AMERICA'S FIRST
NATIONAL ARCHITECTURAL STYLE

The Greek Revival style is recognized as America’s first national architectural style. Popular between 1825-1860, this style was embraced by a nation driven by fervor for independence at the end of the War of 1812, when the British finally left American soil. Settlers strongly identified with the Greek ideals of democracy. During the early decades of the 19th century, they used Greek names for their new towns and villages, such as Utica, Athens, Ypsilanti, and Syracuse. The Greek Temple became a symbol of independence and American builders adapted elements of the style to the simple houses constructed in this new land.

The Greek Revival architectural style was adopted in Washtenaw County from the beginning of settlement in the 1820s until the end of the Civil War in 1865. The style is found primarily in houses, but is also found in churches, school houses, inns, mills, and other commercial buildings.

Characteristics of this style include rectangular buildings with a medium to low-pitched gable roof and often covered with clapboard. Typical Greek Revival buildings may also be constructed of brick, cobblestone, or adobe. Elements of this style include a full or broken triangular pediment at the gable ends, a frieze board, corner boards or pilasters, round or square columns, six-over-six double-hung rectangular windows, and elegant door surrounds. For more architectural terms, see the glossary on page 2.

RESPECT, PLEASE!

The historic resources depicted herein are private property and are not open to the public. Please respect the owners’ privacy and do not trespass. The tour is intended to be enjoyed from the public right-of-way only.
GREEK REVIVAL ARCHITECTURE GLOSSARY

Adobe: hardened mud blocks used for wall construction, often covered with stucco

Architrave: the lower most of the three parts comprising the entablature: architrave, frieze, and cornice

Capitals: the simple or decorative top portion of a column

Corinthian Order: one of the most decorated of the recognized orders of Greek architecture

Cornice: the uppermost part of the entablature in Greek architecture, it projects outward and is often decorated

Cornice Returns: a pair of cornices that wraps around the corner of a gable end without meeting; giving the impression of a pediment

Doric Order: one of the least decorated of the six generally recognized orders of Greek and Roman architecture

Entablature: the entire horizontal structural member supported by columns; composed of the (lowest to highest) architrave, frieze, and the cornice

Frieze Windows: small windows located within the frieze

Frieze: the middle portion of the entablature

Ionic Order: a moderately decorated order of the six generally recognized orders of Greek and Roman architecture; easily recognized by its capitals with “swirls”

Pediment: the triangular shaped front piece found on Greek temples

Pilaster: a faux column that is engaged in the wall for decoration rather than support of a beam or lintel; often found at corners and doors

Quoins: alternating rectangles of stone or brick used at the corners of a building for corner support and stability

Stucco: a plaster-like material made of lime, sand, and water; often spread over adobe brick or other masonry

DID YOU KNOW?

Settlers reused and recycled their buildings or building parts. An example is found at 4560 South Wagner Road, where a Greek Revival structure northwest of the farmhouse is now used as an outbuilding.

19TH CENTURY ARCHITECTURE

GREEK REVIVAL ARCHITECTURE FORMS

The structures that have a large front gable with columns and a pediment, are known as temple front Greek Revivals, which resemble true Greek Temples. The form called “hen and chicks,” or basilica, is unique to Southeast Michigan. The “hen” is a front gable two story central core resembling a temple front, and the “chicks” are one story side wings.

Many early Michigan settlers originated from New England and New York State. They brought with them the New England one-and-a-half side gable form, with frieze windows to let in light and air to the upper floor. Houses that reflect the upright and wing form usually consist of a two story upright and a one-and-a-half story wing.

GREEK REVIVAL ARCHITECTURE MATERIALS

Early in the 19th century, builders used materials that were available. Logs were used to quickly construct rough dwellings. Trees were still abundant in the 1820s and 1830s when sawn lumber was more readily available, which is why many Greek Revival structures were built of wood. Cobblestone was also obtainable and proved to be a fine construction material. Later, brick houses were also considered desirable for greater durability and fire safety.

The most unusual material used for Greek Revival architecture found in Washtenaw County is adobe brick: hardened mud blocks covered with stucco. A number of these adobe brick houses are attributed to Stephen Mills, a brick builder from New Jersey. He came to Washtenaw County in 1833, and is known to have built houses of brick, cobblestone, and adobe brick.

