

8 Owendale

In 1882, as three new railroads began to lay track in Huron County, two cousins from Saginaw, John G. and John S. Owen, bought land in the Columbia Swamp. The following year they opened a sawmill to harvest the native oak.

John G. Owen hired Quincy Thomas, a civil engineer, to survey a town site in 1887. The streets, alleys and parks were dedicated to the public for their perpetual use, and the Village was named Owendale. The sawmill burned in 1896, and the Owendale area turned from lumbering to agriculture.



Registered Site L0383, Erected 1976

9 Pigeon Depot

The Pigeon Depot was constructed in 1908 and served two railroad lines. In 1883, the Pontiac, Oxford and Port Austin Railroad, a north-south line, had been extended to Caseville and a depot was built at Berne, one mile north of here. Around 1886, the Saginaw, Tuscola and Huron Railroad built tracks through the Tamarack Swamp and crossed the north-south line at this point. This railroad stop became known as Berne Junction.

Berne's population dwindled as people moved to the junction where they established Pigeon in 1888. The Pontiac, Oxford, and Port Austin Line became the Pontiac Oxford and Northern and later the Grand Trunk Railroad. The Saginaw, Tuscola, and Huron was absorbed by the Pere Marquette Railroad and then the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad. The Pigeon Depot presently serves as the Pigeon Historical Society Museum.



Registered Site L1439, Erected 1989

10 Port Hope Chimney

This chimney was built in 1858 by John Geitz. It is all that remains of the lumber mill established that year by William R. Stafford. Port Hope grew up around the mill. For a score of years, this town was the center of lumbering in the Thumb. It also became an important producer of salt. In 1871 and again

in 1881 the mill, the docks, and the possessions of hundreds of people were destroyed by fire. This chimney is a monument to those pioneers, who by their courage and industry developed this area.

Registered Site L0021, Erected 1964



11 St. Mary of Czestochowa Roman Catholic Church

The Polish refugees, who immigrated to Dwight Township in the 1840s in order to escape Prussian domination, worshipped at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Port Austin. In 1903, in an effort to retain their Polish identity, they established their own parish and built St. Mary of Czestochowa Church, named for "the Queen of Poland." The parishioners built the wood frame structure on land purchased from Frank and Rose Koroleski. Father J. Trzetrzynski was the first pastor. After the church burned on May 29, 1932, construction began on the present cobblestone and brick building, which was dedicated on May 28, 1933. Father Henry Podsiad directed the building of this church, which is reminiscent of Polish Romanesque churches.



Registered Site L0849, Erected 1989

12 Stagecoaches

Stagecoaches played an important part in developing the Midwest. Michigan's frontier "fever" peaked in the decade from 1830 to 1849 with a 600 percent population increase. Stagecoaches attempted to fill the demand for fast and relatively comfortable transportation. Early stagecoach travel was slow and rough but improved with better built roads. The inns and taverns on the stage routes were a welcome relief in Michigan. This stepping stone, which once lead to the famous Bay Port Hotel, is all that remains of the stagecoach era in Bay Port.



Registered Site L0541, Erected 1978

13 White Rock School

Named after a boulder in Lake Huron that was used as a landmark in the Indian Treaty of 1807, the Village was settled about 1860. Destroyed in the Great Fire of 1871, the town was soon rebuilt, including a schoolhouse. The present building was constructed in 1909. At that time, twenty-five pupils attended, and the teacher was paid forty dollars a month. White Rock School continued in operation until 1968. The Huron County Historical Society acquired the property in 1970 for a historical museum.



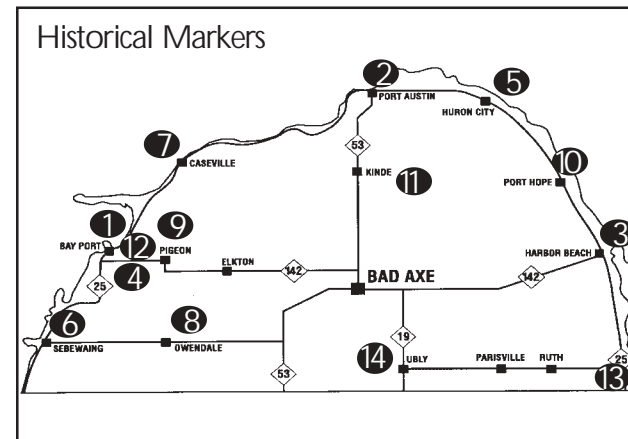
Registered Site L0202, Erected 1972

14 Citizen's Bank Block

Built in 1907 by local contractor David Pierce, the Citizen's Bank Block also housed a harness shop and a library. Albert Sleeper (1862-1934), who served in the Michigan State Senate and as governor, co founded the bank with his Uncle A.W. Merrill, taking sole ownership in 1900. Sleeper owned several other banks and extensive real estate. Sleeper and his wife, Mary Moore, set up a library in the space above the bank in 1908.



Registered Site S0654, Erected 1998



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1 Bay Port Fishing District

The Gillingham Fish Company was established in 1886; the Bay Port Fish Company in 1895. At their peak in the 1920's and 1930's, they shipped tons of perch, walleye, herring, whitefish, and carp to New York and Chicago in refrigerated railroad cars. Once known as



one of the largest fresh water commercial fishing ports in the world, Bay Port retains a commercial fishery that operates much as it did in the past. Bay Port also offers sport fishing, water skiing, ice fishing and hunting.

