

Grand River House and Barn circa 1912



Note: Sarah Chatterton, with her family, moved here from Vermont in 1851.

The acreage she mentions in this letter is on the S.E. corner of Hagadorn Road and Grand River Avenue, East Lansing, Michigan.

She was one of the first Okemos school teachers and a very few years after coming West, married Augustus Sturgis, who was the builder of Blanche Coggan's house at 690 North Hagadorn Road.

David Thomas file - given to us
Fall 1982

- Hope Borbas

* * * * *

Meridian Aug. 3d. 1851

Dear Friend,

I now devote a few moments in writing a letter to you thinking perhaps you would like to hear from us. We are here in Meridian and all well and hope you the same. I am now teaching school two miles from home at the village of Okemos. It is a very pleasant school. I have ten shillings a week. We have bought a farm here one hundred and fifty acres, paid fourteen hundred and forty dollars. We have forty acres improved. There was six acres of wheat, we have one half of it, three acres of rye, we have all of that. We have harvested the wheat and rye. There is six acres of corn, we have one third of it. There is about fifty apple trees, most of which are large enough to bear, over twenty peach trees, they are very flourishing trees, some quince bushes, current bushes and most all kinds of fruits and berries grow here, and nuts. It is a very pleasant place here. There is a large river on the south side of our farm, the Cedar River. It is four or five rods wide and an excellent spring of water, pure and cold, as good as that in Vt. which we left. There is a beautiful flower garden in front of our house and large Oak trees all around the house for shade trees. The plank road goes by here from Lansing (the capital) to Detroit. It is not finished all of the way but it is by here. The stage goes by here twice a day. People say that this is the handsomest place in the county. We live a little over four miles from the capital and eighty miles from Detroit. The folks say it is not near as much work to clear up land as in Vt. Our house is a log house. There is two on our farm. We think of building soon. The roads do not go winding round hills and mountains but straight. They are laid out throughout the state to go east and west, north and south and once in a mile is four corners.

We had a very pleasant journey coming here. There were five families with us moving to the west. Two to Wisconsin, one to Illinois, one to the south of Mich. and we went to North Farmington, to C.D. Wolcotts, father's cousin. We staid there about five weeks. While we were in Farmington I got some acquainted with the people, liked them very well. It is an old place. There, they asked from 25 to 30 dollars an acre and so we thought we would go where we could get land cheaper, so we came here, a little over 60 miles from there. The people appear very friendly here and it is called a very good neighborhood. There is Vermont people that live each side of us rate in sight of us. Our land
(over)

is mostly Oak, opening so open that we could see a deer forty or fifty rods away, so you know it would not be much work to clear up the land here, so we will soon get it cleared if we have our health. I like it well here and dont wish to go back but it does not seem like old Vermont. I often think about the people there and wish that I could see them but I dont expect to very soon, if ever, unless they come out here. If they would come here, I think they would like it. I hope some of them will come out here before long to live. But if we never see each other again, I want you to write and I will try to answer it and may we live so that we may meet where parting will never come, and be forever happy. The happy hours that I have spent with you on those green mountains will not be forgotten by me. Please tell the folks that I have not forgotten them if I am a great way from them. When its well with thee, remember me. Write as soon as you get this letter and tell the others to write for I would be glad to hear from them. Direct your letter to Sanford P.O., Ingham County, Michigan.

Yours Affectionately,

Sarah E. Chatterton

P.S.

Excuse my writing for I am in a hurry.

S.E.C.

HEALTH TALKS
THEATER

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ONE HUNDRED FIRST YEAR

LANSING

Survey of Medica



WELL TIMBERED—Mrs. Lola Stevens with her son, Paul 11, center, and Phillip, 13, inspect hand-hewn solid walnut beams in the 104-year-old home they recently purchased at 2971 E. Grand River ave., which is the

second house east of Hagadorn rd., on the south side of highway US-16. Pioneer construction dates back to 1852, which makes the dwelling one of the oldest in the Lansing area. (Journal Photo)

OLD HAGADORN PLACE Mar 24 1956

Sales Talk Is True

'Don't Build 'Em Like That Now'

By NEIL HUNTER
(Journal Staff Writer)

The realtor was right—they don't build houses like the old Hagadorn place anymore.

