



Auburn Hills Timeline – Auburn Hills Historical Society

1805 Jan - Michigan became a territory.

1807 Nov 17 - Treaty with the Indians gave the U.S. possession of the land.

1818 – Village of Pontiac is formed as one square mile in South East corner of 36 square miles that make up Pontiac Township.

1821 - Aaron Webster purchases 320 acres of land becoming the first permanent settler in what is now Downtown Auburn Hills.

1821 - Aaron Webster names settlement “Auburn” after Auburn New York.

1821 - Aaron Webster built a Dam and a Millrace in what is now Riverside Park in Downtown Auburn Hills. Erected a Sawmill and began construction of a Grist Mill.

1822 – Aaron Webster cemetery established on land donated by Aaron Webster.



1823 Aug 17 - Aaron Webster died of typhoid, followed the next day by his wife Sarah.



Grave of Aaron and Sarah Webster

1823 - First store was opened by Zolman Carver.

1824 - First School was held on the bank of the Clinton River in one end of a double log building shared with a wheelwright shop on the opposite end.

1824 - Second school was built on a parcel provided by Aaron Webster for school purposes. The school building was accidentally destroyed by fire shortly after it was built.

1824 - Hotel was built on corner of Auburn Rd. and Webster St. (now named Squirrel Ct.).

AUBURN HOTEL.

THE subscriber would inform his friends and the public that he has completed his large and commodious **Tavern House**, in the village of Auburn, Oakland County; where every exertion will be used to render those who patronize him, as comfortable as at any other house in this Territory.

CHAS. C. HASCALL.

Auburn, June 11, 1830. 21f

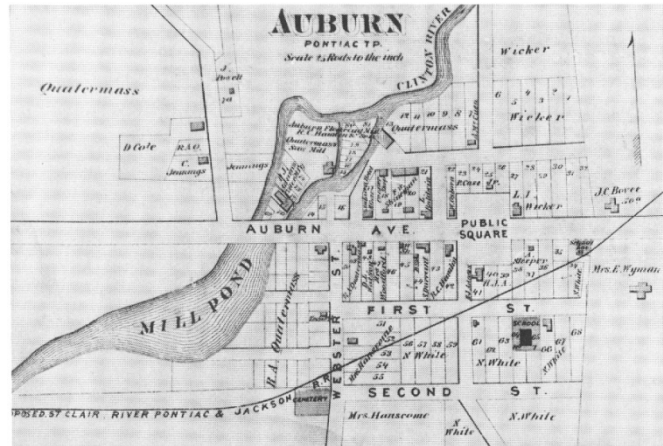
1824 - Grist Mill construction began by Aaron Webster was completed by Ebenezer Smith.

1825 - First post office was established.

1825 - Second store and the first distillery were started.

1825 Nov 2 - The order of Free Masons, Oakland Lodge 343 moved to Village of Auburn where it remained until 1828 when the Masonic work was suspended in the state.

1826 - Village of Auburn was laid out.



1826 - Third store was opened by Oliver Newberry.

1827 April 12 - Pontiac Township was established as Michigan's third township by Governor Lewis Cass.

1827 May 28 - Pontiac Township formed. First Township meeting & election of officials.

1830 - Auburn's growth rose to 300 residents and 50 buildings.

1831 Mar 2 – Auburn Academy was established and approved by act of legislative council.

1833 – Tannery for treating animal hides was put into operation.

1837 - Trip hammer shop was erected for blacksmith operations by Miller & Silsby.

1837 Nov 6 – Auburn Academy opened for reception of students in a building erected on the corner of Primary St. and Juniper St.



The Auburn Heights Academy, Primary and Juniper

1844 - Moses Wisner moved to Pontiac Township from Lapeer County (1858 became Michigan's 12th governor).



