



WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

www.washtenaw.org/preservation

WORKING SESSION

DATE: Thursday, August 8, 2024

TIME: 5:30 pm – 7:00pm

PLACE: Salem Area Historical Society, [Jarvis Stone School](#)
[7991 North Territorial Road, Plymouth, MI 48170](#)

2024 Washtenaw County Preservation Awards Application Selection for Award

Four (4) applications were submitted, One (1) for each category:

A. Outstanding Organization or Individual

1. **C. Edward Wall and Mary Ellen Wall-** serve on Pittsfield Township Historical Society, authors of various books on Pittsfield township and Washtenaw County history. Recently published a new book titled [Mallets Creek Settlement 1824-1825](#).

B. Outstanding Business

1. **24 Oaks LLC-** owned and operated by Melissa Milton-Pung. Scio Township resident, President of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network, Historic Preservation Expert, Program Manager for the Michigan Municipal League. Spearheaded the efforts to nominate Wild-Frey Farm as a Local Historic District. Contacted to complete the survey and research for the Wild-Frey Farmstead Study Committee Report.

C. Outstanding Local Historic District Owner

1. **Salem Area Historical Society-** Jarvis Stone School Local Historic District. Recently completed a multi-year project to research, design, fundraise, install, and dedicate a Historical Marker Plaza at the Jarvis Stone School. The plaza features a plaque, replica Tower of the former School Bell, a flagpole, and two stone benches.

D. Outstanding Realtor

1. **Patrick McCauley-** Reinhart Realtors. Co-author of *Historic Ann Arbor: An architectural Guide* (2014). An experienced Realtor who recently facilitated the sale of the Wild-Frey farmstead in Scio Township. Patrick evaluated the property, advised an appropriate pricing strategy, marketed the site, and facilitated communication between prospective buyers and HDC staff. In the past year, Patrick has sold multiple Local Historic Districts in Thornoaks as well as the Merriman Farm.



2024 Preservation Awards

The Washtenaw County Historic District Commission welcomes applications for the 2024 Preservation Awards. These awards celebrate the work throughout the County that supports historic preservation. The WCHDC will consider four (4) awards from one or more categories listed below. Applications must be submitted by August 1, 2024. Awards will be announced in September 2024.

AWARD CATEGORIES:

Outstanding Organization or Individual

This award is intended to recognize activities and achievements by historic preservation organizations or Individual(s) who promote historic preservation throughout Washtenaw County.

Outstanding Business

Granted to a business that operates within Washtenaw County to recognize their outstanding achievements and excellence in protecting and preserving local cultural and historic resources.

Outstanding Local Historic District Owner

This award is intended to recognize owners of Washtenaw County Local Historic Districts who achieve excellence in preservation activities on their property.

Outstanding Realtor

Awarded to a realtor who goes above and beyond to promote historic district properties and communicates openly and enthusiastically about local historic designation benefits.

Application:

A formal nomination packet for each awardee should include the following:

- A clear description of the activities and achievements involved.
- The name(s), contact information, role(s) of persons and/or organizations nominated for the community preservation award.
- Explanation of how this activity is endorsed by the [Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines](#) (if applicable).
- Examples of the impact of this activity on the community or area.

Applications should not exceed two (2) pages. Applications should be emailed to Kat Slocum, Washtenaw County Historic Preservation Specialist: slocumk@washtenaw.org

I would like to nominate C. Edward and Mary Ellen Wall for the 2024 Preservation Award for Outstanding Individual(s).

Mr. and Mrs. Wall have been exceptional and instrumental in preserving Pittsfield Township as well as Washtenaw County history in many capacities including writing and publishing the *Footprints in Time Series History and Historical Locations of Pittsfield Township, Michigan** over the past few years. Their latest book, Malletts Creek Settlement 1824-1825 came out this year in time for the bicentennial of Pittsfield Township.

