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Front - Title/Description

Douglas

Douglas began as two communities separated by present-day Center Street. Jonathan Wade platted Dudleyville, named for his brother Dudley Wade, on the south side of "Centre" in 1860. In 1861, William F. Dutcher platted the town of Douglas on the north side of Centre. Dutcher named it for his hometown on the Isle of Man in the Irish Sea. The original plat consisted of the area bounded by Union, Chestnut, Water, and Centre Streets. The two towns were incorporated as the village of Douglas in 1870. Dutcher's son Thomas, a prosperous lumber mill owner, built a three-story commercial and residential structure downtown around 1867. The building, the town's first Masonic hall, burned in 1870.

Significant Date:

Civil War and After (1860-1875)

Registry Year: 1985 **Erected Date:** 1997

Marker Location

Address: 86 Center Street

City: Douglas

State: MI **ZipCode:**

County: Allegan

Township: Saugatuck

Lat: 42.64382800 / **Long:** -86.20271300

Web URL:

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Dutcher Lodge No. 193

Masons from Douglas, Fennville, and Saugatuck chartered Dutcher Lodge No. 193 on January 10, 1867. From 1867 to 1870 they held meetings in a building owned by Worshipful Master Thomas Dutcher. In 1875 the western portion of this building was constructed on land cleared of a cemetery. Lodge members used the second floor, leaving the first floor available for government and civic meetings. The building was doubled in size with the construction of the eastern half in 1902. That section became known as the village hall. Douglas's fire truck was parked in the lower level until 1969. Dutcher Lodge is a rare example of a Masonic lodge still in use a century after its construction.