

# *St. Clair, Michigan*



# Fort Sinclair 1764-1783

The British wanted to protect the water route from Detroit to Michilimackinac. Patrick Sinclair was chosen by the navy to build a fort on the St. Clair River. He picked a location at the mouth of the Pine River.







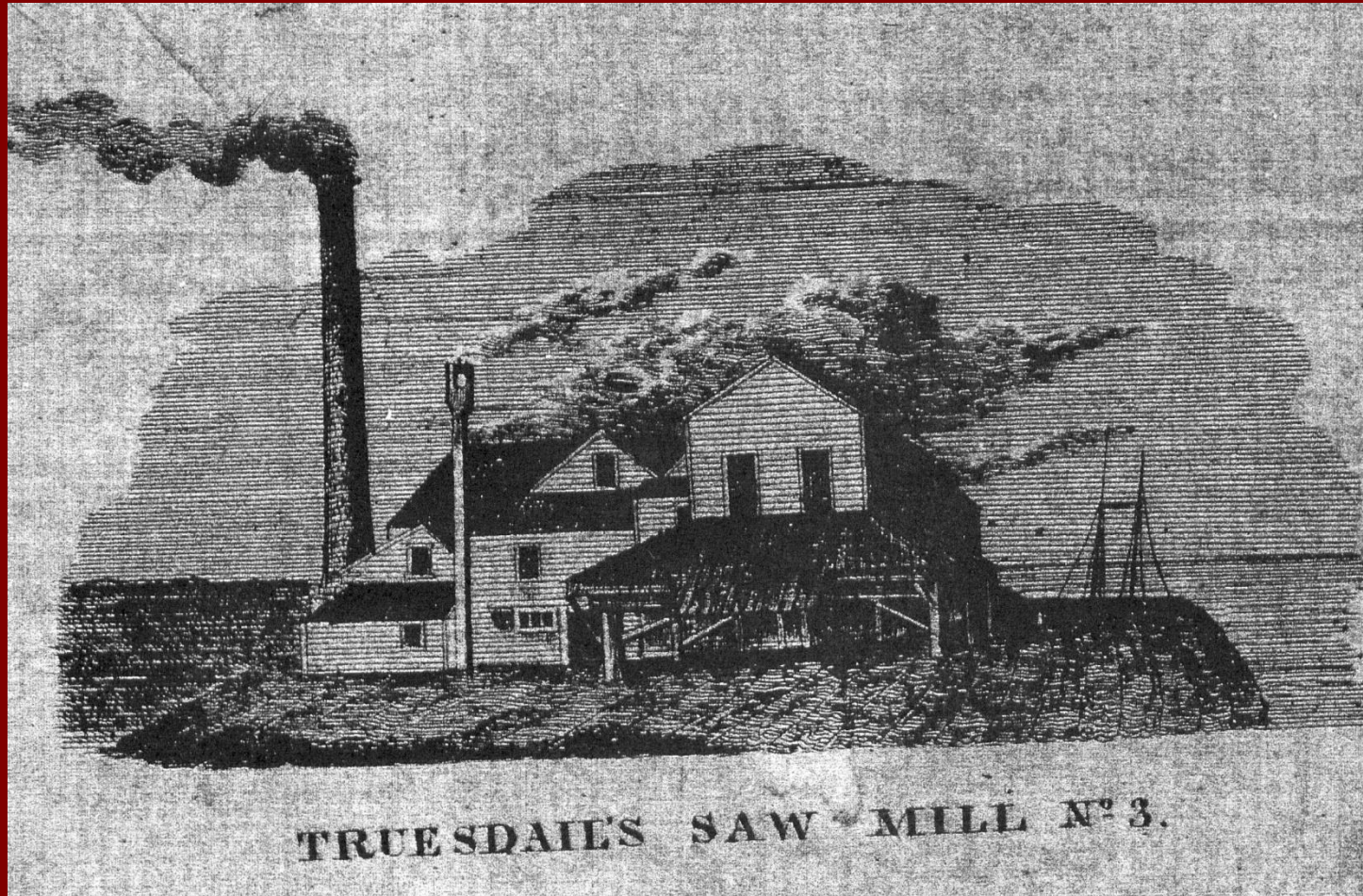
# Sawmill Industry



The first mill was at Ft. Sinclair. A larger mill was soon built four miles up the Pine River. The area had much oak and pine that was shipped to Detroit.



