

# HISTORY

INDIVIDUAL HISTORIC PROPERTY DOCUMENTATION FORM 09/12/94

Address: 1300 BROADWAY  
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Historic Name: Absalom Traver House  
Date Built: 1837

Category of Significance: HISTORY

Architectural Style: Vernacular

Number of Stories: 2

Building Material: Aluminum

Window Type: Double-hung  
Window Panes: six-over-six

Plan Shape: Rectangular

Roof Shape: Side Gable with returns  
Roof Material: Asphalt  
Dormer Type: None

Porch Type: Stoop  
Porch Posts: N/A  
Porch Railings: N/A

Historic Use: Residential/SF/owner occ  
Current Use: Residential/SF/Owner occupied

Special Features: Greek Revival details: Sidelights and entablature,  
original sash on right half, possible frieze boards under  
siding

First Map: 1853  
First City Directory: 1860  
Architect: Unknown  
Builder: Absalom Traver  
Notes: Traver in Ann Arbor & buys 22 acres 1831, built sawmill  
1834, furnished wood to build first U-M buildings (Chapin  
Scrapbook 2, Box 1) Traver's Addition 1837, Traver Road  
and creek named after him, died 8/12/69 @ 68. Wife Amanda  
Malorna Hill 1846 continued business, died 3/25/1896.

Photo Date: 06/27/94 Roll: 1 Frame: 2 By: Nakata



Statement of Significance

**1300 Broadway**

Absalom Traver owned a successful saw mill next to this lot which furnished wood to build the first University of Michigan buildings in 1840. He subdivided a large portion of his 22 acres of land into 67 lots along Broadway and Jones Drive (then called Mill Street) and added them to the city in 1837. Both Traver Creek and Traver Road are named after him. Though his house has been altered with modern siding, many of its original Greek Revival details are still intact: the gable returns on the sides, the front entry with sidelights and entablature, and several of the original six-over-six windows.



INDIVIDUAL HISTORIC PROPERTY DOCUMENTATION FORM 09/12/94

Address: 1324 BROADWAY  
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Historic Name: Zerah Pulcipher House  
Date Built: 1834

Category of Significance: HISTORY

Architectural Style: Vernacular

Number of Stories: 2

Building Material: Asbestos Shingle

Window Type: Double-hung  
Window Panes: -0-

Plan Shape: Rectangular

Roof Shape: Side Gable with returns  
Roof Material: Asphalt  
Dormer Type: None

Porch Type: None  
Porch Posts: N/A  
Porch Railings: N/A

Historic Use: Residential/SF/owner occ  
Current Use: Residential/SF/Owner occupied

Special Features: Greek Revival details: 3 bay center entry, small entablature over door, possible frieze under siding

First Map: 1853  
First City Directory: 1868  
Architect: None  
Builder: Zerah Pulcipher  
Notes: Dotys emigrated from NY, built house with Pulcipher's help. He married daughter Caroline & stayed here when parents moved on. Doty served in first state legislature. Original lot went down to river. Milo Ryan (View of a Universe) great grandson of Caroline & Zerah. (Observer, June 1985)

