

20x30

Boards 600SQI Each Board

ARCHITECTURAL TREASURES

It has been said that Owosso has one of the finest collections of nineteenth-century houses in the state of Michigan. Representing a wide variety of architectural styles, most of the homes were created without the aid of an architect.

96" McEwan East wall

Cossitt House, 413 North Ball
This early (c.1855) house at 413 North Ball Street, is the finest surviving Greek Revival building in Owosso showing a full pediment, wide dentails and regular window placement. The porch, dentails and window gingerbread were later additions.



It was once the home of **Charles Cossitt**, who came to Owosso from Wisconsin with his parents in 1854 and enlisted in the Civil War at age sixteen. Over the years he was superintendent of the **Water Works**, Owosso mayor (1881-1882), state representative in 1885 and postmaster (1888-1892).

Lyon-Seegmiller House, 502 West Williams
This ornamental stone and stucco house was built c.1860 by **Daniel Lyon**, a highly-skilled stonemason. The corner location has a diagonal walk. Daniel, who had come to Owosso in 1851, built the house for his son, **Gilbert Lyon**, who became a well-known attorney. Next long-term residents were **Attorney William Seegmiller**, who bought the house in 1926. He died in 1943. **Dr. Chipman** then had his doctor's office in the house. **George Hoddy** later purchased the vacant house and used it as storage for many years. He gave the entire block, including this house, to **Baker College**, just before his death in 2016.

Goodhue - Dudley - Christian House, 302 West Oliver
This house for many years was referred to as the **Christian House** for many years. However, the house was built around 1860 by merchant, **Charles L. Goodhue**, who was one of the early settlers, moving from Syracuse, New York to Owosso in 1838. Married four times, **Duncan Goodhue**, as he was always called, died in 1901. **Eben F. Dudley** then purchased the house converting it into apartments. **Daniel M. Christian**, who founded the **D.M. Christian Department Store** in 1885, bought the house in 1917 and made it back into a single-family residence. Daniel's son, **Leigh Christian**, who became president of the department store after his father's death in 1933, moved into the house with his third wife, **Maud Christian**.

Judge Josiah Turner House, 105 Goodhue
Judge Josiah Turner, who was born in Vermont in 1811, came to Owosso in 1860 serving as Circuit Judge for seven counties and then as a State Supreme Court Judge. He built this handsome Greek Revival residence c.1860. As Mayor of Owosso, Judge Turner walked across the street from his home on April 15, 1865, to Fayette Square to make the proclamation that President Abraham Lincoln had been assassinated. After Judge Turner's death in 1907, his daughter, **Nellie** continued to live in the house for another thirty years. The house remained in the Turner family for nearly 80 years.



521 West Oliver
Early in 1927, **James Oliver Carwood** purchased the land and this house on his back property line at 521 West Oliver Street. He tore down the large, c.1860 Italianate house, which had been owned by **Colonel George Colt**, and sowed the land with bushes in preparation for landscaping the following year.



Knapp - Peterson House, 326 North Washington
Dr. Avery R. Knapp built this house next to Salem Lutheran Church c.1870. **Dr. Henry B. Peterson**, a dentist, and his wife **Jennie LeValley**, bought the house from him. Their daughter, **Ivah** married **Dr. Alfred Glanbeck**, an osteopath. She was an accomplished organist, playing the organ at the age of 13 for the funeral of **Anna Jackson**, widow of Confederate General **Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson**. **Ivah's** daughter, **Arlette**, an accomplished watercolor artist, married Owosso attorney, **James Miner**.



William Fletcher House, 118 East Oliver
William Fletcher, born in England in 1828, came to Owosso in 1836 with his father, **Daniel Fletcher**, who was one of **Bally Colonists**. William, who built this Italianate, Tuscan Revival style house c.1874, was a miller by trade. Upon his marriage license, he listed his occupation as "gentleman".



Fletcher's step-daughter, **Josephine** married **Frederick H. Gould**, son of **Amos Gould**. Frederick listed his occupation on his marriage license as "jack of all trades", their son, **Fletcher Gould** and his family were longtime residents. From 1939 to 1962 there were many owners of the house. **Druggist Robert Stone**, who lived in the house with his family 1962 to 1979, added a full-length front porch.

Dimmick House, 713 West Oliver
The same family owned this monumental home for 126 years. **Dwight D. Dimmick** (1815-1903), who came from Plymouth, New York, was running a crockery store on West Exchange Street just west of **M.L. Stewart's** bank. By 1872 he and his son, **Guerton**, established the **Dimmick & Sons Grocery & Bakery**, but the two men made their family fortune in Owosso real estate.



Guerton built this magnificent Italianate house with **Friesicke** brick for his bride, **Arienne Osburn**, in 1876. She died a year after it was completed. He later married **Seraphine LeValley** and their four children were **LeValley, Ernestine, Guerton** and **Seraphine**. During the Depression, the house was divided in half with **Ernestine** and her husband, **John Greenway** on the east side. Their daughter, **Jean Greenway**, who was a school teacher, lived in the house for more than 90 years until her death in 2002. **LeValley** and **Gertrude (Estey) Dimmick** and their children, **Eloise, LeValley (Boyd), Isabelle** and **Joan** lived on the west side of the house. **Ernie** was also a school teacher at Emerson School.



The charming multi-style carriage house to the west of the main residence was built in 1885 for the family's prized Palomino horses, carriages and cutters. Behind the house was an oval horse track where the horses were exercised and the cows grazed. **Dad Dimmick** built the **Riverside Riding Stable** on the northeast corner of **Oliver** and **Chipman** Streets.