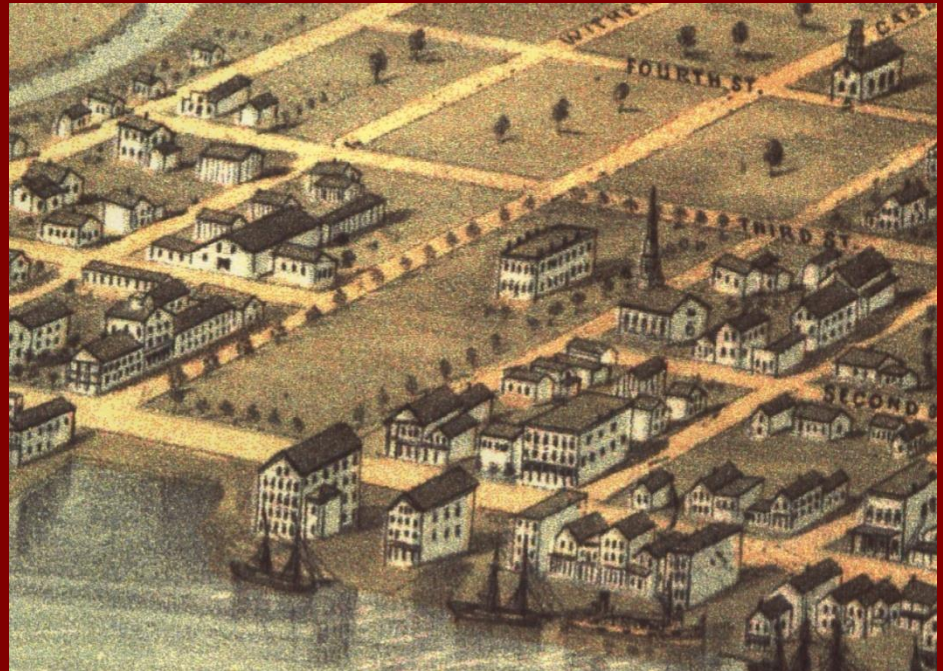
By the mid-1800's the St. Clair area had 8 sawmills with a capacity of 10 million board feet per year. Most were located on the St. Clair River. In the 1840's Wesley Trusdail owned 4 of the mills.





# Village of St. Clair

In 1818, real estate investor, James Fulton, platted a village on the north bank of the Pine River. In 1820, he got the Territory to make his village the county seat of the new St. Clair County. Thomas Palmer soon purchased the property and replatted it as the village of Palmer. A log Court House was built in 1828. In 1857 a larger brick court house was constructed. The following year. The county seat was moved to Port Huron in 1871.



In 1857 this County Court House was built.  
It served the county until 1871 when the  
county seat was moved to Port Huron.





