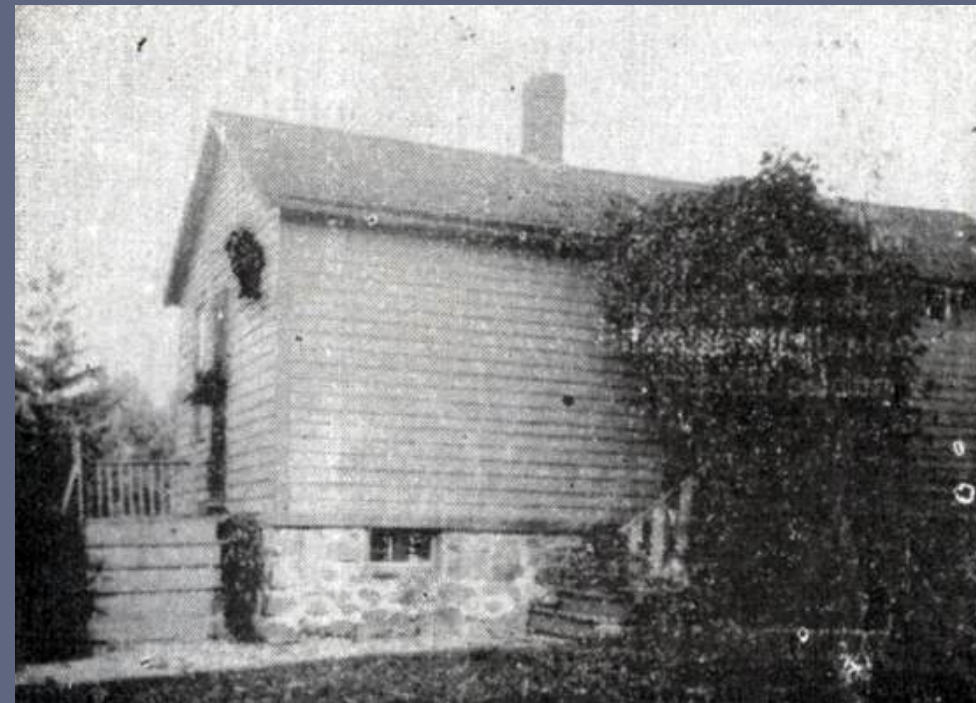


The Evolution of
**DEXTER
COMMUNITY
SCHOOLS**



OVERVIEW

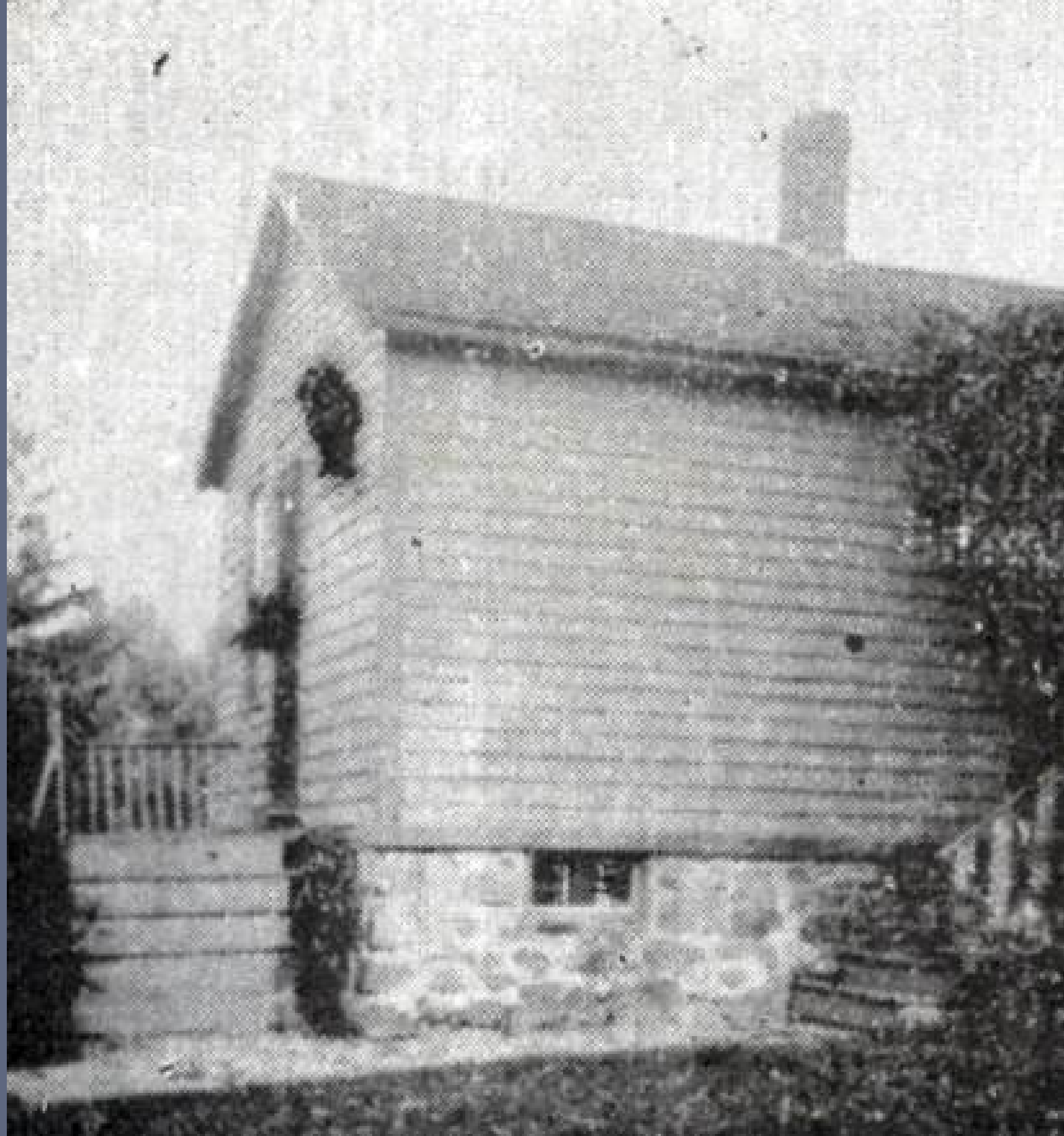
In the past 195 years, the Dexter Community Schools District has evolved from a one-room schoolhouse to a connected, walkable campus serving 84 square miles and eight municipalities.



