

BRIGHTON VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE HOUSE

BY MARY JO LANPHEAR

*The ambulance house at
1551 Winton Road South.*



PHOTO BY ARLENE VANDERLINDE

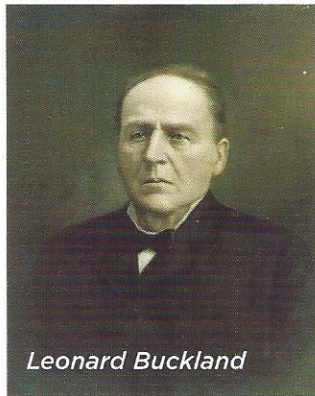
May is Historic Preservation Month so it is appropriate to feature another of Brighton's designated landmarks.

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 19th century to the early 20th century. The Buckland family came to Brighton around 1820 from Burlington, Vermont, after a sojourn in the town of Phelps in Ontario County. Burlington and Phelps were both centers for 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



Leonard Buckland

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, Anna and Charles 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 1987 to Brighton Volunteer Ambulance, Inc.

Incorporated in April 1983, the ambulance corps traces its beginnings to Edward Hogle and Hamilton Stearns, who began the organization and recruitment of volunteers in 1982. BVA grew from one ambulance, 53 full members, and 34 associate members in 1986. It added a second ambulance in 1987, the same year the service moved from its original headquarters on French Road to its newly-acquired Buckland house. A major renovation and expansion in 2017 added additional ambulance bays and service areas in an attached building designed to complement the old brick house.

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