Sharon Mills County Park

Open to the Public

Not Pictured on Map

5701 Sharon Hollow Road

Sharon Mills was one of the sites purchased by Henry Ford for his village industries initiative during the 1920s and 1930s. Cigar lighters were manufactured at this site until the mid-1940s when the initiative proved no longer viable. The mill was later a private residence and a winery. The site was purchased by the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission in 1999, and rehabilitated in 2002.

For tour information, directions, and hours, call 734.222.9098 or visit: http://www.eWashtenaw.org/government/departments/parks_recreation/sharonmills/pr_pksharon.html
SITE 1. Gray Farmhouse
8540 Island Lake Road, Dexter Township

Built in 1834 by Judge Samuel Dexter for local physician Amos Gray, this house is an outstanding example of an upright and double wing form. It features massive square columns that frame porches on two stories and the full triangular pediment above.

SITE 2. Gordon Hall
8341 Island Lake Road, Webster and Scio Townships

A classic temple front, Gordon Hall is one of the most well-known Greek Revival structures in Washtenaw County. It has a five bay façade with massive columns and a full pediment. Built between 1841 and 1843 by Judge Samuel Dexter, the structure was named for his mother’s family. Dexter established the village of Dexter in 1824, naming it in honor of his father. Dexter’s granddaughter later passed the estate on to the University of Michigan. The Dexter Area Historical Society and Museum purchased the property for use as a museum.

Along the Way…

In the Village of Dexter, drive down Central Avenue to enjoy several good examples of the Greek Revival style. Across the street from the Dexter Mill, at 3512 Central, is a hen and chicks Greek Revival known as the Litchfield House. This site is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. For more information on Dexter area history, visit: http://www.hvcn.org/info/dextermuseum

SITE 3. John Stanton House
6015 Mast Road, Webster Township

This farmhouse is in a familiar form called the upright and wing. Typical features include the frieze windows on the wing section and the hip roof over the porch. Cornice returns are present on the front and side gables. The house was built around 1860 by the widow and son of John Stanton, a farmer, several years after his death.

SITE 4. Williams-Mast House
4580 Farrell Road, Webster Township

The Williams-Mast House is a unique form of Greek Revival architecture with a hipped roof and square shape. It has square columns, frieze windows, and a recessed porch. The house was built in 1828 by John Williams.

SITE 5. Webster United Church of Christ
5484 Webster Church Road, Webster Township

The front gabled Webster United Church of Christ, for which the road is named, was built in 1834 by Henry V. Libhart. Its square tower and Italianate detailing above the windows were added in the late 19th century.

SITE 6. The Tubbs Farmhouse
3735 Tubbs Road, Scio Township

On the west side of the road, the Tubbs Farmhouse is a clapboard hen and chicks house with a fieldstone foundation. Note the trim work and cornice returns on the front gabled section and the strong triangular lines of the “chickwings.” The house was built by George Tubbs, who came to Washtenaw County from Ontario County, New York. It was built sometime before 1856.

SITE 7. Reeves House
2886 W. Joy Road, Webster Township

The Philip Reeves House is an example of an upright and wing form, although the upright portion is wider than those found on most Greek Revivals, and is one-and-a-half stories, rather than two stories tall. The house is composed of fieldstone, with quoins made of larger boulders. Local tradition holds that the original log cabin on the property was the wing portion and that it was covered with stone when the rest of the house was built around the middle of the 19th century.

Key to Lists & Designations

- State Register of Historic Places
- National Register of Historic Places
- Washtenaw County Historic District
The Luther Boyden Farm is an exceptional example of an intact historic farmstead with architecturally significant buildings. The house was constructed c.1860, and is a brick four-bay front gabled structure with Italianate features, including brackets and porch detailing. Another outstanding building on the property is the brick Italianate carriage house located east of the main house. Luther Boyden arrived in Washtenaw County from Massachusetts in 1826. He was influential in animal breeding practices as well as educational and religious matters. His barn served as the site for religious services before the Webster Church was built.

**SITES OF NOTE**

**Leland House**
**3850 E. North Territorial Road, Northfield Township**

Located west of Earhart Road, this house is unusual for its wide *front gable* form that may have evolved from a hen and chicks arrangement. Details include thick pilasters, robust square columns on the porch, and fine detailing around the window in the front gable.