Mrs. Lola Stevens, new owner of the 104-year-old landmark on the south side of highway US-18 two houses east of Hagadorn rd., has evidence to prove the words she once thought were part of a routine sales talk.

Now she and her sons gaze with awe at huge black walnut beams squared off by hand in the winter of 1851 and then erected in 1852. The beams are notched to fit and are held together with dowel pins.

A feature of the eight-room house which the Stevens boys, Paul, 11, and Phillip, 13, have taken great interest in is the full-length attic which is ideal for recreation or could be made into an apartment, as their mother has thought.

The house has four large bedrooms upstairs.

Its kitchen is big and old-fashioned country style.

Sub-flooring, too, is made of hardwood.

Joists and basement rafters are of half-round tamarack, probably cut from timber which once stood in bottomlands along the Red Cedar river.

This white colonial home is one of the Lansing area's oldest. Its earliest days go back to stage-coaches and the old plank highway along US-16. It pre-dates the founding of Michigan Agricultural college, and today stands in mute testimony to man's conquest of the wilderness which was once central Michigan.

Builder and first owner of the home was Daniel Chatterton, who came to the Meridian area from Vermont in 1851. He acquired a farm of 151 acres, which sprawled across the Hagadorn and Grand River vicinity, for \$1,440. The family lived in a log house until the following year, when the present dwelling was constructed. It is believed that first timbers were chopped late in 1851 for spring building.

A Chatterton daughter, Sarah, married a local farmer, Augustus L. Sturges, who later moved into the fine home and in time became its owner.

About 1880 he sold the house and surrounding property to a Lansing physician, Dr. J. W. Hagadorn, who held possession until the early 1920's. His brother Albert operated the farm, which had a horse barn and riding ring located across the highway on the north side of Grand River ave. The family, which also included

another brother, Dr. A. D. Hagadorn, favored fancy racing horses to the point that a summer horse show and fair of sorts was held in the vicinity of Hagadorn corner.

The Hagadorns also had a drug store in Lansing, where "Paints, Oils, Liquors and Drugs of all kinds" were sold in the location now occupied by Consumers Power company. Dr. J. W. Hagadorn was once physician at the old Boys' Reformatory, a service for which he received \$150 annual pay.

In the years after World War I, the Hagadorn place passed through several hands until its recent sale to Mrs. Stevens.

Ralph French of Dimondale recalls moving the house back from the road to be in line with newer homes which had gone up on lots parceled out from the original farm. He said the home was as tight and sound as the day it was built, and the solid walnut timbers held together like beams of steel.

Mrs. Stevens, who formerly lived at 424 N. Clemens ave., Lansing, and who works in a state office, purchased the residence from Dr. Edward A. White through the Hilda Musselman Realty company.

Sidewalk Fund Reaches \$6,142

Voluntary contributions totaling \$6,142.75 have been turned into the "Sidewalks for Safety" campaign currently being conducted by the sidewalk committee of the Marble Community council, it was announced Friday.

Money raised will be used toward constructing long sought sidewalks along Burcham and Hagadorn roads, particularly for use by children attending the Marble school.

It was stated also that trustees of the Edgewood Peoples church have decided to build a sidewalk in front of the church when the building is completed, thus relieving the sidewalk committee of responsibility for 300 feet of sidewalk.

Hotel to replace historic C

By DAVID A. THOMAS
Free-lance Writer

A proposed East Lansing hotel complex that is expected to generate badly-needed tax dollars for the city will likely destroy one of the area's most historically significant properties.

The East Lansing City Council approved a site plan on Oct. 5 that allows Residence Inn Corp. of Wichita, Kan., to construct a 60-unit apartment-hotel complex near the southeast corner of Grand River and Hagadorn, immediately east of the Hagadorn Professional Building.

The project will probably necessitate the demolition of a historic East Lansing home that has occupied the proposed building site for more than 130 years. Construction will begin in early 1983, according to a Residence Inn spokesperson.

