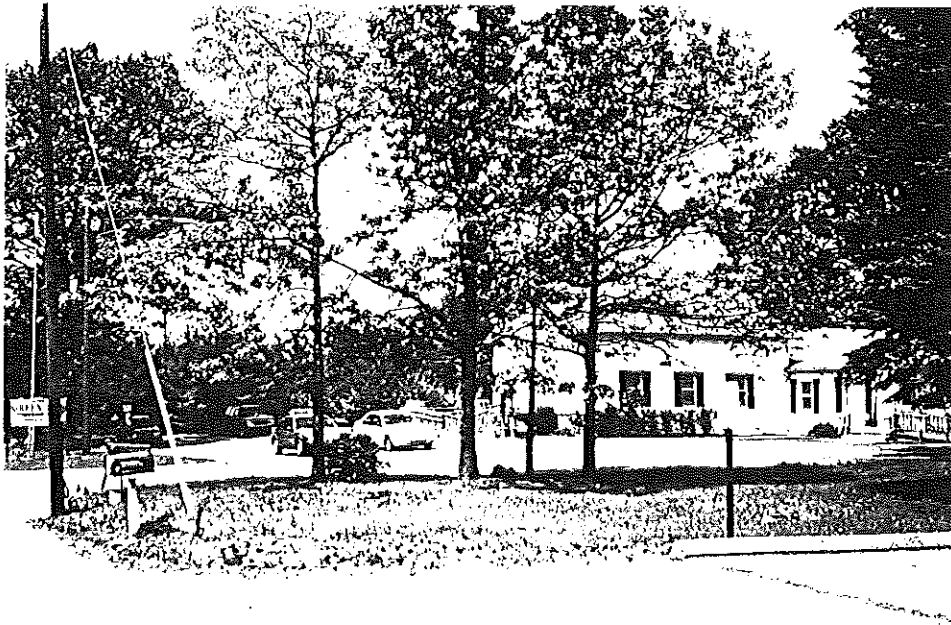


**INTENSIVE LEVEL SURVEY ENTRY FORM**  
**DISTRICT FORM**  
Township Hall

**DISTRICT NAME:** Township Hall  
**ADDRESS:** 10789 Silver Lake Road, South Lyon, Michigan 48178  
**MUNICIPAL UNIT:** Green Oak Township  
**COUNTY:** Livingston

**USGS MAP:** South Lyon  
**AREA MAP:** South Lyon Area

**PHOTOGRAPHY:**  
**Site Negs:** Roll 1, Neg. 30; Roll 2, Neg. 5,6  
**Streetscape Neg:** Roll 2, Neg.6  
**View:** Facing northwest  
**Credit:** Jan Enns  
**Date:** 4/9/99 and 5/20/99



**SURVEY/DATE:** Green Oak Township Intensive Level Survey 1999  
**SURVEYOR:** Jan Enns



**RESOURCES ON PROPERTY:**

Resources on this property are the historic Township Hall with its newer addition on the rear and a trailer.

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Historic Use</b>	<b>Current Use</b>
Township Hall	Government/City Hall	Government/City Hall
Building Dept.Trailer		Government/Government Office

**DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:**

The land on which the township hall is situated, fronting Silver Lake Road, is a rectangular half-acre parcel of land that is about twice as deep as it is wide.<sup>134</sup> The original historic structure placed at the center of the parcel has a large rear addition perpendicular to it, and extending beyond its sides. A trailer is located behind that. A large parking lot covers the portion of the lot in front and to the sides of the Town Hall.

**HISTORY:**

**Architect/Builder of Township Hall:** Nathaniel G. Butterfield  
**Date of Construction:** 1856

**Original Owner of the land:** William Osborne and Ann L. Davis

**Subsequent Owners:** Green Oak Township

**Ownership:** Public

**History of Property:**

William Osborne, a local farmer, leased the land for the Township Hall to the township for \$10 in 1855.<sup>135</sup> The white clapboard single room structure was built in 1856 for \$400.<sup>136</sup> The Town House is indicated on the 1859 Map, near the intersecting quarter lines in the Northeast quarter of Section 21 between the farms of William Osborne and S.M. Winans.<sup>137</sup> In 1875 W. Cusick and F. Fisher own the adjacent farms, but the Town House is not indicated on the maps for 1895 or 1915.<sup>138</sup> The Township Hall was the site

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<sup>134</sup> Deed, from Augusta Masak to Green Oak Township, December 27, 1965.

