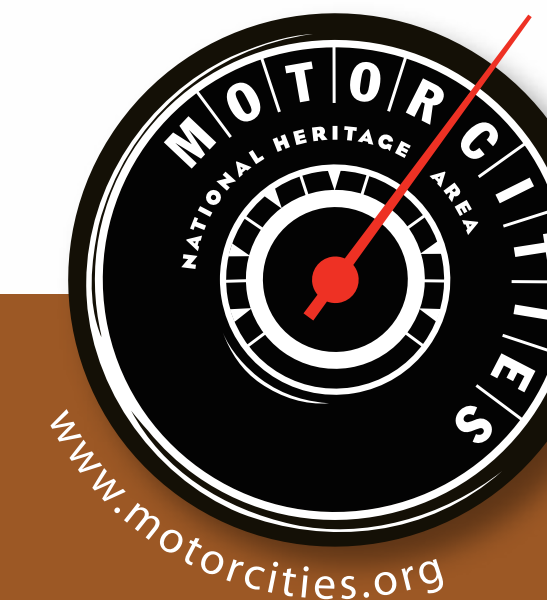


BUILDING CLARKSTON HISTORY at 90 North Main



It has been a building of many uses for many people.

It was built as Clarkston High School in 1910 and students learned and played here until 1930. In recent years, it was a community center and the Independence Township Hall. But in 1940 the property was bought by Henry Ford to manufacture parts for military and other vehicles during World War II. Ford added a power plant with a smokestack at the back, creating steam power with water from Parke Lake behind the building. Local workers here made vehicle straps and seat cushions.



Workers assemble vehicle seat cushions within the former school building, early 1940s. From the collections of The Henry Ford.



The Clarkston High School building, around 1912. Photo courtesy of the Clarkston Community Historical Society.



Students on Arbor Day, outside the Union School, an earlier wooden school building at this site, about 1900. Photo courtesy of the Clarkston Community Historical Society.

YOU AUTO KNOW

At his factories, Henry Ford always enclosed the power generators with windows so they could be easily seen.



Machinery inside the power plant, with view to back of main building, early 1940s. From the collections of The Henry Ford.



The power plant building, originally built by Ford. The chimney is now home to a large flock of chimney swifts.