CHERRY HILL
HISTORIC DISTRICT

Kosky Glynn and Saborio LLC
July 2002
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

   historic name Cherry Hill Historic District

   other names/site number

2. Location

   street & number Cherry Hill and Ridge Roads

   city or town Canton Township

   state Michigan code MI

   county Wayne 91

   vicinity N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

   As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official

Michigan SHPO

State or Federal agency and bureau
CHERRY HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT

In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( ____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official ___________________________ Date ___________________________

State or Federal agency and bureau ___________________________

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

____ entered in the National Register

____ determined eligible for the National Register

____ determined not eligible for the National Register

____ removed from the National Register

____ other (explain): ___________________________

_________________________ Signature of Keeper ___________________________

_________________________ Date of Action ___________________________

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

___ private

___ public-local

___ public-State

___ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

___ building(s)

___ district

___ site

___ structure

___ object
CHERRY HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT

WAYNE COUNTY, MI

Number of Resources within Property

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<tr>
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<td>5 objects</td>
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Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _0__

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) ___N/A___

6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Industry/manufacturing facility Sub: ________________________________
    Domestic/single dwelling ________________________________
    Religious/religious facility ________________________________
    Funerary/cemetery ________________________________
    Domestic/hotel, commerce/trade/store ________________________________
    Education/school ________________________________
    Domestic/multiple dwelling ________________________________

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Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Industry/manufacturing facility Sub: ________________________________
    Domestic/single dwelling ________________________________
    Religious/religious facility ________________________________
    Funerary/cemetery ________________________________
    Vacant/not in use ________________________________
    ________________________________
    ________________________________
    ________________________________
    ________________________________

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Four square  Gothic Revival
Other: Upright and wing  Italianate
Materials
- foundation: stone, concrete block,
- roof: asphalt
- walls: brick, concrete block, wood, aluminum, asbestos, stucco over brick
- other: metal

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- X A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- X C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- X A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- X B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- X D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
- Architecture
- Commerce
- Industry
CHERRY HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT

Period of Significance 1831-1952

Significant Dates 1865, 1876, 1882, 1924, 1943, 1944

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data

X State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

X Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: Canton Library and Canton Administrative Offices

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 17 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

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Verbal Boundary Description (see continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (see continuation sheet.)
Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs
Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner (see continuation sheet)

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name __________________________

street & number __________________________

telephone __________________________

city or town __________________________ state ______________ zip code ______________

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.
Located at the intersection of Ridge and Cherry Hill Roads in Canton Township, Michigan, the Cherry Hill Historic District incorporates those buildings and features that formed the core of Cherry Hill, a rural crossroad hamlet. Cherry Hill served as a central place filling the educational, social, religious, and some commercial needs of residents living within its boundaries and on nearby farmsteads until the 1960’s. Approaching from the south, Ridge Road intersects Cherry Hill Road in the center of the hamlet and then jogs slightly east running concomitantly with Cherry Hill Road a short distance before continuing on a roughly northeastly line. The district is linear in nature with all properties facing on either Ridge or Cherry Hill Roads. Included in the district along the western side of S. Ridge Road are buildings associated with one of Henry Ford’s Village Industry projects and a nineteenth century farmhouse with its accompanying wooded space. Located along the eastern side of S. Ridge Road are a Gothic Revival style church and a settlement era cemetery, both dating to the nineteenth century. Located adjacent to and north of the cemetery is a nineteenth century, two-story, Italianate inn. Across from the inn on north side of Cherry Hill Road is a nineteenth century school also in the Italianate style. Located to the west along the north side of Cherry Hill Road is an early twentieth century house. Mature trees, wooded areas, and remnants of farm outbuildings within the boundaries all lead to the impression of the hamlet as a rural central place that served as a community focus for over a century.

Situated upon high ground, Cherry Hill was originally known as “The Ridge” due to its location along an extensive geological formation running on a diagonal through Canton Township’s western sections. The ridge is part of a 400-mile long former shoreline of Lake Whittesey, a lake formed by meltwater from a retreating glacier around 13,000 years ago (Dorr and Eschman, p.171). The high land of this ridge, in places fifteen feet above the surrounding area, stays dry even when surrounding land is wet and muddy, making it an ideal place for settlement. The land in the area is rich glacial till, excellent for farming.

Dates of resources in the district range from the first burial in the cemetery in 1831 until the building of the Ford factory in 1944. This wide time span of building activity attests to the longevity of the hamlet as a central place.

The former Ford Village Industries factory, the newest of the buildings in the district, is located at the southwest corner of the intersection of Cherry Hill and S. Ridge Roads. Originally constructed as a cleanly modern, rectangular shaped, concrete block building covered in stucco, it has seen several alterations but
still exhibits characteristics that attest to its construction date. A nineteenth century, wood construction, creamery building, moved directly south by Henry Ford, formerly stood on its site.

Henry Ford had an affinity for old buildings and often incorporated them in his building plans, modifying them to suit his needs and adding stylistic elements not found on the original building. Modified, by Ford for use as a dormitory, the creamery building appears as a twentieth century classical style building. This style, typical of many of Ford’s buildings, represents his own interpretation of the classical design, a style immediately recognizable as unique to Henry Ford.

To the south of the Ford complex along the west side of S. Ridge Road a wooded area separates the complex from the next resource, a nineteenth century, wood frame, upright and wing dwelling. This undeveloped land between buildings lends a nineteenth century feel to the hamlet.

Crossing to the east side of S. Ridge Road and across from this wooded area is an 1882 Gothic Revival church. This brick structure with impressive stained glass windows replaced an earlier, 1848, wood frame building. It is a well-maintained example of the Gothic Revival style as interpreted by local builders.

To the north of the church and stretching along north along the east side of S. Ridge Road is the Cherry Hill Cemetery. Enclosed by chain link fencing and entered through a gate surmounted by an ornate metal sign, the cemetery has graves dating to 1831. The grave of Huge Clyde, one of the first landowners of the hamlet, is located here. In constant use, the cemetery’s grounds have been enlarged over time, with the current layout of roadways reminiscent of the park-like cemeteries popular in the latter part of the nineteenth century.

To the north of the cemetery and located on the southeast corner of Cherry Hill and S. Ridge Roads is an Italianate style inn. Imposing in this small hamlet, it is probably the district’s most outstanding building both because of its size and because of the intensive and varied use it has seen. Serving at various times as an inn, as a general store, a post office, a dance hall, a community center, an antiques store, and at one time divided into apartments, it is a simple almost square building with symmetrical openings and a hipped roof.

Located across from the inn on the north side of Cherry Hill Road is a nineteenth century Italinate school building. Originally brick, it was built in 1876 as a brick Italianate one room building. The school was enlarged and its walls clad in stucco by Henry Ford when he incorporated it as part of a Village Industries project in 1943. The northern portion of Ridge Road runs along the eastern boundary of the school property.

To the west of the school property a pole barn sits back from Cherry Hill Road on a small parcel of land. It is of modern construction and is noncontributing to the district architecturally, but it is indicative of the mixed-use construction in these unplanned communities.
The final resource in the district is a brick dwelling constructed in 1924. It is of the type often called American Four-Square with Colonial Revival stylistic elements. On its grounds are several small non-contributing outbuildings and foundation remnants of larger buildings, indicating the existence of an active farmstead in the hamlet’s heart well in to the twentieth century.

The varieties of building styles and the wide range in construction dates are testimony to the viability of this rural hamlet through over a century and a half of its existence. A detailed description of individual resources is provided on the following continuation sheets.

1. Cherry Hill Ford Factory Complex
   50625 Cherry Hill Road
   The twenty-five feet by sixty-two feet concrete block building renovated by Henry Ford to be used as a residence for World War II Veterans began life as a creamery. The creamery was located on S. Ridge Road near Cherry Hill Road on land originally purchased by Hugh R. Clyde in 1828. From about 1900 until 1943, when Henry Ford purchased the property, the creamery supplied the needs of the area residents. The wood creamery was moved south and rebuilt by Ford into a dormitory with kitchen. Known as the “Residence Hall” it housed eighteen to twenty men. The dining room was on the lower level and contained picnic tables that seated twenty-five to thirty people. Ford was known to stop by with his grandsons or upper level company administrators for a visit. Many of the veterans who resided there were from Fort Custer in Battle Creek (Tobin, p. 40).

Ford gave the dormitory concrete block walls, a flat shingle roof, and his own style of classical embellishment. Four Tuscan columns resting on a concrete base support the pedimented front entry. There are pilasters on each side of the facade of the building and a round window set in horizontal boards in the porch gable. The rear gable echoes the front with a round window set in the clapboard. Windows vary in size, but most have multiple lights and concrete lintels. In addition to the simple front door, there is an entry door on the south elevation. The gable front building faces S. Ridge Road to the east, and is built into the hillside made by the land that slopes downward to the west. Most of the building’s lower level sits above ground. The present owner states that the interior looks the same as shown in pictures taken in 1945 (photo collection at Henry Ford Museum Archives).
North of the dormitory is the Cherry Hill Ford Factory that was built in 1944 by Henry Ford as part of his Village Industries program. The factory is sited on a landscaped parcel that slopes westward from S. Ridge Road toward the Lower Branch of the Rouge River that cuts through the property from north to south. The factory was built in a rectangular shape of concrete block covered with stucco. The two-story building is sited facing S. Ridge Road, with additions attached to the rear of the lower level. The original factory had 3,100 square feet of space on the first floor and 2,270 square feet on the lower level. There have been some alterations such as window replacement, the addition of a shingle mansard roof, and a porch supported by five columns adorned with Doric capitals. There are now two front doors, each framed with fluted pilasters and topped with dentil molding under a decorative crown. Walls have been added on the interior for office space on both levels. The ceiling, now covered with acoustic tile, is made of wood from one of Henry Ford's Upper Peninsula sawmills where wood was milled for the Ford "Woody" station wagons. The chimney, original back door, and nearby manhole cover (with Ford Motor Company on it) are intact and can be seen where the first 1950s space was added on the lower level. Nearby is the original bathroom with shower that is built into the hillside and is no longer in use. The original brick floor in the northeast corner is still intact. Most of the changes from the 1970s are reversible.