REFERRED TO as the Chatterton-Hagadorn House, the two-story wood structure is one of the earliest homes in the East Lansing area. It is one of only five pre-Civil War structures that has survived commercial and subdivision development within the current boundaries of East Lansing.

East Lansing Mayor Pro-Tem John Czarnecki said that the council was unaware of the historical significance of the home when it approved the site plan. Czarnecki doubts, however, that knowledge of the home's past would have convinced the council to reject the plan.

"In the end it probably wouldn't have made a difference," he said. "If there was a way to move the home to another site, I probably could support that concept."

CZARNECKI SAID that increas-



John Czarnecki

ing East Lansing's tax base and the "improvement of a deteriorating site" were the main reasons he voted in favor of the site plan.

According to early history of Ingham County, the property at the southeast corner of Hagadorn and Grand River (a part of Meridian Township until it was annexed to East Lansing in the 1950s) was first settled by Vermonters Daniel and Betsey Chatterton in early 1851. The Chattertons and their five children first erected a log cabin on their 150 acres where they spent the winter and began construction of the permanent farm house, probably in the spring of 1852.

On Aug. 3, 1851, one of the Chatterton daughters wrote friends in Vermont describing life on what someday would become one of East Lansing's busiest intersections.

"**WE ARE HERE** in Meridian and all well and hope you the same," Sarah Chatterton wrote. "I am now teaching school two miles from home at the village of Okemos. I have 10 shillings a week.

"It is very pleasant here. There is a large river on the south side of our farm, the Cedar River. It is four or five rods wide and an excellent spring of water, pure and cold, as good as that in Vermont which we left. There is a beautiful flower garden in front of our house and large oak trees all around the house for shade trees.

"The plank road goes by here from Lansing (the capital) to Detroit. It is not finished all the way but it is by here. The stage goes by here twice a day. . . Our house is log. . . We think of building soon."

Daniel Chatterton died April 9, 1866, and Sarah (the letter writer) and her husband, Augustus L. Sturges, soon moved into the farm house where they remained for the next 15 years.

STURGES, A New Yorker who arrived in Meridian Township in 1849, had built the Marble House on the northeast corner of Hagadorn and Mt. Vernon — a home that is still standing and now used as a child development center.

F.W. Beers' 1874 Ingham County atlas identifies Sturges as a "Farmer, Stock and Wool Grower." Legend also credits Sturges with hauling the "first load of stone for the first building on the campus of the Michigan Agricultural College.

The house and farm land were sold to J.W. Hagadorn in the early 1880s. Hagadorn, a Lansing physician, county coroner and doctor at the Boy's Training School, probably never lived in the house, but used

Dansville band

Chatterton-Hagadorn home



PRE-CIVIL WAR HOUSE — The Chatterton-Hagadorn house, one of five pre-Civil War homes still existing in East Lansing, may be demolished to make way for an apartment-hotel complex.

the property as a horse farm run by his brother, Albert, until the land was sold in the 1920s. Since then, the home has frequently changed owners and virtually all the accompanying farm land has been converted to subdivisions.

The Chatterton-Hagadorn house is now owned by James Bagaloff of Okemos and is used as a multiple-unit rental property. The structure is not in good shape and would probably be expensive to move, according to Dick Neller, Bagaloff's real estate agent.

IN SPITE OF the fact that the sale of the property to Residence Inn Corp. should be completed before the end of the year, no one has

come up with a plan to save the house from an early 1983 razing.

John Curry, state photography archivist and long-time member of the Greater Lansing Area Historical Society, said his organization is interested in the preservation of older homes in the area and would probably be supportive of any effort to save it.

"We don't have the funds to undertake the moving or the restoration of an old home, however," he said. "We could pass a resolution of support, if that would help."

Czarnecki believes it is possible to use the city's block grant money for the moving of a historic structure, provided a useful purpose could be found for the building.

"It could possibly be put on the grounds of the old Marble School," he said.

