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Above left, the look of the museum before it was renovated. Above right, the museum after it was renovated back to its original look.

(Photos courtesy of Nancy Boxey)

## Almont museum given top award for rehab effort

The Almont Community Historical Museum was one of seven buildings in Michigan recognized with a "2012 Building Award" from the Michigan Historic Preservation Network.

A plaque commemorating the award was hung on the wall of the museum, located at 149 S. Main St., to be shown off during the Almont Spring Fling on May 19.

The award was given on May 11 in Flint at the Durant Hotel at an annual awards reception and ceremony. Building awards are presented for projects completed within the last three years. Winning projects can be either a restoration or rehabilitation and must include exterior work, but may also include interior work.

The Almont Community Historical Society occupies the building on Main Street that is owned by the Downtown Development Authority (DDA). The rehabilitation process began in the spring of 2010.

The building originates from the mid 1800s and remains as one of the last intact all wood structures in downtown Almont. Prior to rehabilitation, the building retained most of the original storefront façade while some portions of the upper cornice and decorative brackets were missing.

The building had undergone only minor alternations and a majority of the unique building features had changed little over time.

Over the years, the building has served as a Post Office, law office, antique shop, children's clothing store and home to Mr. and Mrs. Rueben Braidwood. Slated to be moved to Crossroads Village in Flint, the building was kept within the Almont community largely through the efforts of Richard and Debbie Muir.

Working with RLA Associates architectural firm, repair and maintenance recommendations were drafted. Utilizing the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, the plans combined nationally recognized historic preservation guidelines with modern cost efficient practices where relevant. Advantage Carpentry was selected as the general contractor for the project and worked in cooperation with Earth Environments of Romeo.

Grabill Windows and Doors of Almont created the custom replica doors which now grace the entrance to this building.

"One of the fundamental cornerstones of a successful downtown revitalization program is the commitment to preserve and rehabilitate historic structures," said Nancy Boxey, DDA director. "It is through these efforts that the character of a community is preserved, linking the past to the present, thus creating an important sense of place."