

City of Perry

203 W. Polly St.
Perry, MI 48872



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Hearing Impaired: 711

The Calkins-Macqueen House

The Calkins-Macqueen House, also known as the Macqueen House, was donated to the City of Perry in the Will of Bessie Macqueen who passed away in 1941. She indicated in her Will that the house and grounds should be used to serve the best needs of the (then) Village of Perry for a charitable purpose and to be kept in good repair.

The grounds have been divided somewhat in that the vacant land to the west has become City Parking and the barn that had been standing and used for storage has now been torn down.

An agreement was signed in 1974 for the house to be used by the Perry Historical Society as a public museum. In that agreement the City continued to assume the annual cost of utilities, insurance and upkeep except that the Perry Historical Society would provide the material for installing new wiring in the house. It was also agreed, at that time, that the Perry Historical Society would be responsible for all costs involved in the restoration only of the Macqueen House both inside and out to restore to original condition. The City of Perry would retain use of the barn and grounds.

Unfortunately for many years the City of Perry did not maintain the building. Recently it was found to be in need of a new roof, exterior paint, foundation repair, wiring upgrades and heating and plumbing upgrades. Through negotiation with the Perry Historical Society the majority of these necessary repairs and upgrades have now been accomplished with the City of Perry providing some of the repairs and the Historical Society providing some repairs and upgrades plus interior décor improvements. The Perry Historical Society continues to display local history provided by residents throughout many years.

As time goes on a new roof will be needed again, painting will need to be done again, and as with any house, other repairs may be needed. In order to build-up a fund for the maintenance of the house a Macqueen House Fund has been established in the City of Perry budget. The funds donated will accrue and be available as needed. There has not been a fund like this for this purpose before and it is time for the City to take this responsibility seriously.

This is a public building, that not many cities the size of the City of Perry can boast of owning, and we should take pride in this representation of the history of Perry. Donations to the Macqueen House Fund are tax deductible and a receipt will be provided for that purpose. Make your donations payable to the City of Perry and indicate Macqueen House Fund on your check. The mailing address is City of Perry, 203 W. Polly St., Perry, MI 48872. The receipt will be mailed to the address you provide.

The museum is open to the public at no charge. Please see the Perry Historical Society page of this website for hours of operation.

For more information, go to the [Calkins-Macqueen House History](#) link.