

REPAIR RENOVATION RESTORATION
RECONSTRUCTION
CONSULTING & HANDS ON HELP FOR
OWNERS OF ELDERLY BUILDINGS

Report on window sash at
537 Detroit Street
Ann Arbor MI
Prudence Spink, owner
Conducted April 22 2011

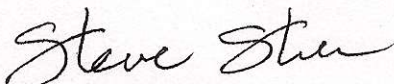
The purpose of this site inspection was to determine the age or period of construction of the four wood sashes in the two one-over-one windows in the upper front bedroom of 537 Detroit Street, Ann Arbor, MI.

I carefully examined the four wood window sashes, sash channels, jamb, parting strip, inside casings, and inside stop. The lower sashes were operable, with sash ropes and pulleys in place. The upper sashes were painted shut. Sash locks are not original.

Without documentary evidence it is not possible to obtain a precise date of construction or installation. By close observation of physical details it is possible to estimate approximately when the sash were produced and placed in service.

The one over one configuration of window sash was popular beginning in the first quarter of the 20th Century. The molded profile of the window casing with simple turned bulls-eye corner blocks, molded profile of the sash stiles, rails and inside stop were popular in the late 19th and early 20th Century. Paint color layering and buildup indicate that these elements were placed in service at approximately the same time. The detail joinery and fastening (open dove tails and metal pin fasteners) of the window sash corners is of a type and method used from about the 1890's through the 1940's. The cast iron sash weight pulleys were in popular usage through the 1920's. Although not visually observed, cast iron sash weights were used exclusively in the late 19th and early 20th century residential construction.

After careful consideration of the physical evidence listed above and placing it in the context of historical time, I believe these window sash were produced and placed in use in this house between 1900 and 1930.



Steve Stier
June 7, 2011

MICHIGAN LICENSED BUILDER 106898
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Education & Training

Masters Degree, Historic Preservation,
Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti MI. 2000

Masters of Arts, Industrial Education.
Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo MI 1974

Bachelors of Science in Industrial Arts Education.
Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo MI 1973.

Associate in Arts. Ferris State College, Big Rapids MI 1971.

Vocational Training in Technical Graphics.
Stautzenberger College, Toledo, OH. 1966.

Credentials

Michigan Residential Builders License. 1992 - current.
Michigan Vocational Teacher Certification in Carpentry. 1991

Other Training

Advanced Drafting: Industrial C.A.D. Kellogg Community College. Spring, 1990.

Lines & Lofting of Traditional Wooden Boats with Master Builder
Arno Day, Sedgewick, Maine. 1985-86.

Real Estate License Examination: Michigan 1979; California 1981; Maine, 1984.

Neighborhood Housing Service Rehabilitation & Administration Training.
Chicago, 1979.

RRP Lead Safe Work Practice training 2010

Employment / Affiliation

Tillers International, Kalamazoo, 1994 - 1996.
Collections Coordinator, Abbey Agricultural Collection of 4500 artifacts; 19,000
sq.ft. storage facility that supports early agricultural research interests.

Lead Instructor, Traditional Timber Framing Workshop
Annual basic traditional, timber-frame training—6-day intensive workshop
resulting in the production and raising of a timber frame building.

Michigan Historic Preservation Network., Board Member 2002 to 2011.
Preservation Resources Council
Education Committee
Executive Committee

Owner/operator. RE: Construction 1991-present.
Preservation consulting and construction business including hand-on training
and assistance for owners of elderly buildings.

Meridian Township Board of Trustees, elected office, 2000 – 2004
-Economic Development Corporation , 2000 - 2004
-Elections Committee, 2000 - 2004
-Zoning Board of Appeals, 2000 - 2011

Michigan State University Museum, Research Associate for Traditional Building
Techniques
Michigan Traditional Arts Program, 1997 - current.
MSU Board appointment related to research, training and exhibit development,
and presentation. Publication of “Michigan Barn and Farmstead Survey.” In
conjunction with MSU Extension, 4-H FOLKPATTERNS.