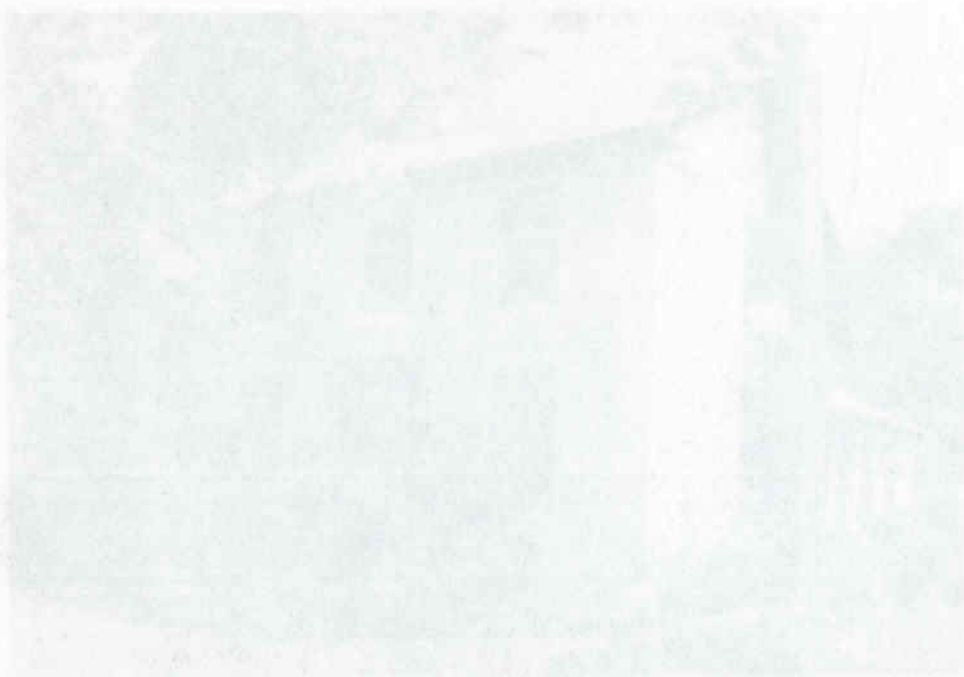
Photo Date: 06/27/94 Roll: 1 Frame: 3 By: Nakata



Statement of Significance

1324 Broadway

According to the late Milo Ryan in his memoir View of a Universe, his great, great grandfather Samuel Doty built this simple house with the help of his son-in-law Zerah Pulcifer. Though Doty served in the first State legislature, he and his wife soon left Ann Arbor. The Pulcifers stayed behind and became active members of the community. The gable returns on the sides, small entablature over the center entry, and symmetry of the facade are Greek Revival details typical of the 1830s period of settlement.





INDIVIDUAL HISTORIC PROPERTY DOCUMENTATION FORM 09/12/94

Address: 632 N FOURTH AVE.  
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Historic Name: African Methodist Episcopal Church  
Date Built: 1891-96

Category of Significance: History

Architectural Style: Gothic Revival

Number of Stories: 2

Building Material: Solid Brick

Window Type: Fixed pane  
Window Panes: Stained Glass

Plan Shape: Rectangular

Roof Shape: Front Gable  
Roof Material: Asphalt  
Dormer Type: None

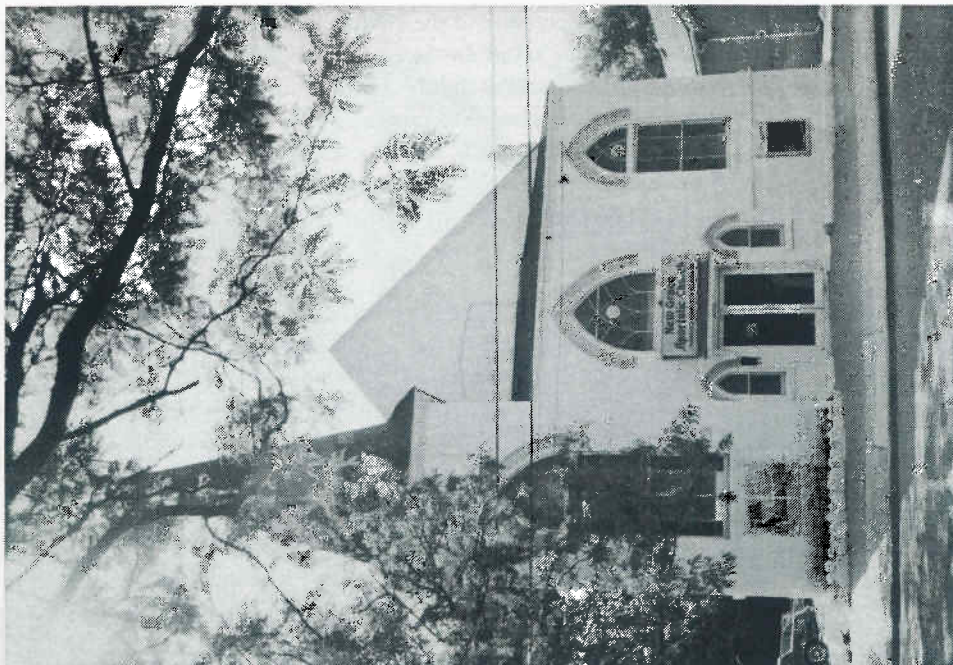
Porch Type: N/A  
Porch Posts: N/A  
Porch Railings: N/A