<sup>135</sup> Donna Taylor, ed., Yesteryears of Green Oak, 1830-1930 (Brighton: Green Oak Township Historical Society, 1981),, p. 217.

<sup>136</sup> Taylor, p. 218.

<sup>137</sup> Geil and Company, Topographical Map of the Counties of Ingham and Livingston, Michigan: from special surveys and county records ( Philadelphia: Geil, Harley & Siverd, 1859) p. 71.

<sup>138</sup> Livingston County Historical Society, Combined Atlas of Livingston County, Michigan 1875, 1895, 1915. (Reprint of Atlas of Livingston County, Michigan, New York: F. W. Beers and Company, 1875:



of the annual meeting of the Township Board. Later, in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Township Hall was the site of regular meetings of the Township Board, public meetings, elections and social gatherings.

In 1965 under Supervisor Herbert Munzel, regular hours were held for conducting township business. Previously business was conducted at the home of each elected official. This practice began when the early public officials were farmers and busy with the demands of their farms. In the 1960's the Township Hall was one large room with a wooden porch on the front and small kitchen addition on the rear. Munzel bought a desk and used the kitchen as an office and replaced the wooden porch.<sup>139</sup> Since that time growth in the township has necessitated three phases of expansion of the Township Hall and the addition of a separate trailer for office space. Residents in Green Oak Township identify with the municipalities of South Lyon and Brighton and the community of Whitmore Lake as their mailing addresses. Therefore, the Township Hall serves an important role as a unifying symbol for the township residents.

**SIGNIFICANCE:**

**Areas of Significance:** Government

**Period of Significance:** 1856, 1964; dates of construction and purchase of land by Green Oak

**Significant Persons:** None

**Statement of Significance:** The documentation available for the 19<sup>th</sup> century indicates that the Township Hall was only utilized for the annual township meeting and occasional meeting of other boards.<sup>140</sup> This amount of use as a public/government building does not justify its significance within this context. Also, the structure itself does not maintain many of the architectural characteristics from this early time period. It has been used during the 20<sup>th</sup> century as the center of township affairs as well as for social events that bring its citizens together. For this reason it serves as a symbol for township identity for its residents and may be significant under the Social History context.

**BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:**

A part of the Southwest  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the Northeast  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 21, Town 1 North, Range 6 East, Michigan, described as follows: Beginning at the Northeast corner of the Southwest  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the Northeast  $\frac{1}{4}$  of said Section 21: thence West 107.25 feet: thence South 230.0 feet to the centerline of Silver Lake Road: thence East along centerline of Silver Lake Road 107.25 feet to the East line of the Southwest  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the Northeast  $\frac{1}{4}$  of said Section 21: thence North along the East line of said Southwest  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the Northeast  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 21, 230.0 feet to the point of beginning.

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Standard Atlas of Livingston County, Michigan, Chicago: Geo. A. Ogle and Company, 1895: and Standard Atlas of Livingston County, Michigan, Chicago: Geo. A. Ogle and Company, 1915).

<sup>139</sup> Herbert Munzel, Interview, April 9, 1999.

<sup>140</sup> Minutes, Town Meetings, vol. 60, 1834-1892, Archives, Michigan Historical Center, Lansing, Michigan.



There are two buildings on this site, only one is original and neither are contributing to a historic district.

**REFERENCES:**

Deed, from Augusta Masak to Green Oak Township, December 27, 1965.

Ellis, Franklin. History of Livingston County, Michigan. Philadelphia: Everts and Abbott, 1880.

Geil and Company. Topographical Map of the Counties of Ingham and Livingston, Michigan: from special surveys and county records. Philadelphia: Geil, Harley & Siverd, 1859.