On-Call @ MSU Museum, Extensive and varied exhibit and presentation related
responsibilities: design, development, production and interpretation –stone
masonry, timber framing. 1993 - present

Michigan Barn Preservation Network , Founding Board Member, 1994 – present;
Newsletter Editor and Writer, 5 years.
Chair Technical Committee 2007-2010
Conference Planning Committee and annual workshop presenter.
President 2010-present

Carpenter. Van Voorhis Builders, Reading MI. 1989-1991.
General construction, remodeling and light commercial.

Penobscot Marine Museum, Searsport, ME. 1984-1987.
Director of Buildings & Grounds Responsible for repair and upkeep of nine
detached buildings ranging from 1830s to modern art storage and exhibition
facility. Designed and produced new and maintained existing interior and
exterior signage and interpretive materials

Renovation & Operation, McGilvery House Bed & Breakfast, Searsport, ME. 1983-
1989. Restoration of 1860, 3-story mansard Sea Captain’s home: major
structural and systems repair, preservation and rehabilitation.

Neighborhood Housing Service (NHS)
Executive Director, Pasadena, CA, 1980-1982
Assistant Director/Rehabilitation Specialist NHS, Beloit, WI. 1979 - 1980.
The goal of NHS is to revitalize a specific deteriorating neighborhood.
Supervised professional, 3 person staff working with government officials,

lending institutions and community leaders; and supervised a revolving loan fund for housing rehabilitation.

Layout Draftsman/CAD-CAM Operator. Baker-Perkins Inc Saginaw, MI. '77-'78
Specialized

Industrial Arts and Drafting Education

- Belfast Area High School, Belfast, ME. 1983-1984.
- Gardner Middle School, Bangor ME,. 1982-1983
- Reading High School, Reading, MI. 1975-1977.
- Western Michigan University. Industrial Arts. 1974 -1975.
- Teaching Graduate Assistant. Western Michigan University, 1973 -1974

Wooden Ship Building & Renovation

- Ship Carpenter. Traverse Tall Ship Company, Traverse City, MI. Fall, 1993.
- Boat Builder. George Allen Boat Works, North Brooklin, ME.
Winter 88-89 and Spring 1990.
- Ships Carpenter. Maine Windjammer Cruises. Camden,ME 1986-87,1988-89.

Military Service: United States Army. 1968-74. Honorable Discharge.

Teaching

Tillers International

“Traditional Timber Framing with period skills and tools”

Lead Instructor for week-long residential workshop offered 1 to 4 times per year, 1993 – ongoing. Results in completed raised timber-frame.

Development of curriculum for 2 day hands-on workshops in:

- Barn Restoration
- Window Sash Restoration

Eastern Michigan University

Historic Preservation Field School – 13 years 1999 – present, a graduate level residential on-site field school in historic preservation at Fayette State Historical Site 5 years, Bay View 2 years, Goll Farmstead 2 years, De Young Farmstead 3 years

Michigan State University Museum

Barn and Farmstead Survey state-wide documentation project

Field training of teams taking on geographical district reconnaissance surveys of traditional farmsteads 1992 - continuing

Locations: Mt. Pleasant - twice, Frankenmuth, Ortonville, Meridian

Township, Ionia, MSU's 4-H Exploration Days (East Lansing)-4 times

Michigan Historic Preservation Network

development and teaching of practical preservation curriculum for on-going workshop series; piloted in Jackson and Pontiac, MI

- Historic Window Rehabilitation
- Historic Porch Repair
- Historic Roof repair

-Historic Mortar Composition and Repair

Michigan Historic Preservation Network

Designed, Coordinated and Implemented curriculum for ten day contractors Window Rehabilitation Workshop, three in Kalamazoo, 2009 one in Lansing 2010

Designed Coordinated and Implemented curriculum for three day home owner Window Rehabilitation Workshop two in Kalamazoo 2010

Half-Hull Modeling Workshops, 2002, 2003, 2004

Co developed and presented 2-day workshops on traditional half-hull model making.