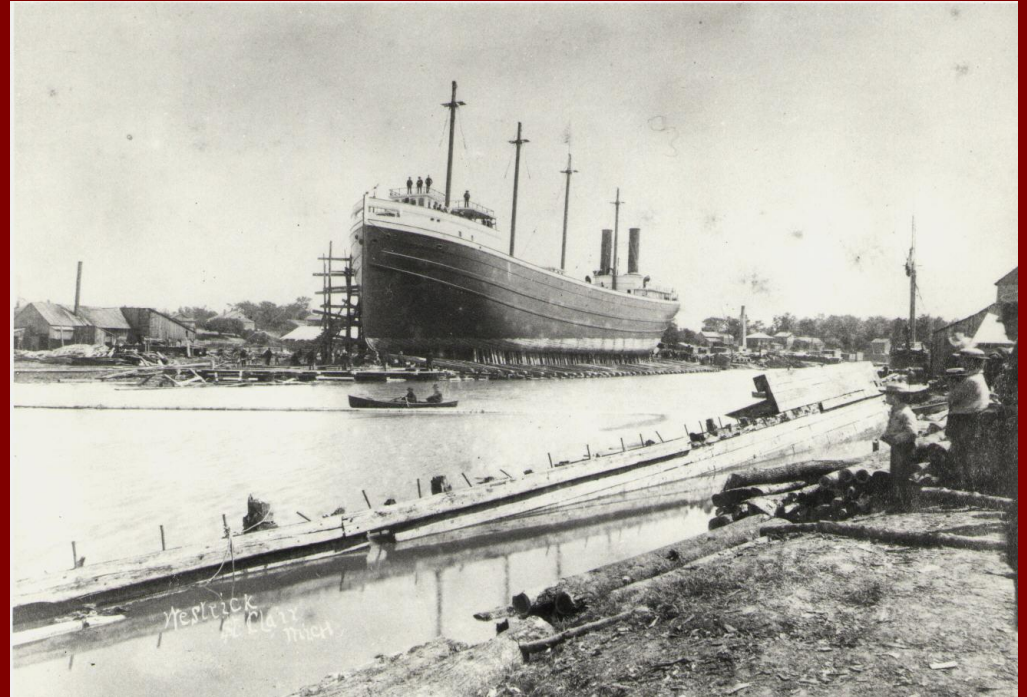
# New Library and City Hall 1968





# Shipbuilding began in 1825

- 3 shipyards were located in St. Clair at various times.
- The *Kaliyuga* was launched in 1887 at the Langell Yard on the Pine River.
- The last ship was launched in 1910 at Great Lakes Engineering.



# Great Lakes Engineering



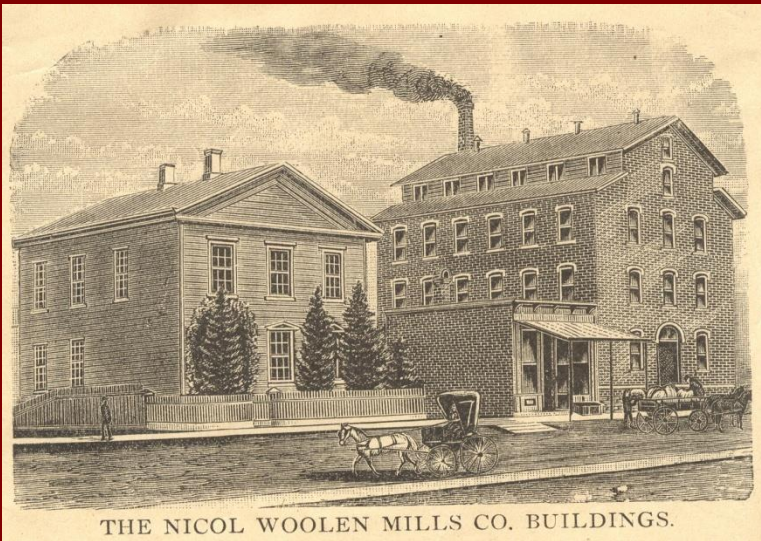
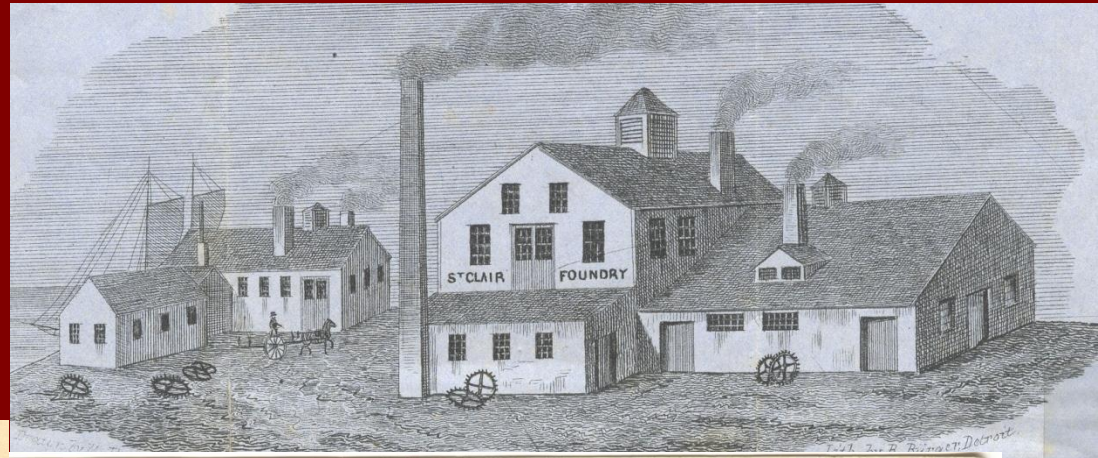
DESHA PHOTO