Livingston County Historical Society. Combined Atlas of Livingston County, Michigan 1875, 1895, 1915. Reprint of Atlas of Livingston County, Michigan (New York: F. W. Beers and Company, 1875), Standard Atlas of Livingston County, Michigan (Chicago: Geo. A. Ogle and Company, 1895), and Standard Atlas of Livingston County, Michigan (Chicago: Geo. A. Ogle and Company, 1915).

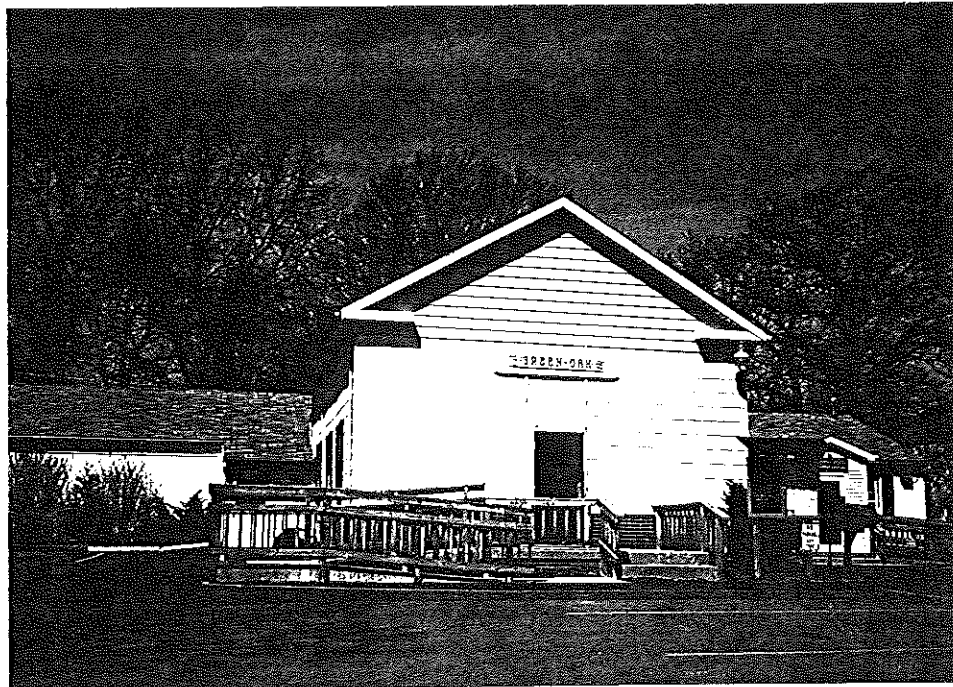
Taylor, Donna, ed. Yesteryears of Green Oak, 1830-1930. Brighton, Michigan: Green Oak Township Historical Society, 1981.



**INTENSIVE LEVEL SURVEY ENTRY FORM**  
**INDIVIDUAL RESOURCE**  
Township Hall

**HISTORIC NAME:** Town House  
**COMMON NAMES:** Township Hall  
**ADDRESS:** 10789 Silver Lake Road, South Lyon, Michigan 48178

**PHOTO:**  
**Roll:** 1      **Neg:** 30  
**View:** South elevation, facing north  
**Credit:** Jan Enns, 4/9/99



**ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION:**

**Description:** Front gabled vernacular structure with cornice returns, a handicap ramp in front and long addition in the rear extending beyond the sides of the main block.

**Materials:** *Foundation*-Unknown (probably stone) *Walls*-Asbestos (shingles) *Roof*-Asphalt (shingles)

**Other:**



## **HISTORY:**

**Architect/Builder:** Nathaniel G. Butterfield

**Date of Construction:** 1856

### **History:**

Built in 1856 by Nathaniel G. Butterfield on leased land the Town House was originally used for the annual township meeting, and occasional meetings of other official organizations and governmental groups. The building consisted of one room containing a wood heating stove and benches.<sup>141</sup> Originally clapboard with pilasters on the front elevation and frieze under the cornice returns, it had three double hung sash windows on each side elevation.<sup>142</sup> Wooden steps led to the front door, the only opening on the façade.