CZARNECKI BELIEVES the issue of the Chatterton-Hagadorn House points out the need for greater efforts by the city to become more aware of its past and he is considering asking the planning department to "do a survey of what is historical in the city."

A future survey, however, may be too late to save what is left of Sarah Chatterton's beloved homestead.

"The people appear very friendly here and it is called a good neighborhood," she wrote more than 130 years ago. "People say this is the handsomest place in the county."

Plans may destroy home

Hotel threatens historic home

By PAT ALEXANDER
Contributing Writer

One of the oldest homes in East Lansing, constructed before the Civil War, may be demolished this spring to make way for a 60-unit hotel.

The East Lansing City Council approved a plan in October for the Dallas-based Brock Hotel Corp. to build the hotel on the site now occupied by the 131-year-old Chatterton-Sturges House at 1526 E. Grand River Ave.

Robert Christensen, a historic preservation coordinator for the state, said that the house is "certainly significant" from a historical standpoint.

"There is hardly anything else in the East Lansing area that is this old," he said. "There was nothing much in East Lansing until the (Michigan Agricultural) college was established. This ought to be preserved."

THE CONTRACT being negotiated between the corporation and James Bagaloff of Okemos, owner of the house, provides "some degree of flexibility" concerning the date of the house's demolition, said Dick Neller, real estate agent for Bagaloff.

The City of East Lansing lists the house as a rental unit, but the building has been vacant since December. The house was built in 1852 in the Greek revival style of architecture by Daniel Chatterton, who came to the area from Vermont and started a farm on his 151-acre claim.

Augustus Sturges, who married Chatterton's daughter Sarah, bought the farm in 1866. The acreage that came with the house was sold and subdivided due to a succession of owners.

Neller said the owner or the corporation would consider donating the house to a historical organization if another site for the house and funds to move it there were available.

"It's tough to get money for those things and it's not an easy task," Neller said.

Geoffrey Moore, president of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing, said his group concentrated on Lansing history, so the Chatterton-Sturges house is "East Lansing's problem."

HOWEVER, John Curry, assistant archivist for the state and a past president of the society, said that the group would give moral support to any efforts to save the house but can't give financial support.

"The financial picture here is worse than in other states. Historic funds have been cut so drastically from the national (level) all the way down," Curry said. "Even in the best of times, history gets a short shrift."

Curry said historic preservation in East Lansing may be more difficult than in other cities due to the large transient population of MSU students and faculty.

Edward Zeigenhagen, chairperson of the Ingham County Historic Commission, said it would be difficult for his advisory group to make a recommendation about the house to the county commissioners because East Lansing does not have its own historical society.

The Friends of Historic Meridian (Township) declined to take care of preserving the house because of a lack of funds, said Elaine Davis, president of the group.

Ronald Springer, an East Lansing city planner, said that the city did not have "that kind of money laying around" to preserve the Chatterton-Sturges House.

Diary reveals 19th century w

By PAT ALEXANDER
Contributing Writer

The routine life recounted in the 1876 diary of an East Lansing woman was typical of early settlers, according to an MSU professor.

"The late 19th century . . . (was a time) of isolation and boredom of the farm," said Justin Kestenbaum, an MSU history professor.

Americans tend to "glorify" life during the 19th century, Kestenbaum said. The 1876 diary of Sarah Sturges, who lived in the house at what is now 1526 E. Grand River Ave., shows the daily routine of one settler during that time.

Many of the diary entries reflect feelings of loneliness and boredom, which Kestenbaum said is not surprising.

IN THE JAN. 7 entry, Sturges said that after sewing "considerable" on her dresses, she felt "sad and lonely." A few days later after doing the baking "and lots of other work," Sturges said she was "very tired and discouraged."

Pauline Adams, American Thought and Language associate professor at MSU, said Sturges' moods seem to be strongly linked to her daily descriptions of the weather.

"Weather is very important to her," Adams said. "To farmers, weather was always important but it obviously affects her moods."

Patricia Hummer, an MSU assistant professor in James Madison, said bad weather often kept Sturges on the farm.