GREAT LAKES ENGINEERING WORKS  
ST CLAIR



## OTHER INDUSTRIES DEVELOPED

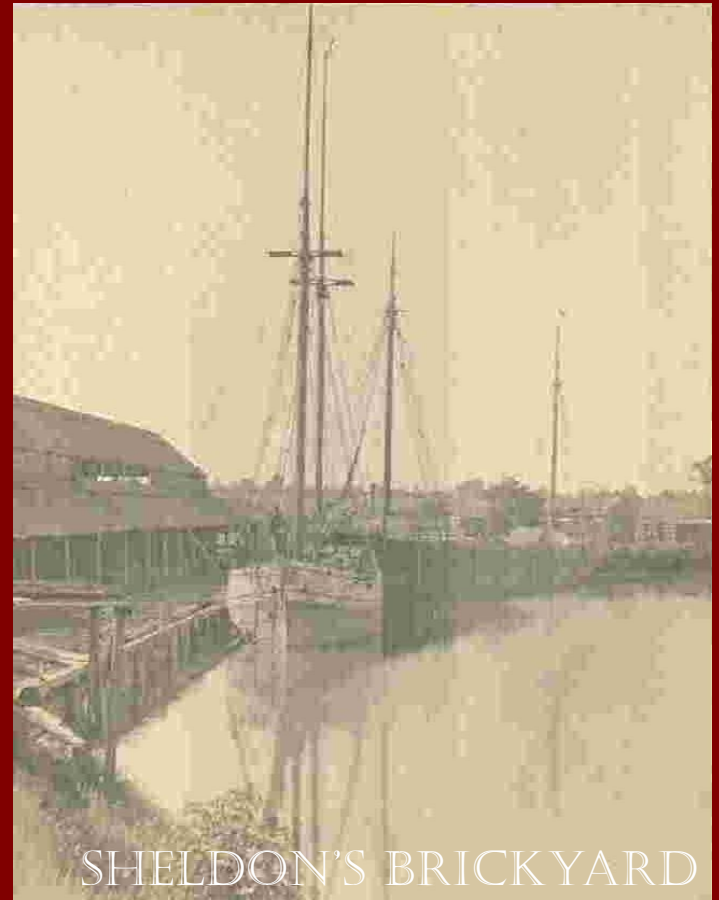
The St. Clair Foundry  
and the Nicol Woolen  
Mill were well established  
by the mid-1800's.