The following additions to the original Ford plant are considered non-contributing. The interior of these additions consist of spacious rooms with removable storage shelving and manufacturing equipment. Although no exact building dates for the additions were found in public record, the current owner knew approximate dates.

- 1950 addition: When Extruded Hinge bought the property in 1950, they put a rectangular addition with flat roof and metal chimney on the south rear of the factory. A sluice lined with stone runs underneath this building to provide for uninterrupted flow of the Lower Branch of the Rouge River.

- 1970s addition: Behind the north end of the original factory two 1950’s Quonset huts had been put up by Extruded Hinge. After the Hennells family bought the factory, they replaced these with a one-story L-shaped addition.

Later additions to the building extending beyond (west of) the Rouge River are excluded from the nominated property.
2. Huston, Reuben and Sarah Gill, House
600 S. Ridge Road

The property located at 600 S. Ridge now consists of 1.86 acres located on the west side of S. Ridge Road. Its c.1860 upright and wing two-story house has a one-story front porch supported by columns. Decorative millwork includes double brackets under the eaves and modern reproduction (close to original) scrollwork on the front porch. The wood porch has fieldstone knee walls on either side of the steps. A one-story enclosed entry exists on the north elevation of the wing. There is a one-story addition on the rear of the wing, which has a frame/screened porch on the north elevation. A second addition is attached to the west end of the rear addition. A roof supported by posts forms the umbrage porch, which joins the upright and the rear addition. This rear ell addition is attached to an exterior wall and is thought to have been a summer kitchen, probably once located at the rear of the property. The foundation of the ell is constructed of fieldstones that are smaller than those in the foundation of the main house. A brick lined cistern exists under the floor. A shed roof addition was removed from the south elevation of the rear addition during the 1978 renovation. The "funeral door" exiting to the front porch and other doors were covered at that time. A stairwell on the north side of the house was eliminated to provide room for a bathroom.

The foundation is of dressed fieldstone, with smaller stones used in the rear addition. Blue aluminum siding covers the exterior and the roof is shingle. There are cellar doors on the north elevation near the front of the house. A chimney is still extant in the wall of the current kitchen that was renovated in 2001. There is a brick chimney in the upright portion and a metal chimney in the rear addition. A modern brick patio sits adjacent to the rear of the house.

The yard is adorned with old lilacs, evergreens and deciduous trees such as maple, white mulberry, catalpa, and hickory. The rear of the property slopes west from the house for about twenty-five feet, then steeply drops to a creek bed. To the west of the creek is plowed field. South of the property is the Hauk farm, and to the north is the former Ford factory.

3. Cherry Hill Methodist Episcopal Church
321 S. Ridge Road

The church is a Gothic Revival, red brick structure with a front-gabled, shingled, steeply pitched roof and a wood addition extending to the north from behind the church. A spire-tipped belfry with four gabled faces tops the front of the roof. The side elevations of the church have raised brickwork piers that divide the wall into four sections, each containing a pointed arch window supporting a raised brick frieze. A rubble stone foundation is visible below the brickwork, and evergreens and low shrubs are planted along the foundation on the side and front elevations. There is a brick chimney at the rear of the roof.
The façade has a center entry flanked by a pair of pointed arch (Gothic) windows. It is outlined with corbelled brickwork in a stair step pattern that rises to the apex from where it crosses to the other side in a dentil pattern.

A six panel wood double door is located in the center of the façade. Above the door a stained glass window is fashioned in the shape of a Gothic arch with a keystone at the apex. The arch is divided into three sections by wood mullions. They form two identical Gothic pointed arches with a lilac and green floral design on a gold background. A small circle of gold and turquoise glass surmounts the arches. Below, in blue glass, is the name M. E. Church. The door and window above are outlined as one unit by brickwork. There is a light on either side of the door below carved corbel decoration.

Two Gothic stained glass windows outlined with brick flank the door. There are sandstone keystones at the apexes of the arches; small, carved, granite corbels on each side; and a cement apron supported by brick corbels. The Gothic windows have borders of dark gold glass. Between this border and an inner space of pale gold glass there is a mid-section of turquoise glass. The name of the donor is framed in turquoise glass at the base of each window. All eight of the windows on the north and south elevations are the same as the Gothic windows in the façade.

The apex of the front gable is accentuated with ornamental cross bracing. The upper two sections are of solid wood separated by molding with cut designs, and the lower part of open millwork. A round stained-glass window is located between the top of the arch above the door and the ornamental work in the gable. It is outlined with brick and has four keystones around the perimeter. The window has a floral design in shades of lilac on a gold background surrounded by two shades of green.

A square plan belfry tops the façade. The base is covered with fishscale shingles. The belfry proper displays a high gable and pointed arch motif with tracery dividing the arch into paired arches below an openwork design in each face. The four-sided steeple is shingled and terminates in a sphere. The belfry was not constructed with the intention of holding a bell.

The stoop, railing and steps are made of concrete block. Wrought iron railings on both sides of three steps lead to the doorway. The steps are placed inside a low concrete kneewall and are covered in indoor-outdoor carpeting.

**Additions:**
To the rear of the original church is a two-part addition. Both additions have a gabled shingle roof. Originally the older section was clapboarded, but now the walls of the additions are clad in aluminum siding.
The connection between the addition and the church is lower than either, and indented a few feet. It sits on a rock-faced concrete block foundation and has a shingled roof. It clearly delineates the original structure from the addition.

Both additions are clearly delineated on the east elevation. The older section is taller and has a rock-faced concrete block foundation, and the newer section is lower and has a modern concrete block foundation. A concrete accessibility ramp behind the addition leads down to a door in the basement. The below grade ramp is protected with wrought iron railing.

**Interior:**

The nave of the church is approximately fifty-five feet long by thirty-eight feet wide with a vaulted ceiling. This includes a ten by thirty foot wood vestibule with a double door leading to the main aisle and side doors to the side aisles. The vestibule was constructed about 1900 for the practical reason of protecting people from drafts. The walls and ceiling of the church are painted cream. There is a three-foot high wood wainscoting on the walls. Similar wainscoting in the altar area is eighteen inches high. The church has a center aisle and two side aisles. There are two sets of pews eight deep. The pews are maple stained wood and were installed in the last few years. There are six, contemporary, brass chandeliers hanging from the ceiling and two ceiling fans. The carpeting and pads for the pews are a muted turquoise.

A communion rail delineates the altar area that is elevated two steps above the main body of the church. The rail is of stained wood and its turned spindle balusters are painted white. The altar is a rectangle about two feet deep and four feet wide. Above it a simple wood cross is set in a slightly recessed Gothic panel. Three pews for the choir are located to the left (north) of the altar. They were original to the 1882 church and are painted white. A high back Gothic chair, upholstered in dark red velvet, is placed on either side of the altar. Situated on either side of the entrance to the altar area are a marble baptismal font and a Gothic wood lectern. These, too, were original to the 1882 church.

The addition is a space roughly forty-five feet deep by seventy-five feet wide. The largest area is used for Sunday gatherings after the service and for this purpose it is equipped with tables and chairs. A small area for food warming and service is at the south end. The north end of the room is separated from the gathering space by bookcases and a spinet piano. This area is furnished like a living room with carpeting, sofas, chairs, tables and lamps. It is used for small meetings, discussions, and conferences.

The basement of the addition has a large banquet kitchen. Another section of the basement is used for childcare.
Site Description:
The church sits on 2.91 acres and faces S. Ridge Road. The land directly west across the road is wooded and falls away to a branch of the Lower Rouge River. Cherry Hill Cemetery is located to the north of the church and the modern parsonage is located to the south on a different parcel. New development is located to the east on what was formerly farmland.

Gravel driveways enter on both the north and south sides of the church from S. Ridge Road and lead to the parking area behind the church. There is a grassy area (about 100 ft.) between the parking area and the new development. Several small trees and shrubs are located along the back half of the cemetery fence line (north). Five evergreens are located across the east end of the property. Two large evergreens mark the sidewalk between the church and the parsonage.

4. Cherry Hill Cemetery
   S. Ridge Road

Cherry Hill Cemetery is located in the heart of the hamlet of Cherry Hill, on the east side of Ridge Road south of the Cherry Hill House. Just south of the cemetery is the Cherry Hill United Methodist Church (originally Cherry Hill Methodist Episcopal Church). Immediately behind (east of) the cemetery is new development. Across Ridge Road to the west lies a former Ford Village-Industry site, now occupied by the De-Sta-Co factory.

The property occupied by the cemetery is 3.07 acres of land that slopes gently downward to the east. The overall shape of the cemetery is trapezoidal, running north-northeast to south-southwest. The headstones are arranged in a linear pattern (north-south) approximately parallel to Ridge Road; the inscriptions face both east and west. The cemetery is organized into six sections (see map) indicated by small markers. Modern chain-link fencing encloses the cemetery, with four chain-link gates along Ridge Road and two on the church parking lot (south) side. The name of the cemetery is prominently displayed with metal letters above the main gate on Ridge Road. A grass-covered access “road” loops through the cemetery with entry through three of the gates on Ridge Road.
The cemetery is organized into six sections (see map). There are approximately 1000 burials total; about 431 are pre-1950 graves. Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4 have the largest percentage of pre-1950 burials; sections 5 and 6 are newer with predominantly post-1950 burials.

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The oldest burials are located in sections 2 and 3. Older graves in any section are nearer Ridge Road, with successive burials toward the rear (east) of the cemetery.

Other prominent features located in the cemetery:
- A large granite rock roughly 3’ x 2’ just inside the main gate -- dedicated in 1991. It has an attached plaque listing important dates in the history of the cemetery.
- A modern granite crematory wall located toward the rear (east) of the cemetery in section 6 (9’10” x 6’6” x 1’9” ft.).
- A metal utility shed located near the rear fence (9’6” x 14’ deep).
- Main entry gate.

