These ponds were formed when the Wagner Brick Company began mining clay from this area. Today these ponds are part of the Ford Motor Company complex. Residents and visitors enjoy the large flocks of geese and ducks that stop at Twin Ponds on their flights south.



Lincoln-Mercury Office Building

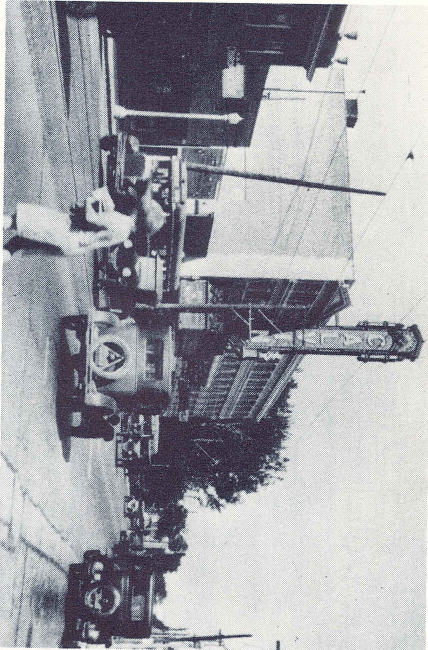
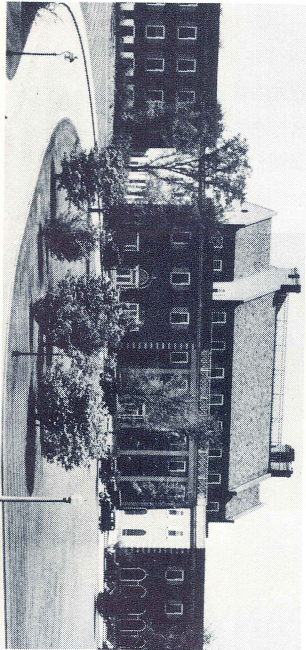
This was the original headquarters for the Ford Motor Company after the Rouge Plant was built.

## St. Alphonsus Church

The activities building of St. Alphonsus was the original site of the church building, built in 1874. The present church is a small Gothic Cathedral built in 1930. Unusual for a metropolitan area church, a small cemetery is located next to the church.

## Dearborn Inn

Opposite the Dearborn Inn and the reason for its construction was the Ford Airport. Originally the spot where the "Tin Goose" was developed and flown, today the area is one of the test tracks for the Ford Motor Company. In 1929, Ford had the Dearborn Inn built for people arriving at the airport across the road. When it opened in 1931, the Dearborn Inn became the world's first airport hotel.



## Michigan Avenue

The Old Sauk Trail, as it was first known, is the oldest road in the Midwest. Originally an Indian trail, it later became the connection between Detroit and Chicago. It was a toll road in Dearborn in the early 1830's. A rough and muddy road, many pioneer families traversed it during the westward movement.

## McFadden-Ross House

The McFadden-Ross House is one of the oldest buildings in Dearborn. The original structure was the Powder Magazine for the Detroit Arsenal located here from 1833 to 1875. The Powder Magazine, a one story building, had walls two and a half feet thick to prevent the untimely explosion of the highly flammable black powder which it contained. When the government sold the various Arsenal buildings, Nathaniel Ross purchased the Powder Magazine and some surrounding land upon which he rebuilt it into his farm house. In 1950, when Mary Elizabeth Ross passed away, she designated that her home and property be left to the City of Dearborn as a Museum.

## Clippert Brick Company

This is one of two existing brick companies and the oldest continuous business in Dearborn.

## HERITAGE BEGINS AT HOME . . .

If you can picture a time when the surrounding area was a mixture of dense woodland and open meadows, when the Rouge River was clear and sparkling and hurrying through the thick foliage, and nothing broke the serenity except the canoeing of an Ottawa, Potawatomi, Sauk-Fox or Chippewa tribesman . . . then you'll have an understanding of this area's earliest history.

