

Historic Facts

Early records show that on January 18, 1881, a deed was filed for the purchase of a lot situated at the northwest corner of St. Joseph Avenue and Third Street, in the Village of Trenton. The purchasers of this property were John Moore, a tavern keeper in the village, and his wife Sarah. At the time, the lot was described as extending four rods west from the corner and north to the present alley, a distance of some twelve rods. The exact date of the building of the home has not been determined, but undoubtedly it was completed within the year.

John and Sarah Moore had four sons: Henry, William, Byron and Burns. After the death of her husband, her sons having grown, Mrs. Moore continued living in the family home. Before her death, she had deeded the house to her grandson, Nellis, the son of Burns and Addie, the former Addie Nellis of Wyandotte.

From 1914 until 1919, Mr. Nellis Moore and his wife Mary lived in the lovely old home with their four children. In 1916 Mr. Moore modernized by installing electric wiring and plumbing. In 1919, the Moore family sold the homestead to Mr. Fred Boelter and his wife Lizetta.

In 1928, Mrs. Emma Boelter converted the front parlor into a beauty shop. By this time, the inner shutters had been removed from the windows. A portion of the side porch was enclosed and converted into an entrance to the shop. She continued to have her beauty shop until her retirement from business in 1957.

The western portion of the Moore lot was sold to Mr. Earl Henegar in 1955, at which time the garage, formerly the summer kitchen, was demolished to make room for the house he was soon to build. In 1964, Mr. Henegar purchased the Moore-Boelter home. After enlarging the very small basement, and installing a gas furnace, he decided the large house would make a good two-family flat.

About this time, however the Trenton Historical Commission found itself in dire need of a good place in which to store its few pieces of furniture and its mounting number of articles of historic interest.

The Trenton City Council considered the problem of the Commission. Finally an agreement was reached with Mr. Henegar to use the building. During Michigan Week, in May 1965, the Trenton Historical Museum came into being, marked by a public ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Later the same year, more difficulties were encountered when the Peoples Bank felt the need for more parking space for the employees of their enlarged banking facilities. Along with other properties in the area, the bank purchased the Moore-Boelter property from Mr. Henegar. The museum faced demolition. The problem was resolved by the directors of the People Bank agreeing to sell the building and immediate grounds to the City of Trenton for continued use as the Trenton Historical Museum.

City of Trenton
Historical Commission
2800 Third Street
Trenton, MI 48183



TRENTON Historical Museum

Puzzle Pieces for Preservation

*Preserve Trenton's History
one puzzle piece at a time!*



Historic Photo of Museum from 1950's

Puzzle Pieces for Preservation

*Preserving Trenton's History
- one puzzle piece at a time!*

Campaign set to preserve Museum one puzzle piece at a time.

The Trenton Historical Museum has been home to Trenton's rich history for half a century. Former home of John and Sarah Moore, this impressive bracketed style house with its gingerbread trim and green shutters, popular to the period, was greatly admired by the townsfolk when built back in the late 1800's. As with any 100+ year structure, time has taken its toll and its aged foundation and facade are in need of some tender loving care.

The Trenton Historical Commission has begun a grassroots fundraising effort to restore the museum to its former glory - one puzzle piece at a time.

Jigsaw puzzles were a popular past time during the Victorian era. It is quite possible that the Moore family spent many nights in their parlor sharing quality family time while fitting tiny pieces of a puzzle together. This vision inspired the "Puzzle Pieces for Preservation" campaign.

A 2,000 piece puzzle of the museum has been created and will be on display at the museum. Puzzle pieces can be sponsored with a donation of \$30 each. Watch as the puzzle is put together, piece by piece, with every donation. The goal of this fundraising campaign is to raise the \$60,000 needed to put the pieces of the Historical Museum back together.

The Trenton Firefighter's Charities has agreed to collect funds through their organization. They have a 501c3 not for profit status so that donors can make tax deductible donations to this organization and utilize the memo section of the check to state that it is for the museum renovation.

We hope you will consider sponsoring a piece of the museum puzzle with your donation and thereby securing Trenton's rich history for years to come.

Business/Organization: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please indicate below your level of sponsorship.

<input type="checkbox"/> 1-5 pieces x \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> 6-10 pieces x \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> 11-22 pieces x \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 window 22.5 x \$30 = \$675	<input type="checkbox"/> 23-35 pieces x \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> 36-50 pieces x \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> 51+ pieces x \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____
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Complete below if donation is being made as a gift:

Circle one: Donation made In Honor/Memory Of (Please Print) _____

Please send a gift notification to: Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mail to: Puzzle Pieces for Preservation
1989 King Rd.
Trenton, MI 48183

Make check payable to: Trenton Firefighter's Charities

For Info: (734) 675-6500