Historic Use: Religious  
Current Use: Religious

Special Features: Square tower with tall spire on front left corner,  
stained glass in tops of pointed arched windows

First Map: 1908 Sanborn  
First City Directory: NA  
Architect: Unknown  
Builder: Unknown  
Notes: Historic Buildings page 60

Photo Date: 06/27/94 Roll: 5 Frame: 4 By: Nakata



Statement of Significance

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**632 North Fourth Avenue**

Bethel AME Church

1891-96

Before the Civil War, African-Americans in Ann Arbor worshipped in a small Greek Revival church which still stands today at 504 High Street (see 64). Then it was simply known as the "Union" church or the "Colored" church.

Eventually two denominations developed: the African Methodist Episcopal (AME), organized in 1855, and the Second Baptist. The date of the first AME church building is unclear. All sources agree,

however, that the present church building was begun in 1891 after the older structure was moved to the rear of the property. Bishop Henry McNeal Turner, an important figure in the AME church who had served President Lincoln as the first black chaplain in the United State Army, laid the cornerstone. Due to financial problems, however, the building was not dedicated until 1896.



Kip Miller

During the Depression of the 1890s a trustee mortgaged his own home so the church would be saved. In the ensuing decades Ann Arbor's African-American population grew and so did this congregation. Racial discrimination was endemic, neighborhoods were segregated, low-paying jobs were the norm. But the church was a refuge in these hard times. As one member recalled: "— Our lives revolved around the church. We socialized there, did our homework there. If you were passing by and saw the light on, you went in to see what was going on."

The congregation eventually prospered and built a new church on Plum Street selling the old one to the New Grace Apostolic congregation in 1971. New Grace Apostolic belongs to the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World of Apostolic Faith, an interracial group of fundamentalists. In 1992, New Grace Apostolic sold the building to a local developer who plans to convert it to condominiums.



INDIVIDUAL HISTORIC PROPERTY DOCUMENTATION FORM 09/12/94

Address: 308 E MADISON  
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Historic Name: Vernon Willey (Raoul Wallenberg)  
Date Built: 1904

Category of Significance: history

Architectural Style: Dutch Colonial Revival

Number of Stories: 1.5

Building Material: Asbestos Shingle

Window Type: Double-hung  
Window Panes: six-over-six

Plan Shape: Rectangular

Roof Shape: Gambrel Front  
Roof Material: Asphalt  
Dormer Type: None

Porch Type: Half Front  
Porch Posts: Round, full height  
Porch Railings: large rail, fat balusters

Historic Use: Residential/SF/owner occ  
Current Use: Residential/SF/Owner occupied

Special Features: Double stair window with X muntins, original porch, rare apron with vertical screen (not lattice)

First Map: 1908 Sanborn  
First City Directory: 1904  
Architect: Unknown  
Builder: Unknown  
Notes: Only remaining known residence of Raoul Wallenberg while @ U-M.

