



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
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TO: Al Robinson, Chair  
Ways & Means Committee

THROUGH: Robert E. Guenzel  
County Administrator

FROM: Mark J. McFadden, Director  
Washtenaw County Metropolitan Planning Commission

DATE: November 1, 2000

SUBJECT: Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of a Historic District  
Study Committee to evaluate the McCormick Farm for Historic  
District status

### **BOARD ACTION REQUESTED**

It is requested that the Board of Commissioners appoint individuals recommended by the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission to a Study Committee to evaluate the McCormick Farm for the purpose of nominating the property for Historic District status.

### **BACKGROUND**

The McCormick Farm property is located at 9105 West Ann Arbor Road in Superior Township. It consists of the Greek Revival Farmhouse, two significant barns and six historic outbuildings including a silo, chicken coop, milk house, mash house, outhouse and equipment shed. William McCormick, a resident of Geneva, New York, moved to Superior Township in 1828 and built a log cabin. A friend and neighbor of Esek Pray, McCormick built the farmhouse in 1838. His daughter, Sally Ann, married Nathan Pray, son of Esek, circa 1840. After her death, and the death of her stepbrother George McCormick, George's widow, Ellen, married Nathan Pray. The property, however, remained in the McCormick family until sold to William Gates in 1875. The current owners, Kay and Karl Williams, wish to have the property designated not only to apply for tax credits under PA 535 of 1998, but also because four historic barns have been bulldozed in Superior Township this summer. Long time preservationists, they wish to have their farmstead preserved for future generations. If approved, the McCormick Farm will join the Milton Geer House, a district under study, and the Esek Pray House, which is in the final stages of becoming a historic district.

## **DISCUSSION**

The current owners of the property approached Superior Township to have the property listed as a historic district. Superior Township has asked the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, through the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission, to conduct this work on their behalf.

Under the Michigan Historic Districts Act (P.A. 169 of 1970, as amended in 1992), a historic district study committee must be established to evaluate the property and determine if it meets criteria to be included in a historic district. Also under P.A. 169, the County Board of Commissioners has the authority to establish such a committee.

The Washtenaw County Historic District Commission recommends that the following individuals be appointed to the McCormick Farm Historic District Study Committee: H. Scott Diels, Marshall McLennan, Glenn & Jeanine Miller, Marnie Paulus, Louisa Pieper, Grace Shackman, Nancy Snyder, Jane Van Bolt, Kay Williams, and Susan C. Wineberg.

## **IMPACT ON HUMAN RESOURCES**

None

## **IMPACT ON THE BUDGET**

None

## **IMPACT ON INDIRECT COSTS**

None

## **IMPACT ON OTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENTS OR OUTSIDE AGENCIES**

None

## **CONFORMITY TO COUNTY POLICIES**

This request conforms with County Policy

## **ATTACHMENTS**

None

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF A HISTORIC DISTRICT STUDY COMMITTEE AS RECOMMENDED BY THE WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF EVALUATING THE MCCORMICK FARM FOR HISTORIC DISTRICT STATUS.

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

November 15, 2000

WHEREAS, the property located at 9105 West Ann Arbor Road (McCormick Farm) in Superior Township has potential to be nominated as a historic district; and

WHEREAS, the current owners of the property have asked the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners via the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission to have the property listed as a historic district; and

WHEREAS, under Michigan's Historic Districts Act (P.A. 169 of 1970, as amended in 1992), a historic district study committee must be established to evaluate the property and determine if it meets criteria to be included in a historic district; and

WHEREAS, under P.A. 169, the County Board of Commissioners has the authority to establish such a historic district committee; and

WHEREAS, as dictated by law, the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission is presenting a list of nominees to serve on this historic district committee; and

WHEREAS, the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission recommends that the following individuals be appointed to the McCormick Farm Historic District Study Committee: H. Scott Diels, Marshall McLennan, Glenn & Jeanine Miller, Marnie Paulus, Louisa Pieper, Grace Shackman, Nancy Snyder, Jane Van Bolt, Kay Williams, and Susan C. Wineberg;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners hereby appoints individuals to the McCormick Farm Historic District Study Committee as follows:

H. Scott Diels  
Marshall McLennan  
Glenn Miller  
Jeanine Miller  
Marnie Paulus  
Louisa Pieper  
Grace Shackman  
Nancy Snyder  
Jane Van Bolt  
Kay Williams  
Susan C. Wineberg