The first Europeans to come were the French, followed by a slow influx of folks of American, English, Scottish and Irish descent. While many settlers came by water, others were forced to travel the rugged Old Sauk Trail, later called the Chicago Road. Today, motorists are still traveling this main artery — Michigan Avenue.

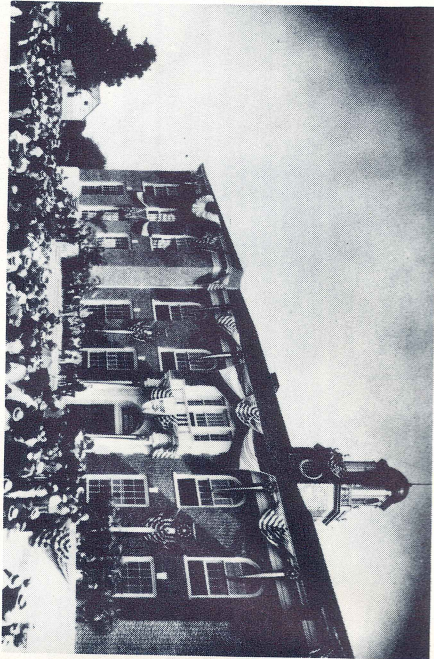
However, Dearbornville and much of the surrounding community might have grown out of existence if not for the building of the U.S. Detroit Arsenal near Michigan and Monroe. This arsenal brought a variety of occupations to the community — intermingling farming and industry. The social life of the community was drastically affected as well. Many weary travelers would stop at one of the taverns in Dearbornville, including the most popular, Ten Eyck Tavern. Indeed, the most colorful stories of this new Dearborn were probably never recorded.

With the moderate increase in population, the forests began to diminish. Settlers then turned to the thick clay soil, ideal for brickmaking. However, farms and lumber mills continued to be foremost occupations in Dearborn Heights.

Life went on in the community until Henry Ford introduced his horseless carriage. Nothing could stop the growth of the auto industry, and in the 1920's, the Rouge Plant, one of the world's largest manufacturing complexes, was built.

Dearbornville was never the same. After a merger with Springwells and later Fordson, Dearborn grew to the thriving and prosperous community we know today.

However, Dearborn Heights was not incorporated until 1963. Today, both cities are certain to prosper from the new Fairlane development, including a luxury hotel, a magnificent shopping center, and ultra modern apartments and condominiums. Futurists? Maybe, but none the less, a far cry from our humble beginnings.

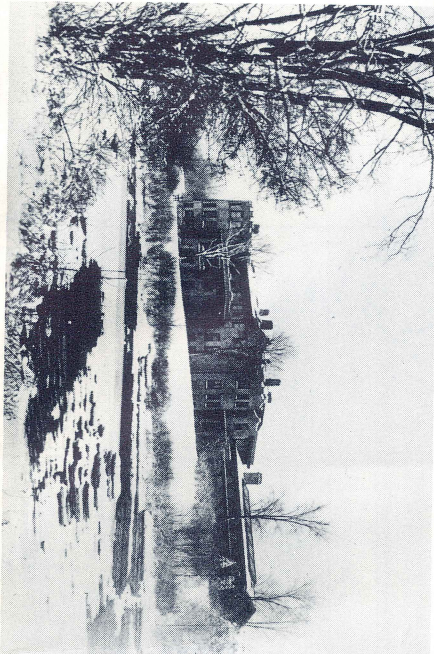


Dearborn City Hall

The City hall was built in 1922 by the City of Springwells. In turn, it was the city hall for Fordson, and after the merger, for the city of Dearborn.

## Fair Lane

When Henry Ford decided to return to his birthplace, he commissioned William Van Tine, an interior decorator, to design and build his mansion home. Built between 1913 and 1915, the estate contains 1369 acres, much of which has been allowed to remain in its natural state. Ford lived there until his death in 1947. Today, tours are given of the home on Sundays.



