

Pentwater Township and Village Offices  
(Sands and Maxwell General Store and Home Office)  
327 Hancock Street  
Lot 1 Block 6

1883-Constructed for pioneer businessmen Mr.W.B.O.Sands and Mr.E.G. Maxwell as a two story and basement frame and brick block built with Pentwater yellow brick. Erected for the Sands and Maxwell Lumber Company and General Store Merchants as their home office. Called a double store with two street level entrances on Hancock Street.

Between this building and their store that stood on the North side Sands and Maxwell sold dry goods, clothes, shoes and boots, blankets, dishes, pots and pans and groceries and more.

As one of the employees Mr.E.W.Shober would work as cashier in a booth near the ceiling. To make change for a large purchase the floor salesman would put the money with the bill in a metal capsule and place it in a vacuum tube in the wall which would travel to the cashier. After handling the transaction the cashier would attach the capsule on an overhead wire which would trolly by gravity back to the main floor salesman and the customer

1900-Gardner T.Sands, son of Mr.W.B.O.Sands, began a Bank in the North building

1920-Fire destroyed their Bank and General Store on the North side of this building. Shortly after Mrs.G.T.Sands offered this building to the Village of Pentwater for the communitys' use for a nominal sum; to be always used by them. For the next ten years the Ladies Litery Club, with much cooperation, raised the money for the complete renovation. From new steel trusses, windows, doors, partitions, a new center entrance-to a second level auditorium. By 1930 this became our Community House. It has been used by the Township and Village Offices, Library, Fire Hall with a garage for the Fire Truck, and for community and school functions.

1961-The Firemen built and moved into a new Fire Barn vacating the the North end, 3rd. Street entrance. Removing the large garage door and renovating the interior the Library moved into that space. Police Headquarters utilized the room in the basement with the alley entrance until moving into new quarters across Hancock Street in 1985. The Pentwater Historical Society has moved into that area. In 1996 the Pentwater Township Library moved out of the North side area into their new building on Park Street.

Since 1930-the Pentwater Garden Club as landscaped the flower boxes and lawn on the North side of this building.

Almost all Community and School functions were held on the second level until abandonment in 1973.

1996-The Pentwater Village Hall is recognized as an Historic building and for being the center of Village activities by the Pentwater Historical Society.

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(Community Hall)  
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Time-line Menu:

The Firm:

- 1862-Sands and Maxwell merchandise sales began in the building North of this brick block, which burned in 1920./Source:1890 History Book, Page 94.
- 1872-The firm Sands, (N.F.)Harris and (George W.)Maxwell dissolved; Mr. Harris retires./Source:Pentwater News, Friday, 51st year, March 8, 1912 on:40 years ago; 1890 History, page 94;1942 Booklet page 53.
- 1877-Sands and Maxwell General Dry Goods./Source:Pentwater News, Friday, February 25, 1927 on:"Our Yesterdays" 1877.
- 1882-New brick store of Sands and Maxwell's next to their general store is being erected./Source:1882 Atlas page 113, Oceana Section.
- 1883-Sands and Maxwell erected a store as a two story and basement frame and brick block:46 X 90. Built with Pentwater brick will become their central office./Source:1895 Altas page 149.
- 1884-The young men of Pentwater have organized a gymnasium club and will fit-up part of the second story of Sands and Maxwell block for use./Source:Pentwater News Thursday, July 24, 1884.
- 1885-Firms name became Sands and Maxwell Lumber Company after Business enlarged and became a corporation./Source:1942 Booklet page 53.
- 1885-Around this time a local gal remembers dances over Sands and Maxwell store./Source:1942 Booklet page 88.
- 1887-Upstairs business offices are rented at Sands and Maxwell./Source: Pentwater News, 1887
- 1896-Mr. W.B.O.Sands is tragically killed by Mr. Minshall. pent. News Apr. 17
- 1898-E.G.Maxwell sold interest in Sands and Maxwell Lumber Company to A.W.Newark. Mr.Maxwell came to Pentwater 1863 (35 years ago) and was with the firm since 1875. Mr.Newark spent 15 years with the firm- 12 at Pentwater, 3 years at firms interest at Prentis Bay./Source: Pentwater News Friday Vol.XXXVII- June 17, 1898.
- 1900-Mr.E.W.Shober was long associated with this firm./Source:1942 P.53.
- 1900-1920-Sands and Maxwell added a Bank to serve the public North of this Brick Block building./Source:1942 Booklet page 53. (Note: The Neilsen & Co. Bank defunct in 1900.)
- 1902-Sands and Maxwell Lumber Co., the commodious store is stocked with dry goods, Ladies and Gents furnishings, Shoes, etc../Source: Pentwater News Friday Vol.XLII March 21, 1902 advertisement.
- 1910-Sands and Maxwell General Store (if needed) one could fall back on the mail-order catalog./Source:Nostalgic Glimpses Book by James Frances Duncan.  
-one of 2 large Dry Goods Stores, the other being M.D.Girards,.Source: Oceana County History Book 1990, page 98.
- 1920-Fire destroyed Bank and General Store North of this building./Source: Mrs.Schrumpf's Booklet 1942, page 53, 59.  
\*The building mentioned is pictured on page 94, 1890 History Book, also on the Chamber of Commerce calendar June 1990 during the fire scene.
- 1920-Fire destroyed Sands and Maxwell mercantile building, North of the Home Office./Source:Pentwater Historical Society Letter April 1990.
- 1920-They attended the Summer Fire Sale at Sands and Maxwell in Pentwater -/Source:The Mears Newz November 12, 1920.

