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**HISTORICAL MUSEUM BUILDING WINS STATE HISTORICAL MARKER,
WITH ON-SITE DEDICATION SLATED FOR SATURDAY, SEPT. 17**

SEPT. 9, 2016 -- Saugatuck's original Pump House, home of S-D Historical Society's Museum since 1992, will receive a state historical marker from the Michigan Historical Commission in a ceremony on Saturday, Sept. 17, at 10 a.m., on-site at 735 Park Street, along the west shore of the Kalamazoo River at Mt. Baldhead Park.

Completed in 1904, this simple "prairie-craftsman style" structure gave Saugatuck its first municipal water pumping station. It was designed by John Alvord, one of the principal engineers of the Chicago World's Fair and one of the leading hydraulic/waste engineers in the U.S. In 1910, the building was enlarged to add the village's first electric generating station.

By the 1950s, water pumping and electrical generating functions had been moved to larger locations and the building fell into disrepair. In the early 1970s, as the building was slated for demolition, a Chicago physician, Dr. William Shorey, offered to lease the pump house from the village as a summer cottage in return for restoring the building. In 1993, following Dr. Shorey's death, the City of Saugatuck agreed to lease the building to the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society, which undertook further restoration in adapting the building to serve as the community's first historical museum.

The Michigan Historical Marker Program was established by the legislature and governor in 1955, years before other states followed suit. Since then, more than 1,700 markers have been placed, making Michigan's one of the premier marker programs in the nation. One of those markers came to the Douglas Union School -- today's Old School House History Center -- in 1998.

The green and gold markers are easy to locate and offer well-documented, easy-to-understand histories of people, places and events in Michigan's past. They show the importance a community places on its heritage and serve as signposts of historical significance. A marker dedication ceremony introduces a lasting resource for tourism, education and community.

Attaining a state historical marker is no small feat. Applicants must make the case through their application and the documentation they acquire through historical research that the historic resource or topic is worthy of a Michigan Historical Marker. Applicants also raise the funds to pay for their marker and are responsible for the installation.

S-DHS recognizes the Allegan County Community Foundation (ACCF) and the City of Saugatuck for their assistance in funding this marker. S-DHS was the recipient of a Legacy Grant in late 2015 from the ACCF for the creation of two new historical markers in the Saugatuck-Douglas area. The Pump House marker becomes the 14th in the Saugatuck-Douglas area and the 29th in Allegan County. The area's 15th marker soon will honor the Historical Society's Francis Surf Boat, housed in a permanent shipwreck exhibition beside The Old School House History Center in Douglas.

Application for the Pump House marker stemmed from the building's listing on the National Register of Historic Places in 2015, spearheaded by S-DHS volunteer Richard Donovan. Its new marker will stand alongside Park Street, in the floral gardens maintained around the museum by S-DHS members under the Society's volunteer Master Gardener Mike Economos. There, the marker will tell the story of the building year 'round, even during the off-season months when the museum is closed.

The History Museum features an annual signature exhibition and other opportunities for learning and education. This year's exhibition, titled "Water: A River, A Lake, A Place called Saugatuck-Douglas", engages visitors' imaginations to accompany five travelers, each at different points in time, sharing the experience, discovery and sometimes danger of their adventures along our waterways. Their trips unfold in maps, pictures, narratives and artifacts, plus "side stories" that add interesting cultural perspectives, all set before a vast composite mural of more than 200 historical archive photos that help visualize those earlier times.

Additional features at the museum include "SuperMap", a 6-foot high, 12-foot wide illustrated color wall map of the Saugatuck-Douglas area accompanied by an interactive computer display to provide a virtual tour through these historic villages, plus smaller exhibits about the Big Pavilion and the history of the Pump House, and the Museum Store.

The museum will be open to the public following the marker ceremony until 4 p.m. It remains open Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 4 p.m. through the last weekend in October. Nearby parking and admission are free, and donations are gratefully accepted.

For more information about the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society, its Museum and Old School House History Center, or its activities planned for 2016, visit www.sdhistoricalsociety.org.



Saugatuck's historic Pump House to get state Historical Marker Sept. 17.