## Wallace Home

John B. Wallace purchased property from John Hickcox who was being sent to Wisconsin as part of his duties as circuit rider preacher. Originally a New Yorker, Wallace and William A. Please became partners in a lumber company. After Michigan became a state in 1837, the Wallaces assisted the support of the schools through help in obtaining state aid.

## Wallaceville Cemetery

Named after John B. Wallace, this small cemetery marked the burial site for various early settlers to Dearborn Heights. Most noteworthy is Major Thompson Maxwell. A known patriot, he served in the Revolutionary War and after the Battle of Lexington in 1775, became a Lieutenant. Later, as a captain, Maxwell guided General Hull's army through Detroit in the War of 1812. He was commissioned Major for his service in the War of 1812-15. He died at his residence here in 1832.

## Site of Ten Eyck Tavern

The tavern was the center of much of the social life of early Dearborn. When Ford built the gatehouse for his estate, a number of bones were discovered. Many thought that these were the victims of cut throats patronizing the Tavern. However, after some research, it was found that these were Indian relics.

## Springwells Park

Another housing complex built by Ford Motor Company, Springwells Park, was the first in the area to have off-street parking. Built between 1930-47, these homes offer a very distinctive style of colonial design.

## Samuel B. Long Home

One example of an early farmhouse is the Long Home. However, Samuel Long was a man who wore many hats. In addition to being a fireman, he served on the local district Board of Education and was quite involved in early local politics.



## Menlo Park Laboratory

Thomas Alva Edison, "The Wizard of Menlo Park," accomplished most of his greatest achievements in this gray clapboard building, the world's first industrial research center, from 1876-1886. The laboratory was moved in 1929 from Menlo Park, New Jersey to Greenfield Village in Dearborn and completely restored. Menlo Park is one of the many popular exhibits at Greenfield Village. Opened in 1929, the Village and Henry Ford Historical Museum attract over one million visitors yearly.

## Site of the Ford Homestead

The site of Henry Ford's birthplace is designated by a historical marker donated by the school children of Dearborn. The original home can be viewed at Greenfield Village.

## Fordson High School

Fordson was named after Henry Ford and son, Edsel, in 1928. During that period, that portion of city had not yet merged and was known as Fordson.

## Site of Graham-Paige Plant

Graham-Paige was a make of car manufactured from 1927 to 1941. During WWII, the Chrysler Corporation leased the building to manufacture bomber plane fuselages. Noteworthy automobiles assembled here included the DeSoto from 1946 to 1958 and the Chrysler Imperial from 1958 to 1960.

## Ray Adams School

Originally, the building was the first Dearborn High School, now located on Outer Drive. As an apt tribute, the school was renamed after Ray H. Adams, superintendent of schools for Dearborn Township district #4 from 1917-1944.

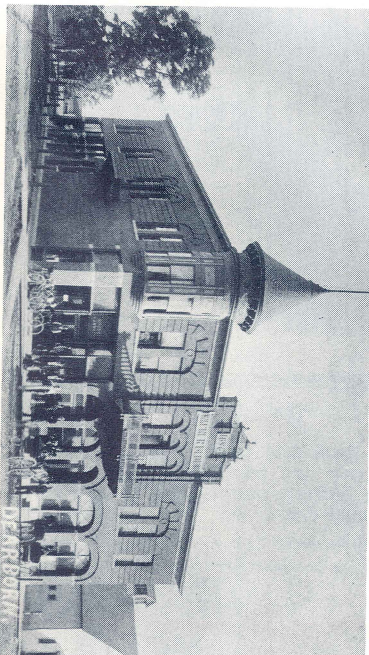


## The Commandant's Quarters

This is Dearborn's oldest building, as well as one of the oldest in Michigan. The Commandant's Quarters and other Arsenal buildings were constructed in 1833 under the direction of Joshua Howard. These quarters housed various commandants and their families until the discontinuance of the Arsenal in 1875. From 1875 to 1923, the building served as a home, city hall and jail and kindergarten. In 1923, the building became the police headquarters for Dearborn, and the jail cells installed are still on display. In 1948, the Commandant's Quarters was turned over to the Dearborn Historical Commission by the City of Dearborn for use as a museum.

