

## 7 Williamston United Methodist Church

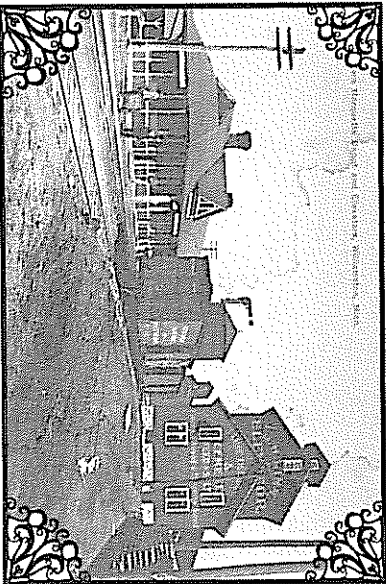
The current stone building was erected in 1896 at a cost of approximately \$8,000. Local stonemason John Lechler provided much of the masonry work. The acting reverend at the time of the church's dedication was Rev. N. Norton Clark. In June of 1919, lightning struck the bell tower. The current bell tower is much less elaborate than the original. In June of 1999, restoration of the interior of the sanctuary was completed for an estimated \$140,000.

## 8 Leasia Drugs

The building that now occupies the southeast corner of Putnam and Grand River held many important community businesses. Originally built of wood, in 1897 the building burned and was replaced by the current brick structure. This building housed the offices of Williamston's first doctor, Dr. James Leasia. His only son, James N. Leasia, carried on his father's drug business, taking on partner C. W. Headly. The business was known as Leasia-Headly Drugs until 1916. Over the years, this building has been occupied by the Headly-Monroe Drug Store and Fates Pharmacy. The building is currently known as Keller's Plaza.

## 9 Wood Building

In the 1920's, Mr. Wood had this building erected as an automotive repair shop. Later, in the 1930's, the Wood building was converted into a Ford dealership and garage that lasted until 1953. The building was then rented to many different Ford dealerships throughout the 1960's. From the 1970's until 1990, companies such as Creeger Farms Dairy, Gordon Wine, and Pronto Auto Parts occupied the building. Since then, the building has remained an auto parts store, "Paris Plus" that is still owned by the Wood Family.

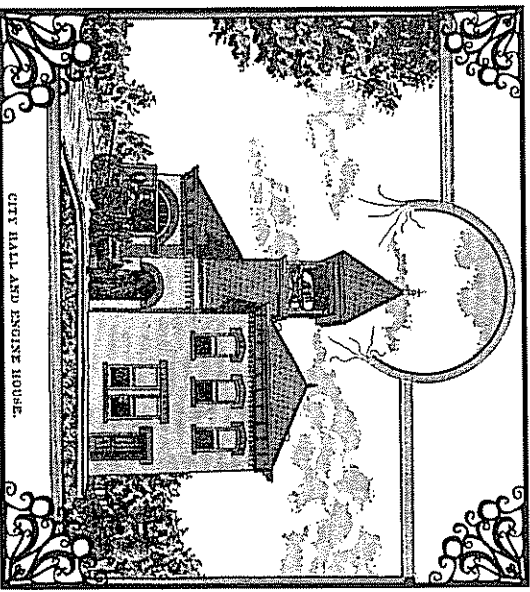


## 10 Railroad Depot

The Williamston railroad depot was opened in 1871 on the Lansing-Detroit railroad. The stationmaster stocked groceries and common household articles in the depot, drawing more people to the station. The ride to Lansing was originally forty minutes long, with a four-hour trip to Detroit. The railroad boomed until the conclusion of World War II, when cars became more practical. The station was finally closed in 1963 by order of the Michigan Public Service Commission. Since being moved into downtown Williamston, the depot has served as a museum for community history.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank many people who helped make my eagle project possible: Mr. David Jones, Mrs. Jan Ault (John Henry Business Forms), Mrs. Anne Cody, Stamp-Rite, and Boy Scout Troop 65

# Earl Robert Lechler Memorial Historic Walk of Williamston



This tour of historic Williamston is dedicated to the memory of my grandfather, Earl Robert Lechler. Please take the time to enjoy the rich history of a small mid-Michigan community. I encourage anyone living in Williamston to learn more about the engrossing history of the city around them.

Carmen J. Siciliano