**Douglass-Narry House**
**6595 Plymouth Road, Superior Township**

This house is a wonderful example of the *hen and chicks* or *basilica* arrangement unique to southeast Michigan. The bones of the classical details are clearly evident in the recessed porch, square columns, and generous entablatures. It was built c.1860 for Aaron Douglass, a prosperous farmer who sold his farm and furnishings to John Narry in 1864. The Nanry family maintained the estate until after 1940.

**Burnett House**
**3555 West Delhi Road, Scio Township**

This residence is an excellent example of a cobblestone *hen and chicks* Greek Revival. Features include stone quoins and heavy cornice returns.

**Ezra Lay House**
**3401 Berry Road, Superior Township**

Moved in 1966 to its present location, the Ezra Lay House belonged to the first known nurseryman of the Northwest Territory. Ezra Lay and his brother Zina came from New York to Michigan in 1832, and settled along Michigan Avenue east of Ypsilanti. They moved approximately 25,000 fruit trees, shrubs and seedlings to the farm. The house was built in 1833 and is said to have had a colorful history, including periods as a tavern, a blind pig, and an apartment building during WWII. In 1966 when it was scheduled for demolition, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hagler moved the dwelling to its present site. A new foundation was dug and the house was carefully rehabilitated. A classical style garage and portico were added to complement the house. Mr. and Mrs. Brad Perkins, owners of the property in the 1990s, donated a large portion of the land to the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy to protect the rural character of the area.

**Dixboro Church**
**5221 Church Street, Dixboro, Superior Township**

The Dixboro United Church of Christ, located at the north end of Short Street at Church Street, is undergoing a rehabilitation and restoration project at the time of this publication. The restoration will include a replica of the original steeple. The church was built in 1858 as a Methodist Episcopal Church. It is a classic *front gabled* structure with a full pediment and large pilasters dividing the sections of the façade, as well as corner pilasters.

**Treadwell-Popkins House**
**4004 Ave Maria Drive (Old Earhart Road), Ann Arbor Township**

Located at the north end of Old Earhart Road, this brick house is a five-bay *side gabled* New England one-and-a-half Greek Revival. It features frieze windows with detailed trim, cornice returns, and a porch with typical Greek Revival elements. The house was built c.1860 and was at one time part of a prosperous farm. Presently it is the rectory for Christ the King Catholic Church.
SITE 1. Orrin White House
2940 Fuller Road, Ann Arbor
Local farmer and civic leader Orrin White built this cobblestone house c.1840 with his wife Ann. According to the National Register Nomination, it was built in several stages. The front elevation of the house, known as the façade, features a herringbone pattern of stones, while the east elevation has randomly placed stones. Other details on the house include stone corner quoins and detailed wood trusswork in the gable end.

SITE 2. Ticknor-Campbell House
2781 Packard Road, Ann Arbor
Open to the Public
The Ticknor-Campbell House, otherwise known as Cobblestone Farm, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and the State Register of Historic Sites. This unique house is composed of stone in a coursed herringbone pattern on the façade similar to the Orrin White House. It was built in 1844 by Benajah Ticknor, a U.S. naval surgeon from Connecticut. His brother Herman, a politician, also lived on site and managed the farm. The Campbell family purchased the property in 1881 and continued farming for 91 years. The site was purchased by the City of Ann Arbor in 1972 for use as a farm life museum interpreted to the mid-19th century.
For hours of operation and tour information call 734-994-2928 or visit http://www.ci.ann-arbor.mi.us/CommunityServices/Parks/Cobblestone/cobblestone_main.html

SITE 3. Cody Farm
670 Textile Road, Pittsfield Township
A significant resource, the Cody Farm was designated as a Michigan Centennial Farm in 1989. It is located on a tract purchased by the Cody family in 1836. The wood Greek Revival house is a side gabled structure with a highly detailed Italianate porch. The house and farm buildings remain largely unchanged. The owners were relatives of Buffalo Bill Cody, and tradition holds that he stayed at the farm when his Wild West exhibition passed through the area.

SITE 4. Sutherland-Wilson Farm
797 Textile Road, Pittsfield Township
The Sutherland-Wilson Farm is now surrounded by development, but was farmed by the same family for over 150 years. The property was purchased by Langford Sutherland in 1832. The house is a fine example of the New England one-and-a-half cottage with a central hall and a combination of both Doric and square columns on the front porch. The farm is currently being restored by the Pittsfield Township Historic Society. For more information call 734-971-2384 or visit www.pittsfieldhistory.org.

