

The Township of Port Huron (the "Township") was organized April 12, 1827 by the Michigan Territorial Legislature, ten years before Michigan became a state.

At one time, the Downtown District was a thriving business community. In 1907 the Port Huron Engine and Thresher Co. had its headquarters at 2115 24<sup>th</sup> Street and two other plants. They made engines, road machinery and threshing machines and had branches in Peoria, Des Moines, Minneapolis, Fargo, Wichita, Nashville, Dallas, New York and Winnipeg, Canada.

In 1915 the Grand Trunk Railroad shops, the Port Huron Engine and Thresher Co., Port Huron Road Building Co., Hotel Savoy, Tunnel Grocery and restaurants were located in what is the Downtown District.

By 1921 cement products were manufactured at 701 24<sup>th</sup> Street by Bailey, Lewandowski, Gahns; Square Deal Garage & Service Station at 1611 24<sup>th</sup> Street was owned by Dove and Allen.

In 1930 a three or four story railroad YMCA was located at 1921 32<sup>nd</sup> Street to house and feed railroad trainmen. It was demolished before 1980; grocery stores were at 1601 24<sup>th</sup> Street and at 25<sup>th</sup> Street at Griswold; Port Huron Engine moved south on 24<sup>th</sup> Street to No. 3529.

There were a number of old houses that were finally torn down as fire ravaged hulks or dilapidated structures within the Downtown District.

In order to prevent further deterioration and to encourage historic preservation of the Downtown District while encouraging economic growth in the Downtown District, the Township established the Downtown Development Authority of the Charter Township of Port Huron (the "DDA") pursuant to Act 197 of 1975 ("Act 197") and an ordinance adopted by the Board of Trustees on January 4, 1993.