

**ANN ARBOR HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
APPLICATION for HISTORIC MARKER**

100 N. Fifth Avenue Ann Arbor, MI 48104 (734)794-6265 x42608 Fax: (734) 994-8312
Historic District Coordinator Email: jthacher@a2gov.org www.a2gov.org

Section 1: Applicant Information

Name of Property Owner: Clifford Williams
Address of Owner: 1606 Pontiac Tr.
Daytime Phone: (248) 881-4412
Fax: ()
Email: cliffswilliams@gmail.com
Signature of owner: Clifford Williams date: 11-4-11

Section 2: Historical Information (attach additional sheets as necessary)

Address of Property: 1407 Broadway St.
Name of Historic District, if applicable: Northside/Broadway
Name of First Owner of building: Ernstus Leseur

Bibliographic Source: Fiscal historic district study committee report for proposed Broadway Historic District;
Date of Construction: ca. 1840 *internet research*

Bibliographic Source: (same as above)
Additional history of the property—including ownership, evolution of the building and its use:
(please see attached paper) email attachments; page 18 of the one with
histories of different houses,

(continue on reverse or on additional sheets)

Section 3: Photographs (attach or submit electronic copy of a photo of the building)

Staff Use Only

Date Submitted: _____ Date of completed application: _____
Staff Reviewer & Date: _____ Date of HDC Action: _____
Staff signature: _____ Action: _____ HDC Approval _____ HDC Denial _____
Comments: _____

Broadway Historic District

Resource Documentation

Address: 1407 Broadway *Date:* ca. 1840
Historic Name: Erastus Leseur House *Level:* Contributing



Description

Style: Greek Revival
Stories: 1.5
Material: Clapboard
Windows: Original?
Window Type: Wood, Double-Hung
Pane Type: 2/2

Roof Shape: Side Gable
Roof Material: Asphalt
Plan Shape: Rectangular
Porch Type: Ell
Dormers: N/A
Dormer Type: N/A

Character Defining Features:

Three bays; unexposed foundation; two gable-roofed additions to rear and one tucked into southwest corner of ell; sun porch added to left end of original house; wide frieze board under eaves and in gables; two double-line frieze windows; ell porch covers front façade and north elevation and has a low, hipped roof supported by square posts resting on concrete piers/pad; front door flanked by fluted pilasters leading to cross-hatched corner blocks and topped by matching fluted entablature.

History

First City Directory: 1860
Original Use: Residential
Current Use: Residential

Context(s): Settlement
Architect: Unknown
Builder: Unknown

Occupation (First Dweller): Fence builder

Notes: Leseur (sometimes spelled Lesure) purchased lot 38 from Absalom Traver in 1841 for \$200. He purchased Lot 39 in 1849 from John Taylor for \$1. Leseur was a teamster, a policeman, the City Marshal, and worked for the stage coach lines in the 1860s and 1870s (after he sold this house). By 1855, he had sold the house (on both lots) for \$450 to Elizabeth Harrison who turned around and sold it a few months later for \$500 to JP and C. Howard. In 1860 the Howards sold it to Hiram Balcom for \$700. Balcom was a fence builder and lived here until about 1872. The Morony family occupied the house in the late 1800s. By 1910 the house was occupied by Rembert Jones of the Michigan Insulation Company, he lived there until 1940. When it sold in 1997 for not much money the *Ann Arbor Observer* noted "the house seems to cry for the kind of attention that other Broadway restorations have received." It has recently undergone some repair.

The house, though somewhat dilapidated, retains many of its earliest Greek Revival and Classical Revival features with eyebrow windows on the second floor and its simple gable front with wide overhang and wide frieze board. The larger windows at ground level were probably added in the 1860s and their original galls gives them a special and unusual character.