1830-1843

OUR FIRST SCHOOL

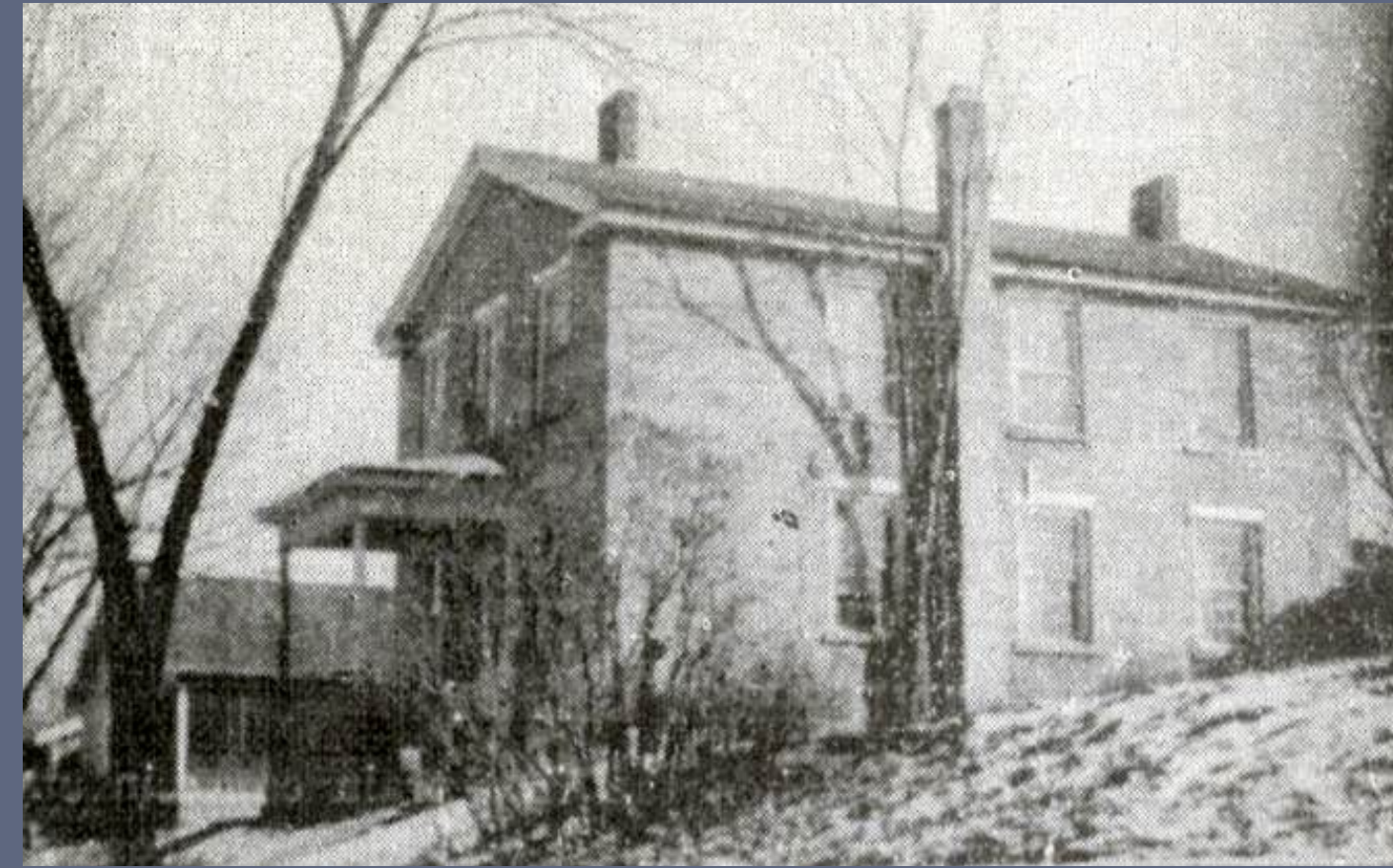
Dexter's first school building was built in 1830 to serve the four families living in the newly-settled village. The little one-story frame building was built on "B" Street for about \$400.



