

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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The following was recently posted on the BAHS Facebook page, by Jim Vichich. It received many comments from our Facebook friends. As some of our members may not read Facebook, we decided to share this in our newsletter.

Brighton Train Depot — Where is it today?

The Brighton depot was built within a few years after the arrival of the first train in 1871. It was constructed by the Detroit, Lansing and Northern Railroad Company. The depot was a popular spot where Brightonites could meet and greet family, friends, and unknown travelers. It was frequently the setting for shedding tears of joy and sorrow.

Most people think that old train depots look cool. Typical architectural designs show shallow pitched roof lines that extend close to the track and incorporate a bay window on the track-side. The protruding bay window allowed the stationmaster to view arriving trains. It also allowed folks to drop off messages that would be sent by the telegraph operator sitting in the window.

The Brighton depot was about 600 feet to the north behind today’s Brewery Becker. The last passenger to exit a train in Brighton was in 1948. Local freight stops usually destined for the adjacent Hyne Lumberyard continued until 1961.

The cute pale green station sat empty until its removal in 1967. The nearly 100 year old station was removed quickly and passing folks only noticed the vacant site.

The contract to remove the depot was let to Fulton Construction. The well worn flooring found a new home in the residential construction at 9906 Loch Lomond. The framing lumber was

used in a new home at 9924 Loch Lomond. Thank you to Cynthia Raquepau, the grand daughter of Ovid and Marie Fulton, for sharing this information.

It is most unfortunate that this classic looking structure was razed. Only a small building used for storing freight remains. That building was relocated and is used as a residential garage on Church Street. Thank you to Bob Johnson for sharing this information.

(Thanks to Jim Vichich and Cynthia Raquepau and Bob Johnson for sharing this information with our readers.)



Depot Brighton, Michigan — C.1910