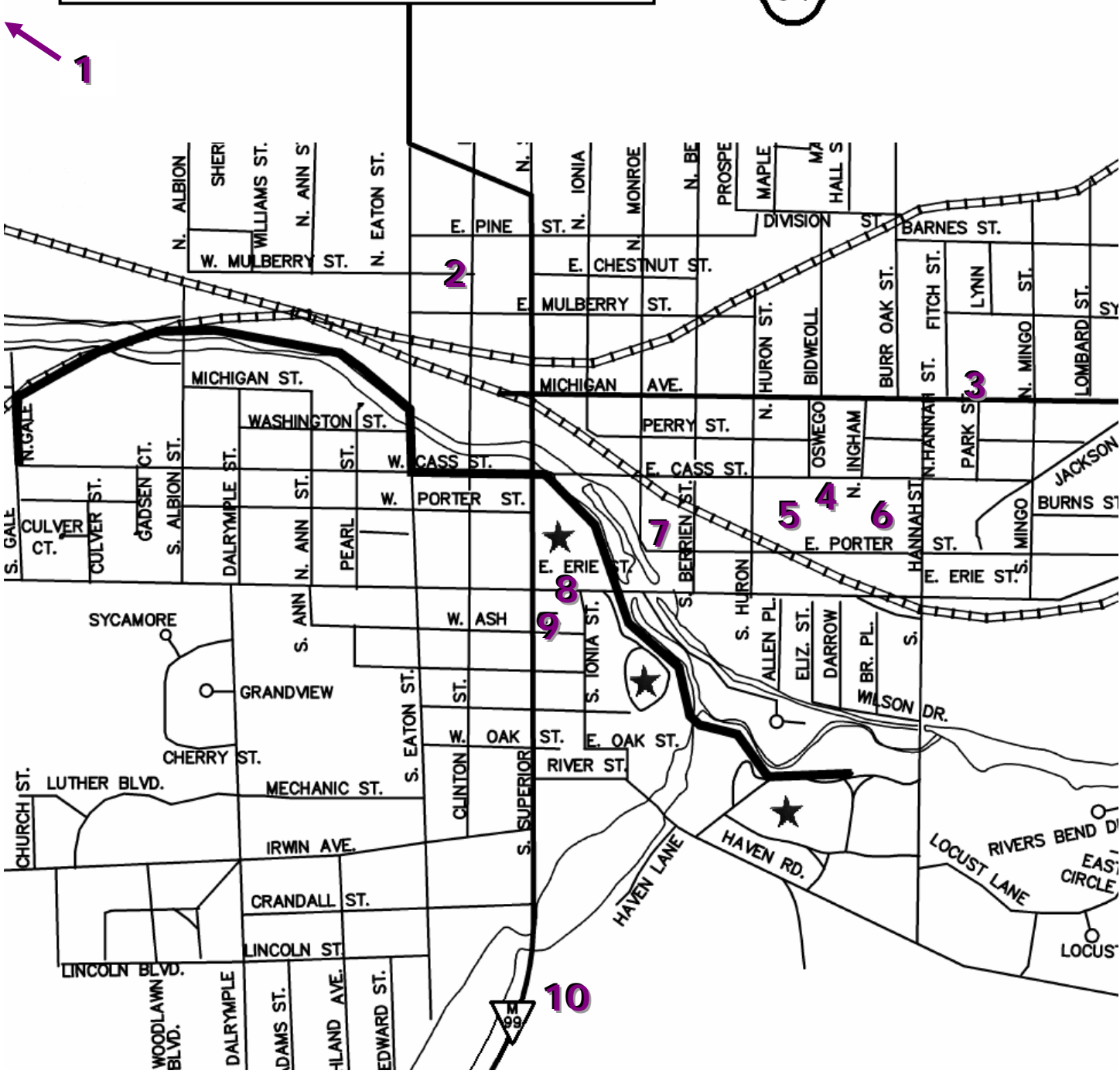


Albion Historical Markers



- 1** Holy Ascension Orthodox Church, 810 Austin Ave.
- 2** Gale House, 220 W. Mulberry St.
- 3** Birthplace of "The Old Rugged Cross," 1101 East Michigan Ave.
- 4** The Observatory, Albion College Campus
- 5** Albion College, Michigan Ave. at Ingham St.
- 6** Birthplace of "The Sweetheart of Sigma Chi," South Hall/Kellogg Center, Albion College Campus
- 7** First Presbyterian Church of Albion, 305 E. Porter St.
- 8** Mother's Day in Albion, Ionia and Erie Streets
- 9** Gardner House Museum, 509 S. Superior St.
- 10** Riverside Cemetery, 1301 S. Superior St.