1843-1857

OUR SECOND SCHOOL

The second school house was built in 1843 between the first school building and the Baptist Church. It cost ~\$1,000.



1857-1887

OUR THIRD SCHOOL: UNION SCHOOLHOUSE

When the second school house could no longer accommodate the growing student body, a third building known as the Union Schoolhouse was built at the corner of Ann Arbor and Hudson Streets. It cost \$10,000.



1887-1956

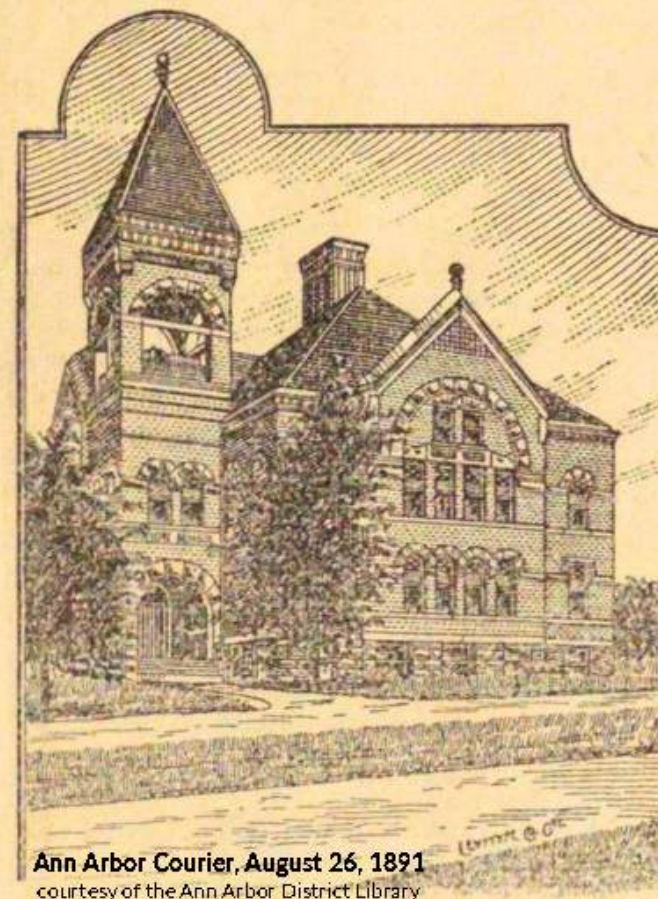
OUR FOURTH SCHOOL: THE NEW UNION SCHOOLHOUSE



Due to structural issues, the 1857 Union Schoolhouse was torn down to make way for the new Union Schoolhouse. Built in 1887 for \$13,000 (that was the cost to Dexter; actual cost was much higher).



Below is given an excellent picture of the Dexter High School, one of the finest school structures to be found in any village in Michigan:

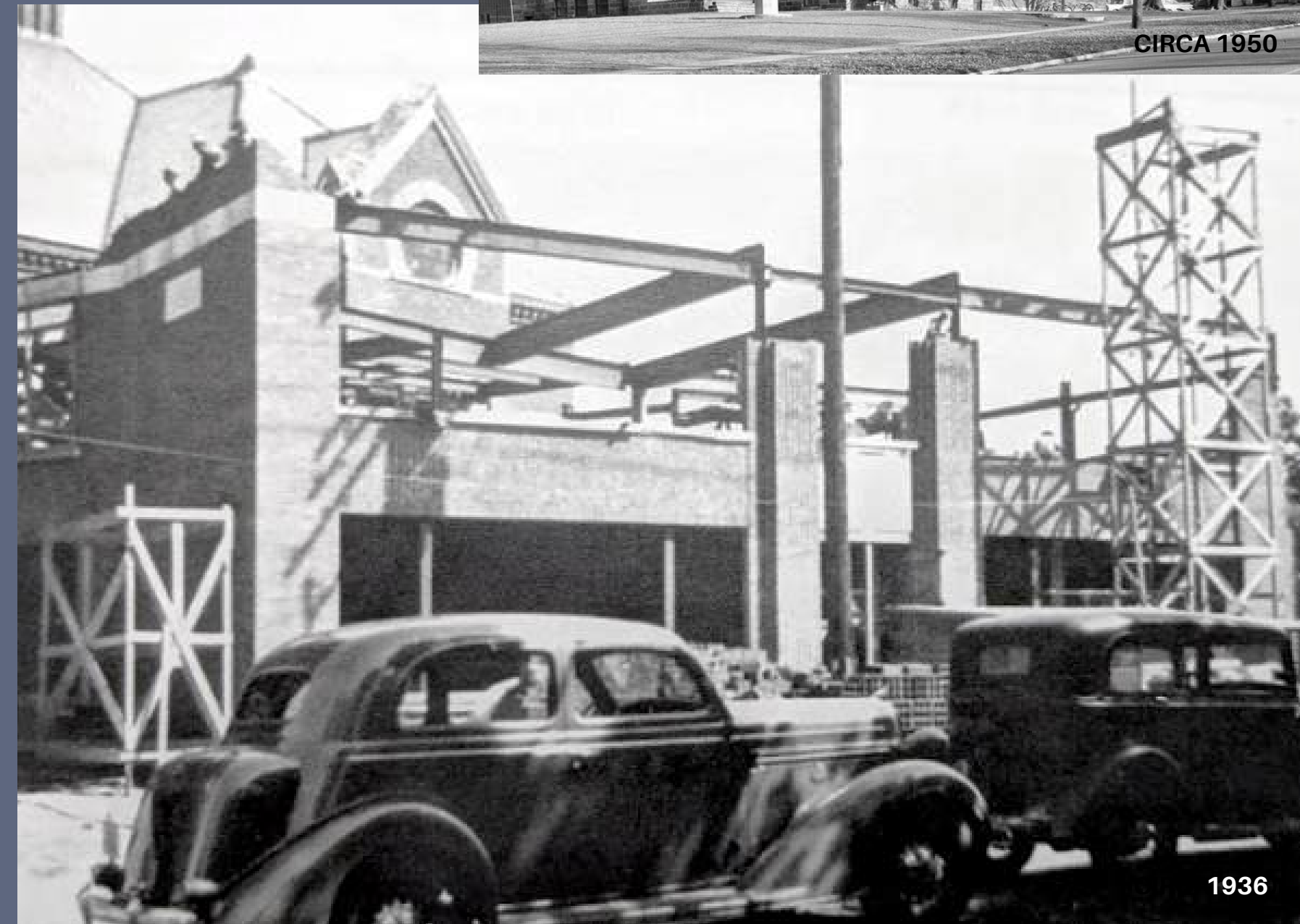


Ann Arbor Courier, August 26, 1891
courtesy of the Ann Arbor District Library

1936-1956

UNION SCHOOLHOUSE RENAMED: THE COPELAND BUILDING

In 1936, an addition and improvements were completed at the Union Schoolhouse for a cost of \$94,000 (\$50,000 from Dexter taxpayers and \$44,000 from the U.S. Government). After a 50th reunion visit by Dexter alumnus and New York Senator Royal Copeland, the building was dedicated and renamed after his father Roscoe P. Copeland in 1937. The elder Copeland had been Village president for 35 years, and was a long-serving Board of Education member.