A tall maple tree, which is between 75 and 100 years old, is located just inside the main entry gate. Small trees, evergreens and shrubs are scattered intermittently throughout the cemetery grounds (see map). Several trees are located along the church side of the fence line. Four tall pine trees are located along the fence on the Cherry Hill House property (north) that shade the cemetery.
5. Cherry Hill House
50545 Cherry Hill Road

**Exterior:** The Cherry Hill House is a large, square, two-story, Italianate building with a stone foundation and shingle hip roof topped by a monitor. Four symmetrically placed brick chimneys are located on the roof, two on the east and two on the west elevation. The eaves are highlighted with single brackets, with paired brackets located at each corner. The windows are one-over-one. The building originally had clapboard siding, but now is covered with asbestos siding. The facade has two doors and a large cement porch with an iron rail and steps at either end. The east door is surrounded by a large area of red painted siding, with three sets of paired windows. The west door has nine panes of glass topped by a two-light transom. The east elevation has a small woodshed addition, and a door with a concrete stoop and steps. Two small windows are on either side of the door. There is a cement ramp and retaining wall on the east facade leading to a large wood door to the basement. The south (rear) elevation has the remnants of a sign in the southeast corner with a light above. The outline of a stairway to the second story door is visible. There is also a door on the first floor with a cement stoop and steps. There are four small windows; the rest are larger one-over-ones. The west elevation has a door with a cement stoop and steps. In addition there are large cobblestone planters on either side of the stoop. An old photograph shows taller, four-over-four, windows and an Italianate porch. Although changes have been made, this structure retains much of its original character. A roof, new in 1997, will help to preserve the building in its present condition.

Several changes have taken place: The monitor was originally topped with an iron railing that was extant in 1958. The windows were originally two-over-two with wood hood moldings above. They were extant in 1936. A small partial width Italianate porch was removed between 1936 and 1939. The clapboard siding was extant in 1936.

**Interior:** (see first and second floor plans)
The building is roughly square, with a bearing wall running front-to-back dividing the space approximately two-thirds/one-third. Much of the building, including the second-floor dance hall, has partially visible hardwood flooring. The dance hall floor was installed to be ‘springy,’ a desirable feature for dancing.

First floor: A stairway leads to the second story from a center entrance hall that divides the interior space. A large room running front-to-back on the east side of the entrance hall was the location of a general store for many years. A small office area is at the rear of this space. Witness marks on the floor and ceiling running front-to-back indicate that a wall divided the space. Vernon Stefanski, owner of the building, stated that the space behind the wall had been the post office.
The west side of the first floor consists of living quarters: kitchen, living room, and two bedrooms. These rooms appear to have been original to the building. A bathroom was added after 1950.

According to Mr. Stefanski, the original beams in the building are stamped The Ann Arbor Bed Company. Mr. Stefanski also stated that the building had a dilapidated addition (20’ x 24’ approximate) at the southeast corner that had been the dining room of the former inn. The addition had been canniblized over the years for dimensional lumber for repairing the inn proper. When the addition was demolished, superficial excavation uncovered a substantial brick basement (now buried) that was said to have been used either as a smokehouse or icehouse, depending on the season.

Second floor: The second floor is dominated by the former dance hall on the east side. This imposing space features twelve-foot high walls rising to a hipped lath and plaster ceiling about sixteen feet tall (some plaster is missing). The dance hall is offset to the east side of the building (see second-floor plan). Its hipped ceiling appears to coincide with the roofline, giving the impression that the dance hall fills the entire second floor.

Two 35-foot, planed wooden beams with coved chamfers span the width of the ceiling at the top of the wall, forming triangular trusses with similar slanted beams in the ceiling. Two vertical steel tension rods connect each truss. Mr. Stefanski pointed out a hidden raised platform (now enclosed by a wall) that was used as a bandstand.

The west side of the second floor is divided into smaller rooms that were the original hotel sleeping rooms. Old graffiti consisting of signatures is visible where wallpaper and paint have peeled. The second floor (including the dance hall) was further subdivided when it was converted into apartments around 1950. Bathrooms and kitchenettes that were added at that time are still extant.

Site:

This 0.79 acre site is at the center of the hamlet of Cherry Hill at the intersection of Ridge and Cherry Hill Roads. There is a grass lawn on the west (along Ridge Road) and south of the property, and a fieldstone barbecue in the rear (south) yard. Cherry Hill Cemetery is located south of the building. An empty building (formerly a garage) is located to the east of the property. New development is immediately southeast of this property.

A line of four pine trees is located along the cemetery fence. Two small apple trees are located near the Ridge Road/Cherry Hill corner. The yard is dotted with several other small trees and evergreens (see map).

The remains of a fieldstone fireplace/barbecue grill are located in the south yard behind the inn. It is about six feet wide and six feet high at its tallest point. The grill appears to have been a
double grill with the chimney in the center. The fireplace has a core of brick with a fieldstone exterior. The base and flat surfaces near the grill are of concrete.

Who built the grill and its construction date are unknown. Niece of former owner Jake West, Kathleen West, thought that it might have been built when the second floor was converted to apartments. The fireplace does reflect the cultural trend of the mid-twentieth century of outdoor backyard barbecues.

6. CHERRY HILL SCHOOL
50440 Cherry Hill Road

When the Cherry Hill School was built in 1876, it was a rectangular gable end structure. The brick schoolhouse was adorned in the Italianate style with ornate brackets under the eaves, a wooden cupola with keystone windows, and hooded, multi-paned, arched windows on each elevation. A divided semi-circle of glass and a hood with keystone topped the arched, double, wooden front door. Between the door surround and the gable peak is a semi-circular indented plaque with the inscription, “T.S.D. #1 C & S 1876”. Brick corbelling lines the gable under its brackets. The east and west elevations of the school display raised brickwork piers that divide the wall into three sections, each containing an arched window. A brick chimney is located on the rear. These features still exist.

In 1943 Henry Ford built a concrete block, T-shaped addition to the rear of the schoolhouse. In a 1943 photograph of the rear addition being built, the school's walls are of brick. After completion of the addition, photographs show the entire school and new addition with a covering of stucco. The one-story addition has a basement with windows set in wells below ground level. There are entry doors on each end of the addition’s south elevation. The roof is flat with a slight step elevation in the middle of the rear facade. There are multi-paned (four-over-four and six-over-six) rectangular windows on all elevations. Each facade has a raised perimeter similar to the original schoolhouse. The addition included classrooms and two bathrooms.

The schoolhouse is located on a corner lot in the “heart” of Cherry Hill. Across Cherry Hill Road one sees the 1865 Cherry Hill House and kitty corner is the Ford Factory (De-Sta-Co) complex. The 1838-1860 Bartlett-Travis house is slightly north of the school on the east side of N. Ridge Road. A new township Human Resources Building is being constructed behind the school parking lot, and directly west is a pole barn and the 1924 Houk house. The historic landscape includes two large old trees on the property line near Ridge Road, one near the parking lot in the northeast corner, two in the northwest quarter, and one on the western property line.
In 1986 the property was landscaped as part of a general renovation. In addition to the large old trees on the school grounds, other deciduous trees have been planted on the neatly mown lawn. Also new to the landscape is a brick patio that sits contiguous to the front steps and is bordered by small shrubs and rose bushes. The border plantings follow the modern sidewalk to the door in the eastern end of the rear addition. Encircled by small concrete blocks, a planting of trees and shrubs surround the Michigan Historical marker on the southeast corner of the property near a flagpole. A sign announcing “Cherry Hill School” faces Cherry Hill Road at the front of the schoolyard.

7. Pole barn
   Infill between 50440 Cherry Hill Road and 50530 Cherry Hill Road (non-contributing).
   Metal pole barn

8. Houk, William and Jennie Oliver, House
   50530 Cherry Hill Road

Of the type often called American Four-Square, the Houk house is almost square in shape with a hipped roof and a slightly west of central chimney. The foundation is of concrete block. The façade is symmetrically arranged with three bays in each level. On the first floor original paired windows flank a central entry porch, which is ornamented with a balustraded railing along its roofline. The original railing had been removed and the present owners have replaced it in kind. On the second story, paired windows are placed directly over those on the first story and flank a smaller single window in the central bay over the porch. Located on the western end of the façade is an enclosed sunroom, with its windows placed so as to provide a continuous expanse of glass. Below the windows the wall is of red brick. Like the entry porch, the sunroom originally had a balustraded railing along its roofline. It has not been replaced. The side elevations are three bays deep with windows symmetrically placed. All windows are three-over-three and have wide board surrounds of the type popular in the 1920’s. In the mid-nineteen sixties a small-enclosed porch area was attached to the rear of the sunroom. It is one story in height and has screens in the open areas above a half wall covered in aluminum siding. Centered on the rear elevation is a poret-cochere supported by brick pillars.

The interior is well maintained and is little changed from the original. The front door leads directly to the living room. To the left is the dining room. Paired doors with beveled glass panels connect the two rooms. A similar door leads to a hallway behind these two rooms. To the left is the kitchen. This is the most altered room in the house, with its modern appliances and a new central island. Between the kitchen and a first floor bedroom is located a bath with original tiles but new fixtures. Upstairs three bedrooms and a bath are located along a central hall. The interior is well maintained with the original finish on the oak woodwork. Little changed from the 1924 construction date the house exhibits excellent integrity.
Significance statement

The Cherry Hill Historic District contains the primary remnants of Cherry Hill, the last of Canton Township’s five hamlets to retain substantial historic resources. Of the five hamlets that arose in the township, Murray’s Corners, Tonquish Creek, Lilley’s Corners, Sheldon Corners and Cherry Hill, Cherry Hill has endured the longest, maintaining its significance as a central place up until the 1960’s when the last major commercial functions ended. The district contains the oldest church building in the township, a cemetery that dates to Canton’s earliest years and one of the few nineteenth-century schoolhouses left in the suburban township. Also in the district are structures associated with one of Henry Ford’s Village Industries projects; probably the most unique of all of Henry Ford’s Village Industries projects in that part of its purpose was to provide work for veterans suffering physical and mental challenges because of their wartime service. The district also contains the only remaining commercial Italianate building in the township.