"I get a clear sense of her isolation (from the diary)," Hummer said. "You get a sense of what it was like when they couldn't go to the grange because it was rainy and muddy."

(The grange is a professional and social organization for farmers.)

THE MAY 19 entry in the diary mentions a "rainy morning."

"Expected to go to Okemos to get our hats trimmed in the morning. Kept putting it off until 3 o'clock. Then I

use, but diary lives on



Great grandparents of Ruth Sturges, 77, and brother Wendell, 71, (above) built one of East Lansing's oldest remaining houses at 1526 E. Grand River Ave. in 1852. State News/Rhonda Davis

as often humdrum and lonely

had a cry about it, and we did not go."

Sturges' concern with the weather is even reflected in the naming of a calf given her by her husband, Augustus.

"I shall name it Tempest or Sunshine," she wrote on Feb. 13, a day that was warm and pleasant.

Adams explained that when a farmer presented his wife with a calf, it gave her some independence from her husband. Any money she received from the sale of the calf's milk or meat was hers to keep, Adams said.

ACCORDING TO the diary, Sturges' husband traveled more often than she did. She frequently wrote, "Augustus went to Lansing," or Okemos or Mason, usually leaving her at home.

The Jan. 27 diary entry said Sturges and her husband Augustus went to a grange convention in Lansing. Sturges said that her husband "left me in Carmer's store in the morning."

"Staid there till afternoon then went in search of him and found him in the Grange hall, enjoying himself all

the forenoon," Sturges wrote. "I felt mad, did not enjoy myself very well. I think such treatment uncalled for."

One reason Sturges spent so much time at home was because "her work kept her tied down," Hummer said.

In her diary, Sturges described baking, washing and cleaning for boarders and taking care of her elderly mother, who lived with her.

"... I STAID home from meeting to take care of the boarders," Sturges wrote. "Mother was sick, thinks some cake hurt her. I have worked hard all day. It did not seem much like Sunday."

Sturges wrote in her diary about some pleasant days, such as when she went with her husband to celebrate the centennial Fourth of July at "the college," which Adams said was probably Michigan Agricultural College — now MSU.

"They had quite a celebration," she wrote. "We took dinner to the boarding hall. Enjoyed ourselves very much."

According to the diary, the Sturges family sold eggs, butter, potatoes and oats to "the college."

Local pair race clock to save old home

By CHUCK KINSLEY
Journal Correspondent

"Save the house!" a passing motorist yells over the din of Grand River Avenue. Squire Jaros, standing in front of the 130-year-old structure, is trying to do just that, but time and paperwork are stacked against him.

Developers have given him and his wife, Chris, until April 16 to move the Chatterton-Sturges-Hagadorn house from 1526 Grand River Ave.

The house is believed to be among the five oldest in East Lansing. Its original owner, Daniel Chatterton, first settled a 150-acre farm with a log cabin on the property in 1851, according to Friends of Historic Meridian.

Chatterton's son was in the first class admitted to Michigan Agricultural College, now Michigan State University, in 1857.

JAROS, 38, has been told that the Residence Inn Corp. of Wichita, Kan., which intends to build a hotel-apartment complex on the site, will raze whatever's there a week from today. Attempts to persuade MSU to take the house ended three weeks ago.

A neighboring house, built around the turn of the century, is already poised on beams and scheduled for removal to Stillman Road in Meridian Township sometime this week.

Jaros, who works in the Secretary of State history division, stepped into the Chatterton picture only after MSU declined to act. He now faces a monumental task.

"IT'S GOING to be a hassle," he readily concedes, "but worth it if we succeed."

"If I'm not struck down with apoplexy in the meantime, it looks pretty good. In something like this, 10 things always turn up for every one you try to do."

Within the next week, he needs to obtain permits from cable television, telephone and utility companies in Meridian Township and East Lansing to clear wires and a path for removal.

He needs the cooperation of the Ingham County Road Commission, railroad companies and zoning boards. He also needs the approval of building inspectors, who must inspect the area's frost line before the house can be lifted.

AND HE NEEDS some place to put it. He hopes to obtain a site on the south side of the Red Cedar River — across from where the house now stands. If that can't be done shortly, he'll need a temporary place to set it down.