Photo Date: 03/01/87 Roll: slide Frame: -0 By: Pieper





Statement of Significance

**308 East Madison Street**

In the early 1930's, a young Swedish student named Raoul Wallenberg came to the University of Michigan to study architecture and engineering. Though, as most students do, he moved several times during his years here, this small, unassuming Dutch Colonial house is the only one of the places where he lived that still stands. After graduating, Wallenberg returned to Sweden where he became a businessman. In that capacity he managed to save the lives of thousands of Hungarian Jews from Nazi persecution during World War II. Near the end of the war he disappeared and his fate remains unknown. To honor his memory, the University sponsors an annual lecture and prize. The School of Architecture, of which he was a graduate, also sponsors an annual special event in his honor.

INDIVIDUAL HISTORIC PROPERTY DOCUMENTATION FORM 09/12/94

Address: 611 N MAIN  
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Historic Name: John J. Robinson House  
Date Built: 1885

Category of Significance: History

Architectural Style: Italianate

Number of Stories: 1.5

Building Material: Solid Brick

Window Type: Double-hung  
Window Panes: one-over-one

Plan Shape: L-shaped

Roof Shape: Front Gable  
Roof Material: Asphalt  
Dormer Type: None

Porch Type: Full Front  
Porch Posts: Square with brackets  
Porch Railings: stucco

Historic Use: Residential/SF/owner occ  
Current Use: Residential/SF/rental

Special Features: King post trim in front gable; carved trim in wood panel filling shallow arch above windows; brackets on short porch posts

First City First Map: 1916 SB  
Directory: 1890-91  
Architect: Unknown  
Builder: Unknown  
Notes: See 615 N Main. First occupant we can find is James B. Saunders, a foreman at the Ann Arbor Courier. In 1905, Elizabeth Lanz, a widow, is there followed by Louis and Angela Sinelli in 1912.

Photo Date: 06/27/94 Roll: 3 Frame: 10 By: Nakata



Statement of Significance

**611, 613, and 615 North Main Street**

Washtenaw County built a handsome brick jail on North Main Street in 1837. By 1885, however, the jail functions were moved elsewhere and the building was sold to John Robinson. He converted the front of the old structure to his own residence and tore down the rear part which had housed prisoners. He then used the old bricks to build these two houses in the Italianate style. They were rented out to working people. In the early teens, Louis and Angela Sinelli added a small brick grocery store to #611. Through the decades, the store with its antique signs and quaint old neighbors has been a prominent feature of the North Main Street area.





INDIVIDUAL HISTORIC PROPERTY DOCUMENTATION FORM 09/12/94

Address: 613 N MAIN  
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Historic Name: Sinelli's Market  
Date Built: 1914