Moses Wisner

1846 Jun 25 – Post Office established, Platt Johnson first Post Master.

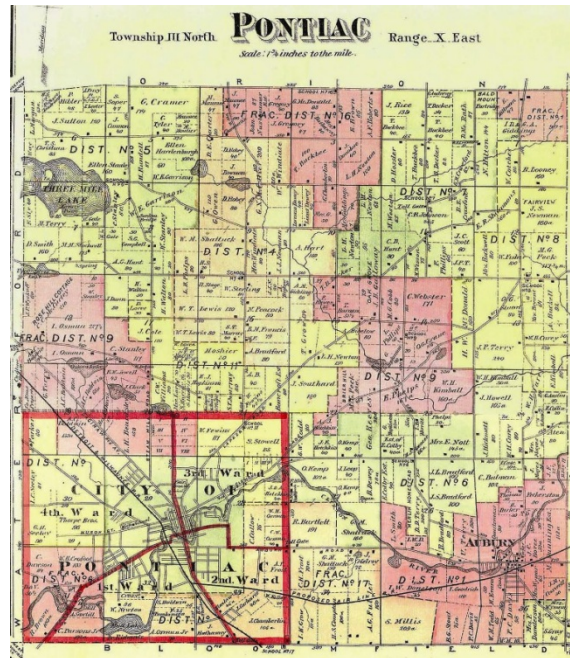
1855 - Edward Johnson built his house in on Lapeer Rd. near Opdyke Rd. Edward Johnson was known as an Abolitionist and the house is suspected to have been involved in the underground railroad.



House on Lapeer Road used in the Underground Railroad, now moved to Shimmons Road

1856 May 10 – Auburn Post Office discontinued due to local population decline.

1861 – Pontiac becomes a City and expands to 9 square miles. Pontiac Township reduced proportionally to 27 square miles.



1862 – Moses Wisner assembles the 22nd Infantry. Pontiac Township residents George Hill and Otis Wilson join the 22nd Infantry and serve in the Civil War.

1864 - George Hill and Otis Wilson return to Pontiac Township from serving in Civil War, started families and lived their remaining lives in Pontiac Township. They are both buried in the Aaron Webster Cemetery.

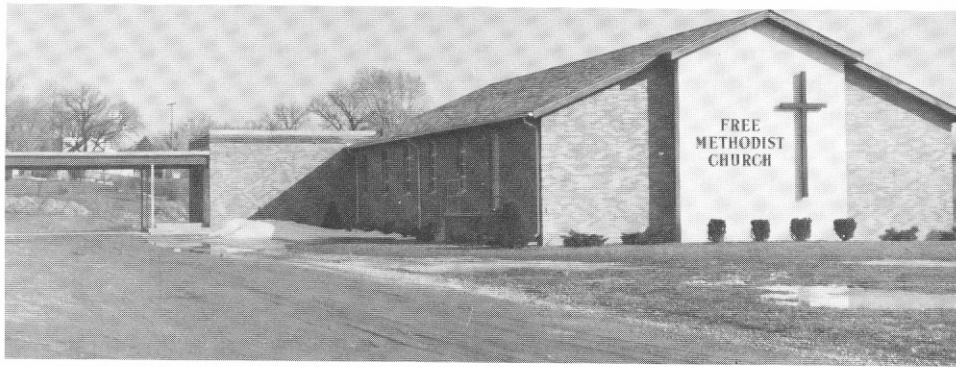


1864 – Churchill family purchased land and house from Michael Pearsal. Land and house became the Churchill Homestead for which Churchill Road is named after.



Churchill homestead

1873 - Faith Church & Christian Ministries first services held at Pontiac Fairgrounds. Congregation moved several times through the years eventually building a Church and parsonage on Squirrel Road in 1967.



Free Methodist Church on Squirrel Road

1877 - Samuel and Frederick Durrant operated a profitable blacksmith shop.