The hamlet of Cherry Hill passed through three important historic periods. The first is the period associated with settlement and subsistence agriculture between 1830 and 1850. The second period, 1850-1920, is associated with the development of agricultural crops such as wheat and corn, and the production of dairy products. During this era the community focused around the Cherry Hill Methodist Episcopal Church, the Cherry Hill House, an Italianate commercial building that functioned as a general store, a post office, and a community hall, and around the brick Italianate schoolhouse. Several large farmhouses date from this period. A third era of the hamlet’s history began with an influx of new farmers, forced by expanding urban development to relocate to more rural areas such as Cherry Hill, surounding Detroit. They built modern twentieth century houses and engaged in market farming, a type of agricultural practice that served to feed the population in the nearby expanding urban area of Metropolitan Detroit.

From the beginnings of Canton Township a central place has existed at Cherry Hill. Paul Landis defined a hamlet as a central place neither rural nor urban with a population less than 250 containing both residential and commercial functions. Other researchers have used these criteria to identify rural central places, to study their functions and their reason for existence. In his treatise “The Unincorporated Hamlet: One Element of the American Settlement Fabric,” Glenn Trewartha gives several theories for the development of small, centralized places.
He suggests that some were platted for land speculation, others grew because of the existence of a post office, or that others simply grew around a school, church, or town hall. Perhaps all of these reasons can be applied to the existence of Cherry Hill.

The earliest maps of Canton Township indicate the beginnings of a central place at the junction of what is now Cherry Hill Road and the old Native American trail that later became Ridge Road. A map drawn by Bela Hubbard, who accompanied Douglass Houghton on a geological survey of Michigan in 1838, shows rudimentary signs of settlement clustered along “the Ridge,” original name for Cherry Hill. The name Cherry Hill originated in 1865 when Abner Hitchcock built an inn and named it Cherry Hill House after the wild cherry trees in the area. “The Ridge,” marking the beach area of a former lake shore, was a well traveled route, first by natives, then by settlers who found two important necessities along its length, a good supply of water and fertile farm land protected from spring flooding. In 1827 Hugh Clyde purchased the first parcel of land in what was to become Cherry Hill. Federal government land records indicate the usual description of half section or quarter section. The Wayne County tract record, however, with its first entry lists Clyde’s purchase from the US government as being divided into at least ten parcels. Property sold to Hugh Clyde in section 19 was identified from the beginning in the Wayne County Tract Index as parcels “F-N, a-P, and b-P.” This perhaps indicates, however research is unable to confirm, the existence of an early plat and could indicate an intention to plat a community from the beginning. Cherry Hill had a post office intermittently from at least as early as 1867 until rural free delivery was established in 1914. Three pivotal buildings, a church, a school, and a large Italianate commercial building that has served many functions, dance hall, grocery, post office, and community center have been central to the hamlet since the nineteenth century. Whatever the reason for the development of Cherry Hill, and although it never grew to village or town status, it survived and functioned as a central place well into the twentieth century.

Of the five hamlets that arose in Canton Township, none has stayed so visually and functionally intact for as long as Cherry Hill. Changes in transportation, urban encroachment and modern development have swallowed and obscured what remains of the other hamlets. Not so Cherry Hill. In the 1920’s when the automobile and road improvement led urban families to relocate to rural areas like Dearborn, Redford, and Garden City, some farmers living there moved to Canton Township to continue farming. At the same time they established a lucrative farming practice supplying market crops to the newly emerging suburbs. Canton Township soon became a major supplier for Wayne County and Cherry Hill played an important part. Agricultural censuses indicate that Wayne County was the largest producer of sweet corn in the state and the state was number three in the nation for production of this crop. Canton Township by far was the leader in sweet corn production in the county and produced other market crops such as cucumbers, tomatoes and melons for the Detroit and local markets. Local farmers also brought their milk to the creamery located in Cherry Hill from where it was shipped to dairies in Detroit. This flurry of agricultural activity brought people to the hamlet and, as families and agricultural practices evolved the existing school, church, and
social hall/grocery and post office remained viable social institutions in the community, contributing to a sense of continuance and drawing people to the hamlet until recent times.

Social and commercial activity in the hamlet has been centered on these pivotal buildings creating a small rural community. In addition, according to Trewartha, all hamlets serve some residential function. They are unique from villages and towns in that much of the residential function is in the form of active farmsteads with their surrounding outbuildings and fields. The district's houses were historically parts of active farmsteads but these farms no longer exist. The two houses in the district are representative of mid-nineteenth century and early twentieth-century houses in the township and southern Michigan.

But Cherry Hill has never been just a cluster of residential and farm buildings. Trewartha's statement regarding hamlets, that "...these tiniest of agglomerations are to an unusual degree commercial service centers for the buying and selling operations of the surrounding farm population," was very true of Cherry Hill. In the hamlet there were always commercial and social functions alongside and often within the residential buildings.

Over the years Cherry Hill has been home to a sawmill, a creamery, a blacksmith shop, an inn, a community hall, a grocery store, a post office, a retail farm market and even a Village Industry site of the Ford Motor Company. From the beginning of settlement the community has served the area residents in many capacities. These buildings anchored the community and kept it viable.

By 1834, less than ten years after the opening of the Erie Canal, a pivotal event that began the large scale Euro-American settlement of Michigan Territory, Cherry Hill already had a log school and residents were holding church services in a cluster of residential buildings located in the settlement. These buildings indicate the beginnings of the social functions of a central place.

The first social functions to appear in the tiny hamlet were regular church services, weddings, and funerals. Early church services were held in homes and were performed by a Methodist Episcopal circuit rider whose stops included Cherry Hill. By 1848 the Methodists had constructed their first building that served them until 1882 when the present brick church was constructed. Adjacent to this still functioning church is a cemetery where the oldest stone, 1831, marks the burial place of Hugh Clyde, one of the first landowners in the hamlet.

Just as the church and cemetery were essential to the needs of the first settlers, mainly New England natives, the school was also a necessary part of the functioning community.
Cherry Hill’s first school, of log construction, was located on the west side of present day S. Ridge Road most likely on land now owned by De-Sta-Co. The location of the school was moved in 1875 to the northwest corner of Cherry Hill Road and N. Ridge Road. A brick Italianate building was constructed at this location, later enlarged and covered in stucco when Henry Ford funded the school as part of his Village Industry operation. The building functioned as a school until 1955, when the Plymouth School District consolidated Canton’s rural schools. After that time it served as a kindergarten through third grade school until 1960. Today the building is used for public meetings, notably those of the Historic District Commission. The church and school drew people to the hamlet, but perhaps the building most responsible for the longevity of the hamlet was the Cherry Hill House, built as an inn but which served varied social functions until recent times.

Cherry Hill House, built circa 1865, was originally intended to be a hotel. Speculation that a railroad was to pass through the area prompted Abner Hitchcock to construct the large Italianate inn, a very stylish building for such a rural setting. In this building Mr. Hitchcock, who was named Cherry Hill’s postmaster in 1867, operated the first post office in the hamlet. When the railroad did not materialize, the inn after several lawsuits and several owners, was converted to a general store by then owner, James Gunn. The store was the hub of community life. Not only was it a place to purchase such varied items as dry goods, ready-made clothing, patent medicines, farm implements, fresh butter, eggs and cheese, but it also was the place where everyone stopped and news was exchanged. In addition to the store, the building contained a dance hall on the second story that attracted patrons from many neighboring communities. The store continued to operate as a community hall, dance hall, general store, sometime post-office, apartment building, and antiques store until the late twentieth century. The building is now vacant.

Just as we can trace the social and commercial development of the hamlet by the uses put to its buildings, so too can we trace the changes in agriculture within the township by looking at the changing function of buildings and the addition of new buildings to the hamlet. Originally agriculture in Canton Township was mainly of a subsistence nature, but as farmers prospered and transportation improved specialization became the norm. A major switch from subsistence to dairy farming took place in Canton around the middle of the nineteenth century. At this time farmers constructed new barns to house their cattle and a creamery was established in Cherry Hill to collect the milk and cream produced. With the advent of the automobile a blacksmith shop became less important and a garage, to repair the new gas powered farm equipment and the farmers’ trucks, took its place.

Eventually as urban development drew nearer and as advancements in transportation made markets more accessible farming again changed. As farmers switched to garden produce and truck farming, Canton Township became “The Sweet Corn Capital of Michigan.” Cherry Hill farmers not only provided vegetables to local markets but also operated a farm market just outside the district boundaries.
The political events of the twentieth century also had an impact on the small hamlet. During World War II Henry Ford established one of his Village Industries on the site of and using the building from the old creamery. The Cherry Hill plant supplied parts for the nearby Willow Run bomber plant. Unlike other such ventures, however, the employees were either physically or mentally disabled soldiers housed and employed by Ford during their rehabilitation. The quiet rural setting of Cherry Hill gave them a secluded place to regain their strength with relative anonymity.

By the last quarter of the twentieth century the hamlet began a rapid decline. Most commercial functions ceased, farmers sold or leased their fields and renters became the occupants of the once prosperous farmhouses. In recent years there has been a resurgence of interest in the area. Developers are eager to claim the land in this still rural area of a rapidly urbanizing township. Officials, eager to document the rural history of the township and to preserve a small portion of its past fabric, have proposed an historic district that will encompass many of the extant buildings of the hamlet. Future plans will mean a new type of central function in these sections of Canton Township.

1. Cherry Hill Ford Factory Complex

50625 Cherry Hill Road

The Cherry Hill Ford Factory Complex consists of two buildings: the Ford Factory and dormitory. Around the turn of the twentieth century the creamery (which later became part of the dormitory) served the community during the time in its agricultural history when dairying was an important area business. The Ford Factory and dormitory became important during 1944-45 when Henry Ford employed World War II veterans to produce parts for his company. Both the factory and the dormitory are unique components of the Ford Village Industries. While other Village Industry factories produced parts for vehicles as part of an experiment in decentralization and aiding the rural population, the Cherry Hill factory also provided new skills and rehabilitation for its employees, who were World War II veterans. After Ford Motor Company sold the factory, new enterprises continued to provide employment to the local population.

