

# The

# Slate

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Spring 2014

## **MORSA Annual Conference Set for Saturday, May 17, 2014**

By Larry Schlack

“Adaptive Uses of One-Room Schools” is the theme of the Michigan One-Room Schoolhouse Association annual conference to be held in Eaton Rapids on Saturday, May 17.

Location of the conference is Miller Farm and Historic Village in Eaton Rapids, which is located on M-99 18 miles southwest of Lansing. The site includes the 1870 Wright School, the 1864 Miller House, a dairy barn, an 1860 blacksmith shop, and perhaps most delicious of all, the famous Miller Ice Cream Factory (1896) and its adjoining 1940’s style Ice Cream Parlor.

Conference opens with registration at 8:30 a.m. and the program begins at 9:00 with greetings from MORSA chairman Tom M. Johnson and Deb Malewski, staff member of Miller Farm.

Morning programs will feature three illustrated descriptions by people who have adapted a one-room school for contemporary purposes:

- 1) Kay Bazzett will describe the building she has restored as her residence in Ottawa County, and the pros and cons of living in a restored schoolhouse. She will describe the

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**Wright School**, located at Miller Farm and Historical Village in Eaton Rapids, will be the centerpiece for MORSA’S 2014 Annual Conference.

## **From a Historic One Room School to Asphalt**

*President’s Column*

By Tom M. Johnson

**REDFORD OBSERVER, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6,  
2013**

**“It looks like Little Red Schoolhouse No. 9 in Redford has a date with the wrecking ball.”**

The Little Red Schoolhouse, formally known as the Beech School, was built in 1874 at the time the railroad first came through the area known today as Redford, Township, Michigan, just west of Detroit. It is the last building standing from the railroad town of Beech and is located just in front of the United State Post Office on Beech Daly Road. It was used as a school until 1952. A wooden addition was put on in 1926/27. In 1988 it, along with a small amount of land, was sold by the South Redford School District to a developer in Farmington Hills, Michigan. At that

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## 2014 Spring Conference

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restoration process.

- 2) Dawn Stafford will describe the building in Allegan County that she has adapted for her business – an Artist Studio and Gallery.
- 3) Myrna Grove will talk about what a typical day was like for students in one-room schools of the past and show attendees how various lessons and activities can be organized by anyone planning to host an old-fashioned school day.

Following a delicious lunch, the annual Schoolhouse of the Year award will be presented to a schoolhouse somewhere in Michigan that has demonstrated an outstanding restoration.

An addition to the day's activities is an optional visit to the newly established GAR Museum in downtown Eaton Rapids.

Registration materials have been sent to MORSA members and may also be found on the MORSA website: [www.one-roomschool.org](http://www.one-roomschool.org).

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### Submission Guidelines for "The Slate" Newsletter

#### Subjects we are interested in:

- A personal remembrance of a one-room schoolhouse, either first person or third person (someone else's memory);
- A history of a schoolhouse; restoration of a schoolhouse; schoolhouse research; bio of one-room teacher; information about currently operating schools;
- Any other subjects related to the one-room school.
- Article length: 500-1000 words. Pictures are encouraged.
- Filler articles or sidebars: 50-300 words in length; stories or anecdotal subject matter
- Bulletin Board/Bookshelf: Items for sale or wanted; announcements; 25-75 words
- The editor has final discretion over subject matter and presentation in the newsletter. Writer will be contacted about any significant changes before publication.

*To read more articles in The Slate, you can receive a full copy by becoming a member of the Michigan One Room Schoolhouse Assoc.*

## From a Historic One Room School to Asphalt

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time, the building was being used to store historic items for the township. In 1991 a Michigan Registered State Historic marker was erected in front of the school by the Michigan Historical Commission.

The October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013 *Redford Observer* article reported that the owner intends to raze the school and asphalt the area to create additional parking for the post office. Bear in mind that post offices are handling less mail and the population of Redford Township has decreased in the past several decades. The developer and others allege that the building is not a historic structure because of the 1926/27 wooden addition – only the land is historic. It seems obvious that this argument is without merit for two reasons. First, the addition was added years before it was designated as a historic site and second, without the school, the land has no historic significance.

MORSA has become involved in this "David and Goliath" situation because of one individual, Jim Bailey, who is with the Community Development Cooperative, a nonprofit organization dealing with the areas of government oversight, persons with disabilities advocacy and trail advocacy. Jim has pursued this issue with vigor and has produced a video involving three of our board members with expertise in the history of one room schoolhouses. They all gave factual information to refute the claim that the school is not a historic structure. At Jim's request, representing MORSA, I have written two letters protesting the planned destruction of this historic school. MORSA's position is that a new use should be sought, preferably one that would be of a financial benefit to the post office.

We will keep you informed regarding the outcome. Contact Jim Bailey at [jim28a@gmail.com](mailto:jim28a@gmail.com) if you have any suggestions on how to save this school.

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### **Schoolhouse Stamps for SALE**

MORSA continues to offer **schoolhouse stamps for sale**. The most recent stamp will be of **Wright School**, located at Miller Farm and Historic Village in Eaton Rapids, MI. The cost is \$22 for a sheet of 20 stamps (49 cent).

Contact Larry Schlack: [laur@net-link.net](mailto:laur@net-link.net) or by phone: (269) 388-9136 or by mail: 2906 Woodgate Lane, Kalamazoo, MI, 49008



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