Category of Significance: History

Architectural Style: Commercial Vernacular

Number of Stories: 1

Building Material: Solid Brick

Window Type: Fixed pane  
Window Panes: -0-

Plan Shape: Rectangular

Roof Shape: Flat  
Roof Material: N/A  
Dormer Type: N/A

Porch Type: N/A  
Porch Posts: N/A  
Porch Railings: N/A

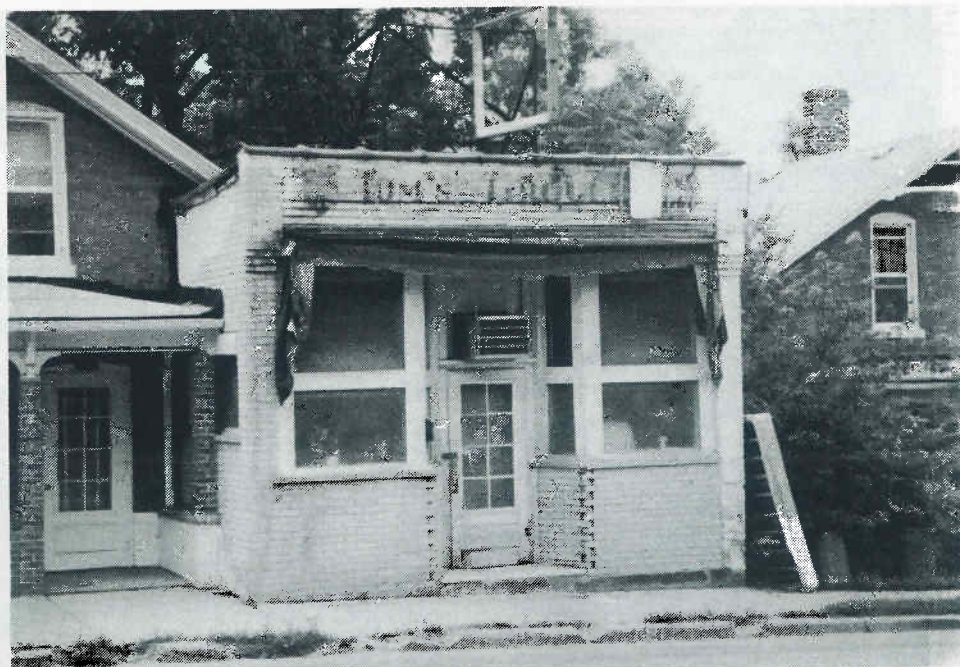
Historic Use: Commercial/owner occupied  
Current Use: Commercial/owner occupied

Special Features: White brick notched together at corners of entrance;  
original store windows with wide wood trim; 8 light wood  
door, retractable awning

First City First Map: 1916 SB  
Directory: 1914  
Architect: Unknown  
Builder: Unknown

Notes: First listed as grocery store run by Louis and Angela  
Sinelli in 1914. Became Tom's Market under Thomas  
Kussurelis in 1938 then McCoy's Market in 1963. Store  
address does not appear until 1939.

Photo Date: 06/27/94 Roll: 3 Frame: 11 By: Nakata



INDIVIDUAL HISTORIC PROPERTY DOCUMENTATION FORM 09/12/94

Address: 615 N MAIN  
\*\*\*\*\*

Historic Name: John J. Robinson House  
Date Built: 1885

Category of Significance: History

Architectural Style: Italianate

Number of Stories: 1.5

Building Material: Solid Brick

Window Type: Double-hung  
Window Panes: one-over-one

Plan Shape: Rectangular

Roof Shape: Front Gable  
Roof Material: Asphalt  
Dormer Type: None

Porch Type: Full Front  
Porch Posts: Square with brackets  
Porch Railings: None

Historic Use: Residential/SF/owner occ  
Current Use: Residential/SF/rental

Special Features: King-post trim in front gable, carved trim in wood panels in arches above windows, porch posts & brackets different from 611, bottom of posts now concrete.

First Map: 1916 SB  
First City Directory: -0-  
Architect: Unknown  
Builder: Unknown  
Notes:

Three houses built from bricks of back of 1837 County Jail to the north in 1885 by John J Robison (Beakes, p 693-4). Robison converted for his own use front part of Jail which had been Sheriff's residence. It was not demolished until 1958. This house appears to have been a rental from the first.

Photo Date: 06/27/94 Roll: 3 Frame: 12 By: Nakata





INDIVIDUAL HISTORIC PROPERTY DOCUMENTATION FORM 09/12/94

Address: 723 MOORE  
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Historic Name: Waite/Kellogg House  
Date Built: 1838&'65

Category of Significance: history

Architectural Style: Greek Revival

Number of Stories: 2

Building Material: Asbestos Shingle

Window Type: Double-hung  
Window Panes: one-over-one

Plan Shape: Rectangular

Roof Shape: Hipped  
Roof Material: Asphalt  
Dormer Type: None

Porch Type: Full Front  
Porch Posts: Square, full height  
Porch Railings: flat railing, square spindles

Historic Use: Residential/SF/owner occ  
Current Use: Residential/multi-family

Special Features: Sidelights, pilasters, and elaborate entablature; a few original 6/6 sash, originally 5-bay center entry I-House, remodeled to Italianate in 1865

