



History Happenings

at the Grosse Pointe Historical Society

November, 2021



Construction Update

The new Headquarters for GPHS is shaping up quickly. We'll soon see shingles and then bricks on the building. Observers say, "It looks like a house." It does, and on purpose.

It is important as "exceptional" neighbors to add a structure in the community which feels like it belongs there. We worked with the Grosse Pointe Farms Building Department to ensure that it does just that.

The interior of the building is purpose-built. Our building and public spaces are handicap-accessible. The lower level is designed for storage and the digital lab. Every precaution was taken to keep the building water-tight and climate controlled.

Sidewalk superintendents are always welcome during construction! If you have something to say about the building project, please tell us [HERE](#).

Bicknell Lecture for November

"Better Made in Michigan"



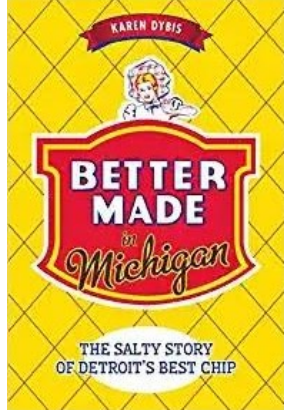
Adam Hellebuyck, VP-Education

"We shape our buildings; thereafter, they shape us."

-- Winston Churchill

Every week I drive by the site of the future Grosse Pointe History Center and am amazed by the progress. From an empty lot, to piles of dirt, to foundation walls, to building walls, and now the skeleton of a roof. It is beyond exciting to see this dream become a reality.

As the Vice President for Education, I frequently think of the opportunities that this new building will open for our engagement with all members of our community. Over the past eighteen months, with the world quarantined away, we shifted our educational focus as a Society. Instead of bringing the community to our Provencal-Weir House and the local history it holds, we started to bring Grosse Pointe history directly to our community through the creation of robust digital resources. Hopefully you have had an opportunity to explore some of those resources, such as our new Society [YouTube channel](#) with videos of past community events, such as Pointes of History Celebrations, Dr. Frank Bicknell Lectures, and more.



**Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2021 7:30p.m.
Cook Schoolhouse**

20025 Mack Plaza

Grosse Pointe Woods

Free admission

Presenter: Karen Dybis

Based on the book published by The History Press, this presentation tells the story of how Better Made came to be, how its chips are made, and how competition has shaped the industry. More than forty local chip companies once fed the Motor City's never-ending appetite for salty snacks, including New Era, Everkrisp, Krun-Chee, Mello Crisp, Wolverine, and Vita-Boy. Today only Better Made remains.

Click [HERE](#) to Register for the virtual version

Dr. Frank Bicknell Lecture Series

This long-running series of lectures is supported by a generous endowment named after the eponymous honoree, Dr. Frank E. Bicknell. Find out more about the live and virtual lecture:

[Bicknell Lecture 21-22 schedule](#)

Do you recognize this house?



The Grosse Pointe Historical Society recently accepted the gift of this charming structure. The story it came with says that it is an architectural model for a home that was built in the Pointes, although it may be a very special child's doll house.

Behind the scenes, we have also been working to bring Grosse Pointe history to our students. Through a partnership with University Liggett School, tenth grade United States history students have combined resources from the Society's archives with additional scholarly research to craft articles on Grosse Pointe history, which will be available on our website. For instance, a student was very interested in understanding why warships are rarely seen on Lake St. Clair and the other Great Lakes. Therefore, she researched and wrote an essay on the Rush-Bagot Treaty of 1817 and why it is important to the Grosse Pointe communities. This article, and many other fantastic research essays from students, will be available on the Society's website.

While this work is valuable and ongoing, I cannot wait until we can return to bringing the community to the history of the our community. When complete, students and other members of our community will utilize the new Grosse Pointe History Center to gain an even more complete understanding of Grosse Pointe past. With our collections inside the new building, as well as ample research space, students and other members of the community will be able to leverage not only our digital resources, but also our outstanding physical collections as well. Not only will they be able to research in our space, but they will also be able to contribute to our public shows and displays on local history in the new exhibition space. The Grosse Pointe History Center will be able to allow our local students -- and members of the community as a whole -- to practice the authentic skills of being historians. The new center will also allow the Provencal-Weir House to return to its status as a true historic house museum, with community members of all ages able to learn from the centuries of history contained within its walls.

None of this would be possible without the support you have provided -- and continue to provide -- to this project. As Churchill remarked that our buildings tend to shape us, I look forward to how the new Grosse Pointe History Center and the possibilities it brings will shape our relationship with our history. I will continue to drive by the rapidly-rising building, remaining both thankful for your support of the Society in this endeavor and excited for what the future holds for our community.

Talk back to Adam [HERE](#).

Research & Questions

The detail and painted finishes are very carefully done from stippled stucco to individual shingles. It's an impressive piece, measuring 58" wide x 28" deep x 40" high.

Board member Mason Ferry says there are many unknown treasures hidden away in basements and attics all over the Pointes that need to be recognized and interpreted in a permanent place.

That's one of the many reason we are building the new **Grosse Pointe History Center/Adminstration and Collection Resources Building** which will serve as the "hub" for historic Grosse Pointe.

Do you know something about about our new old house? Tell us [HERE](#).

People always have questions . . . about their home, their family, the community, schools, you name it. Learn about our research services [HERE](#). If you have lots of questions, join GPHS -- the initial research fee is waived for members at the Family Level and above! Join [HERE](#).

Visit our YouTube channel

Forward this e-newsletter to a friend!

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