SITE 5. Hurd-Tefft House
1880 Textile Road, Pittsfield Township
This side gabled one-and-a-half story house was reportedly built by Stephen Mills in c.1850, for Arba Hurd of Dutchess County, NY. It was owned in the early 20th century by the Tefft family. The house is constructed of adobe brick with a stucco finish, both materials unusual to the Midwest. After the exterior was coated with stucco, the builder scored it to resemble stone block. This is one of several Washtenaw County houses of this type; most are attributed to Mills.

ALONG THE WAY…
In the City of Saline, drive down Michigan Avenue, also known as the US-12 Heritage Trail. This route links Detroit to Chicago. It was the second road in the nation built by the federal government, after the construction of the National Road. Several good examples of 19th century architecture remain along this segment, many of which are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

For more information on Saline area history, visit: http://salinehistory.org
SITE 6. Lohr House  
4456 Lohr Road

This upright and double wing brick house was the anchor of a prosperous farmstead with as many as fourteen outbuildings at its peak the early 20th century. The house was constructed c.1866, reportedly by local builder Stephen Mills, during a time when the Greek Revival period was phasing into the Italianate period. Elements of both styles are found on the house. Greek Revival details include the pediment on the upright portion and the square columns. Italianate influence can be seen in the deep eaves and many brackets on the house.

SITE 7. McCollum-Schmitt House  
4576 Ann Arbor-Saline Road

Like many others in the area, this house is also attributed to local builder Stephen Mills. It is consistent with his characteristic materials of stucco exterior over adobe brick. Built in c.1850, it is a one-and-a-half story New England cottage. Greek Revival elements include the decorated grills at the frieze, cornice returns, and square columns on the porch. The Schmitt family bought the property in 1890 and it remained in that family for many years.

SITE 8. Knight House  
4944 Scio Church Road

This house is a coursed cobblestone one-and-a-half story New England cottage. It sits on a bank on the north side of the road, almost out of view. It has stone quoins, heavy cornice returns, and frieze windows which are larger than usual for this style. The Knight family owned the property as early as 1856. A schoolhouse was built to the east, called the Knight School.

SITE 9. Pope House  
1251 S. Zeeb Road

A large scale example of Greek Revival architecture, the Pope House is an upright and wing brick house with a thick frieze board, frieze windows on the wing, and cornice returns. The steep roof, form, and massing of this house indicate that it is a later example of the Greek Revival style, at a time when architectural taste was transitioning toward the Italianate style.

SITES OF NOTE
Highlighted Individually on Tour Map

Newton-Sheldon House  
6871 Saline Waterworks Road

This side gabled stucco house is also attributed to Stephen Mills. It has a stucco exterior, decorative grills in the frieze, and thick square columns on the hipped-roof porch.

Weller’s Carriage House  
555 W. Michigan Avenue, Saline

Open to the Public
Located just west of downtown Saline at the river, this historic mill was purchased by Henry Ford in the 1920s for use in his Village Industries initiative, connecting farmers more closely with the manufacturing process. He used the facility for processing soybeans for use in plastics and paint for automobiles. He also moved a schoolhouse from Macon to a location across the street (600 W. Michigan Avenue) for the benefit of the children of his employees at the small processing plant.

Weller’s is open periodically for tours and events. For information, call 734.429.1115 or visit http://www.wellersweddings.com/

Brinkerhoff-Burg House  
9180 Saline Milan Road

Located south of Saline, this site has the consistent appearance of a Stephen Mills house, with a stucco finish covering adobe brick construction. It was built c.1845 for H.H. Brinkerhoff, the original land owner. The property later sold to John Burg in 1874, and remained in that family until 1983.
**Kempf House**  
312 S. Division, Ann Arbor  

*Open to the Public*  
The Bennett-Kempf House was built in 1853, and is a temple front Greek Revival with a full pediment, ornate grillwork in the frieze, and substantial square columns. Now a museum, the house tells the story of prominent local musicians Reuben and Pauline Kempf during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. An 1877 Steinway concert grand piano is one of the many prized artifacts on display.  
For museum hours and events, call 734-994-4898 or go to www.kempfhousemuseum.org

**Wilson-Wahr House**  
126 N. Division, Ann Arbor  

One of the most famous residences in Ann Arbor, this house was built in 1843 by Judge Robert S. Wilson. In 1892, it was purchased at auction by publisher George Wahr. He leased the house for twenty years, and later occupied it with his wife, Emma. The house remained in the Wahr family until 2002, when two local preservationists bought the property for restoration.