Albion Historical Markers

5 Albion College

Methodists obtained a charter for Spring Arbor Seminary in March, 1835. In 1841 the cornerstone was laid for the first building and in 1843, the institution opened as the Wesleyan Seminary. In 1861 the power to confer degrees was obtained and the school named Albion College. Today Albion College continues as a strong liberal arts college.

6 Birthplace of "The Sweetheart of Sigma Chi"

In the spring of 1911 two freshmen at Albion College, Byron D. Stokes and F. Dudleigh Vernor, wrote the words and music of "The Sweetheart of Sigma Chi." The song made a hit with their fraternity brothers, and requests for copies came in from other chapters. Within a few years the melody and lyrics of "The Sweetheart of Sigma Chi" had become familiar to people around the world.

7 First Presbyterian Church of Albion

In February 1837 the Reverend Calvin Clark, a circuit riding pastor sent by the American Home Missionary Society, met with twenty-four persons and organized the Albion Presbyterian Church. The first church was built in 1840 on the corner of Clinton and Erie streets. The present church was built in 1884.

8 Mother's Day in Albion

On May 13, 1877, the second Sunday of the month, Juliet Calhoun Blakeley stepped into the pulpit of the Methodist Episcopal Church and completed the sermon for her husband, the Reverend Myron Daugherty. Proud of their mother's achievement, Charles and Moses Blakeley encouraged others to pay tribute to their mothers. In the 1880s the Albion Methodist church began celebrating Mother's Day in Blakeley's honor.

9 Gardner House Museum

Augustus P. Gardner (1817-1905), a wealthy hardware merchant, built this Victorian style house in 1875. In 1966, after decades of neglect, the house was purchased by the Albion Historical Society. Restored, it houses a local museum. Five of the rooms are furnished as a nineteenth century home, and the remainder feature permanent and rotating exhibits. This house is among the last of its type in the area.

10 Riverside Cemetery

The first burial in this cemetery occurred in 1837, the year Michigan became a state. Reflecting Albion's ethnically diverse population, the cemetery has areas known as "the Russian Section," "German Hill," and a section for African American World War I veterans. A private Catholic cemetery contains the remains of people from Italy, Lithuania and Poland.

Those interred in Riverside Cemetery include Washington Gardner (1845-1928), who served in the U.S. Congress and as Michigan's secretary of state; and Michigan State Senator Warren G. Hooper (1905-1945), who was shot gangland style before he could appear before a grand jury and testify regarding corruption.

Albion Downtown Development Authority

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1 Holy Ascension Orthodox Church

The cornerstone of Holy Ascension Orthodox Church was laid on April 30, 1916, after permission was given to Albion's population of Eastern European Christians to build an Orthodox church.

2 Gale House

Orlando C. and Adeline Gale built this house 1862. It is an example of the Italianate style and reflects the Gale's prominence as business owners first in Moscow and then in Albion. In 1864 the Gale's started farm equipment factory in Albion that became the Gale Manufacturing Company in 1874. In the 1930s production shifted to automobile parts. The factory closed in 1968.

3 Birthplace of "The Old Rugged Cross"

"The Old Rugged Cross," was composed here along with 300 other hymns by the Rev. George Bennard (1873-1958). The son of an Ohio coal miner, Bennard was a lifelong servant of God, mainly in the Methodist ministry. "The Old Rugged Cross," written in 1912, is the most well-known of Bennard's hymns.

4 The Albion College Observatory

The Albion College Astronomical Observatory was built in 1883-84 largely thanks to Dr. Samuel Dickie, who helped raise \$10,000 to build and equip the facility. The observatory still harbors its original telescope, transit circle, sidereal clock and chronograph. The building now serves as the center of the Prentiss M. Brown Honors Institute.