HISTORIC HOUSE — The 130-year-old Chatterton house at 1526 Grand River Ave. in East Lansing will be razed next week to make way for a new hotel unless Squire and Chris Jaros can find the time and funds to have it moved. A picture of the house in 1876 is shown below.

Gene Williams, a house mover in Ashley, has been contacted to do the heavy lifting. But Williams, who's also moving the house next door, said it normally takes seven days of on-site preparation.

"We're racing against the clock," he said. "I've told my men to prepare themselves for 12 to 14-hour days."

"We all have to work together. It's like playing in an orchestra — you've got to get everybody going at the same time."

COMPLICATING THE task even further is the lack of any local Residence Inn Corp. representative. Jaros said he has been unable to contact the same person twice in Wichita to ask for more time and clarify his obligations.

The company told him not to destroy any of the landscaping on the site, yet trees must be removed to make way. In return for the house, Jaros has agreed to clear the site to ground level and remove all debris — which may weigh more than the house.

Ken Granger, president of Lansing's Dornet Construction Co., is the site's general contractor and responsible for overseeing its preparation. Williams likened Granger to the "cavalry, the knight on a white horse," for his preservation effort.

Jaros "could be flat running out of time," though, Granger said. "I



think his biggest hangup is going to be the financing. It usually takes two to three weeks to get it approved."

GRANGER HAS OFFERED to provide interim financing. Jaros said it's going to cost \$9,000 just to move the house, and Granger estimates it will cost \$60,000 to make it livable.

Jaros plans to restore and preserve by period the multitude of changes the Greek Revival-style house has undergone. It was severely damaged by use before — and

vandalism after — it was vacated 1982, but nevertheless possesses several lessons in architectural history.

Granger estimated it would cost more than \$100,000 to build a house with similar materials today. He believes the preservation effort is worth it.

"It's a hell of a lot of work," Jaros said. "There are semi-loads of stuff to be hauled out of there."

"We've moved three houses of our own, but usually there's a lot more time."



The rear of the old house on River Terrace Drive is scarred and patched.

Staff photo by GINGER SHARP

Historic house still sits; neighbors getting edgy

By CHUCK KINSLEY
Journal Correspondent

Neighbors are upset that a 130-year-old house, moved into Meridian Township against their wishes in April, still sits disheveled and virtually untouched.

"There's been a lot of talk about a large barbecue," said a neighbor. "I don't think there's anybody on the street who hasn't gotten sort of a twinkle in his eye and said, 'Gee, that would burn good.'"

The Chatterton-Sturges-Hagadorn house on River Terrace Drive was displaced from its Grand River Avenue site by the Brock Residence Inn now under construction. It was believed to be among the five oldest in East Lansing.

A SERIES of Lansing State Journal stories at the time chronicled the last-minute efforts of a Lansing couple to move the house after the couple learned it was scheduled for demolition. Meridian passed a resolution supporting that effort, and at one point offered interim financing for the move, which the pair didn't accept.

The house was moved on April 25 without a foundation in place at its new site and has sat next to the road since. River Terrace residents, 90 percent of whom signed an April 11 petition objecting to the house's importation, are enraged at their worst fears have been realized.

"I came home from work one night and there sat that monstrosity," said Mary Hammond, who lives next door at 1623 River Terrace. "I was just in shock."

HAMMOND SAID her neatly kept one-story brick home has been devalued by thousands of dollars since the Chatterton house arrived, forcing her to take her house off the market and abandon her plans to move.

JoAnn Kistler, who lives across the street, said her home has decreased \$10,000 in value, and neighbors "have talked at length about getting a lawyer to represent us in a case of degradation of property."

Kistler and others have focused their anger on the township in letters and in person at board meetings.

"MY HUSBAND says they obviously got all enamored of this word 'historic,' she said. "They got all sentimental and bleary eyed about it, and didn't look into this thing with any degree of expertise."

"It was just a romantic notion of preserving a 130-year-old house, regardless of the fact that this thing is about to collapse — and hopefully will."