## Wagner Hotel

The building was constructed in 1896 and named after brick manufacturer Anthony Wagner.



## Little Red Schoolhouse

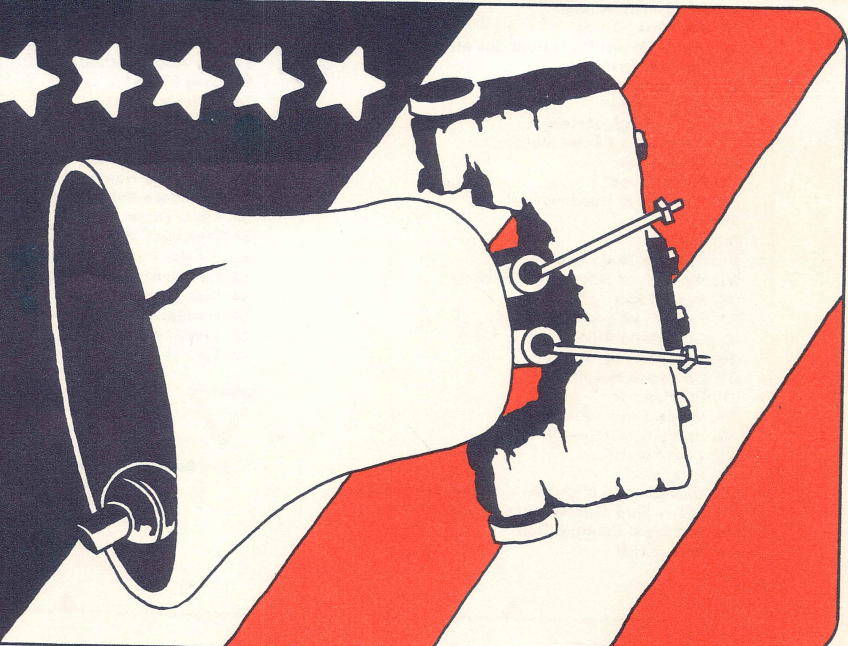
(Dearborn Heights Historical Museum)  
Wallaceville School, as it is known, was constructed in 1824 as a church. The original log building on this site was the first school in Bucklin (later Dearborn) Township. Over the years, the building has served a variety of purposes and was designated as the meeting place for the first election of Township officials. After a fire in 1876, the building was restored to the present brick structure.

## William Losey Home

With wife and family, William Losey built his home in 1874. A typical example of a period farm house, it took three years to construct. Losey was born in Seneca County, New York in 1830. He was buried in the Wallaceville Cemetery in 1886.

## Nowlin Cemetery

This is the burial site of a family of early settlers, the Nowlins, who came to Dearborn from New York. William Nowlin documented their experiences on this long journey in a book called "The Bark Cover House." A delightful story, the book was dedicated to the United States Centennial.



Dearborn  
BANK & TRUST  
Historical  
Map of Dearborn  
and Dearborn Heights



Whether you live and work in Dearborn or are visiting here, you have only to look around you to see that Dearborn and Dearborn Heights are cities with a future. Unknown to many, however, is the interesting past which both enjoyed. The struggles of the early farmers, the fears of the Civil War, the raucous times in the old saloons, the turn toward industrialization, the great Depression and space age developments so typical of the growth of the United States are found in this community.

The designated sites on this map only touch the surface of the histories of these two cities. As is true of any community, much of the history has been buried with the relics of the old homes and business establishments to make way for progress. Nonetheless, by reviewing some of the sites on the map and reading the historical references on the back, you should get a fairly clear idea of what life was like "way back when . . ." in Dearborn and Dearborn Heights.

Dearborn Bank and Trust is pleased to present this map to you in commemoration of our nation's Bicentennial.

## Dearborn BANK AND TRUST COMPANY

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