C. Edward Wall is listed as “an author, editor, publisher, former university library director, historian, and long-time resident of Pittsfield Township,”

Mary Ellen Wall currently serves as the Vice-President of the Pittsfield Township Historical Society as well as the newsletter editor. She sets up displays regularly in the Pittsfield Township lobby to support and advertise the historical society as well as to educate visitors to the township hall. Her displays have included Women’s Suffrage and the ratification of the 19th Amendment and most recently, celebrated the 200th anniversary of the founding of Pittsfield Township with a display of artifacts from that time period. Mr. and Mrs. Wall have donated countless supplies, unlimited amounts of time, and financial gifts to the historical society.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Wall have been involved in the planning and execution of the renovation and restoration efforts at the Sutherland-Wilson house over the years which is where the PTHS currently holds meetings and open houses. C. Edward and Mary Ellen have led the docent training for the monthly tours of the Sutherland Wilson. In the past (pre-Covid) the society held its annual Harvest Festival which attracted hundreds of people to the Sutherland-Wilson house. Mary Ellen would bring many delicious baked goods to sell at the bake sale, while Ed, who has visual impairment, would sit on the front porch and talk history with many visitors at the festival. Mary Ellen volunteers as one of the PTHS representatives for the Washtenaw County Historical Consortium.

In spite of Mr. Wall’s visual difficulties, he has researched and written all six of the books in the *Footprints in Time Series which covers the “History and Historical Locations in Pittsfield Township, Michigan.” The books include:

Emerging from the Wilderness: Formation and First Settlement of Pittsfield Township, Michigan

Patriots and Pioneers: The Revolutionary War Soldiers of Pittsfield Township, Michigan

Ghosts of Whitmore Cemetery: The Mystery and Burial Rights and Empty Graves at the 1825 Burying Ground in Pittsfield Township, Michigan

Roster of Valor, Volume 1: The Civil War Soldiers of Pittsfield Township, Michigan

Roster of Valor, Volume 2: Civil War Roster Indexes and Draft Registration Lists for Pittsfield Township, Michigan

Malletts Creek Settlement, 1824-1825: The First Community and Residents of Pittsfield Township, Michigan

Mrs. Wall is credited with “Research Assistance” in the writing of the books. Mr. Wall stated recently that he is currently working on the seventh book in the series.

Nomination**Outstanding Organization or Individual(s) Edward and Mary Ellen Wall**

I am honored to nominate C. Edward and Mary Ellen Wall for this award. I have worked with them as a member and now as the Treasurer of Pittsfield Township Historical Society. Working with the Walls, I have learned so much from them about the history of the community I have lived in for almost 50 years.

Sincerely,

Carol Pollack-Rundle

Treasurer, Pittsfield Township Historical Society

[REDACTED]

Saline, MI 48176

[REDACTED]

Washtenaw County Historic District Commission 2024 Preservation Awards Application

July 30, 2024

Nomination for **Outstanding Realtor & Outstanding Individual**

Melissa Milton-Pung – 24 Oaks LLC – [REDACTED]

Patrick McCauley – Reinhart Realtors – [REDACTED]

*Awarded to a **realtor** who goes above and beyond to promote historic district properties and communicates openly and enthusiastically about local historic designation benefits. Also, intended to recognize activities and achievements by historic preservation organizations or **Individual(s)** who promote historic preservation throughout Washtenaw County.*

According to a March 12, 2024 MLive article, “The [Wild-Frey farmstead](#), an historic farmhouse, barn and out-buildings at 7970 W. Liberty Road in Scio Township,” was listed for sale for \$325,000 and posted in an [online listing](#) from Reinhart Realtors. The buyer closed on the property in mid-May 2024.

There’s more to that story – a lot more.

The protection and sale of the Wild-Frey Farmstead was due to the actions of Scio Township, as well as the work of two individuals: historic preservation expert Melissa Milton-Pung and realtor Patrick McCauley. Milton-Pung, a Scio Township resident, is the former staff member for the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission and currently the President of the Board of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network (MHPN). She is also on board of the Ann Arbor Historical Foundation (AAHF), where she and local realtor Patrick McCauley are both past Presidents. McCauley, a well-known name in Ann Arbor area real estate, was also the co-author of *Historic Ann Arbor: An Architectural Guide*, published in 2014 with co-author Susan Cee Wineberg.

The Wild-Frey Farmstead has roots connected to the earliest days of German settlement of Washtenaw County. The site features a late nineteenth century upright and ell form farmhouse seated on a fieldstone foundation, a dairy barn recorded as being constructed in 1906, and other agricultural structures such as a chicken coop, cider sheds, and sheep barn. Scio Township acquired the property through a tax foreclosure auction several years ago, and converted most of the surrounding land into the [Liberty Pond Nature Area](#). The plan for the remaining 5.07-acre parcel, containing the Wild-Frey Farmhouse and outbuildings, was to offer the property for private sale and return it to the tax rolls.