James Singer Colby House, 406 East Oliver
This flamboyant Stick-style house, with a patterned slate roof and a large tower, was built by **Colby**, who was born in 1822 in Oswego County, New York. He and his wife, **Eliza** moved to Shawanago County in 1854 on a 320-acre farm six miles south of Owosso, raising sheep and crops. Upon retirement to Owosso in 1881, he and his second wife built, according to records, "one of the finest brick residences in the city, with all the modern improvements." Colby's mother, **Elizabeth Singer**, was a sister of **Isaac Merritt Singer**, the inventor of the **Singer Sewing Machine**.



Nathan Ayers House, 604 North Water
The pristine condition and elaborate details of this house make it stand out from other historical homes in Owosso. It was built in 1883 with **Friesicke** bricks by its owner, **Nathan Ayers**, a brick mason originally from Ohio. His daughter, **Effie Ayers**, a teacher and later principal, taught generations of Owosso school children at the old Central School and was considered by her students to be one of the best teachers they ever had. She continued to live in the house until her death in 1933. The next residents were the **Edwin Moskers** and then **Mr. and Mrs. Kay** bought the house in 1945. Many remember taking piano lessons from Mrs. Kay in the parlor of the house.



D.M. Christian - Ellis House, 600 North Water
This large Queen Anne-style house was built in 1895 by **Daniel M. Christian**, founder of a dry goods store on Main Street in downtown Owosso. His growing store would eventually occupy five storefronts. After Christian moved across the street to 302 West Oliver, another prominent citizen, **J. Edwin Ellis** purchased the home around 1920. **Ellis** served as Mayor of Owosso 1941-1947.



Albert West House, 809 West Oliver
This large Queen Anne-style house was built by **West** in 1893. The Owosso Argus-Press announced, "Mr. West's fine residence is fast nearing completion. He is having the most complete job of plumbing done possible with a private sewer that empties into the river." **H.B. Sturtevant**, a lumber dealer, bought the house in 1901. The house then was owned for many years by the **Leon Miner** family.



A marker was placed in front of the house in 1936 to recognize French fur trader, **Henri Bohlen**, "the first white man" in the area who built a cabin along the river near this spot around 1816.



James Osburn House, 527 North Washington
Built in 1895, this handsome Queen Anne-style house boasts Romanesque turret pilasters, Palladian windows, decorative keystones and a carved relief panel.



James Osburn, one of the sons in **Osburn & Sons Dry Goods Store**, served as Mayor of Owosso in 1877. He built this house for his second wife, **Jenny**. James died in 1917 and his widow left the house to **Christ Episcopal Church** for a rectory.

Charles Lawrence House, 417 East Oliver
Built in 1911, this lovely Georgian Revival house, with orange brick, red-tiled roof, delicate window mullions, large porch and slightly arched windows, has remained in the same family for four generations - passing to **Charles'** daughter, **Adlene Lawrence Lynch** to granddaughter, **Anna Lynch Pennington**, and then to great-grandson, **Gordon Pennington**, the present owner.



Dr. Frank Hoyer House, 435 East Oliver
Dr. Frank E. Hoyer and his wife, **Malvina**, built this brick house with a mansard roof around 1888. Dr. Hoyer's dental office was located at 106 East Exchange Street.



Sidney R. Drake House, 321 West Williams
This lovely Queen Anne-style house, built c.1890 by **Sidney R. Drake**, still has its original curved porches, shingled gables and stained glass. **Albert E. Harshorn** owned the house when it was significantly damaged by the November 11, 1911 tornado. Later, **Stephen Scofield**, who ran the **Yellow Cab Co.** in the 1920s occupied the house. Later still it was owned by the **Rev. Baudette Skamack** family. Current, longtime owners are **Lee and Margaret Sowell**, who purchased the house in 1974.



George Pardee Home, 603 North Ball
Built for **Pardee** in the 1890s, this Romanesque Revival-style house displays massive concrete blocks and an octagonal chimney tower. **Pardee**, moving to Owosso from Livingston County, was a prominent Owosso attorney for fifty years.



Williams Terrace, 307 West Williams
While not the first building on this site, the **Comstock Flats**, was built in 1884 by **Luifer Comstock**, younger brother of **Elas Comstock**. By 1915 the property, consisting of four apartments, was owned by **James Lawrence**, an Owosso settler who developed what became the **Mason Street Historic District**.



Bricking West Oliver Street in front of the Lyons Flats between Water and Adams Streets
One of the finest examples of early 20th Century moving is this picture taken on East Oliver Street near Park Street. Rails were laid down in front of the house. The horse walked in a circle around the capstan which was anchored to a tree or some solid object. The winding of the rope around the capstan acted like a winch, pulling the house forward on those rails, very slowly.



The northwest corner of Adams and West Oliver Street



Buckminster House, Washington and Oliver
Bruce and Myra Buckminster built this High Victorian Gothic house in 1884 on the southeast corner of Washington and Oliver Streets on the former site of the Baptist's first church.



Born in 1845 in Brownville, New York, **Buckminster** was president of the Owosso Savings Bank and a Civil War veteran. He died suddenly in 1893 at the age of 48. Their daughter and son-in-law, **Mary and Samuel Willis** added a large porch and porte-cochere in 1905. The one photo taken from **Fayette Square** shows a charming carriage house that unfortunately burned down.



48" wall NW corner McEwan

51" wall NE McEwan