Registered Site S0458, Erected 1986

2 Charles G. Learned (Garfield Inn)

A native of New York, contractor Charles G. Learned helped build New York City's water-works system and the Erie Canal. Around 1837, Learned and his brother-in-law purchased several thousand acres of pine land in Michigan's Thumb area. Two years later, Learned and his wife, Maria Raymond, came to Port Austin and bought a house and three acres at this site. Learned's cutover pine land became a 2,000-acre

farm where he prospered as an agriculturalist and dairy farmer. With profits from his lumbering and farming enterprises, Learned enlarged and updated this house in the French Second Empire style. In the 1860's Ohio Congressman, later president, James A. Garfield, a family friend, was a

frequent guest here. From 1931 to 1979 the house served as Mayes Inn and Tower Hotel. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984.

Registered Site L0815, Erected 1990



3 Frank Murphy Museum

Frank Murphy was Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court from 1940 until his death in 1949. His earlier career included service as a Judge of the Detroit Records Court and instructor in law at the University of Detroit in the twenties. In the following decade he was mayor of Detroit, U.S. Governor-General in the Philippines, Governor of Michigan, and Attorney General of the United States. Governor Murphy's stand during the 1937 sit-down strike received national attention when he refused to send troops to remove workers from the factories. As an Associate Justice, Murphy wrote many of the Court's opinions concerning civil liberties. In *Thornhill v. Alabama* (1940), Murphy clarified labor's right to strike, holding that peaceful picketing was a manifestation of freedom of speech. Murphy died in July 1949, and is buried at Rock Falls Cemetery in Harbor Beach.

Registered Site S0285, Erected 1967

4 Great Fire of 1881

Small fires were burning in the forests of the Thumb, tinder dry after a long, hot summer, when a gale swept in from the southwest on Sept. 5, 1881. Fanned into an inferno, the fires raged for three days. A million acres were devastated in Sanilac and Huron Counties alone. At least 125 people died, and thousands more were left destitute. The new American Red Cross won support for its prompt aid to the fire victims. This was the first disaster relief furnished by this great organization.

Registered Site S0141, Erected 1957



5 Huron City

During the mid-1850's, the firm of R.B. Hubbard and Company, which included Connecticut-born entrepreneurs Langdon Hubbard, his brother Watson, and cousin Rollin B., built a steam-powered sawmill on Willow Creek. The company town they developed was named Huron City in 1861. A horsedrawn tram carried the mill's products to a nearby dock on Lake Huron for transport to the firm's lumber yard in Sandusky, Ohio. Huge forest fires in 1871 and 1881 entirely destroyed Huron City, but each time the town was rebuilt. Huron City's surviving buildings--including Langdon Hubbard's House, now called Seven Gables, the general store, the hotel, and the church--all date from the early 1880s. Langdon Hubbard died in 1892. In 1995 Huron City was listed as a historic district in the National Register of Historic Places.



William Lyon Phelps married Langdon Hubbard's daughter Annabel in 1892. Until 1938 the Phelps spent most summers at Seven Gables. Phelps, the Lampson Professor of English Literature at Yale University until his retirement in 1933, had a national following for four decades as an author, a critic, and a lecturer. He did much of his writing at Seven Gables and was the summer minister at the Huron City Church. In 1939 Phelps turned the town over to his niece Carolyn Hubbard Parcells. She and her husband, Charles A. Parcells, Sr. established the William Lyon Phelps Foundation in 1946 to preserve Huron City. The foundation built the brick museum in 1952, and restored the store, the hotel, and the church during the 1950's. The Point Aux Barques Life Saving Station building was moved to Huron City in 1964 to preserve it.

Registered Site L0463, Erected 1995

6 Indian Mission

Here, on July 1, 1845, three Lutheran missionaries, Rev. Johann J. F. Auch, Rev. J. Simon Dumser, and Rev. George Sinke, arrived. The Lutheran Leader, Rev. Friedrich Schmid, sent them from Ann Arbor to evangelize the Chippewa Indians. A log chapel was built here later that summer. In 1849, Rev. Auch ferried lumber from Lower Saginaw to Shebahyonk on Wild Fowl Bay, seven miles north of Sebawaing. A mission house was built there and dedicated on June 27, 1849. Rev. J. F. Maler had charge of the mission. By 1854, the Indians had left these parts. The mission house was sold. A century later, it was moved to this site and established as a museum. It is now maintained by the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod.

Registered Site L0024, Erected 1962

7 Methodist Episcopal Church

In 1868 the Reverend Manasseh Hickey and twelve settlers organized a Methodist Episcopal Church in Caseville. Services were held in a schoolhouse until the present church was built. Upon its dedication on November 15, 1874, the Gothic-inspired structure, with its 70-foot high steeple, became a focal point for the community. Local contractor William Ormiston built the church, which contains stained-glass windows by McFadden and Reed of New York City. In 1907 a basement was excavated, and in 1940, the memorial windows were installed.

Over the years, the steeple, which provided a landmark for Saginaw Bay boaters, was racked with structural problems and lightning, and had to be completely repaired. In 1974, the spire was replaced with a duplicate of the original.

Registered Site L1725, Erected 1995