Before doing so, beginning in 2021, the Township consulted Melissa Milton-Pung of 24 Oaks LLC. She led the process to have the property evaluated for historic significance and shepherd the placement of an historic district ordinance on the property to protect the above-ground historic resources from risk of demolition. She authored the Study Committee report, which found that the Wild-Frey Farm is eligible for Local Historic Designation under National Register Criteria A: *Association with the broad patterns of American history*; and C: *Embodiment of the building tradition*. This determination was based on its sustained contextual connection to the tradition of diversified German agricultural history in Scio Township of Washtenaw County, Michigan. The report traced the stories of the families who built and occupied this property, and described how they were immigrants who were closely connected to the farming economy

and social structure of the region. What remains on site is a good example of the vernacular architectural forms of nineteenth century farms in Michigan. There are abundant evidence of past agricultural practices remains evident in the extant above-ground historic resources of this property, which is visually consistent with the appearance of this property during its period of significance. Presently, the site retains an enduring connection to agricultural practices and has a sustained connection to the nearby community.

In 2023, Milton-Pung help Scio Township completed the process of turning the remaining farmstead parcel into a local historic district, ensuring that the property would be protected under the oversight of the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission and in compliance with the [Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines](#). She also introduced Scio Township to local realtor Patrick McCauley.

McCauley stepped in to support Scio Township in its efforts to return the property to the tax rolls and give it a chance at being restored. He carefully evaluated the property's condition and history, developed a market analysis which took its unique circumstances into account, advised on appropriate pricing strategy, and proactively marketed the site with a thorough and charming listing. He fielded dozens of inquiries, spoke with authority on the site's historic significance and the impact of local historic designation on future property use, and hosted a tremendously well-attended open house. In searching for the right buyers for this special property, McCauley carefully advised Scio Township in the review and selection of bids, consulted legal counsel along the way, and completed the sale to all parties' satisfaction.

The result from the work of Milton-Pung and McCauley is that a formerly precariously neglected property has been documented, protected, and sold to a buyer who is investing in its long-term care. Scio Township has placed the property back into private hands and retained its rural agricultural character. Local reaction has been overwhelmingly positive and what was certain demolition has been avoided in favor of the retention of another Washtenaw County historic resource.

Send via email to:

Kat Slocum, Washtenaw County Historic Preservation Specialist: slocumk@washtenaw.org

2024 Preservation Award - Outstanding Local Historic District Owner - Salem Area Historical Society

Owner: Salem Area Historical Society of Jarvis Stone School Historic District

Contact: Terry T. Cwik, President of the Salem Area Historical Society

How this activity is endorsed by the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines: The Historical Plaza is compatible with Standards 9 and 10:

9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.
10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

Description of the activities and achievement:

On July 14, 2024, the Salem Area Historical Society (SAHS) dedicated its Historical Marker Plaza, with a replica Tower for the former School Bell, to all of the students, teachers, parents and administrators of the South Salem Stone School District #3, and to John Dickerson and all of the settlers who infused this wilderness with the Spirit of Salem.

This dedication was a culmination of a multi-year effort by the Salem Area Historical Society. After the society's Historical Marker Subcommittee researched and compiled documentation on the South Salem Stone School and the Dickerson Barn, it submitted an application in 2020 to the Michigan Historic Commission for a double-sided State of Michigan Historical Marker. Following more research, communications, and meetings, the Michigan Historic Commission approved a marker for both buildings in 2022. The final text for the marker was approved in February of 2023. The marker was manufactured and delivered in late 2023.

While the application was being developed and eventually approved, the subcommittee designed a plaza for the Historical Marker to be built in the Salem Area Historical Society's Jarvis Stone School Historic District, which includes both the South Salem Stone School and the Dickerson Barn. Besides the Historical Marker, the plaza includes brick pavers, a replica bell tower of the one that was once on the South Salem Stone School, a flagpole, and two stone benches. In 2023, the Salem Area Historical Society requested and received approval from the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission for the plaza and the society initiated a fundraising campaign to cover the cost of the plaza that was supported by the SAHS Members, the Salem community, and local businesses. As funds became available, the plaza was started in 2023 and completed in June of 2024.