Squire Jaros, the house's owner, said he has had difficulty finding a contractor able to excavate a foundation to his specifications, but has

located one, and expects to have the structure in place within two weeks. He plans to move in before winter.

JAROS HAS been working on the house's interior, he said, leading at times to confrontations with neighbors who are running out of patience.

"I've never really understood those people," he said. "They've never really talked to me in any calm, coherent way. The only time I've heard them talk is when they come to a (township) meeting and start yelling."

Jaros, who said he has had the house appraised and found it's worth "more than some houses that have been built recently," said he is sorry to have upset his future neighbors.

"I'M AFRAID an adversary relationship has developed through no fault of my own. I never intended to injure or harm or antagonize any of those people there."

Joe Harris, Meridian's director of community development, said Jaros is not in violation of any ordinances and has 90 days left yet on his building permit to get the house on a foundation.

"The problem is just a further conflict with the neighbors," Harris said. "I think everybody just needs to know when there's going to be light at the end of the tunnel."

Friday April 13 1984

LANSING STATE JOURNAL Fr

130-year-old house scorned by prospective neighbors

By CHUCK KINSLEY
Journal Correspondent

Although Squire and Chris Jaros have found a new location for their 130-year-old house and have won more time and public support to move it, their prospective neighbors aren't unhitching the welcome wagon.

The Jaroses closed a deal Wednesday for a River Terrace Drive site on which to place the Chatterton-Sturges-Hagadorn house now located at 1526 Grand River Ave. The house is believed to be among the five oldest in East Lansing.

BUT A PETITION signed by 32 River Terrace residents objecting to importing of the house — 9/10 of all those living on the half-mile street, petitioners claim — was submitted to Meridian Township Wednesday.

The current Chatterton site was scheduled to be cleared April 16 to make room for a new hotel-apartment complex. No takers had been found for the house before the Jaroses, of Lansing, stepped in two weeks ago.

In return for the house, the Jaroses agreed to clear the site of its considerable debris.

Following a Lansing State Journal story about the Jaroses' efforts that appeared Monday, house mover Gene Williams of Ashley contacted the excavation contractor in Denver to win a deadline extension until April 26.

"WE READ that article, too," said petition drive organizer Mark Kistler, who lives on River Terrace. "But because of the condition of the house, I doubt that it has much historic value."

The Chatterton home has been severely damaged by years of neglect and vandalism, but the Jaroses, both 38, plan to restore and preserve its bits of architectural history by period. One contractor estimated that the house would cost \$100,000 to build today and \$60,000 to make livable.

River Terrace residents are also concerned about the effect on property values and about the house being rented out, but the Jaroses have said they intend to live in it.

"This would be the fourth house that has moved in," Kistler said, "and every one has been given over



Staff photo by GREG DeRUITER

TROUBLED OUTLOOK — Squire Jaros gazes out of a second-story window of the house that he hopes to rescue from the intended site of a hotel-apartment complex on Grand River Avenue near Hagadorn Road, East Lansing.

to student housing. We've been burned before."

MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP officials have yet to acknowledge the petition, and in fact are discussing helping the Jaroses move the house with some form of financial assistance, according to Trustee Thomas E. Klunzinger, who's also a member of Friends of Historic Meridian.

The board passed a resolution supporting the preservation at its last meeting.

"The main problem is securing up-front money," Klunzinger said. "If we can help with that in some way, we'd like to. The house used to be in the township, and this would move it back to the township."

"Eventually, I would hope it would be restored to a state where we have some tangible connection with the past and the first settlers in the area."

Kistler admitted that Park Ter-

race residents have little recourse beyond the petition, but also vowed to seek lower property assessments if the house is placed there.

MEANWHILE, the Jaroses are spending most of their spare time chasing paper.

"When I wake up generally the phone is ringing off the hook," Squire said, "and somebody is telling me what to do. And when I get home at night it's ringing again. Of course, I suppose the publicity it's attracting has been beneficial."

The publicity has garnered at least one volunteer: Bob Steele, a recent Michigan State University history graduate with experience in preserving and moving old houses.