# For a century, the brick industry flourished along the Pine River in St. Clair



BELNAP'S BRICKYARD



SHELDON'S BRICKYARD



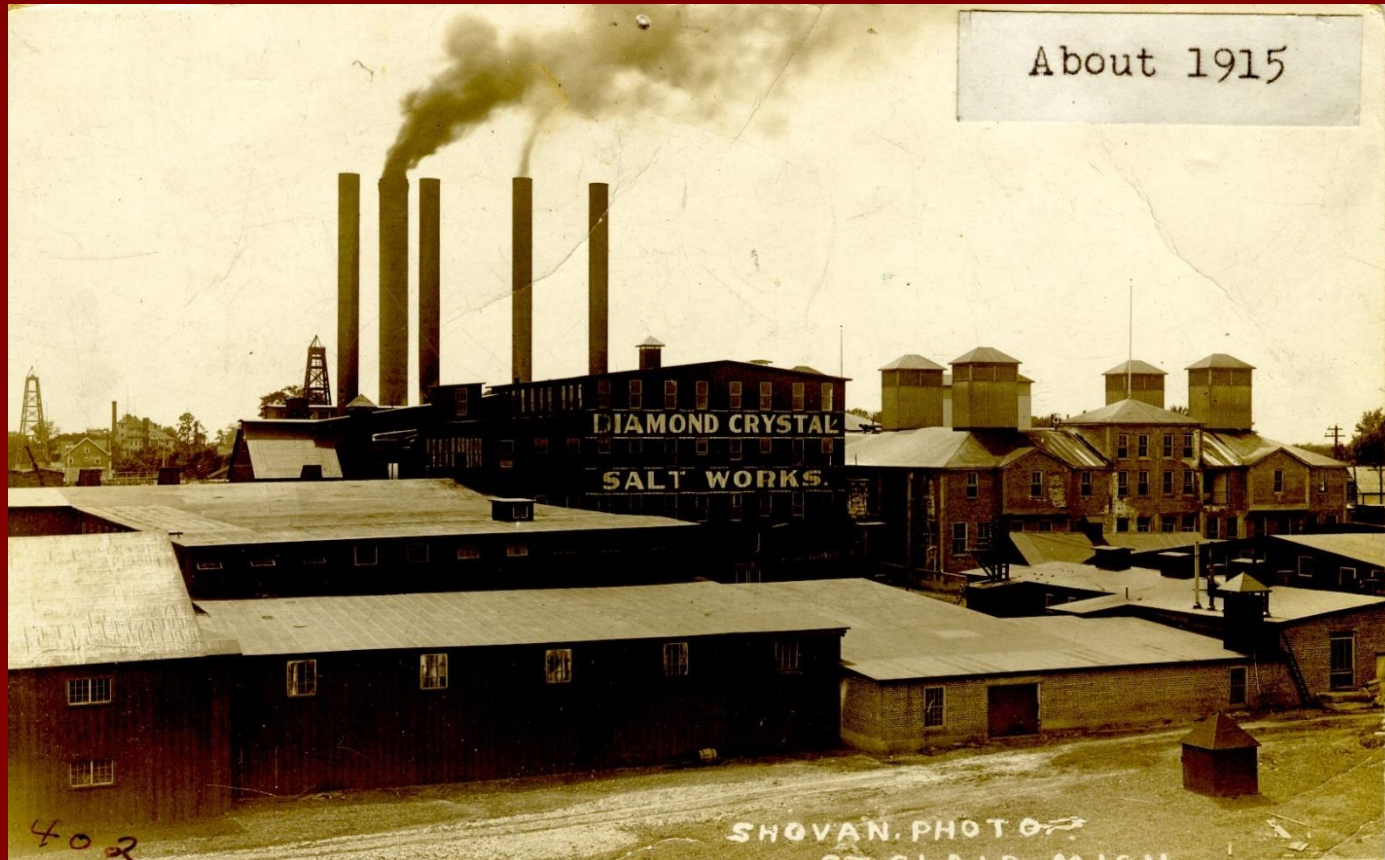
# ***THE HOPKINS FAMILY***



HOPKINS HOMES ON HILL ON RIVERSIDE

The Hopkins family inherited a fortune when Mark Hopkins of San Francisco died in 1878. They built two St. Clair mansions, the Oakland and Somerville Hotels, the Congregational Church, and invested in local industries.

# Diamond Crystal Salt Company



Diamond  
Crystal  
was  
founded  
in 1886.



The Oakland Hotel was opened in 1881. It was a luxury resort with mineral springs and baths.



