

Historical Marker - Alma College / Old Main Fire (Marker ID#:S181)



NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

Front - Title/Description

Alma College

On October 26, 1886, the Presbyterian Synod of Michigan accepted gifts of thirty acres of land from Ammi W. Wright of Alma and \$50,000 from Alexander Folsom of Bay City to establish Alma College. The Synod resolved: "We will, with God's help, establish and endow a college within our bounds." The college received its state charter on April 15, 1887. It opened on September 14, 1887 with a religious service and welcome from the President, Reverend George F. Hunting. There were thirty-five students: nineteen men and sixteen women.

Significant Date:

Industry and Invention (1875-1915)

Registry Year: 1961 **Erected Date:** 2016

Marker Location

Address: 700 West Superior

City: Alma

State: MI **ZipCode:** 48801

County: Gratiot

Township: Arcada

Lat: 43.37898400 / **Long:** -84.67110900

Web URL:

www.alma.edu

Back - Title/Description

Old Main Fire

On the morning of March 10, 1969, Old Main, one of Alma College's first academic and administrative buildings, caught fire and burned down in about an hour. Students and faculty evacuated the building but reentered to carry out equipment and records until firemen stopped them. The fire destroyed classrooms, faculty offices, manuscripts, research documents and other records. In 1974 the college built an Academic Center just north of here, near the site of Old Main, and named it for Robert Swanson, Alma College's president from 1956 to 1980.