

Rochester Avon Historical Society Wins State History Award

The Rochester Avon Historical Society received a 2012 State History Award at the Historical Society of Michigan's 138th Annual Meeting and State History Conference held September 28-30 in Monroe. The State History Awards, which were presented in several categories,, are the highest recognition presented by the state's official historical society.

In the category of Outstanding Website, Rochester Avon Historical Society received the award for its new collaborative website, Oakland Regional Historic Sites (oaklandregionalhistoricsites.org). Launched in an effort to make information about local historic sites and significant properties readily available, the ORHS site identifies each property on an interactive map. When a user selects a location of interest, the property's complete history is displayed along with current and vintage views of buildings, significant objects or notable monuments that may be found there. The site is searchable by county, city, partial street address or architectural classification.

Originally launched in partnership with historical organizations in Rochester and Rochester Hills, the web site has attracted participation by other regional historical groups and now includes among its members the Oakland Township Historical Society, the Charter Township of Oakland, Orion Township Historical Society, Clawson Historical Museum and the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society.

Oakland Regional Historic Sites is a valuable tool for history enthusiasts, teachers and students, government officials, real estate professionals and members of the media, as it supports local history education, raises awareness of historic preservation, and promotes heritage tourism. The 2012 State History Award recognizes Rochester Avon Historical Society's leadership role in using technology to advance knowledge of the area's rich heritage.