

The Moore House

GREENVILLE • ESTABLISHED 1906

Delmer H. Moore was born in Kent County's Oakfield Township, northeast of Grand Rapids, in 1858. Now—163 years later—the house he built in Greenville in 1906 is registered as a Michigan Heritage Home™. HSM's new program recognizes houses constructed at least 100 years ago that remain in substantially original condition. The designation comes with a custom-made, cast-aluminum plaque and a certificate.

The Moore House is a wood-frame residence built in the Colonial Revival style. Moore bought the land in 1905 and had the house built the following year by prominent Greenville carpenter Johannes Carl Christian Rydahl. A Grand Rapids architectural firm designed the house.

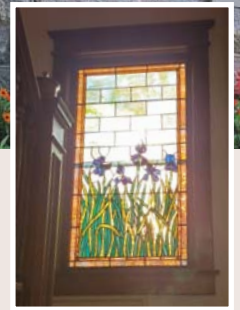
Among its many distinctive features are an original stained-glass window set into the staircase landing wall, two interior pocket doors, and oak woodwork throughout. Rydahl built many beautiful homes and churches in the Greenville area, including the North and South Sidney Churches in Montcalm County's Sidney Township. He and his family had immigrated to the area from Denmark in 1883, when he was 19 years old. He learned carpentry from his father. In addition to buildings, Rydahl also crafted church pulpits and constructed the original grandstands and exhibition buildings for the Greenville Fairgrounds.

Moore earned the money to build such a fine house through the manufacture of farm implements. He patented a planting device in 1895 and worked for the Grand Rapids Implement Company, followed by the Greenville Implement Company. In 1901, he started the Moore Plow and Implement Company with \$15,000 in investments from himself and several other Greenville businessmen.

Moore's new business prospered. By 1914, it employed 50 to 75 men in the manufacture of farm implements and the "Sure Cool" gasoline engine. As the company grew, it



Above: The Michigan Heritage Home™ plaque can be seen installed to the right of the front door. Right: The stained-glass window, original to the Moore House, is prominently featured in the home today.



expanded its line of goods to include cultivators, seeders, food cookers, kettles, pump jacks, and many other items.

Moore was married four times. His first wife, Libbie, was the mother of his only child, Julia, born in 1898. Libbie died in 1919, and Moore married Evelyn Grow later that same year. The marriage ended in divorce eight years later. His third marriage, to Alta Stevens, also ended in divorce. Moore's final marriage to Edna Rice, 26 years his junior, lasted until his death in 1942.

The Moore House's current owner, Michael Williams, purchased the home in 1991 and reports that he has been "renovating, repairing, painting, and preserving it" as time and money allow. ■



The Moore House is located in Greenville in Montcalm County. Pictured here is the home in the early twentieth century.



MICHIGAN HERITAGE HOME DESIGNATIONS

Listed are recently certified homes, including the house name, year founded, location, and current owner(s).

OLD OAK • c. 1830 • BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP • MARILYN TUCHOW

GRAHN HOUSE • 1898 • COLOMA • ANNETTE MAZE

TOZER HOUSE • c. 1868 • DEXTER • CHESTER HILL

KENT HOUSE • 1893 • GRAND LEDGE • TOM AND DENISE HEDLUND

HICKORY GROVE FARM • 1917 • BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP • SYDNEY ROSS

WHITFIELD HOUSE • c. 1860 • WATERFORD • FRANK AND CAROL DRISCOLL