As the effort to acquire the Historical Marker and build the plaza was nearing completion, the Historical Marker Subcommittee decided a dedication ceremony was appropriate and started the planning for such an event. The event was planned to thank all of those who contributed to the acquisition of the historical marker and to the building of the plaza as well as to remember those who built and used the South Salem Stone School and the Dickerson Barn.

The event started outdoors at 2 pm on Sunday, July 14, 2024, in and near the new plaza and conclude with a light lunch and refreshments in the South Salem Stone School. A canopy and chairs were set up for those attending. An event program was created and distributed to those attending.

Under mostly cloudy skies, the dedication began with the ringing of the school bell in the Bell Tower. Terry Cwik, the President of the Salem Area Historical Society was the Emcee and started with the Welcome Address and Introductions. This was followed by the raising of the American flag and the society's flag on the plaza's new flagpole by Bryan Wirthlin, Vice President of the society. Terry then lead the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of the Star-Spangled Banner.

Brian Egen, Commissioner and President of the Michigan Historical Commission addressed the gathering on the value of a State of Michigan Historical Marker and the justification required for it. His address was followed by Terry Cwik detailing some of the history of the South Salem Stone School and the Dickerson Barn as well as the Society's approval process for the marker.

At this point, Suzanne DiMilia, Treasurer of the SAHS, and Susan Bejin Geary, Historical Marker Subcommittee member, unveiled the Historical Marker by removing the burlap that was covering it. Terry Cwik then read the marker text for the Dickerson Barn followed by the marker text for the South Salem Stone School. After the reading, the attendees enjoyed a singing of "America The Beautiful." The outdoor portion of the dedication was concluded with a ringing of the tower's school bell by first Brian Egen and then Terry Cwik.

All attendees were invited to view the Dickerson Barn, its murals, and its Salem Farming History Exhibit before or after enjoying a light fare and refreshments in the South Salem Stone School. The dessert was two cakes. Each was decorated depicting one side of the double-sided Historical Marker.

This dedication was the conclusion of a multi-year effort to document and preserve the history of the South Salem Stone School and the Dickerson Barn for present and future generations. The event itself and the effort to acquire the State of Michigan Historical Marker and to build the plaza are commemorated by two plaques that are mounted on the Bell Tower in the plaza. The marker and the plaza will be maintained by the Salem Area Historical Society to honor the past and to inspire future generations.

Impact of this activity on the community: The Historical Marker Plaza is a permanent visual addition to the Salem Area Historical Society's Jarvis Stone School Historic District. It honors 111 years of education that was provided in the South Salem Stone School and the pioneer spirit of the European-American settlers through the Dickerson Barn. This part of the past will be permanently remembered and available to inspire current and future generations of Salem Township.



SOUTH SALEM STONE SCHOOL

This schoolhouse was built here in 1857 on land deeded to the school district by Welcome J. Partelo. The unusual use of fieldstone for a schoolhouse contrasted with the earlier log cabin structure it replaced. The school was temporarily named Jarvis School for William Jarvis, an early board member for South Salem Stone School. Enrollment ranged from fifteen to thirty-five students from grades one through eight. A 1941 addition housed bathrooms, coat racks, and storage. This was the oldest school still operating in Washtenaw County when it closed in 1967. The school sat vacant and deteriorating until 1978, when the Salem Area Historical Society bought and restored it to function as the society's headquarters. The 1887 out-building was re-created in 2005 based on historical photographs.

1,-



DICKERSON BARN

John Dickerson (1795-1882) settled in this area around 1825 with a cousin, Joseph, and his wife, Amy. They were among the first European-American settlers in Salem. Dickerson, a prosperous farmer, owned 270 acres of land by 1880. He built this timber-frame swing beam barn circa 1830. Swing-beam barns originated in New England. They feature a large, unobstructed opening for wagons made possible by a beam, tapered on both ends, that runs the width of the structure. The barn was rebuilt here between 2006 and 2007 after being moved from its original location at Six Mile near Chubb Road. Much of the framing was retained but the chestnut swing beam was replaced with a like-kind white oak beam. The cladding and barn door were re-created, and a side door and battens between the joints were added during the reconstruction.