

Historical Marker - S430 - Orchard Lake Schools / Joseph Tarr Copeland (Marker ID#:S430)



Front - Title/Description

Orchard Lake Schools

Orchard Lake School Historic District comprises eleven buildings constructed between 1858 and 1924. The oldest, a massive Romanesque Revival house resembling a Norman castle, was built in 1858 by one-time Michigan Supreme Court Justice Joseph Tarr Copeland. In 1877 Copeland sold the property to Joseph Summer Rogers, who established the Michigan Military Academy on the site. Six of nine structures built in a quadrangle reflect the Romanesque Revival style. In 1909 the school, once considered "the leading military institution in the country, outside of West Point," closed. The site was sold to Saints Cyril and Methodius Seminary, the nation's first Polish seminary. Father Joseph Dabrowski founded the seminary in 1885 in Detroit. The present complex, evolved from the seminary, includes Saint Mary's Preparatory School and Saint Mary's College.

Significant Date:

Statehood Era (1815-1860)

Registry Year: 1974 **Erected Date:** 1995

Marker Location

Address: 3535 Commerce Road

City: West Bloomfield Township

State: MI **ZipCode:** 48324

County: Oakland

Township: West Bloomfield

Lat: 42.59380900 / **Long:** -83.35817800

Web URL:

Back - Title/Description

Joseph Tarr Copeland

Maine native Joseph Tarr Copeland (1813-1893) graduated from Harvard College and studied law before coming to Michigan during the 1840s. In 1851 he was elected circuit judge, serving concurrently on the Michigan Supreme Court. Upon his retirement from the bench in 1858, he built this house. At the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861 he was commissioned a lieutenant colonel in the First Michigan Cavalry. Within a year he rose to brigadier general. Copeland retired to his home in 1865. With a group of Pontiac investors Copeland enlarged the house, creating the Orchard Lake Hotel. From this site tourists boarded the *Pride of the Lake* and traveled to Apple Island. The panic of 1873 ruined the venture. Copeland sold the property in 1877 to Colonel