Village Industries was a personal program of Henry Ford. Since it was not an official activity of the Ford Motor Company, there are no primary records. In a 1943 article in the Plymouth Mail about the new Cherry Hill factory the author states, "All of the facts are not clear. Perhaps they never will be, for in such matters Henry Ford is a very reticent man. It is difficult to obtain the facts, for Mr. Ford is not one to go about the country side shouting of the good works he has done." The reporter goes on to say that residents of Cherry Hill described Henry Ford making almost daily trips to the new plant, conversing with
the youngsters that gathered round to watch the construction. It was, indeed, an important time in the history of the community.

The philosophy of the Village Industry program was to create an environment in which agriculture and industry could coexist. Ford’s idea of decentralization meant making parts in small neighborhood shops that would be sent to his many assembly plants around the country. The Cherry Hill plant began operations in July 1944, and was set up to manufacture ignition and door locks and brass radiator petcocks. One purpose of the factory was to supplement work at the Willow Run Bomber Plant which was experiencing labor shortages due to men going to war. Another purpose was to provide training and rehabilitation for returning World War II veterans. Two trade instructors were sent from the bomber plant to manage the work at the new Cherry Hill plant.

After ceasing production in 1945, the Cherry Hill plant was used by the engineering department of the Ford Motor Company as additional office space until a new building was finished in Ypsilanti (Ypsilanti Daily Press, October 7, 1950). In 1946 the property was used for “consolidation of the Village Industries” according to information in the Wayne County Tract Index. Henry Ford died in 1947 ending the Village Industry program. In 1950 Extruded Hinge, a Detroit manufacturer of aircraft hinges and connectors, purchased the property. In 1963 the property was sold to Young Spring & Wire Corporation, then almost immediately to Lus-Trus Corporation, a division of the Mather Corporation from Ohio, maker of plastics. In 1969 the Mather Corporation sold to W.E. Hennells and it has remained in the Hennells family since that time. The Canton De-Sta-Co now manufactures cylinders at the facility.

2. Huston, Reuben and Sarah Gill, House
   600 S. Ridge Road

The Reuben Huston family, a prominent Canton Township family who settled in the area in the 1830s, probably built and inhabited the house from 1867 to 1940. They (and their relatives before them) contributed to the development of the community by holding public office and participating in local church and school activities. The Hustons were important to the general and market farming history of the community, as were later owners, the Hauks.

600 S. Ridge Road is also significant for its construction and design. It is a well-maintained example of mid-nineteenth century architecture, typical of the farmhouses built in Canton Township and the adjoining townships. The large upright and wing farmhouse adorned with brackets reflects the Huston family’s standing in the farm community of Cherry Hill.

The property for the site of 600 S. Ridge (NW 1/4 of section 19) was purchased from the U.S. government on January 6, 1828 by Hugh R. Clyde. Clyde obtained a total of 240 acres in Sections 18 and 19, the property located at the intersection of Cherry Hill and Ridge roads. Hugh Clyde married Eliza Huston on January 1, 1826. The large Huston family from New York State soon followed Eliza and became important.
to the settlement of Canton Township and in the development of the hamlet of Cherry Hill. After Hugh Clyde’s death in 1831, Eliza sold the property to her brother, Robert. It was then sold to persons outside the family and in 1867 purchased by family member, Reuben Huston. It is possible that Reuben and Sarah Gill Huston built the upright and wing house where they lived for many years.

Reuben Huston, a farmer, also served as Canton Township clerk in 1861-1862, highway commissioner in 1872, and moderator of Canton School District Number 1. According to the agriculture censuses for 1870 and 1884 Reuben was a successful farmer. His success was also reflected in the farmhouse with its brick floor and walls in the basement, plastered basement ceiling, cast or wrought iron fence which once adorned the front of the property, and their summer cottage. After the deaths of Reuben and Sarah Huston, the property was deeded to their children and in 1946 the property was sold to Henry and Mary Hauk. They were farmers who came from Nankin Township in the 1920s and engaged in sheep, market, and general farming. Henry Hauk was a major sweet corn grower in the township into the 1960’s. In 1978 Melissa McLaughlin purchased the house.

3. Cherry Hill Methodist Episcopal Church

321 S. Ridge Road

The Cherry Hill Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in the early days of settlement and continues to be an active church to the present day (2002). The church in its various forms has been an anchor in the community since the days of settlement. It is significant for its connection to the context of religion, for its contribution to the history of settlement, and its connection to the social development of the community. It is significant as a fine example of a vernacular interpretation of Gothic Revival ecclesiastical architecture.

The church was organized by 1834 as reflected by the assignment of Cherry Hill to the Plymouth Circuit of the Detroit District by the Ohio Conference. The local society itself may have been organized a little earlier with people assembling in their homes for services, which was a customary practice on the frontier. Marcus Swift was the first circuit minister assigned to visit the society in Cherry Hill as part of the Plymouth Circuit. This was noteworthy because Swift was from Nankin and was one of a group of "local" preachers whose numbers were increasing as population on the frontier increased. Up to this time the ministers had been primarily from Ohio (Pilcher p. 115-116).

Thomas Crandell purchased the property that the church was eventually built on in 1834 and deeded parcel a-L to Liberty Beach, Thomas Crandall (sic), John Huston, Morris Halsted, Andrew Leetch, Trustees, in 1848. These men were probably trustees of the church and therefore indicated that a group was formally organized to assume responsibility for the physical operation of the church. By 1848 the congregation had raised the $600 needed to build a frame church. The original name of the church was Crandell Church (Farmer p. 1259) to honor the man who had donated the land.
Madelyn Bastian, a longtime member of the Cherry Hill M. E. Church and author of Time in Its Flight, provided the following information regarding the early days of the church: Initially services were held in the homes of the settlers, and later a log church was constructed. The first frame church was similar in shape to the current building. The main room was very simple with a platform at one end that held a pulpit and an organ. The men sat on wood benches on the north side of the room and the women sat on the south side. The church was heated by a wood stove that did not keep the congregation warm enough, because in the coldest weather, services were held in the school which was warmer (Ypsilanti Daily Press Jan. 19, 1957 Madelyn Bastian).

By 1870 the Cherry Hill congregation began to plan and save for a new church building. By 1881 they had saved the necessary $2500 and work began using the volunteer labor of its members. The frame church was dismantled and the timber used to build a barn for a local farmer. The ministers who served the church between 1879 and 1881 while the building of the church was taking place were S. Clemons and R. French.

The design of the new church may have been taken from a pattern book since it bears resemblance to many other rural churches of the period. The Cherry Hill M. E. Church is similar to designs #2 and #3 in W. M. Patterson’s Manual of Architecture for churches, parsonages, and schoolhouses. The M. E. Church South published this in 1875. Patterson’s designs were executed in wood and had projecting exterior vestibules, but otherwise bear a strong resemblance to the church in Canton.

The new brick building was dedicated on Feb. 9, 1882 under F. W. Warren and L. C. York who served between 1882 and 1884. A new organ was purchased which caused dissention among the thriftiest members, but eventually everyone agreed to the expenditure. Stained glass windows incorporate the names of families who underwrote them at $100 each:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>North Elevation</th>
<th>Façade</th>
<th>South Elevation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John J. and H. Hilda Cole</td>
<td>Mr. and Mrs. R. Huston</td>
<td>Stillman and Cobb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comer and Zeigan</td>
<td>Mr. and Mrs. R. Lewis</td>
<td>Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Lewis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. and J. Huston</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. and Mrs. Peter Gill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Cobb</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. and Mrs. Chester Lewis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In her 1993 history, Dorothy West provided the following information on the interior ca. 1924: The church had a sanctuary that was very simple and had no altar. The wall at the rear of the sanctuary was covered with gray paisley wallpaper. The wood paneling and pews were dark walnut, and the wrought iron chandeliers were lit with gas. An old pump organ and a piano provided the music.
For many years church dinners had been held on the upper floor of Gum’s/West’s store (Cherry Hill House). This necessitated carrying all of the food, oil stoves, water, dishes and other equipment from the church to the store and up the stairs to the second floor. In 1929 a very welcome addition (referred to as the church house) was constructed with volunteer labor. The kitchen and dining room were in the basement and a large hall was on the main floor (Bastian).

In 1948 an effort was made to reduce the drafts in the church by lowering the ceiling. At the same time an altar was added. The church hired an interior decorator who installed wallpaper, carpeting and new chandeliers (West).

Over the years the building has undergone a few more changes. In 1957 an addition was made to the north of the previous addition that included a conference room/lounge and bathrooms (Ypsilanti Daily Press, Jan. 19, 1957). In 1972 the ceiling was restored to its original height, and ceiling fans were installed to circulate the rising air downward. A large wooden cross was hung above the altar.

A two-story parsonage was constructed to the south of the church for the minister and his family in 1972. This event signaled the fact that the Cherry Hill United Methodist Church could now have a minister whose sole responsibility was their church. The Cherry Hill United Methodist Church had 100 members officially as of January 2002, with average attendance at Sunday services about 60-65.

4. Cherry Hill Cemetery

S. Ridge Road

The Cherry Hill Cemetery is the oldest resource in the Cherry Hill Historic District. The first burials occurred in the early days of the settlement, and burials continue to the present day. The cemetery has been a constant in the lives of the people of the hamlet of Cherry Hill.

In 1828 Hugh R. Clyde purchased parcel J, which is now the Cherry Hill Cemetery, as part of a group of parcels F to N, and a-P & b-P. Hugh, who died in 1831, was the first known person buried there – in Section b-J. His wife, Eliza Huston Clyde, who died in 1838, was buried beside him. Their sons Thomas and Hugh W. later sold most of parcel J to John Cody in 1850. The portion of parcel J that was actually transferred at this time was a-J and c-J to f-J. Therefore, section b-J, where the burial ground was located, was excluded from the sale and by inference was the burying ground.

