



WEST BROADWAY REVITALIZATION PLAN

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

The Michigan Condensed Milk Factory (Borden Creamery) in Mt. Pleasant recalls the successful effort of Samuel Whaley Hopkins (1845-1923), town attorney and benefactor, to bring a needed milk factory to Mt. Pleasant and the surrounding community. Architecturally, it is a vernacular example of a Commercial Italianate building constructed for specific use as a milk creamery. Samuel W. Hopkins graduated from the University Of Michigan Law School in 1872 and moved to Mt. Pleasant where he became the village lawyer. A quarter-century of political activity followed. Hopkins served as Isabella County prosecutor and won several terms in the state legislature. In 1906 Hopkins opened joint negotiations with the Ann Arbor railway and the Michigan Condensed Milk Factory of Fairport, New York, to purchase a land parcel from the railroad and to convince the New York-based creamery, owned by the Borden family, to build a factory in Mt. Pleasant. Designed by William D. Kyser, Superintendent of the Borden Creamery in Fairport, New York, the creamery was completed in 1908 and operated as a creamery until 1960.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Michigan Condensed Milk Factory is a red brick, rectangular shaped, two-story Commercial Italianate building. The structure is topped by a low, gable roof that is punctuated by eight wood cupolas, and rests on a concrete block foundation pad. The facades of the creamery are functionally simple in detailing. All four are similarly arranged with brick piers flanking each bay and each bay presenting paired, four-over-four double hung sash in bowed arch enframements at both the first and second floor levels. Triple rows of header brick create the decorative bowed arch of each window, while corbelled rows of stretcher brick top each bay, marking the cornice line of both gable ends. The long, gable roof of the creamery is the building's most distinctive and decorative feature. Eight cupolas highlight the ridgeline of the roof with their paired ventilation windows, "witches cap" roofs, and knobbed spires. Inside, the Creamery offers two levels of large, open factory space with masonry floors, brick walls and brick piers.

Date of Construction:	1907-1908
Architect/Builder:	Henry Herring
Date listed on the National Register of Historic Places:	April 7, 1983



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The National Register of Historic Places is the Nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. Authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate and protect our historic and archeological resources. Properties listed in the Register include districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering and culture. The National Register is administered by the National Park Service, which is part of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Included among the nearly 79,000 listings that make up the National Register are:

- All historic areas in the National Park System;
- Over 2,300 National Historic Landmarks, which have been designated by the Secretary of the Interior because of their importance to all Americans;
- Properties across the country that have been nominated by governments, organizations, and individuals because they are significant to the nation, to a state, or to a community.

National Register properties are distinguished by having been documented and evaluated according to uniform standards. These criteria recognize the accomplishments of all peoples who have contributed to the history and heritage of the United States and are designed to help state and local governments, Federal agencies, and others identify important historic and archeological properties worthy of preservation and of consideration in planning and development decisions.

Listing in the National Register contributes to preserving historic properties in a number of ways:

- Recognition that a property is of significance to the Nation, the State, or the community.
- Consideration in the planning for Federal or federally-assisted projects.
- Eligibility for Federal tax benefits.
- Qualification for Federal assistance for historic preservation, when funds are available.



MICHIGAN STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

In 1966, in response to growing public interest in historic preservation, Congress passed the National Historic Preservation Act [PDF] (NHPA of 1996, amended 1980, 1992 [USC Sec. 470-470t]). The Act required that each state establish a SHPO and that the governor of each state appoint an officer to oversee the preservation activities. Each year Michigan receives a Historic Preservation Fund grant from the National Park Service to operate its program. The Michigan SHPO identifies, evaluates, registers, interprets and protects the state's historic properties.

Michigan's SHPO was established in the late 1960s. Its main function is to provide technical assistance to local communities in their efforts to identify, evaluate, designate and protect Michigan's historic resources. The SHPO also administers an incentives program that includes state and federal tax credits and pass-through grants available to Certified Local Governments. The SHPO works closely with the Office of the State Archaeologist to accomplish its goals. The SHPO is led by the state historic preservation officer, who is designated by the governor to carry out provisions of the Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. The SHPO's programs are funded through a Historic Preservation Fund grant, an annual federal matching grant administered by the National Park Service.

SHPO publications, published in cooperation with *Michigan History* magazine, include *Landmarks to Landscapes*, which provides an overview of preservation activities in Michigan, *Preservation Shore to Shore: Planning to Preserve*, and a variety of brochures about the SHPO's programs. The SHPO prepared, under the auspices of the Society of Architectural Historians, *Buildings of Michigan*. In addition, the Michigan Historic Preservation Network features a four-page supplement, "SHPO News", in its quarterly newsletter.

How to Contact the SHPO

Michigan State Historic Preservation Office
Michigan Historical Center
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