

## **Brighton Volunteer Ambulance House**

May is Historic Preservation Month so it is appropriate to feature another of Brighton's designated landmarks. The house of Buckland-made brick at 1551 South Winton Road was designated a town landmark in April 2001 because of its Greek Revival style, its association with the brickmaking industry of Brighton, and its connection to the history of the community.

Advocates of historic preservation often cite "adaptive re-use" as a method of saving an old building from demolition. If the structure can be rehabilitated for modern purposes, preservationists rejoice and the building owner has a property that can have a useful life for many more years. Such a building is the Brighton Volunteer Ambulance house at Winton and Westfall Roads.

The brick Greek Revival style house was the product of the Buckland brothers' brickmaking enterprise that operated along Winton Road from the early nineteenth century to the early twentieth century. The Buckland family came to Brighton about 1820 from Burlington, Vermont, after a sojourn in the town of Phelps in Ontario County. Burlington and Phelps were both centers of brickmaking in the 1800s.

Abner Buckland, the eldest of six children of Capt. Abner Buckland, is thought to be the builder of the house although it became the long-term home of his brother, Leonard, after Abner built another brick house on Winton Road, closer to Elmwood Avenue. Distinguished by the broad friezes and columned entry, it was home to the Leonard Buckland family until the 1890s.

Fred and Sophia Wolff were the next owners but in 1900 they sold the house and about 75 acres of land to their daughter and son-in-law, Charles and Anna Horst. The Horsts operated a successful dairy farm and milk delivery route that was later taken on by their son, Frank, until the property was sold in 1945. After the Horsts came several owners of shorter duration until the sale of the house and land in May of 1987 to Brighton Volunteer Ambulance, Inc.

Incorporated in April of 1983, the ambulance crew grew from one ambulance and 53 full members and 34 associate members in 1986. Today there are five ambulances and two Advanced Life Support vehicles. The staff offers first aid to walk-in patients, blood pressure checks, and a loan cupboard with crutches, wheelchairs, and walkers.