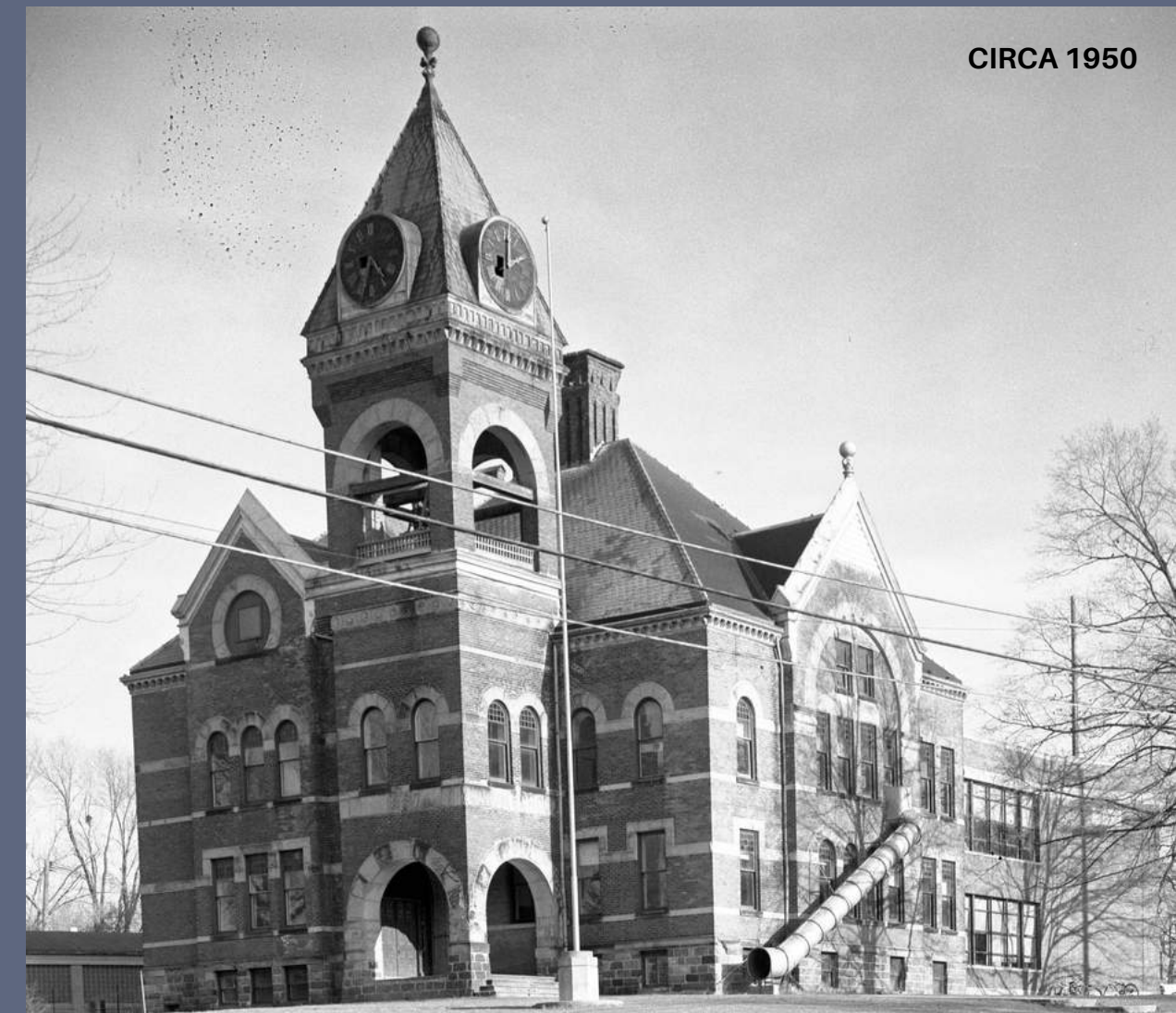
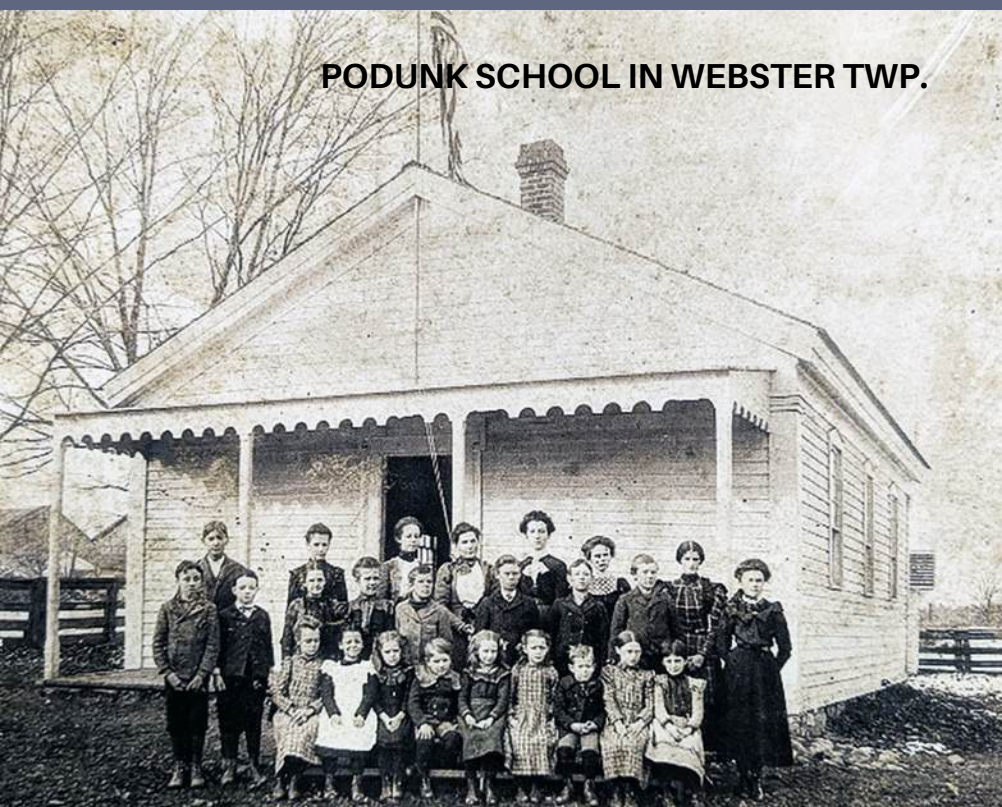
