

Pittsfield Historic District commission
Annual Report for the Pittsfield Township Board of Trustees
December BOT Board Meeting

Conference Attended

May 2021 Commissioners Paas and Wall attended sessions of the virtual Michigan Historic Preservation Network 41st annual statewide conference. Some session titles were Persuasions for Preservationists; Main Waiting Room Restoration at Michigan Central Station; State Rehabilitation Tax Credit; Project Site Safety Tidbits; Revisiting the Early Dwellings of Lodi Township.

Archives

Anne Simpson continues to organize supervisor papers. She is digitizing photos from an album of Delia Rheinfrank Sutherland, wife of Ernest Sutherland. She would like to see updates and corrections on the Historical Society website and add newsletters. Updates to the website are being worked on by a committee of the Historical Society.

David R. Byrd Center Historic District Study Committee:

Kip Lightfoot, owner of 3261 Lohr Road (David R. Byrd Center) requested a study committee to designate the property a Historic District.

This property was first purchased/patented in 1825 by Ralph Urdike. There were a series of owners until David R. and Letitia Byrd purchased the property in 1975. They never lived on the property, but Byrd used it as an office. David Byrd was an educator, architect, community, church leader, and an activist in the African-American community. In 1966 he started the Construction Technology program at Washtenaw Community College. He used the house on the Lohr Road property for training students in architecture and restoration projects.

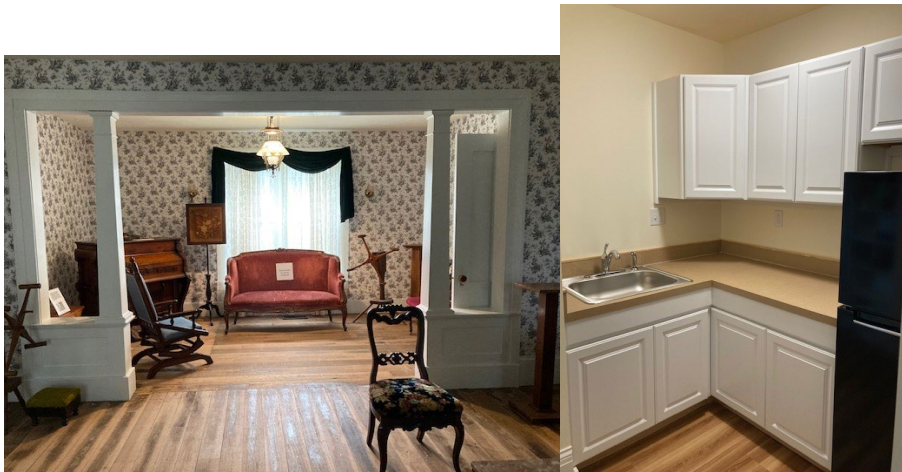
The house is an 1840 structure. The work of the study committee is to document the house and property from 1840 to the present both in the land history and architectural changes. The study will define the historic significance of the property and its connection with David R. Byrd

Commissioners LeClair, Paas, Scribner, and Wall have been participating in the David R. Byrd Center Historic District Study Committee. Paas has drawn architectural studies of the Byrd House, Wall reviewed the ownership of the house thru assessment records; Scribner has located tax records from the Township.

Picture of 3261 Lohr Road-- Jessica can you use a picture of the house from your files. If you don't have one let me know.

Sutherland-Wilson Farmstead Update

Update on some renovations of the Sutherland-Wilson house have continued thru COVID. The parlor was wallpapered by Cindy Mallory; wallpaper was removed from the (now) conference room and painted; plumbing in the kitchenette has been completed; Slat wall has been installed around the conference room and display room for future exhibits; the society purchased comfortable chairs for meetings around the extended table.



Lions on Gross Road

The commission believes the Lions should be preserved and restored. We have continued to locate the owner of the lions. We believe the west statue belongs to Pittsfield Township and the east statue belongs to Michigan Bell. The former township Attorney Etter has not been responsive to our requests for information he may have.