"The story just kind of caught my eye," Steele said, "because in Lansing, what may be considered historical heritage areas are now free-ways."

April 18, 1984

Old-house loan OK'd by Meridian

By CHUCK KINSLEY
Journal Correspondent

The Meridian Township Board approved a resolution Tuesday night authorizing a \$25,000 loan to Squire Jaros and his wife, Chris Marshall, to aid them in moving the 130-year-old Chatterton-Sturges-Hagadorn house.

The resolution, approved 4-2, is

contingent on details being worked out Monday at a special board meeting.

Jaros and Marshall have until April 26 to move the house before its current site at 1526 Grand River Ave., in East Lansing is excavated to make room for a hotel-apartment complex.

THE BOARD split Tuesday on whether acting as financier for a private concern would establish a precedent. Supervisor Carlene L. Webster and Trustee William G. Youatt, who cast the negative votes, also questioned the lack of substantive wording in the hastily drafted resolution.

Trustee Ulreh V. Mostosky was absent from Tuesday's meeting, but expressed his objection to the proposal at Monday night's work session.

Trustee Thomas E. Klunzinger, who sponsored the resolution and guided it through numerous amendments and a request from Webster for withdrawal, said later that its prompt timing was important to allow Jaros and Marshall to proceed with plans to move the house.

"It wasn't a question of pushing the resolution through," said Klunzinger, who is also a member of Friends of Historic Meridian. "It was a question of pursuing my belief."

AS AMENDED, the resolution calls for owner occupancy of the house, interest on the loan, a pay-back date of 120 days — which would allow the couple time to arrange bank financing — and a public viewing of the house one day a year.

The township clerk, treasurer and supervisor must also approve any final agreement.

Youatt and Webster said that they

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Meridian may loan pair \$25,000

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weren't opposed to the preservation effort. Webster sponsored a resolution supporting restoration two weeks ago.

Youatt and Webster also questioned what security would be used for the loan. Jaros said the site's market value is \$25,000 — the same as the proposed loan amount.

"BUT WHAT if the financing falls through and we're stuck not only in the banking business but in the real estate business as well?" Youatt asked the board.

Residents of River Terrace Drive, north of the Red Cedar River in the township, presented a petition to the township last week with 31 signatures objecting to the house's importation.

Trustee Louise Kelley said Tuesday that the petition is "an expression of their desires, and has no legal impact" on the house's destination.

Jaros was somewhat bewildered at the residents' objections.

"The site seemed like a good idea at the time," he said. "I had no idea there'd be such a brouhaha."

Hotel plan wins in East Lansing

By JEAN MOORE
Staff Writer

Over the objection of some neighborhood residents, the East Lansing City Council Tuesday night approved an apartment-hotel complex to be built near Grand River Avenue and Hagadorn Road at a cost of \$2 million to \$3 million.

After lengthy debate and some amendments, the council voted 4 to 1 to approve the site plan for a Brock Residence Inn, a 60-unit apartment-style hotel to be located on 1.8 acres southeast of the Grand River/Hagadorn intersection.

THE COMPLEX is to be built by the Brock Hotel Corporation, a Dallas-based nationwide hotel chain.

the second and third lots east of an existing office building at Grand River and Hagadorn.

Councilmember Ralph Monsma voted against the project, agreeing with residents of the Brookfield neighborhood that it lacked green open space, would cause traffic problems and create a negative visual impact on the area.

THE COMPLEX is to consist of three two-story buildings, with 44 efficiency or studio apartments of about 598 to 820 square feet each. The apartments, for business and professionals who may stay longer when they travel, are to be completely furnished, including dishes, cooking utensils and appliances.



Hello neighbor!

HOUSE ON THE MOVE— A two and one-half story historical house was moved last week from its original home at the corner of Hagadorn and Grand River to its new home six blocks away on River Terrace Drive in Okemos. The house, save at the 11th hour by Squire Jaros, made the trip in about two and one half hours.

Photos by Tom Alleman



Grand River House Moving ... August 24, 1984





