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November 22, 2010

Historic Districts Study Committee
c/o Derek Delacourt, Deputy Director
Planning & Economic Development
City of Rochester Hills
1000 Rochester Hills Drive
Rochester Hills, Michigan 48309

RE: Final Study Committee Report, Stiles School

Dear Historic Districts Study Committee Members and Mr. Delacourt,

As requested at the November Historic Districts Study Committee Meeting I am providing the attached draft final report for the proposed Stiles School Historic District.

The committee requested that I review the title/deed abstract information provided by member Webster, research the additional information recently provided by Peggy Schodowski, and revise the boundary to eliminate the additions to the school from the district.

Upon reviewing the deeds provided by Mr. Webster it shows that the land for the school was originally leased to the Fractional District and the lease had the reverter clause. When Rena Matriott deeded the land to the school district in 1924 no reverter clause was included. Mr. Webster's materials include a hand transcription of the deed from Matriott to the school.

With regard to the naming of the school, the provided chain of title does not show that Stiles ever owned the property containing the school. The 1892 Oakland County atlas shows that Samuel Stiles owned 28 acres in Troy Township kitty corner to the school but the atlases before and after do not show any Stiles property in the area. I have added copies of the appropriate atlas pages at the end of the report that show this. With regard to the naming I left in the original information as well as the story about Stiles donating the property. My attempts to reach Tim Hickman that Peggy referenced in her e-mail were unsuccessful. If he contacts me before the meeting I will update the committee.

The attached report also has updated the study committee members to the current members and revised the boundary description and justification. I updated the district description to eliminate the details of the additions and playground property.

Please contact me at 313-300-9376 or kristine@kidorfpreservationconsulting.com if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kristine M. Kidorf
Kidorf Preservation Consulting

Attachment