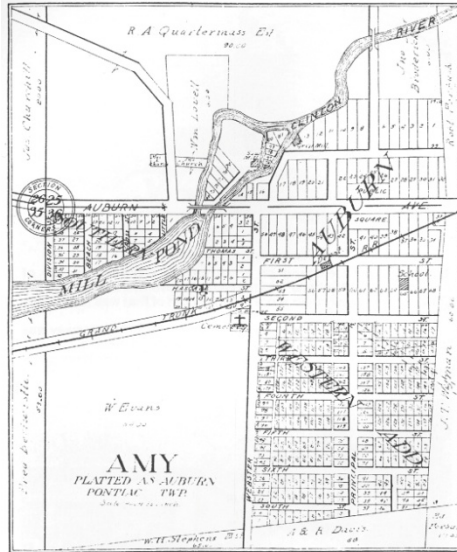
1877 - New flouring and custom mill was erected by H. Gillette and J. C. Romine.



1879 – Grand Trunk RR builds a track from Pontiac to Rochester passing through downtown Amy. Depot constructed for train station in Amy.



1880 – Village of "Auburn" renamed "Amy" in order to reestablish a Post Office. Name "Auburn" already used by a city near Saginaw.



1900 - New Saw Mill was built near the bend in Webster St. (now called Squirrel Ct.).



1900 – Small settlement grew north of Auburn known as Five Points named after juncture of Walton Blvd, Squirrel Rd., and Pontiac Rd.

1908 - John & Matilda Dodge purchased 320-acre farm in Pontiac Township (where Oakland University campus entrance is today)

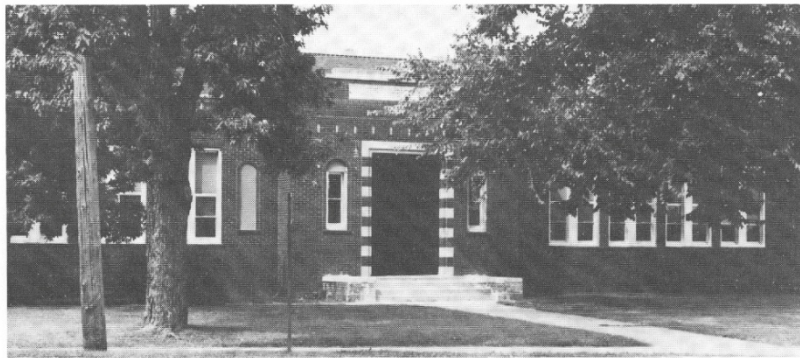
1919 – Michigan legislature changed the village name from "Amy" to "Auburn Heights".

1919 July 1 – Construction began on State Highway M59 between Pontiac and Mount Clemens running through Pontiac Township.

1920 - Wesson Seyburn a wealthy land developer built his country estate in Pontiac Township. Estate later purchased by City of Auburn Hills for City complex.



1924 – Four-room school building was erected on the corner of Squirrel Rd. and Waukegan St.



1926 – Willis Elementary school built on North Opdyke. Willis School closed in 1981 due to reorganization of the school district.



Willis School

1927 - City of Pontiac enlarged to 10.5 square miles. Pontiac Township reduced proportionally to 25.5 square miles.

1927 Mar 29 - Gloria Dei Lutheran Church held first meeting in American Legion Hall in Auburn Ave. 1962 church moved to Pontiac Road in Pontiac Township.

1928– Auburn Heights resident Grace Shearer built a block of retail buildings that still stand today at 3329-3341 Auburn Rd.



North side of Auburn Road: Shearer block,

1929 – United Presbyterian Church began in the old Academy building located on corner of Primary and Juniper Streets.



United Presbyterian Church, at Primary and Juniper, showing old and new buildings

1929 – Roat's Diner opened by Mr & Mrs Roat



Mr. and Mrs. Clair Roat in front of Roat's Diner, 1929, later Stewart's Diner, then Shalea Inn

1930 – Five Points two room schoolhouse was built.