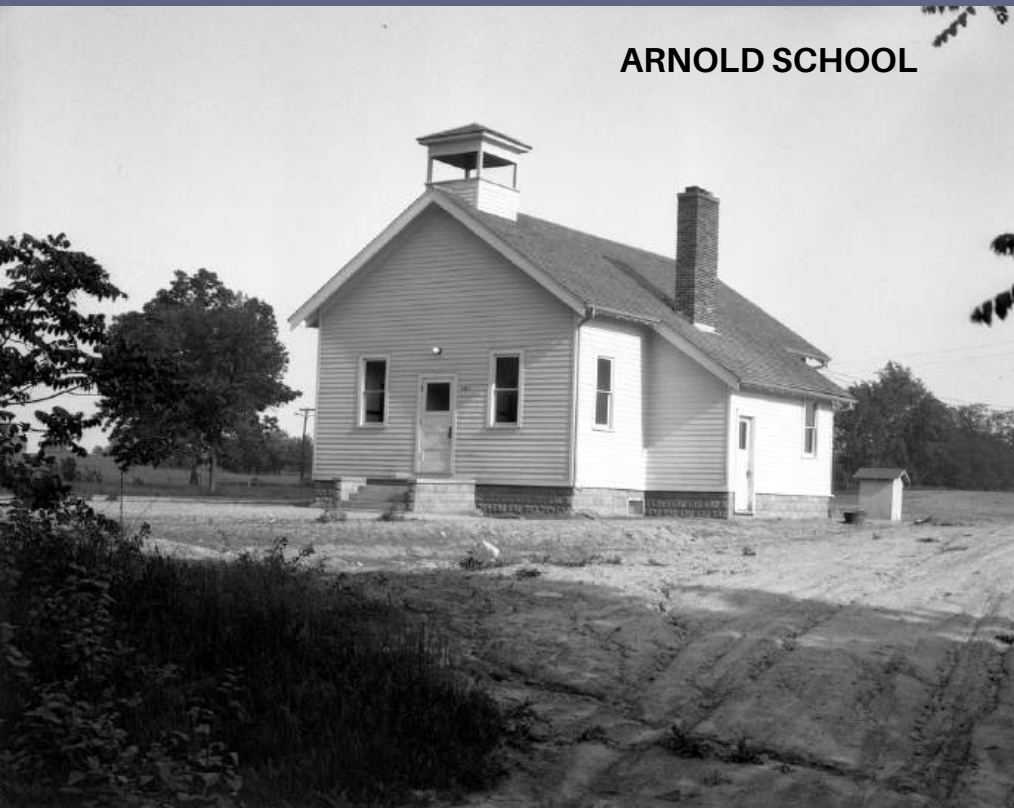
1950

