

The Kelley - Fisk Farm House

- The house is Greek Revival architecture and has some Egyptian key woodwork in the house easily seen in parlor and sitting room.
- Much of the original exterior gingerbread remains and that which was missing was reproduced and replaced.
- The house consists of a parlor, sitting room, kitchen and 3 bedrooms on the first level with a woodshed added to the kitchen in later years.
- The second floor consists of 3 bedrooms and a small alcove with closet.
- It is designated a Centennial Farm because it was owned by the same family for at least 100 years. The marker for this is next to the state marker in the barnyard.
- Electricity was installed in the house 3 days before Christmas in 1937.
- A phone was never installed until the Historical Society put one in.
- 1840 - Asa Kelley married Louise Austin and began living in this house in 1855; they had 10 children. Louise died after the birth of the last child.
- 1864 - Asa Kelley married Frances Rich; they had 9 children.
- 1875 - The house was sold to Luther Fisk and wife Julia Warren; they had 4 children.
- Ira Fisk son of Luther and Julia Fisk was the last relative to live in the house. Ira never married and died in 1979.
- Most of the furniture was given to family members when Ira died, but some has returned to the White Lake Historical Society.
- 1981 - The township purchased the property and thought they might build a fire station here.
- Marge Sawruk wrote a letter to then Supervisor, Jim Reid, asking that the buildings not be razed if a fire station were built. In 1984 - Marge Sawruk received a call from Jim Reid's secretary, Shirley Wilfong, asking if she would chair a Sesquicentennial Celebration for the township (he had kept her letter related to interest in the history of the town).
- 1986 - The White Lake Township Sesquicentennial Committee held its first festival here.
- 1987 - The White Lake Historical Society was formed and currently operates the Kelley Fisk Farm.

Parlor Bedroom

This bedroom was restored by the Maria Moore Chapter of The Questers.

The bedding is from the Fisk Family. Notice the beautifully embroidered **F** on the pillowcases. These were made by Grace Pearce prior to her marriage to Fred Fisk in 1886. Grace and Fred were parents of Leola B. Fisk Todd and Beulah Fisk Thompson (mother of James Thompson).

The Currier and Ives picture was a gift to Fred Fisk from his mother, Julia. The framed seashells were done by Grace Fisk in 1936.



The Baby's Bedroom

This bedroom was originally papered and painted by the **Cobblestone Home Chapter of the Questers**. Due to some wall damage it was repaired, re-painted and papered in 2005, thanks to the generous gift of time from Greg Baroni and Joe Deuparo, historical society members.

^{metal upstairs}
The [^]crib is on loan from Beverly Opdycke Spoor.
The baby swing is on loan from Marge Sawruk.
_{and wooden crib}

The dresses on the farm dolls were made by Addie Fisk, daughter of Julia and Luther.

The doll lawn swing was donated by Leola Fisk Todd; she used to loan us her original teddy bear each year to display as well, unfortunately Leola died on October 12, 2001. Leola was born in 1905 so you can imagine how old her teddy was!

Leola used to tell us about the Native American Indian encampments down by the Clinton River, the wolves, and the kinds of berries she used to pick. She shared some wonderful memories with us.

The Parlor

This room has been papered and painted by the **Pettibone Creek Chapter of The Questers.**

The pump organ is a donation from the Shotwell House on Porter Road. This room originally had a similar organ when the Fisk Family owned it.

Notice the framed wreath on the wall made of hair and the velvet wall hangings. The latter were hand painted by Hattie Howden who lived on a farm at Bogie Lake and M-59.

The parlor was only used for special occasions such as Christmas. Also, the term Funeral Parlor comes from the time when it was common practice to lay bodies out in the family parlor.

Look to the ceiling and you will see where the potbelly stove pipe went upstairs to attempt to heat some of the bedrooms.

The framed photo over the gold sofa is Asa Kelley, original owner.

On the East wall is the wedding certificate of Luther Fisk and Julia Warren dated August 29, 1875