

# The Savich Home

***76 N Main Street***

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With an expansive wraparound porch and a gorgeous butter-yellow color, it's hard to miss the house at 18 North Holcomb Road.

Early Clarkston settler Thomas Broomfield originally owned the lot before passing it on to his brother, Richard, an English wagonmaker. In 1866, Rebecca Bescherer purchased the land to use as a farm, as documented by an 1872 map of the Village of Clarkston. It wasn't until 1914 that the current house, characterized by its Queen Anne-Stick style, with gables, shaped shingles, and a two-story bay window, appeared under the ownership of Christina Tindall. The current porch, however, is not the original one, despite its resemblance. Former owners Greg and Amy Wilson rebuilt it in 2004 to "restore the original look" of the house, according to city records from January that year.

In 1932, Mary Elizabeth Green converted the house into a maternity home after assisting local doctors with home births for many years following the death of her second husband, Rev. Oliver Green, in 1913. At her maternity home, Mary Green provided a comfortable and homey environment to the women who stayed there. She assisted in delivering more than 500 babies, creating a lasting legacy as "Grandma Green" throughout the community. Even today, the current owners, Susie and Jim Savich, who bought the house in 2018, mention how people have recognized their address as the birthplace of family members.

The Savichs decided to move to Clarkston after "falling in love" with the downtown area during a dinner trip, recounts Jim. Knowing they wanted their next home to be in the historic downtown, their search led them to what one of their neighbors called the "best lot" on the block—18 North Holcomb. Jim and Susie were drawn to the yellow house's "good energy" and sprawling backyard, in addition to its recent renovations completed by the Wilsons, who, along with restoring the porch to its original glory, gave the interior its modern look. Most of the home's original features have been modified or modernized, but the Savichs plan to continue the trend of renovating the home by tackling the floors next, which retain the slight unevenness of the original floors. While the Wilsons did not leave much room for improvement, Jim decided to add his personal touch to the barn, which served as Garnet Poulton's mechanic shop in the 1940s-50s. Untouched when the Savichs moved in, Jim converted the barn's upstairs into a hangout space for him and his buddies, adding a bathroom and fully furnishing and decorating the space. He filled the walls with photos, installed a TV above the bar, and even converted the loft into an eclectic "hippie" space, complete with colorful lights. But the room's main attraction is the coffee (and sometimes cigar) lounge, which allowed Jim to host socially distanced breakfast gatherings with his friends during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite many people asking if their home is haunted, Susie and Jim enjoy Mary Green's legacy, as each feels a connection to the story of the birthing house. Susie is the daughter of a doctor, and Jim is a twin, so they both can relate to Mary Green, who delivered many twins throughout her life, contributing to the Savichs' sense of belonging within the home.

The Savichs found SCAMP through the nonprofit's Jingle & Mingle event in November 2024. The couple enjoys giving back to the community, says Susie, and what better way to continue this journey than by participating in the home tour, as their home contains a rich history important to Clarkston's culture.