CONSOLIDATION

In 1950, twelve surrounding agricultural districts with declining enrollment and resources combined with the Village schools to form the Dexter Agricultural School.

Primary schools that joined the District:

- Easton and Parker (Lima Twp.)
- Arnold, Hudson, Smith, and Gallagher (Dexter Twp.)
- Dexter and Mary Hawkins (Scio Twp.)
- Podunk, Peatt, Church, and Merrill (Webster Twp.)



1956-2020 CHANGES TO THE COPELAND BUILDING

By 1956, the 1887 Union Schoolhouse portion of the Copeland Building had deteriorated beyond repair and was demolished. The newer portion of the Copeland Building (the 1936 addition) continued to house active classrooms until Cornerstone Elementary was built in 1995.

DCS sold the Copeland Building in 2020 because the construction of Beacon Elementary in 2019 opened up more cost-effective space at Bates for district offices, preschool, and Community Education.



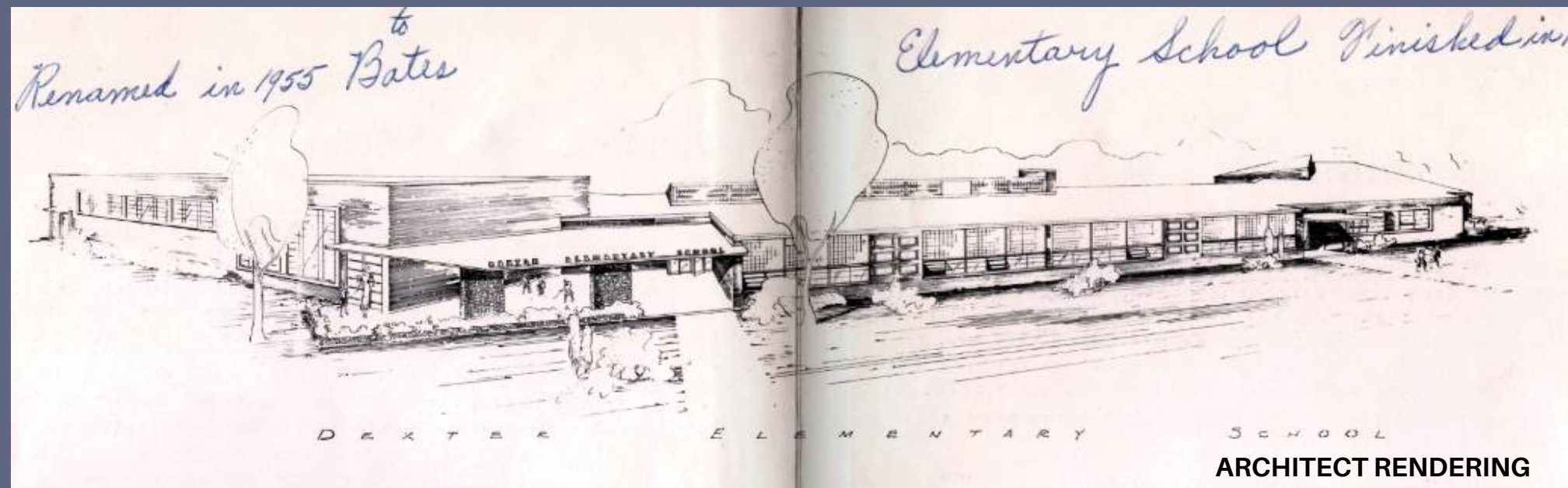
1953-present BATES SCHOOL

(Originally Dexter Elementary School)

Dexter Elementary School was built in 1953. In 1955, it was renamed to honor H. Carl Bates who served on the Board of Education from 1925-1955.

One year later, in 1956, the District was renamed Dexter Community Schools.

>>> ADDITIONS AND/OR RENOVATIONS IN 1967, 1988, 2001



1958-present

DEXTER HIGH SCHOOL

(now Creekside Intermediate)



The first Dexter High School was built across from Bates School on Baker Road in 1957-1958. This building now houses Creekside Intermediate School.

>>> ADDITIONS AND/OR RENOVATIONS IN 1973, 1988, 1995, 2000, 2010, 2011



1978-present

AL RITT FIELD

(addition to former Dexter High School)

In 1978-1979, the stadium and track were built next to Dexter High School on Baker Road. This stadium and track facility was renamed in 1989 in honor of former teacher, principal, and coach Al Ritt.



1964-present

WYLIE ELEMENTARY

Wylie was built on Kensington Street in 1964. It's named after William Wylie, local physician and school board trustee, and his wife, long-time Dexter teacher Lillian Wylie. The building originally served as an intermediate school for fifth through eighth grade students until Mill Creek Middle School was built in 1995. Wylie then housed third through sixth graders until Dexter High School was built in 2002, when it was reorganized to serve third and fourth grades.

>>> ADDITIONS AND/OR RENOVATIONS IN 1967, 1972, 1988, 1995, 2002



2002



2023

1992-present

DEXTER COMMUNITY POOL

The Dexter Community Pool, often called the Wylie Pool, was added onto Wylie Elementary in 1991-1992. It was funded by a \$3.5 million bond passed in 1989.



1995-present

MILL CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mill Creek Middle School was built in 1995 on Dexter-Ann Arbor Road. Funding for this building came from a \$26.1 million bond passed in 1993.

>>> *ADDITIONS AND/OR RENOVATIONS IN 2000, 2009, 2019*



1995



2023

1995-present CORNERSTONE ELEMENTARY



In addition to the new middle school, a new elementary school named Cornerstone was built on Dan Hoey Rd. Funding for this building also came from the 1993 \$26.1M bond.



2002-present

DEXTER HIGH SCHOOL



The present Dexter High School was built in 2002 on Parker Road complete with tennis courts and fields for baseball, softball, and soccer. The Mast Farm land was purchased in 1997 for \$460,000 with a one-time sinking fund millage. Construction funds came from the 1998 \$65 million bond.

>>> *RENOVATIONS IN 2009, 2024*



2014-present

JENKINS ECLC

The Jenkins family donated the former Generations Together Center on Baker Road to DCS in 2014. It was renamed the Jenkins Early Childhood Learning Center.

Jenkins ECLC serves children ages six weeks to five years. The main building was built in 1993, and the adjacent Baby House (inset) was built in 1925. Additional classes are housed at Bates.



2023

2024



2018-present

TWIN TURF FIELDS

(addition to Dexter High School)

As part of the \$71.7 million 2017 construction bond, the Twin Turf fields were built adjacent to Dexter High School in 2018.

2018-present

CREEKSIDE QUAD FIELDS

(addition to Creekside Intermediate)



In 2018, funds from the 2017 construction bond were used to build the Quad Fields adjacent to Creekside Intermediate School.

2019-present BEACON ELEMENTARY

Beacon Elementary School was built in 2019 with funds from the \$71.7 million 2017 construction bond. Beacon is attached to Anchor (formerly Cornerstone) Elementary. The two buildings form the Dexter Early Elementary Complex, and are linked by a large open multipurpose space containing the Marketplace and the Workshop.

Bates Elementary School students moved to Beacon Elementary, and Bates School was repurposed to house preschool education, Community Education, central administration, and the Board of Education.



2019-present

CERIANI BUILDING



In 2019, 2017 bond funds were also used to build the Louie Ceriani Building, named after DHS alumnus and long-time booster Louis "Louie" Ceriani. The Ceriani Building houses the DHS Alternative School program.