Between the 1850 sale to John Cody and 1938 other sections of the cemetery were bought and sold many times. One 1867 sale indicated the purchasers as the Trustees of the Burial Grounds, evidence that an organization to manage the cemetery had been established by 1867.
Type -- The non-denominational Cherry Hill Cemetery is a small nineteenth century country graveyard in its layout into rectangular plots with lanes extending straight back from the road, typical of the type found in southern Michigan. Kenneth T. Jackson in Silent Cities: The Evolution of the American Cemetery, describes the country graveyard as smaller and more open than an urban burial ground or garden (rural) cemetery, and less prone to class or wealth distinctions.

Headstones In Cherry Hill

Headstones in Cherry Hill Cemetery reflect styles popular during their respective burial periods, but tend to be less elaborate than some of those in urban cemeteries. There are in Cherry Hill Cemetery the typical white and blue monuments from the nineteenth century, and gray, black and red granite ones from the twentieth century.

1830-1860

Hugh Clyde (d. 1831) has the oldest marker at Cherry Hill. In the 1830-1860 period, other early burials include: Sidney Moyer, 1835; Amy C. Colc, 1836; Hugh’s wife, Eliza Huston Clyde, 1838; Lucy Burd 1838 and Eliza Morey, 1839 (all in Section 3).

One of the most common motifs seen on gravestones in Cherry Hill Cemetery is the weeping willow -- a symbol of Christian faith. Many gravestones circa 1830-1860 were simple, white limestone tablets about two inches thick; with only name, birth date, death date, and age; possibly reflecting the stark reality of a life with only basic necessities and meager financial resources.

As the nineteenth century progressed, symbols reflected grief and mourning -- the broken column, inverted torch, spilled flowerpot and funerary urn. Emily Lewis’s marker (d. 1846, section 3) is topped with an urn. Other motifs were a hand pointing (up or down), and two hands clasped or shaking. Inscriptions on headstones at Cherry Hill are similar to those in cemeteries across the nation; a quotation from the bible, a poem, or an original sentimental writing regarding the deceased.

1860-1900

Headstones at Cherry Hill in the 1860’s tended to be more elaborate, with overtly mournful symbols. The Horner family marker (section 3) is a tall, dark stone plinth with a drape over the top. This motif is also used on the Andrews and the Barlow family markers.

Eliza A. Glass’s headstone (d. 1875 -- section 2) is typical of the Victorian period, with an inscription on a large oval. Flowers cascade over one side of the oval; a drape hangs on the other side. A hand reaches down to help Eliza to her heavenly home.


Twentieth Century
In the twentieth century headstones became simpler as society retreated from sentimentality. Funerary urns and other symbols of mourning went out of fashion. Granite became the material of choice because of its durability and its availability in hues of pink, red, gray and black. Because granite was harder to carve, the process became more mechanized, and headstone design became more simplified and standardized (Linden p.107).

Typical of mid-twentieth-century headstones at Cherry Hill are the monuments for Ambrose and Annie Dustan -- d. 1940 and 1968 -- upright, medium-sized granite stones with the deceased’s name, birth and death dates; and a border cut with a small flower or leaf design.

Harold J. Cassidy, a World War II veteran (d.1996) has an unusual marker. It consists of a small granite stone with inscription, located in front of a wood cross with the arms ending in elaborate fleur-de-lis design. Crosses are more typically seen in Catholic and Hispanic cemeteries; seldom in Protestant or non-denominational cemeteries.

Where permitted, headstones are again becoming more decorative and individual in contemporary cemeteries. Laser technology permits intricate etching and carving at lower cost, making more elaborate headstones more economically feasible. Headstones are once again reflecting the emotional impact of the loss, or the individuality of the deceased.

Children's Memorials
Because the mortality rate for children was so high in the 1800’s, Cherry Hill has many headstones for babies and children. In the past as well as today, many children’s monuments were smaller versions of adult stones. Several children’s markers in Cherry Hill’s older sections have an angel or lamb motif. These motifs are also seen in the newer sections. Mary E. Mason (d. 1886, age 9 months, section 3) has a simple headstone with a gothic point at the top, with an inscription below a leaf design. This is the only headstone in the cemetery with a gothic pointed top.

Family Groups at Cherry Hill:
Family burial plots in the Cherry Hill Cemetery most typically display a large family stone flanked by smaller individual stones. Only two family plots have defined boundaries.

The 18’ x 26’ plot of the Peter Gill family in section two is outlined with curbstones, and includes ten burials dating between 1864 and 1952. Susannah and George Gill (d.1888 and 1885 respectively) each have a marker displaying an open Bible. The headstone of Joseph E. Gill (d. 1870) is tall and elaborate with curving lines, and fruit and flowers throughout -- typical of the Victorian period. The remaining stones are of simpler design.
The 13' x 20' E. L. Gill plot in section four has a low cement border nearly flush with the ground. There are six burials between 1902 and 1963, but only two visible headstones -- low granite markers with two names on each.

**Monument Makers**

In the late nineteenth century Canton headstones were most likely purchased from Ypsilanti or Plymouth, but there is no written record. In the twentieth century monuments were purchased primarily from two Ypsilanti monument companies: **Becker Memorials** and **A. J. Burrell & Sons**. There are now 3 monument companies under the ownership of the Arnet family, **Arnets Cemetery Monuments** and **Becker Memorials** in Ann Arbor, and **Burrell & Sons in Ypsilanti**. Research has been unable to discover a local monument maker.

**Cherry Hill Cemetery Association**

The **Cherry Hill Cemetery Association**, formed in 1905, has legal ownership of the property and responsibility for its maintenance. The cemetery association consists of a president, treasurer, secretary, two trustees and other interested persons. Income is derived from the sale of lots, perpetual care fees, and from investments. The association holds an annual meeting in the church building next to the cemetery.

There are no mausoleums in the cemetery because the association by-laws do not allow aboveground burials. The cemetery association recently approved construction of a cremains garden to be located in section 6, which will offer a choice between the crematory wall and in-ground burial for cremains.

**5. Cherry Hill House**

50545 Cherry Hill

Built as a hotel in the Italianate style in 1865, the Cherry Hill House was a very stylish building for such a remote location. Although some of the original details have been changed, the brackets, chimneys, and monitor remain to indicate its stylish origins. The inn was built in anticipation of the extension of a railroad line north from Monroe that never materialized. However, commerce provided the means to salvage the huge building: it was converted into a general store in the 1880's. The store remained in business for the next ninety years. It provided one of the essential elements of a hamlet -- a place to buy and trade goods.

The land that the Cherry Hill House was ultimately constructed on was apparently unused for many years after its purchase in 1827 by Hugh Clyde from the federal government. An enterprising man by the name of Abner Hitchcock built the inn in 1865. He was anticipating the building of a railroad line that would connect Monroe to the Chicago Road and northern villages and towns.
It is not known how or why Abner came to the Canton area. He married Helen Curtis Patterson in 1863. Helen had moved to Michigan with her parents in 1838. Eventually she married a Plymouth farmer, Abel Patterson. Abel died in 1859 and left Helen 127 acres of land appraised at $4572. Helen and Abner bought a small parcel of land from Helen’s mother, Almira Lewis Cody, for $100 in 1865. They built a large building, intended to be an inn, at the corner of what is now Ridge and Cherry Hill roads. The first floor of the new inn housed the office, dining room, and kitchen. The second floor contained the sleeping rooms, and the basement was used to stable horses. The ramp into the basement was located on the east facade.

The railroad never materialized and there were a number of lawsuits regarding this property beginning as early as July 1867. The building must have been used because Abner was the first postmaster in Cherry Hill. The post office was established May 22, 1867, and discontinued November 1, 1867. In 1870 the land was sold to George L. Pease for $998. The building was referred to locally as "Hitchcock's Folly."

James Gunn eventually purchased the property in 1884 for $300. James Gunn was born in Canada in 1848 and moved with his family to Detroit in 1855. James married Catherine (Katie) Burns of Plymouth in January 1875. Katie was born in Canada in 1860. They had four children: James E., Maggie, John, and Katie May.

James and Katie changed the function of the former Cherry Hill House, and operated it as a general store. They had their living quarters on one side of the first floor, and located the store in the other half. The second story was used as a dance hall and they hired Chris Abelson to install a new maple dance floor in 1888. While people were attending dances as many as a hundred horses could be stabled in the basement. Children slept in the coatrooms or on benches around the room. The dance hall was known locally as Gunn's Hall. In addition to dances the hall was used for dinners, meetings, and performances. Katie died in 1918 at the age of 58, and James sold the general store and dance hall to William H. West in 1920 for $2850.

William H. West was born in 1864 to Richard and Jane West who lived near Beck and Michigan Ave. in Canton Township. William married Louisa Beatrice Cook of Ely, England and moved to Canton in 1901. Initially they lived at 50395 Cherry Hill and operated a combination post office and general store next door at 50419 Cherry Hill. William was the postmaster between 1902-1908.

In 1920 William and Louisa bought the Gunn's General Store and the house at 50475 Cherry Hill. They moved their general store business to the former Gunn store. William and Louisa had nine children, and all of them helped out at the general store. They went to Denton by horse and wagon to pick up groceries at the train station, and later to the interurban to pick up groceries and other supplies for the store.
The store was a hub of community life. Not only was it the place to purchase such varied items as dry goods, ready-made clothing, patent medicines, farm implements, hardware, fabric, fresh butter and eggs and cheese, but also it was the place where everyone stopped and news was exchanged. After farmers delivered their milk to the creamery they would stop at the store to purchase goods, or just to exchange news and chat around the pot-bellied stove against the wall.

The West family continued the tradition of using the upper floor as a dance hall and multifunction space for the community of Cherry Hill. Esther Palmer recorded in her diary accounts of these dances at West’s Hall, which attracted people from miles around, and was known as the "most popular dance hall in western Wayne County." The dances were the means by which many area couples met and courted. They continued through World War II when the familiar pattern of life began to change. In addition, local groups used the hall for meetings, church suppers, holiday parties, and performances.

