

PAMPHLET FILE

10999 Lone Pine Road
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
Is in Bloomfield Hills
COBLOOMFIELD PRESBYTERIAN HOUSE

The brick and wooden house on the east side of Woodward Avenue just north of Lone Pine road in Bloomfield Hills is believed to be the oldest house still standing in Oakland county. It now is owned by Miss Clara Ellen Benedict of 32 N. Woodward.

It was the home built by Deacon Elijah S. Fish who on Dec. 9, 1819, purchased the northeast quarter of section 23 (10 acres). From the government for two dollars an acre, all public lands sold prior to 1820 were under the so-called "Two-Dollar" act.

Deacon Fish erected a wooden house on a knoll near the Saginaw hill, just east of the present site. Fish later moved this structure closer to the Indian trail and built a brick addition on the front of the house before the railroad went through in 1836. He also planted a maple grove around the house which still is standing.

The southwest corner of Deacon Fish's land, a small triangular section on the west side of the Saginaw trail, was sold by Fish to a man named Oryville Morris. Miss Benedict said. ~~The barn on the property belonging to the Deacon was moved over behind the Deacon house.~~

IT WAS in this barn, history records, that the first Presbyterian meetings were held in this area. The barn now has fallen down, but Miss Benedict has kept as mementos a large wooden peg and a hand-made eight-inch spike used in its construction.

It was on the triangular piece of land across the road, Miss Benedict said that Dr. Ezra Parke lived. He was the first postmaster of Bloomfield township, being appointed in 1824 or 1825. The post office was in this direction until it was moved to Birmingham.

The house has been modernized but still is very much the same way as it was then. Miss Benedict said. The big fireplace in the kitchen—where all the cooking was done in early times—is still there. From the kitchen ceiling still hang the large hooks on which meats, some vegetables and fruits were hung for drying.

THE FLOORS of the kitchen, as in the rest of the house, are of thick oak in wide planks. Small cupboards were built into the hand-carved mantels over the living room and kitchen fireplaces. The walls of the brick addition are six inches thick.

"The house always is cool," Miss Benedict said, "no matter how hot the summer."

The home and land of Deacon Fish came into the possession of the Benedict family in 1857 when Fish sold the property to Miss Benedict's grandfather, Eli Benedict, who deeded it to his son John.

When John Benedict died in 1912 at the age of 76, the property was left to his widow, Ellen Celestia Adams Benedict, and his three children, Edward L. (deceased), Mrs. Hattie Brodie and Miss Clara Ellen Benedict.

MISS BENEDICT still owns her share of the Benedict farm, the Woodward Avenue frontage and a section of the southern end of the original plot.

"I've had many offers to sell that land," Miss Benedict said, "but it's not for sale. I know how valuable that land is now, but I've taken a notion to keep it until I can say that it's been in the Benedict family for a hundred years."

"Sentimental, perhaps, but I just want us to own it for a hundred years. Anyway, I never close doors behind me and if I should decide to go back to the old Benedict farm, I can go. I know that I can return to the house where I was born and lived for so many years."

COUNTY'S OLDEST FRAME HOUSE IS ON E
Two-story brick addition has six-inch thick