page 2 continued: Sands and Maxwell Lumber Company and General Store:

1920-After the fire of G.T.Sands and Maxwell General Store, directly North, Mrs.G.T.Sands offered this building to the Village if it was used for and by the Community. It was the Home Office./Source: Charles Mears State Park Book page 23; 1942 Booklet page 59.

1920-1923-The Pentwater Woman's Club accepted the offer, began a ten-year project and purchased for a nominal sum, with much cooperation, completed and dedicated in August 1930. And now houses the Township and Village offices, Library and Fire House and Truck and Jail./-Source:Mrs. Schrupf's Booklet 1942 page 59.

1920-1930-A portion of the building was rented to local businessmen to continue revenue for a 10 year period while the Womans Club raised finances to refurbish the building./Source:Pentwater News Friday 70th year,May 16,1930; Oceana County History Book 1990,page 82.

1920-Robert O'Brien and Hunt:Grocers.Advertisement,November 11,1920.

1921-O'Brien and Hunt in the Sands and Maxwell sells Williamson's Flour \$10.00 a barrel./Source: The Mears Newz, March 25,1921.

1926-Robert O'Brien grocery!Advertisement,Pentwater News Friday 65th year,January 15,1926.

1927-Specials at O'Briens-South End Grocery./Source:Pentwater News Friday January 1927. Advertisement.

1928-Blue Prints for remodeling the Community House reviewed./Source: Pentwater Chamber of Commerce Minutes: January 4,1928.

1929-Mr. Gardner T.Sands Died January 23,1929, in California,-Obituary.

1920-1930-The Woman's Club of Pentwater raised the necessary money for the complete renovation from windows and doors and partitions of the Sands and Maxwell Home Office building to become Pentwaters Village and Township Community House./Source: Pentwater News Friday 70th year May 16,1930; Pentwater News Friday 88th year January 30,1948.

1930-The outside brickwork nearly completed, steel truses in place, new windows and doors, new roof, interior walls built. Upstairs an Auditorium taking shape, additional room for showers, Ticket Booth and stairway installed./Source:Pentwater News Friday 70th year May 16; August 8,1930.

1930-there is a large picture of an "Artist Drawing" of the new Community House in The Pentwater News:Friday 70th year,May 16,1930; also in Mrs. Schrupf's Booklet 1942,page 62.

-the "before" picture is in the Chamber of Commerce calendar June 1990, during the fire scene, showing two entrys off of Hancock Street.