First Map: 1853  
First City Directory: 1868  
Architect: Unknown  
Builder: Unknown  
Notes: Historic Buildings page 145

Photo Date: 02/01/92 Roll: slide Frame: -0 By: Pieper

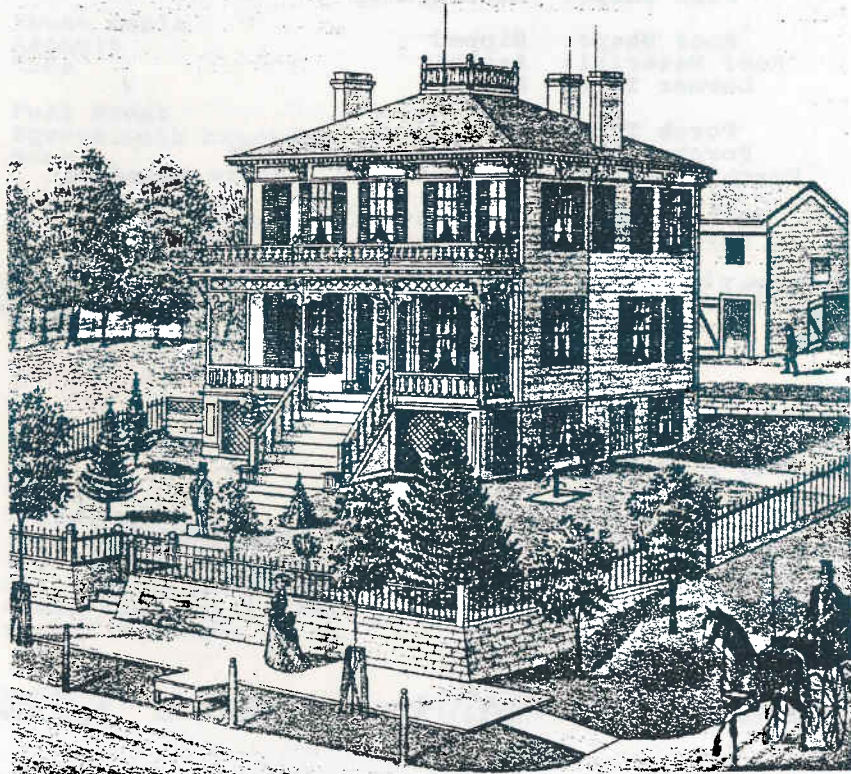




1838/1865

723 Moore Street  
Waite-Kellogg House

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Behind its unappealing asbestos siding and fire escapes, this house is a gem waiting to be uncovered and restored. Built in approximately 1838 by Joseph Waite, it was originally one room deep — an example of the type of folk house known as an I-house. Although built as a private house, and adorned by a very handsome Greek Revival doorway, it soon became a rooming house for workers at the nearby Jones and Foley paper mill. Times were tough in the country after the Panic of 1837 and large houses like these quickly became a heavy burden for individuals.

A very individualistic citizen, however, saw fit to purchase the house in 1865 and enlarge it into its present Italianate configuration. This was Daniel B. Kellogg, clairvoyant physician. Dr. Kellogg was famous enough — and his home was grand enough — to be featured in an engraving in the 1874 *Atlas of Washtenaw County*. From this engraving one gets a true image of the treasure which lies beneath the surface.