Earl West, William’s oldest son, recalled that Harry Bennett, Henry Ford’s right hand man, would stop every day at West’s store and purchase four cigars. Henry Ford offered to purchase the building and move it to the newly created Greenfield Village. He offered to build West a brick building to replace the old one. West considered the offer, but decided against it because the upper floor was so necessary to Cherry Hill’s community life.

After William’s death in 1934, his son, Arthur J. (Jake) West, took over the family business. Jake helped his father in the store from the time he was a child, and bought the store from his mother in 1938. Half of the first floor was occupied by the store, and half was an ice cream parlor. Jake became a beloved figure in the community. Around 1950 he remodeled the store and converted the dance hall into apartments. This may have been because of the post-war housing shortage.

James Sutton took over the operation of the store in 1968 when Jake retired; the actual sale was in 1976. Vernon Stefanski purchased the property in 1986, and he rented the building to an antiques dealer for a few years. Mr. Stefanski put a new roof on the building in 1997. The building stands empty and is for sale.

5. Cherry Hill School

50440 Cherry Hill Road

When Cherry Hill School was constructed in 1876 the township’s nine school districts had three brick and six frame one-room schools. Each school was unique. Using local materials, this small farming community of Cherry Hill built a structure that had a modern architectural style and met the educational standards of the time. Though vernacular, this sturdy brick structure has attractive Italianate details that seem to reflect both the permanence and the progress made in the hamlet by 1876.
The Cherry Hill School not only provided education to area students, but for over one hundred and twenty-five years has been the center of community activity. The school was part of the fabric of the neighborhood. The community saw to its construction, governed it with a local board of directors, approved its purchases, and supported it with tax money and firewood. Former students have offered fond memories of the early days of the school, and the 1943-1946 timeframe in which Henry Ford ran the school seemed to be an exceptional time in the lives of many residents. Of the ten one-room schools in Canton, Cherry Hill is one of four still extant. It remains today a focal point of the community.

The first school to be built in the hamlet of Cherry Hill was located on S. Ridge Road. It was constructed of logs. Eventually a new school was needed and in 1875 a parcel of land in section eighteen was sold for a school site by Betsy and John Huston II to Fractional School District No.1 of Canton and Superior for one hundred twenty-five dollars.

In 1876 a red brick Italianate style school with brackets under the eves, brick corbelling and a cupola was built on the northwest corner of N. Ridge and Cherry Hill Roads. It is not known who built the school. At the time it was built, there was no state standardization of schoolhouse design. Sometimes suggestions were made in the Annual Report of the Superintendent of the State of Michigan. For example, in the 1869 report, the superintendent stressed the importance of heating and ventilation with a picture of a one-room school and a floor plan (very much like the Cherry Hill School). Most rural schools were based on designs from architectural plan books in combination with local vernacular building traditions. The Cherry Hill community could have used one or all of these resources.

It was not until 1915 that Michigan passed a law relating to standardization of schools. The superintendent’s annual report gave advice on education, but might also include pictures and floor plans of one-room schools, directions on remodeling a rural school, and a format on Standardizing of Rural School. These standards included the yard, schoolhouse, outhouses, furnishings, organization of the classroom, and requirements for the teacher. This was done because, according to the superintendent, it was impractical for rural districts to secure a competent architect. It is interesting to note that a c.1913 picture of the exterior of Cherry Hill School shows that much of what was constructed in 1876, such as lighting, yard, heating, and schoolhouse, complied with most of these standards.

Reminiscences by former students in the book Canton’s Country Schools provide a glimpse of the interior of the school and the activity that took place there. In the early twentieth century there was a blackboard on the north wall, bookcase, teacher’s desk, piano, eight rows of seats, a pot-bellied stove, pictures of Lincoln and Washington hanging on the wall, and a flag on a pole in the corner. The girl’s coatroom was turned into a kitchen where students could prepare a hot lunch. Students did
maintenance, such as sweeping floors and taking out the ashes. Committees were elected to do weekly jobs such as cleaning blackboards, cooking, washing dishes, and carrying water and wood. Drinking water came from an outside well and there were outside toilets. The day began by saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag while the victrola was playing the Star Spangled Banner. After a prayer and show-and-tell, academics became the focus, with the older children helping the younger ones.

Socialization was an integral part of school life. In the 1930s the students could be seen playing ball, fox-and-geese, and horseshoes during recess and at noontime. There was a homemade teeter-totter, a sandbox, and a rope swing with a board seat hanging from a tree. After school, Cherry Hill School students played baseball with nearby Bartlett, Canton Center, and Hanford Schools. Church services, meetings, and celebrations took place here, also, linking the community with the school.

In 1943 Henry Ford purchased Cherry Hill School. It became part of the Edison Institute School System that at one point was comprised of twenty-three schools, fifteen of which were one-room schools in rural communities that also had plants or mills (Lewis, Michigan History March/April 1996, p. 20). The majority of the schools were located in rural southeastern Michigan, with three in New England, two in Georgia, and one in Brazil. They were a part of Ford’s Village Industries program.

A story that has become a part of local history apparently took place in the early 1940s: Henry Ford came across a woman and her ten children by the side of the road and learned that her husband was out of work and they were homeless. Ford offered the man a job and residence at his Gotfredson Road farm nearby, which he accepted. However, the farm was not in the Cherry Hill School district, so Ford agreed to purchase the school building, put an addition on the rear elevation, and hire a second teacher if the ten children could attend. Ford ran the school from 1943 to 1946. Besides a second classroom, a kitchen and two bathrooms were added to the one room school at a cost of $22,000 (Detroit Free Press, Dec.25, 1985). Ford also funded a new roof, a basement, furnace, two inside toilets, a new well, and a tool shop in the basement.

Under Ford, the curriculum was changed. In addition to teaching the “Three Rs,” Ford hired special teachers to come to the school for sewing, dancing, wood shop, and music. He believed in the common sense taught in the McGuffey readers and in “learning by doing.” He also paid for students’ medical care, chauffeured the students to and from school, and incorporated a morning chapel service (Palmer, p. 111). As Louise Powers, a seventh grader writing on the topic “Henry Ford and Cherry Hill,” stated, “Most people know Henry Ford for making the first Ford car, but to Cherry Hill he is known as one of
the strongest contributing forces in making it to become a better community” (Cherry Hill by Glenna Andrews). On July 3, 1946, approximately nine months before Ford’s death, the Edison Institute deeded the school to Canton Township for one dollar.

In August 1955 the Cherry Hill district joined the Truesdell and Canton Center districts in officially becoming part of the Plymouth Public School District (later to become the Plymouth-Canton School District). In May 1986 the Plymouth-Canton School Board voted to sell the property back to Canton Township for $25,000.00. On March 16, 1989 the school was designated Michigan State Historic site No. 1638. The school has had various uses over the years, and is currently being used by the Canton Township Historic District Commission for meetings and for other community events. Today it remains a vital part of the community life in the hamlet.

7. Pole barn (non-contributing)
8. William and Jennie Oliver Houk House
   50530 Cherry Hill Road

The William Houk House was built as the farmhouse for a family who moved to Cherry Hill from suburban Detroit to pursue market farming. It is also a good example of the type of large houses being built in rural Canton Township in the early twentieth century. The Houks, successful farmers from nearby Nankin Township, moved to Canton in 1922. Shortly before the move their eight-year-old son Edwin Leslie died of pneumonia. The family was ready for a new start in a small rural village away from an area that they deemed to be over-crowded. Mr. Houk’s brother had been a long time resident of Cherry Hill and when the Frank Newton farm came on the market William Houk purchased it and had a new brick house constructed. *The Daily Ypsilantian Press*, July 23, 1924, reported that it was to have “every modern convenience.” The family lived in the former Thomas Clyde House located on the property while the new construction was underway. When the house was completed the older house, a Greek Revival, was moved across Cherry Hill Road and used as rental property.

The Houks did not leave tragedy behind when they moved to Canton. Within two years of moving into their new home William died of pneumonia. Shortly over a year later, a second son, twenty-three year-old Irving, also died from the same disease. Jennie, William’s wife, raised her two remaining children and a niece, Jane Oliver, in the house. Son William married in 1931 and left home. Jane (Oliver) West remained on the farm with her aunt until 1941 when she married Joseph Henry West. Daughter, Maude, married Knute Jorgensen and lived on the adjoining farm. Mr. Jorgensen helped with farming the Houk property. Mrs. Houk lived in the house until her death in 1957.
The property has a long agricultural history. Hugh Clyde purchased the entire SW ¼ of section 18 from the United States government on October 6, 1827. He left the property to his heirs, who subsequently sold to John Huston in 1852. Huston had the longest tenure on the farm, owning it from 1852 until his death in 1907. His children inherited the property and sold to Frank Newton in 1919. All of the owners practiced farming with the 1860, 1870, and 1880 agriculture censuses reporting production of such crops as wheat, oats, and corn.

In the late 1920's through the 1970's Jennie's son-in-law, Knute Jorgensen, farmed the Houk land. Jorgensen practiced truck farming, raising squash, pumpkins and sweet corn. Pictures in the Ford archives chronicling the 1945 rehabilitation of Cherry Hill School, located on the property adjoining the Houk farm to the east, show a large barn and fields of corn on the Houk land. Certainly the land was in production at that time.

Niece Jane West taught school in Van Buren Township and at the Cherry Hill school from 1948 to 1950. In 1954 she purchased the farm from her aunt, keeping the property in the family until she subsequently sold to Thomas Kent in June 1983.

Today the property is reduced to .86 acres but the land to the west and north are still being farmed giving a rural look to the property similar to that of the past seven decades.
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National Park Service

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Detroit Free Press:

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October 24, 1924.
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January 3, 1936.
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November 3, 1944.
August 11, 1955.
March 21, 1957.
April 30, 1959.
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"Resident Tells Canton’s Past.” in red notebook located at Canton Historical Museum, Canton, Michigan.


“Schoolhouse is landmark.” Located in file for school’s 1986 grant in Human Resources at Canton Township offices.