2024-present

DEXTER WELLNESS CENTER



In 2023, DCS was awarded a state appropriation of \$8.5 million to acquire or build a senior and community center. In addition, DCS received an \$850,000 federal Community Project Funding Grant.

DCS finalized the purchase of the Dexter Wellness Center with these funds in April 2024.

Opening in 2025

SENIOR WELLNESS CENTER

From 1995 to 2020, DCS leased a portion of the Copeland building to the Dexter Senior Center for \$1/year plus the cost of their utilities. In 2020, DCS sold the Copeland Building. Sale negotiations included extension of the Senior Center lease through 2024.

In addition to the state and federal appropriations to DCS for the multigenerational center campus, the Dexter Senior Center received \$750k in funding from Washtenaw County for a senior center and furnishings.

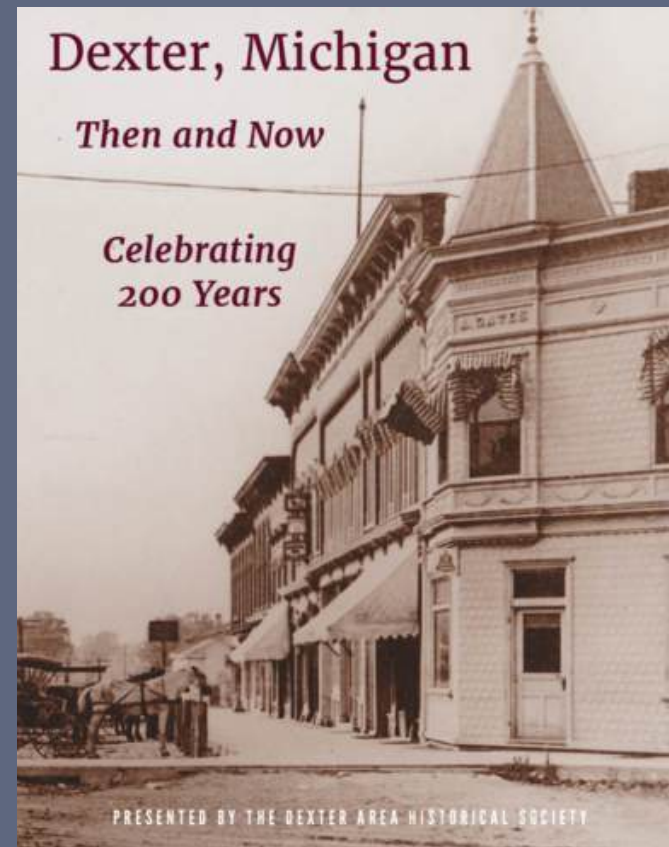




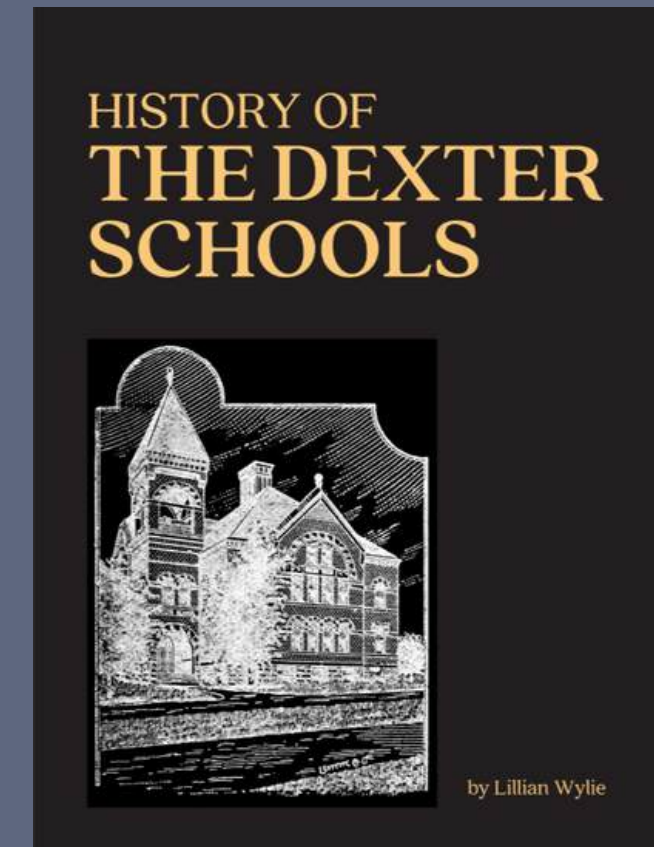
Interested in learning more about the history of Dexter Community Schools?



Visit the Dexter Area Historical Society located at 3443 Inverness Street (museum opens in May) or visit their [website](#).



Check out "Dexter, Michigan Then and Now; Celebrating 200 Years" written by a team of local historians and presented by the Dexter Area Historical Society.



Visit the [DCS At a Glance](#) webpage for former teacher (and building eponym) Lillian Wylie's book, "The History of Dexter Schools."



**DREAD
STRONG**