CONTINUED on next page

Statement of Significance■ Waite-Kellogg House *CONTINUED*

Kellogg was born in Pittsfield Township to pioneers from Oneida County, New York. His first encounter with his "gifts" for clairvoyance (or "clear vision") came when he was 17 and encountered a traveling hypnotist. Kellogg was a quick study and soon his neighbors in Pittsfield visited him to "join hands, hear rappings, witness automatic writing and watch the parlor furniture dance as if bewitched." Word of his supernatural perceptions spread quickly and his diagnoses were often linked with remedies. He moved to Ann Arbor in 1865, set up his office on nearby Broadway, and did a brisk business in mail-order diagnosis, answering letters from all over the country and even from Europe. To keep up with demand for his services, he enlisted the aid of his brother Leverett and sold a line of "family medicines" as well, including Kellogg's Liver Invigorator, Kellogg's Magic Red Drops, Kellogg's Family Cathartic Pills, and Kellogg's Lung Remedy.

Unfortunately Kellogg's success was short lived. He died in 1876, at the young age of 42. Undaunted, Leverett continued to sell the patent medicines while Daniel's son Albert C. Kellogg continued to practice his father's unusual profession. An 1891 biography of Albert stated that he continued to manufacture Dr. Kellogg's Family Remedies, which were handled by druggists throughout the State of Michigan, and that his pleasant home in the old part of the town was where he and his wife "keep up the old homestead."

By the 1890s the house had once again reverted to a rooming house, and tenants came and went in rapid succession. As in the rest of the area known as "Lower Town," the decline persisted as businesses and residents moved closer to campus and to the thriving shops on Main Street. But the house did not go unnoticed. In 1936, Emil Lorch of the University of Michigan School of Architecture, noted the unusual entrance and added: "plus or minus good stairs, interior doors and trim." At that time the house was owned by Louis Goffe, a tenant for over 25 years. It remains a rooming house today.



INDIVIDUAL HISTORIC PROPERTY DOCUMENTATION FORM 09/12/94

Address: 1709 PONTIAC  
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Historic Name: Josiah Beckley House  
Date Built: 1834-6

Category of Significance: HISTORY

Architectural Style: Greek Revival

Number of Stories: 2

Building Material: Solid Brick

Window Type: Double-hung  
Window Panes: Sandwich

Plan Shape: Rectangular

Roof Shape: Side Gable with returns  
Roof Material: Asphalt  
Dormer Type: None

Porch Type: Stoop  
Porch Posts: N/A  
Porch Railings: N/A

Historic Use: Residential/SF/owner occ  
Current Use: Residential/SF/Owner occupied

Special Features: 5-bay center entry, end chimneys, starr shaped tie rod ends, brick jack arches throughout

First Map: 1856 County map  
First City Directory: 1878  
Architect: Unknown  
Builder: Josiah Beckley  
Notes: Historic Buildings page 149

Photo Date: 06/01/92 Roll: -0- Frame: -0 By: Kip Miller Collection





Statement of Significance**1709 Pontiac Trail**

Josiah Beckley House

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Circa 1834



K.P. Miller

Josiah Beckley and his family were members of that intrepid group of early settlers who left New England for the Michigan Territory just after the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825. Beckley arrived in Ann Arbor in 1827 with his wife Minerva, a son Luke and an infant Charles. In October of that year, he purchased 73 acres

from Isaac Hull in what was then Ann Arbor Township. According to the family's history, the house was built either in 1834 or 1836, though it could be even older.

Josiah's large brick house has two stories and a classical center entry, and in form resembles a New England house. It has brick end chimneys and an elaborate doorway (not original) with no portico, which is probably how it originally looked. The current windows in the house were added in the 1980s. The black metal stars on the exterior signal the presence of tie rods — iron rods that span the width of the building and help hold it together.

It is not surprising that Beckley built his house of brick, for an 1835 newspaper advertisement indicates he was in the brick business: "Brick! Brick!! Brick!!! Brown and Co. having made an arrangement with Josiah Beckley for brick we are prepared to supply their customers and all others who may wish, with any quantity of the article on reasonable terms. (Signed) Ann Arbor, (on the Huron), April 20, 1835."

Josiah Beckley died in September of 1843 at the age of 53. His wife Minerva and their children continued to live in the house for a few more years but it appears that the house had to be sold to pay Josiah's debts. In 1847 Warren Millard purchased the house and his descendants lived there for almost 100 years.

