

**BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

P.O. Box 481  
Brighton, MI 48116-0481

**Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit #303  
Brighton, MI**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



---

**CITY OF BRIGHTON CULTURE, ART AND HISTORY CENTER (CoBACH)**

Brighton Township was formed in 1837 as part of the surveying of Livingston County. Township board officers met in board officers' homes, schools and other sites for meetings. Official documents remained in the officers' homes. Township Board officials determined the rules and regulations for the entire township.

The construction of the Maltby Saw Mill and the Quackenbush Grain Mill on Ore Creek in Section 30, heralded the arrival of merchants, doctors, blacksmiths, attorneys, craftsmen, etc. Hotels with stables for settlers' and travelers' horses were built. In turn, farmers and others were drawn to the settlement for needed materials and services.

Before long the residents of Sections 30 and 31 of Brighton Township began to be displeased with the lack of power to make their own decisions running counter to those in the rural area surrounding them.

In 1867, these folks voted to become a village with its own government. Again, officers of the village met in a variety of facilities and each officer was responsible for the documents in their possession related to the office held.

In 1871, the arrival of the Detroit, Lansing and Lake Michigan Railroad meant more people with business to be conducted in the village. It was soon obvious a more secure central location for village meetings, proper repositories for various documents, housing for fire department equipment, a site to hold miscreants, etc., had to be available. A village hall had to come into being.

Where to build it? The site of a store on Main Street next to the mill pond became available. Godfrey Westphal's hardware had burned on October 28, 1875. That location, suitable to both sides of town would work well.

The Village bought the Westphal property for \$350.00, but no building was begun; it was felt the estimates of \$1,673.00 and \$1,850.00 were too high.

By 1876, Brighton citizens petitioned again. William Pipp bid \$2,460.00. James Collett's bid of \$1,950.00, with completion the next year was successful. Collett then found a \$200.00 error in his bid. Council cooperated and granted the extra funds. February, 1880, was probably the first time the building was put to use.

This was the site of local government until 1981, when a new civic structure, with a library, was built.

In 2009, the city council determined the structure would serve Brighton well as the City of Brighton Arts, Culture and History Center. The Brighton Art Guild, the Livingston Players and the Brighton Area Historical Society have combined resources and offer exhibits and events. CoBACH is a vital presence in Brighton's downtown.

Recent flooding, with related damage, makes it imperative that remedial work be conducted which the City Council is in the process of accomplishing. Those resident entities involved appreciate the city's caring of this local landmark, realizing how rare it is to still have such a landmark.

(Marieanna Bair, 810-229-6402)