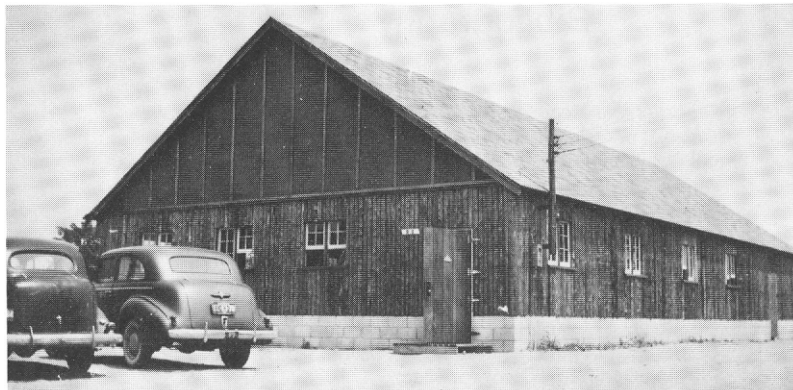
1931 – Rev Wilber Cox set up a tent for sermons on the corner of Wayne and Lafayette in Pontiac, eventually from those beginnings grew Auburn Hills Christian Center on Walton Blvd.

1933 – German Club moved to Auburn Heights on Auburn Rd. from Pontiac with 57 members

1936 – Central Christian Church began in the old Webster School. Today it is located on Lapeer Road in Auburn Hills.

1940 Feb 4 – Five Points Community Church began when 22 people attended Sunday school in the home of William & Florence Barnett. In 1941 church moved to Five Points School building on East Walton Blvd.

1941 – The American Legion first organized in Pontiac Township and built a hall on east side of Churchill Rd.



American Legion Post No. 143

1942 – Moms of America organization in Auburn Heights began for mothers of servicemen and service women. The chapter was discontinued in September 1981.



Auburn Heights MOMs plaque.

1942 Dec 14 – First Volunteer Fire Department Organized at fire hall No 210 on Auburn Rd.



1945 Mar 16 – Fred Mack becomes the first fireman to die.

1946 – Five Points School closed

1947 – The Auburn Heights School consolidated with three Avon Township schools to create Avondale school district.

1947 – Lions Club formed in Auburn Heights.

1950 Aug 4 – Second fire hall No. 220 built.

1950 – Boys and Girls Club first met in American Legion Hall. By late 1950 the Community Club of Auburn Heights gave the Boys and Girls Club as small community building on the corner of Squirrel Rd. and Waukegan St.

1951 – Dudley Moore purchased the Thatcher farm home and began a funeral home which eventually became the Harold Davis Funeral Home and later Pixley Funeral Home on Auburn Rd.



1952 Oct 1 – Third fire hall No. 230 built.



Fire Station No. 3, Joslyn Road

1952 – First Avondale High School building was built on Auburn Rd. between Livernois and Crooks roads.

1953 – First fire hall moved.

1953 - A new town hall was built on the Eastside of Opdyke just north of Pontiac Rd. The building also contained fire station.#.2.

1955 – Nike Base Army missile site opened on Featherstone Road.

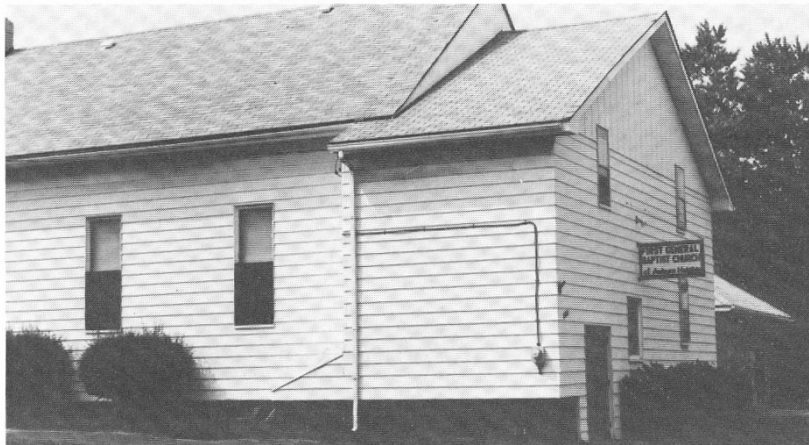


1955 – Junior high school was built on Waukegan St.

1956 – Rotary Club of Auburn Heights received its charter.

1956 – Will Rogers School built. 1957 name changed to Rogers.

1958 July 5 – First General Baptist Church of Auburn Hills began.



First General Baptist Church, Auburn Road

1959 - Oakland University enrolled its first students.