2325

OAKLAND STCLAIR

PESHA DARTO



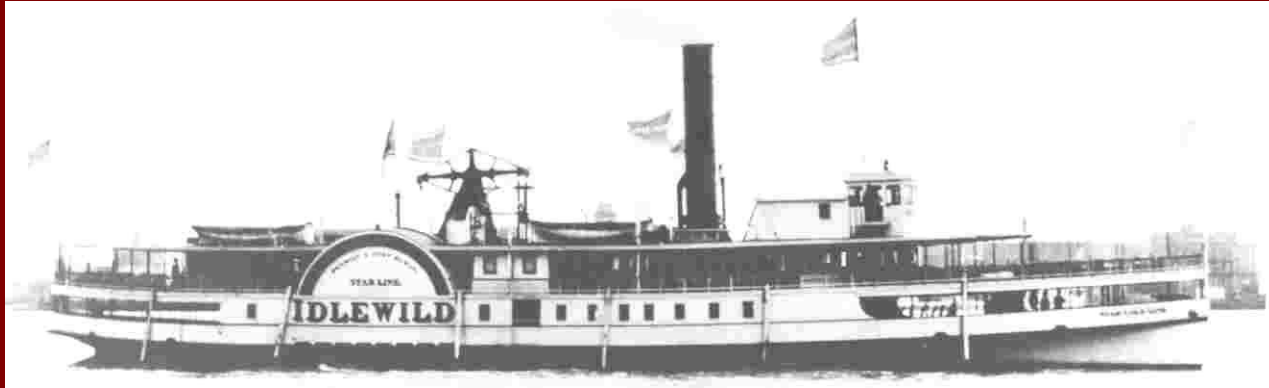
The Somerville became another luxury hotel with mineral baths.



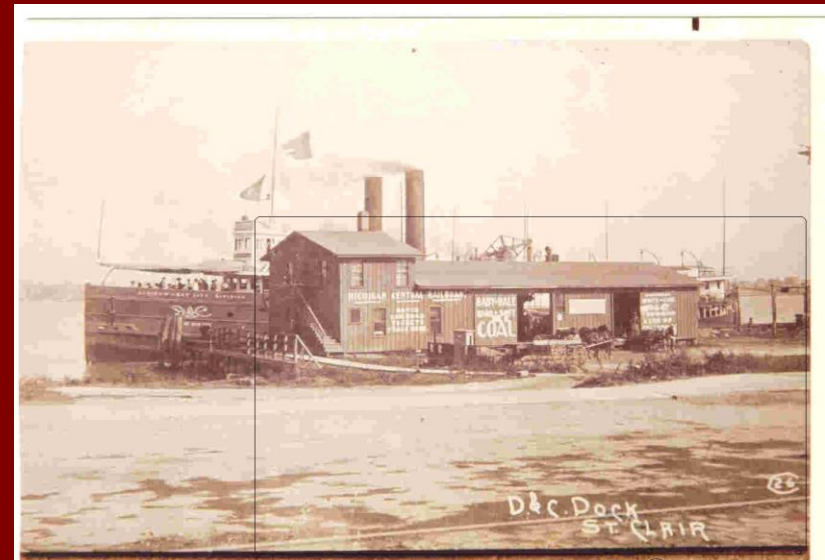
SOMERVILLE HOTEL ST. CLAIR MICH



# Travel was mainly by boat.



- The Tashmoo and other ships stopped at the the D & C Dock at the foot of Witherell Street.



**St. Clair was the home of a U.S. Customs office from the early 1800's to the 1960's. A ferry service operated between St. Clair and Courtright during the same time.**



THE AMERICANA



# St. Clair became a busy business center.



JOHNSTON & RECOR'S STORES.





The first flag to fly over a school in the United States was flown at the old Union School in St. Clair in 1887. The practice spread from here.



THE FLAG WAS SEWN BY FOUR TEACHERS AND THE FLAG POLE WAS DONATED BY A MEMBER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD.



# Many handsome 19<sup>th</sup> Century homes were built



# THE ST. CLAIR INN

The Inn was built in 1926 as a community hotel. The St. Clair Rotary Club headed the effort. Stock was sold to the people of St. Clair. Later, it was owned by the Holden family.