1930-Mrs.G.T.Sands (Olive Sands) hosted a kitchen shower for the Pentwater Community House at her home. Nearly 100 people responded with gifts of supplies. Dishes and silverware marked "P.C.H."(Pentwater Community House) were the personal gift of Mrs.Sands./Source: The Pentwater News 70th year Friday,July 11,1930.

1930-Community House dedicated August 1930./Source:1992 Booklet page 24; Mrs.Schrumpf's Booklet 1942,page 57,59.

1930-It is the Cummunity Center for village and school activites. Well kept lawn and shrubbery provided by the newly formed Garden Club./-Source:1942 Booklet page 59; Muskegon Chronicle,Thursday,May 25,1975 by Lenore Williams; Charles Mears State Park Book 1993-4,page 23; Oceana County History Book 1990,page 98; 1992 Booklet page 24.

1930-After the Community House opened, during the Home Coming Celebration, a 6pm. dinner was held in the building for 307 guest./Source:

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1930-1961-The Village Fire Hall and fire truck, and an iron bar cubical Jail were housed on the main North and West ends./Source:The Ludington Daily News, April 5,1966.

1930-The Pentwater Township Library moved into the Pentwater Community Hall./Source:Oceana County History Book-1992,page 31.

1931-Library is in the Community House,(Nina B.Stearns)./Source:The Pentwater News Friday January 2,1931

Note:Early in the 1900's Township and Village Offices and the Township Library were located in the ground floor rooms, South side, of the Hotel Valeria (White Elephant)./Source:Pentwater News 70th year, May 16,1930; 1942 Booklet page 51; Oceana County History Book 1992,p.31.

-After the 1928-29 fires the Pentwater Township Library was located on the second floor of M.D.Girards Business building./Source: Pentwater News Friday 70th year January 31,1930.

1935-Community Building needs new furnace and roof and repairs to entire building./Source:Pentwater News Friday 76th year,February 15,1935.

1937-Township of Pentwater and the Village of Pentwater, in fulfillment of a certain Land Contract dated July 28,1925 aquire Lot 1 and Lot 2, Block 6 Building -October 2,1937./Source:Deed @ Register of Deeds Office, Hart,Michigan.

1937-The Pentwater Yacht Club held meeting in the Library room at the Cummunity Building./Source:Pentwater News Friday January 22,1937.  
(Note:This was one of their first meetings.)

1940's-Mrs.Edna Bickford Dammron, with the Village Council approval, had the "Dammron Room" set aside in the Community Hall for the Senior Citizens./Source:Oceana County History Book-1990,page 204,205.

1952-Police Headquarters is located in Basement of the Community House West end, alley entrance. Mr.D.J.Lamb is Marshall./Source:oral History

1961-The Village Firemen and Truck moved out of the Community Hall into their new Building on Hancock Street../Source:The Ludington Daily News April 5,1966.

-Note:Jail cage cubical stayed in building for police use.

1961-Remodeling of Village Hall to be completed in Spring./Source: Pentwater News January 1961.

1961-Library remodelédeareavacated:by Village Fire Hall and Jail;/Source: -/Source:The Ludington Daily News, April 5,1966.

1930-1973-The second level was used for many school functions and community events until it was closed off in 1973.

1973-The Village Council denies School use of Community Hall second floor Gym./Source:Board of Education Minutes.October 15,1973.

1974-Discussion on the closing of the second floor of the Community recreational activities: conclussion: Board is vehemently opposed. /Source:Board of Education Minutes,October 21,1974.

1985-Police Headquarters vacates basement to move in vacated Fire Barn (324 South Hancock).

1986-Pentwater Historical Society meets in Community Hall./Source: Historical Society Minutes,February,1986.

1986-Pentwater Historical Society meets in basement vacated by the Police Headquarters./Source:Historical Society Minutes,April,1986.

1996-Pentwater Township and Village Hall is recognized as an historic building, presented by the Pentwater Historical Society: a commemorative Plaque /Source:Herald Journal Thursday February 8,1996...