Today the house remains on its large lot, surrounded by mature trees and looking almost as it did when Ann Arbor was just emerging from the wilderness of the early Michigan Territory.

INDIVIDUAL HISTORIC PROPERTY DOCUMENTATION FORM 09/12/94

Address: 1202 TRAVER  
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Historic Name: District School  
Date Built: 1840

Category of Significance: HISTORY

Architectural Style: Greek Revival

Number of Stories: 1

Building Material: Solid Brick

Window Type: Double-hung  
Window Panes: four-over-four

Plan Shape: Rectangular

Roof Shape: Front Gable  
Roof Material: Asphalt  
Dormer Type: None

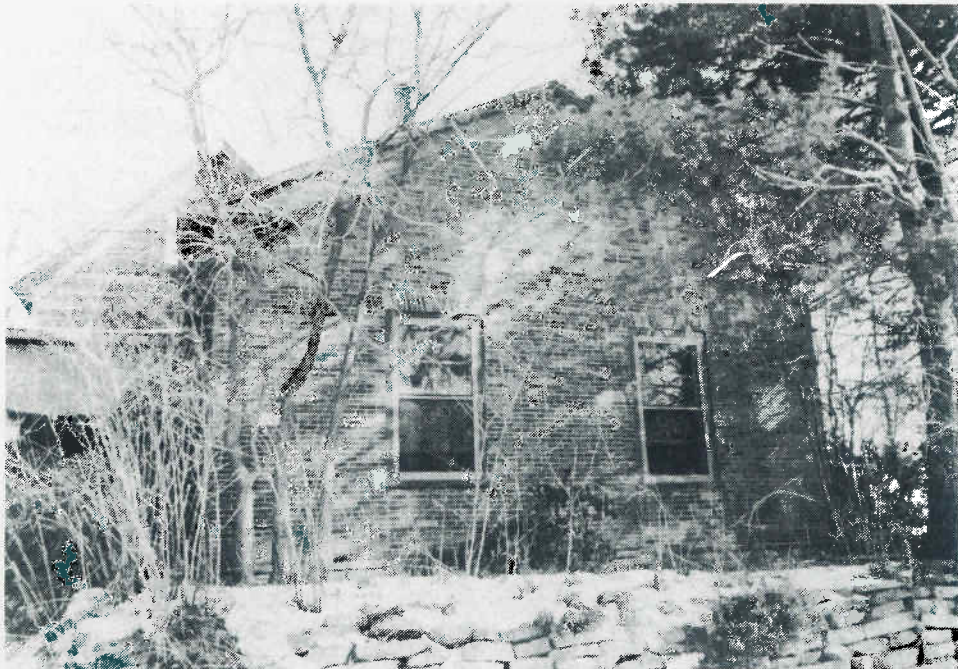
Porch Type: None  
Porch Posts: N/A  
Porch Railings: N/A

Historic Use: Educational  
Current Use: Residential/SF/rental

Special Features: Small brick jack arches, incorporated into later house

First Map: 1853  
First City Directory: none  
Architect: Unknown  
Builder: Unknown  
Notes: Stephenson p 123: "In 1840 Rev. [Thomas] Holmes moved the [north district] school to a new brick schoolhouse on Traver Street." New districts for public schools established in 1847. Not known how long this building served as a school but oldest school building still standing.

Photo Date: 02/01/92 Roll: slide Frame: -0 By: Pieper



Statement of Significance

**1202 Traver Street**

The small one-story brick wing of this house was originally the North District School. Built in 1840, according to Ann Arbor, The First Hundred Years, it is the oldest school structure in the city. Its age is still evident in the Greek Revival gable with returns facing the street. The school served several generations of students until the Sixth Ward School was built on Wall Street. The old structure was converted to its present residential use by the Lahti Family, local artists and U-M faculty.