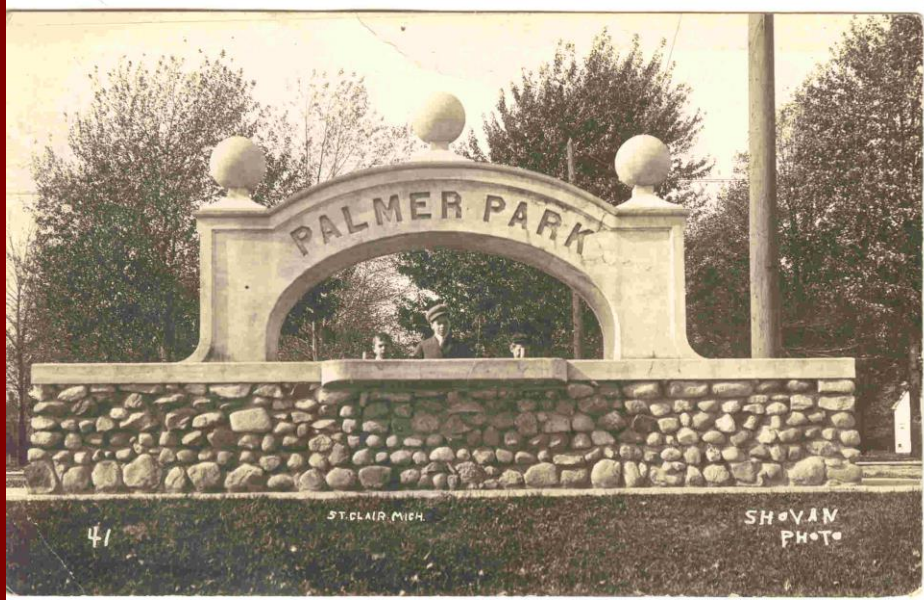




# Urban Renewal

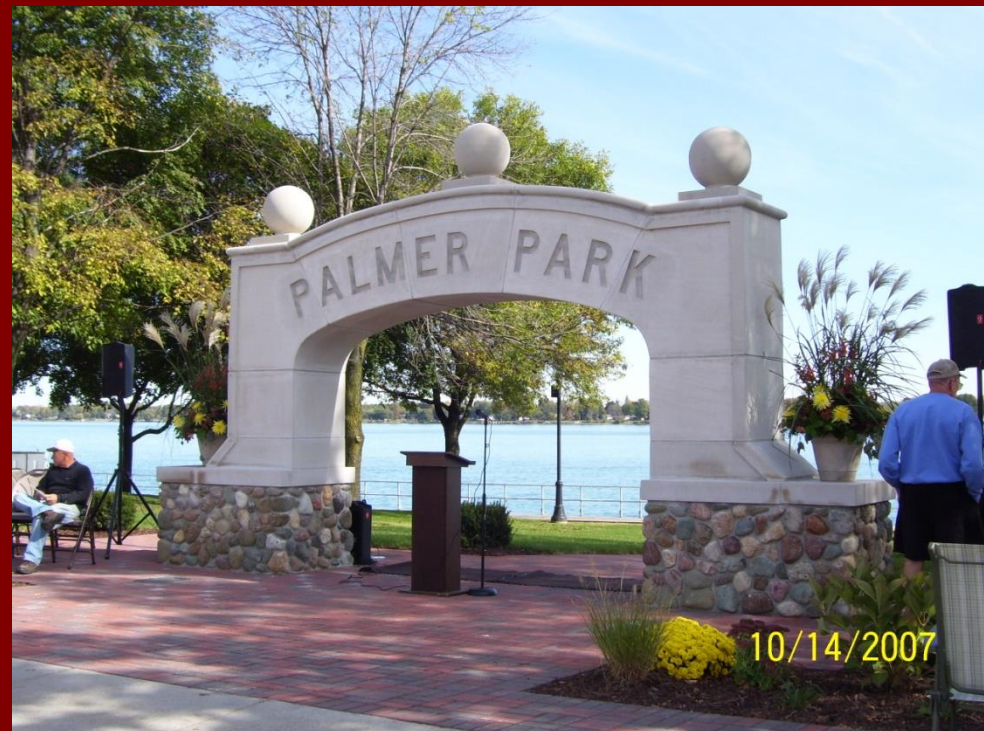
In the 1960's the old downtown was thought to no longer be viable. Plans were made with the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development to rebuild the area.





- The old drinking fountain was built to celebrate the city's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

- It inspired the new Palmer Park Arch in 2007, which commemorates the city's Sesquicentennial.





# ST. CLAIR IS CELEBRATING ITS SESQUICENTENNIAL AS A CITY DURING 2008



- **OPENING CEREMONIES AT  
THE RIVERVIEW PLAZA ON  
MARCH 8**



# The St. Clair Historical Museum

308 S. Fourth Street  
St. Clair, Michigan