Oakland University, 1982 photo by Ann Straky

1961 Nov 4 – Major Fire, Pontiac Millworks Co. and other buildings nearby burn.

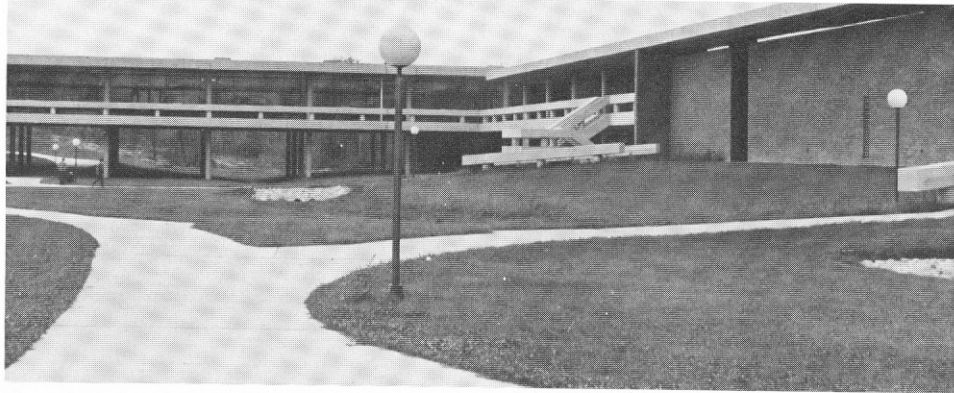


Pontiac Millworks Company

1962 Oct – St John Fisher Chapel University Parish began on Walton Blvd. in Auburn Hills.

1962-1963 - I-75 expressway constructed through Pontiac Township.

1964 - Oakland Community College purchased Nike Base Army missile site for college campus.



Oakland Community College, Auburn Hills campus building

1964 – Boys and Girls Club of Auburn Heights was officially chartered. The club had been in existence since 1950 but not nationally affiliated.

1965 Mar 19 – Fire Captain Elton Dexter Dies, he is also the second fireman to die.

1965 Jaycees group first became organized in Auburn Heights and met at American Legion Hall.

1968 – Oakland Christian School organized by five churches; Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church in Pontiac, Marimont Baptist in Pontiac, Five Points Community in Pontiac Township, Avondale Baptist in Avon Township, and First Baptist Church of Rochester.

1968 – R. Grant Graham Elementary School was built on Old Salem Road in Bloomfield Orchards Subdivision.

1969 – Police department established. Prior the county sheriff department was in charge.

1969 – North Auburn Hills Baptist Church began in Perry Park area of Pontiac. In 1996 purchased land and moved to Squirrel Road in Auburn Hills.

1970 - Pontiac Township attempted to incorporate as City of Pontiac Heights but the request was denied by state Boundary Commission officials.

1970 – Current Avondale High School building was opened on Waukegan St. The old High School became a middle school and the old junior high building became the Auburn Heights Community Center.

1971 – Auburn Heights Senior Citizens group was organized.

1975 – New facilities were added to the high school, including an auditorium, a swimming pool, an auto shop, an auxiliary gymnasium, an athletic field and three more class rooms.

1976 – City of Pontiac annexes the “Silverdome” property from Pontiac Township.

1976 Sep – Optimists organization was chartered in Auburn Heights.

1975 - Pontiac Twp. purchased 37.5 acre parcel of the Seyburn Estate for \$142,000. The 11 Buildings on the property include the 36 room Seyburn Mansion.

1977 - Pontiac Township sends petition for Cityhood to State of Michigan. Petition approved by State.

1977 – Meadowlarks senior citizens group organized in Pontiac Township.

1978 – Apr 19 State of Michigan Boundary Commission approved vote for incorporation as a home rule city. Pontiac Township became a charter township to protect itself from further annexation by City of Pontiac.