Michigan Barn Preservation Network

Designed and presented several one day barn related educational workshops:

- Building analysis
- Foundation repair
- Cabling and straightening
- Sill replacement
- Door and window repair

Research & Exhibition

Michigan State University Museum

Development and implementation Basic Timber Framing exhibition/demonstration as a part of an annual "Country Life Historic Park" - living history exhibition held in conjunction with the Michigan State Fair: 1993, 1994, 1995

Research, development and implemented "Traditional Stone Masonry" demonstration and exhibition, Festival of Michigan Folk Life, 1995.

Research, development and implementation "Historic Laminated Rafter Methods for Barn Construction" demonstration and exhibition, Festival of Michigan Folk Life, 1994

Development team of 3 creating: "Heritage Barns of Michigan: an Artists Perspective", a traveling exhibition. 1997 – continuing in use, managed by MSU Museum Traveling Exhibitions Service.

"Elkanah Watson – *Father of the American Agricultural Fair*"

First Person Interpretation for exhibition "America's Fairs Educating Communities" (monthly) October 2000 – May 2001.

Performance as "Elkanah Watson" in *Blue Ribbon Walkways: 150 Years of the Michigan County Fair*, Equity Studios, 27 minute public TV documentary, 2001.

"Understanding the Farmstead" Scholars forum, 2001, in connection with ANR Week, MSU. Michigan State University Museum, Eastern Michigan University Historic Preservation Program collaborative project.

Lead coordinator: developed and organized 1 day forum which brought 100 lay and academic scholars from the mid west and east coast sharing papers on barn and farmstead structure, use and interrelated functions on the farm and within communities.

Restoration: 1900c.a. Rork Wooden Windmill, 1995.

Research, documented and restored historic wooden windmill for *Lansing 100 Years* exhibition, Michigan State History Center. Now in the collection of the Michigan State University Museum.

Museum Replica: 1880s Plymouth Fair Entry Arches. 1992

Research, documented and replicated 1880s Plymouth Fair entry arches for use at 6 year run Country Life Historic Park (living history agricultural community) exhibitions, Michigan State Fair (1992 – 1996). Now a part of permanent exhibit Plymouth Historical Society and Museum.

Consulting

Consulting regarding historic building methods and techniques -- stabilization, renovation, adaptation and restoration. 1994 – present. Specification writing, development of bid packages, expert legal research & testimony, maintenance reports, historic research, appraisals, feasibility studies, etc.

Clients: township & municipal government, history societies, fair boards, school districts, lawyers, architects, structural engineers, developers, museums, individuals

Publication & Presentations

Michigan Barn & Farmstead Survey Manual, by Steve Stier
Michigan State University Museum 2000. 32 pages.

“Barns of Michigan’s Thumb: Photographs of Mary Keithan”, Avery, Stier and Worthington, Michigan Folklife Annual. 1998, Michigan State University, pages 16 – 23.

MBPN NEWS , 1996 – 2001, Wrote, edited, funded and produced quarterly newsletter of the Michigan Barn Preservation Network.

Barn/Farmstead Public Presentations

MI Farm Bureau, North Adams, Centerville
Hartland Historical Society
Farmers Club, Howell
Northville District Library
Oshtemo Historical Society
Elk Rapids Historical Society
Fallasberg Historical Society
Kemp House

Richmond Historical and Genealogical Society

Traditional Timberframing – tools & techniques – demonstrations

Mid Michigan Wood Workers Guild

Port Oneida Rural Traditions Fair, Historic Sleeping Bear Dunes

National Lakeshore, annual presentations 2002 - 2007

West Michigan Woodworkers Guild

Kensington Metro Park Farm Center

Wollcot Mill Metro Park

Round Barn Festival, Rochester Indiana

Gagetown Octagon Barn Festival

Island Festival, Grand Ledge

Barns and Byways Tour Ludington

Michigan Barn Preservation Network

Annual conference workshop presentations:

moving barns, roof repair, historic preservation basics, barn foundations,
general maintenance, curved rafter barns