

1855



2005

A day in Flint History



1855: Flint becomes a city

Twenty-five years after a tavern was established at the Grand Traverse of the Flint River, the settlement became a city. As a newspaper later related: "In 1855, a general stampede took place in the Legislature for incorporating into a city every 'Sweet Auburn,'... without any regard to population. As a matter of course, the otherwise quiet and unobtrusive village (Flint) easily caught the ambitious infection, and the people were called upon to elect a mayor, and Grant Decker was chosen." At the time, Flint had a popula-

tion of about 2,000. On April 2, 1855, the first municipal elections took place. The site for the first City Hall was obtained January 19, 1859, from Mayor William M. Fenton who, according to various accounts, either gave the land to the city or sold it for \$1,000 or \$2,000. That first building housed the fire department and its horses on the first floor, City Council chambers on the second floor and the high school on the third.

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Source: Centennial Picture History of Flint