1978 Feb – New Township Hall University & Squirrel.



New township office on Seyburn estate on Squirrel Road

1978 Aug – Heritage Baptist School founded by Kenneth R. Griffin.

1978 Sept - Pontiac Township becomes a Charter Township to prevent further land annexations from the City of Pontiac.

1979 Sept 11 – Election day for charter commissions held.

1980 – New name is chosen for City. Possible choices include; Pontiac Hills, Meadowbrook, Auburn Heights, Clinton Corner, Squirrel Creek, Auburn Hills.

1981 Apr 7 - Voters approve a City Charter and the city is named “Auburn Hills”.

1983 - Community statistics at the time Pontiac Township became City of Auburn Hills; population of 15,598, total land 17.5 square miles, 55% of land underdeveloped, 14% Residential, 12% Public land, 12% Streets and Alleys, 6% is Industry, 1% is Business.

1983 – City council members elected

1983 Dec 31 – City Council inaugurated. Auburn Heights along with Pontiac Township became the City of Auburn Hills.

1984 - City started process to establish two Tax Increment Finance Authority (TIFA) districts.

1984 – Auburn Hills Library established and housed in the Seyburn mansion.

1985 – Oakland Technology Park 2520 University Drive was built.

1986 – Additional TIFA districts established.

1986 - Kitty Davenport moved Auburn Hills oldest building 1836 Nusbaumer Homestead Log cabin to downtown Auburn Hills to prevent demolition of the building.



1986 – Financial study by Bob Studt to increase water and sewage frontage and Capital improvements.

1986 Nov – Voters approve paving all gravel roads.

1986 – Construction begins on Palace of Auburn Hills

1987 – Brunete house approved for the Library.

1988 Nov – A group of students from mainland China met at Five Points Community Church. Eventually Five points Community Church assisted them in establishing the Oakland Chinese Church on Squirrel Road in Auburn Hills.

1988 – Michigan Department of Transportation awarded contract to widen I-75 to four lanes each way thru Auburn Hills.

1988 – Palace of Auburn Hills opens



1989 - Brunete house relocated and renovated for use as the Library

1989 – Plans set in motion for a new DPW Building

1989 – Recreation and Senior Citizen program offices were opened in former Seyburn mansion and the mansion was officially designated as the Auburn Hills Community Center.

1990 – DPW on Brown Road started and named, Walter G. Smith DPW Facility

1990 – Auburn Hills Library moved into its new facility, former Brunete house.

1990 – City of Auburn Hills purchased from Pontiac School district land on Bald Mountain Road later to become Hawk Woods Nature Center.

1991 – Volkswagen/Audi opened headquarters at 3800 W. Hamlin Road.



1991 - Oct – Construction begins on Chrysler world headquarters in Auburn Hills.

1992 – Baker College came to Auburn Hills.

1992-1994 – Widening of Squirrel Road took place.

1994-1995 – Bonds sold to expand library.

1996 - Chrysler world headquarters opens in Auburn Hills.



1997 – Construction begins on Great Lakes Crossing mall.

1998 – Fieldstone Golf Course opened

1998 Nov – M-59/Squirrel Road interchange approved.

1998 Nov – Great Lakes Crossing mall opens.



1999 – Land purchased from Grand Trunk Rail Road for Clinton River Rail Trail.



1999 – Section of land at Pontiac Rd. and Phelps Rd. dedicated as Dennis Dearing Jr. Memorial Park.

2000 – Census shows population of 19,837 in Auburn Hills.

2001 July 23 – Ribbon cutting ceremony for new Public Safety Building as part of Civic Center Complex.



2002 - Manitoba Park created.

2003 - River Woods Park created.

2005 – Borg Warner moved to Automation Dr. in Auburn Hills.

2005 – Skate Park created

2006 May 6 – New Community Center opened on City complex moving Recreation and Senior Citizen program to the new facility.



2008 – Delphi opened research center on 3000 University in Auburn Hills.

2010 – Census shows population of 21,412 in Auburn Hills.

2012 – Fire Department professionally staffed with 17 career and 35 part time personnel compared to all volunteer department in 1942.

2012 – Police Department consists of 71 members including the 46 officers.

2013 – 30th Anniversary of Auburn Hills