

Historical Markers in Sterling Heights

History, Arts and Libraries, strives to document historical sites and spark new interest in the local history of one's own community. The City of Sterling Heights and the immediate surrounding area have several historic sites for residents to enjoy.

Within the City of Sterling Heights, there are two Michigan Historic Sites, Holcombe Beach and the Upton House.

Holcombe Beach is located on Dodge Park Road North of Metro Parkway near the site of Heritage Junior High. The location is recognized because archeologists uncovered evidence of an early Paleo-Indian settlement in 1961. About 11,000 years ago, the area near Heritage Junior High was a lakeshore. Bones and other artifacts from the settlement were found, revealing the Paleo-Indians' likely food sources. As the marker indicates, the site is "a reminder of the basic changes in Michigan's physical and biological environment over the ages."



The Upton House, located at the corner of Dodge Park and Utica Roads, is also designated as a Michigan Historic Site. The home of William Upton was constructed between 1866-1867, and represents one of the oldest surviving nineteenth century brick dwellings in the City. The house reflects the Italianate style of architecture. William Upton farmed the land surrounding the house and sold fish caught in the nearby Clinton River. The use of brick as a building material, rather than wood, indicated the affluence of the homeowner.

By 1891, William Upton's farm consisted of 138 acres, encompassing the area that is the present site of City Hall, the Police Department, 41-A District Court, Sterling Heights Public Library, Senior Citizen Center and Stevenson High School. The Upton House is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Numerous other historic sites can be found in neighboring communities. In Utica, St. Lawrence Parish and the Utica Cemetery are both recognized with Michigan Historical Markers. Likewise in Warren, the Detroit Arsenal Tank Plant and Warren Township District No. 4 School, also known as the Bunert School, are commemorated with markers. Nearby Clinton Township and Shelby Township also have historic sites to offer.

Whether you are just driving around Sterling Heights or headed to a different area of Michigan on vacation or business, stopping to read a historical marker can be a valuable lesson in local history. The Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries Web site and [The Michigan Historical Marker Web Site](#), both provide excellent search options for locating historical markers wherever you are headed. So next time you pass a green and gold Michigan Historical Marker, take a moment to read the history and find out just what happened on the spot where you stand.