“Canton Township circa 1876.” Located in file for school’s 1986 grant in Human Resources at Canton Township offices.

ARTICLES


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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UNPUBLISHED MATERIAL


Canton Memories: David Brown, Norvil Leary Brown, and Beverly Rae Brown, A Short History of the Postal Service in Canton Township. "Canton Data" column in Canton Historical Museum Newsletter (undated).


Canton Township Tax Assessor Records: 1843-1873 (located in the Burton Historical Collection at the Main Detroit Library) and 1912-1961 (located at the Canton Historical Museum).


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Swift Family Papers located in the Bentley Library, University of Michigan.


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Wayne, County, MI

MAPS:

1838-41  Bela Hubbard's map of Canton Township (located in the Bela Hubbard Collection in
the Burton Historical Collection at the Detroit Main Library).
1855  Wayne County (Detroit: John Farmer).
1860  Wayne County, MI (Philadelphia: Geil, Harley & Swerd).
1876  Wayne County, MI.
1893  Canton Township plat map (Wm. C. Sauer).
1894  Wayne County (Mason L. Brown C.E., copied from original source by Silas Farmer,
Detroit).
1904  Canton Township plat map.
1914  Canton Township plat map - Sauers Atlas 1914.
1922  Canton Township plat map.
1930  Township of Canton, Wayne County, NU (Wall Map, Canton Historical Society)
Canton Township (W. S. McAlpine Map Co.).
1944  Cherry Hill Cemetery (Canton Township: Hurd McClumpha, Reg. Land Surveyor).
1960  Canton Township (Rockford Map Publishers).
1970  Canton Township (Rockford Map Publishers).


Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village Research Center, Dearborn, Michigan. Henry Ford
Heritage Trail Rouge Valley Location Map and Proposal, updated 1/10/89.
Verbal Boundary Description

Cherry Hill Historic District is located in sections eighteen and nineteen of Canton Township (township 2 south range 8 east), Michigan. The boundaries are described as follows, beginning at a point on the center line of Cherry Hill Road approximately 250 feet from the center line of its intersection with S. Ridge Road and thence due S to and following the west wall of the 1950 addition to the Henry Ford Village Industry factory, thence SW following the west bank of the branch of the Lower Rouge River to the south property line of lot M2a1b, thence SE along said property line, to the center line of S. Ridge Road, thence following the center line of S. Ridge Road NE approximately 690 feet, thence due east to the east property line of lot M2b, thence NE along said property line to its NE corner, thence W along the property line of lot M2b to its intersection with lot J, thence N along the E property line of lot J to its intersection with lot H3, thence E along the south property line of lot H3 to the SE corner of said lot, thence N along the E property line of said lot to the intersection of the center line of Cherry Hill Road, thence E along the center line of Cherry Hill Road to its intersection with N. Ridge Road, thence N along the center line of N. Ridge Road to a point due E of the NE corner of lot N1a3b, thence due W approximately 200 feet to the NE corner of lot N1a3b, thence W along the N property line of said lot and continuing along the north property line of lots N2 and N1b to the NW corner of lot N1b, thence S along the property line of said lot to its intersection with the center line of Cherry Hill Road, thence W along the centerline of Cherry Hill Road to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

To the north and east of the proposed district, along Ridge and Cherry Hill Roads, intrusions of modern residential, commercial, and civic buildings determine the boundaries. The southern boundary is drawn to include an historic farmhouse on the west side of S. Ridge Road, the Reuben and Sarah Gill Huston House, and its associated wooded and open land. Several other extant residential buildings to the south may be included in the district in the future, but have not yet been documented adequately.

The district’s western boundary is drawn, south to north, mainly along the west bank of a branch of the Lower Rouge River. The boundary is drawn to include the Ford complex, an important historic feature of the village, while excluding more recently built additions to the plant. To the west of the proposed district, mainly open farm land stretches along both sides of Cherry Hill Road and extends to the Superior Township line and beyond.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Owner</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cherry Hill Ford Factory Complex</td>
<td>De-Sta-Co Cylinders</td>
<td>50625 Cherry Hill Road, Canton, MI 48187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reuben and Sarah Gill Huston House</td>
<td>Melissa McLaughlin</td>
<td>600 S. Ridge Road, Canton, MI 48187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherry Hill Methodist Episcopal Church (321 S. Ridge)</td>
<td>Contact person: Rev. Larry Wick (pastor)</td>
<td>321 S. Ridge Road, Canton, MI 48187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherry Hill Cemetery</td>
<td>Cherry Hill Cemetery Association</td>
<td>Dorothy Richards, sec. Cherry Hill Cemetery Assoc. 48415 Ford Road Canton, MI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherry Hill House (50545 Cherry Hill Road)</td>
<td>Vernon Stefansky</td>
<td>9414 Rocker, Plymouth 48170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherry Hill School (50440 Cherry Hill Road)</td>
<td>Charter Township of Canton</td>
<td>1150 Canton Center S., Canton, MI 48188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houk House</td>
<td>David and Mary Pondell</td>
<td>50530 Cherry Hill Road, Canton MI 48187</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WWII Veterans Dormitory -- 50625 Cherry Hill Rd.

Facade and North Elevation
Cherry Hill Ford Factory -- 50625 Cherry Hill Rd.

Facade and North Elevation

Addition
Cherry Hill ME Church -- 321 S. Ridge Rd

Facade and South Elevation

Facade and North Elevation
Cherry Hill ME Church -- 321 S. Ridge Rd

Facade

Sanctuary
Reuben & Sarah Gill Huston House -- 600 S. Ridge Rd.

Facade and South Elevation
Cherry Hill Cemetery -- S. Ridge Rd

Main Gate

Facing Southwest
Cherry Hill School -- 50440 Cherry Hill Rd.

Facade and North Elevation

Addition
William & Jennie Oliver Houk House -- 50530 Cherry Hill Rd.

Facade and East Elevation
LEGEND:
Cherry Hill House 50545 Cherry Hill Rd parcel h3
Cherry Hill Cemetery parcel j
Methodist Episcopal Church parcel m2b
Reuban and Sarah Gill Huston House 600 S. Ridge Rd parcel m2a1b
Henry Ford Factory and Dormitory 50625 CHERRY Hill Rd parcel k
The William and Jennie Oliver Hauk House 50530 Cherry Hill Rd parcel n1b
Cherry Hill School parcel n3d
CHERRY HILL SCHOOL
50440 CHERRY HILL ROAD

PARKING LOT

LEGEND:

- Historic Trees

CHERRY HILL ROAD

KOSKY, GLYNN & SABORIO LLC
50440 CHERRY HILL ROAD
CANTON, MICHIGAN

SCALE: NOT TO SCALE

Site Plan by J. SABORIO
DRAWN: 3/30/02
REV. 5/15/2002

MARCH 2002
CHERRY HILL M.E. CHURCH
(CURRENTLY CHERRY HILL UNITED METH.)
321 S. RIDGE RD.

NOT TO SCALE
Cherry Hill Inn
First Floor
Not to Scale
Cherry Hill Inn
Second Floor
Not to Scale
Floor plan - first floor
Not to scale

FAMILY ROOM

KITCHEN

OFFICE

LIVING ROOM

DINING ROOM

BATH

LAUNDRY

PORCH

N

HUSTON/MCLAUGHLIN
600 S RIDGE ROAD
SITE #9
Historic Documents
And
Photographs
WORLD WAR II VETERANS DORMITORY & ARMS FACTORY COMPLEX
from: Patterson, W. H. -- Manual of Architecture for: churches, parsonages and schoolhouses
Church Designs.

Doors.—The door hinges of 1½ in. plank; doors painted, the front double panelled 0 in. wide by 7 ft. high, with 18 in. transom. Inside doors, 3 ft. by 7 ft. All doors 1 in. thick, cased as windows.

Windows.—The window frames of 1 in. stuff for stiles, outside casing 1½ in. by 1 in. inside casing 1 in. by 6 in., with 2½ in. line molding. The frame making a box with the stud. Such 1½ in. thick, 18 inches 10 in. by 16 in., hung with pulleys and weights. Windows set 2 ft. from the floor.

Inside Sash 10 in. wide and 1 in. thick, headed at upper edge, with 3 round glass in floor.

Flooring of yellow pine boards 1 in. thick, dressed, tongued and grooved, and nailed down closely with 8-penny nails.

Lathing and Plastering.—Good laths put on regularly, and two-coat work of plastering.

Painting.—The house will have two coats of paint. For outside, use recipe No. 21, page 52, and for inside, No. 1, page 53.

Finally.—All the above work will be done in a good and workman-like manner, and the materials for the same to be of the class specified.

DESIGN NO. 2.

SUBURBAN VILLAGE, OR COUNTRY CHURCH.

This Des., Fig. 4, in view of its features, has been furnished for the building of several churches, and has invariably given great satisfaction. Its size can be changed to meet the wants of any locality. It is plain, but handsome and convenient. Fig. 2 is the ground-plan, and Fig. 3 represents the arrangement of the recess, platform, and pulpit. In Fig. 7 is shown the construction. The gallery can be built or left out, as may be desired. Construction and finish are clearly shown in Fig. 7, and the stairway appears in Fig. 2. This house can be built for $2,500.

SPECIFICATIONS OF MATERIALS AND WORK FOR FRAME CHURCH, DESIGN NO. 2.

Dimensions.—The inside measurement of the inside space is 50 ft. by 30 ft., ceiling 16 ft. high. The vestibule is 10 ft. square inside, ceiling 12 ft. high, with opening to the lobby 2½ ft. square.

Brick-work.—The piers are of well-burned brick, put up with good lime and sand mortar, 9 in. by 27 in. and 9 in. footings (projections at base), 18 in. in diameter, and 24 in. above; a pier under each space between the windows; piers under middle sill 9 in. by 18 in., 9 in. footings, spaced as under side-sills, corner piers returned. The arched lintel for the piers is thrown back on their base when done, to protect their footing from water. Two smoke-flues, one at each place shown by the stores in Fig. 2, built against the wall.