**Anderson House**  
2301 Packard, Ann Arbor  

John Anderson purchased land in Pittsfield Township in 1831, and his son William built this temple front Greek Revival, which stayed in the family for over a century. The house has three bays, the four columns, grills in the frieze openings, and board and batten siding. Dr. Inez Wisdom, a prominent local physician, bought the property in 1937 and added a small chapel to the south side of the house. In 1953 she gave the chapel and grounds to the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan and the St. Clare of Assisi Parish was established. The church building was constructed by the parish in 1968.

**Ladies Literary Society**  
218 N. Washington, Ypsilanti  

The Ladies Literary Society house is a temple front Greek Revival with three bays, square columns, and decorated frieze grills. In addition, notice the dentils under the frieze windows and the detailing along the pediment cornice. The columns are paneled at the corners, suggesting fluting. Arden Ballard built this house for William Davis around 1842. Located within the Ypsilanti Local Historic District, the Ladies Literary Society bought the property in 1913 and still own and operate it today.

**Ballard-Breakey House**  
125 N. Huron, Ypsilanti  

Originally a modest house of brick and stone, the Ballard-Breakey House was constructed around 1830 by Arden H. Ballard, who was active locally and served as the village president. The massive columns were added in the 1840s. The house derives the second portion of its name from Dr. Breakey, a judge who lived in the house during the 1960s. Additions have been built and function as condos, but the three-bay temple front remains a prominent resource in the Ypsilanti Local Historic District.

**Towner House**  
303 N. Huron, Ypsilanti  

The Towner House, owned by the First Presbyterian Society, is believed to be the oldest house remaining on its original foundation in Ypsilanti. It was built in 1837 and was later owned by the Towner family for 100 years. The house is unusual for its wide front gable. Note the decorated columns on the porch, likely added later. The house is situated in the Ypsilanti Local Historic District.
Tour 2: Greek Revival Architecture: North & South Tours

Learn about the elegant architectural style.

For more information and printable tour brochures, visit http://preservation.ewashtenaw.org/

Ballard-Breakey House, 125 N. Huron, Ypsilanti
GREEK REVIVAL ARCHITECTURE
North Driving Tour of 19th Century
Greek Revival Structures
Washtenaw County, Michigan

Sites:
1. Gray Farm
   8540 Island Lake Rd
2. Gordon Hall
   8341 Island Lake Road
3. John Stanton House
   6015 Mast Road
4. Williams-Mast House
   4580 Farrell Road
5. Webster Church
   5484 Webster Church
6. Tubbs House
   3735 Tubbs Road
7. Philip Reeves House
   2886 W. Joy Road
8. Boyden Farm
   3300 W. Joy Road

Additional Sites:
Burnett House
3355 W. Delhi

LEGEND
- Upright & Wing or Double Wing
- Front Gable
- Square
- Hen and Chicks
- Side Gable
GREEK REVIVAL ARCHITECTURE
South Driving Tour of 19th Century
Greek Revival Structures
Washtenaw County, Michigan

Sites:
1. Orrin White House
   2940 Fuller Road
2. Ticknor-Campbell House
   2781 Packard Road
3. Cody Farm
   670 Textile Road
4. Sutherland-Wilson Farm
   797 Textile Road
5. Hurd-Tefft House
   1880 Textile Road
6. Lohr House
   4456 Lohr Road
7. McCollum-Schmitt House
   4576 Ann Arbor-Saline Road
8. Knight House
   4944 Scio Church Road
9. Pope House
   1251 S. Zeeb Road

Additional Sites:
- Newton-Sheldon House
  6871 Saline-Waterworks Rd
- Weller's Carriage House
  555 W. Michigan Avenue
- Brinkerhoff-Burg House
  9180 Saline-Milan Road

LEGEND
- Cobblestone
- Brick
- Wood
- Stucco

Map of Saline and Ann Arbor with sites marked:
- Newton-Sheldon House
- Weller's Carriage House
- Brinkerhoff-Burg House

Map scale: 0.5 Miles