In 1965, township Supervisor Herbert Munzel started the practice of operating regular business hours for conducting business at the Township Hall. He used a small kitchen wing at the rear of the building for an office, but gradually more office space was required. Other public officials began to conduct business there instead of out of their homes as had been the practice since the Township was organized. Three additions have been made to the Township Hall since that time, the last in 1984.<sup>143</sup> In 1997 a trailer was added to the site to provide space for the Building Department.

## **SIGNIFICANCE:**

**Areas of Significant:** Government

**Period of Significance:** 1856, 1964; dates of construction and full use of the structure by Green Oak Township administration, respectively.

**Statement of Significance:** Same as for the District.

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<sup>141</sup> Donna Taylor, ed., Yesteryears of Green Oak, 1830-1930 (Brighton: Green Oak Township Historical Society, 1981), p. 216.

<sup>142</sup> Taylor, ed., p. 217.

<sup>143</sup> This information is from various individuals at the Green Oak Township Offices.



**INTENSIVE LEVEL SURVEY ENTRY FORM**  
**INDIVIDUAL RESOURCE**  
Township Hall

**HISTORIC NAME:**

**COMMON NAMES:** Building Department Trailer

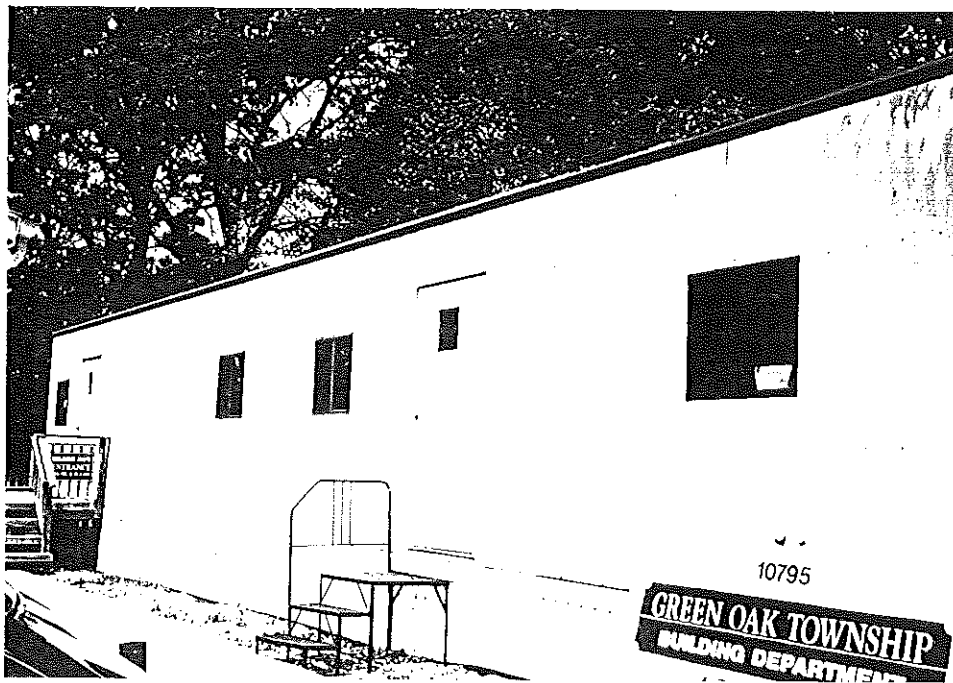
**ADDRESS:** 10789 Silver Lake Road, South Lyon, Michigan 48178

**PHOTO:**

**Roll:** 2      **Neg:** 5

**View:** South and east facades, facing northwest

**Credit:** Jan Enns, 5/20/99



**ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION:**

**Description:** A long flat roofed trailer with four small single pane sliding windows on each side, with a door at each end of the front elevation. Wooden stairs lead to a landing at the door on the western end of the façade.

**Materials:** *Foundation-Unknown Walls-Metal Roof-Unknown*

**Other:**



**HISTORY:**

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

**Date of Construction:** Added to property in 1997.

**History:** None

**SIGNIFICANCE:**

**Areas of Significant:**

**Period of Significance:**

**Statement of Significance:** None

