

## **Kelley – Fisk Farm House**

This lovely Greek Revival farm home was built circa 1855 by Asa Kelly and his wife Eliza for their 8 children of 6 daughters and 2 sons. Two of their daughters later became Garners when in 1869 Clarinda married Andrew, son of Robert and Mary and later Louisa married Leroy, a son of John Garner.

Although the Garner homes were built in the northwest part of the township some 5 miles away and the Skarritt and Thompson homes in the south end, the simple styling of Greek Revival was a favorite of that period. Though not purist in form with its steeper roof, the returns, main doorway and 6 over 6 windows complimented this design as did the 2 panel doors.

The interior of the parlor as well as the music room has very deep modified Egyptian key woodwork with a slightly simpler trim in the living room. The basement has heavy stone walls and is of barn beam construction with even a dirt floor. With all of this, and the old grape vines outside the kitchen door, there is much charm to be developed in this old farmhouse.

A bit of history takes us back to 1871 when the Fisk brothers Luther, 44, and Henry, 42, purchased the property and continued to increase the size of the farm by acquiring additional acreage from their neighbors. This was again increased when they received their father's land upon his death.

Luther moved into the house with his bride, Julia Warren and about a year later their first son Fred was born. They had 3 other children, Addie, Ira and Ruth who later married Ray Ingamalls and had 7 children.

When Fred married he moved into his grandfather Stephen's frame home until the death of his father. He and his family moved in the homestead so he could take care of his mother Julia and younger brother and sisters. They remained for awhile when Fred's wife Grace found it impossible to live on a farm because of her allergies and they moved to Pontiac. Holidays were often spent back on the farm and daughters Leola Todd and Beulah Thompson have fond memories of the home and their grandmother. Granddaughter Ruth remembers spending her summers with Aunt Addie and enjoying their music together.

Ira and Addie remained in the house with Julia until her death in 1941. Addie died in 1953 and for more than 25 years Ira stayed in this, his only home, with frequent visits from his niece Ruth McCulloch and nephew Ray J. Ingamalls.

In 1979 the house was closed until the township purchased it and 3 acres for a future fire hall site. How fortunate we are to have this centennial house to develop into a historic museum with many descendants of the Fisk family still residing in the area.

(White Lake Township Historic Homes Tour Brochure, October 1986)