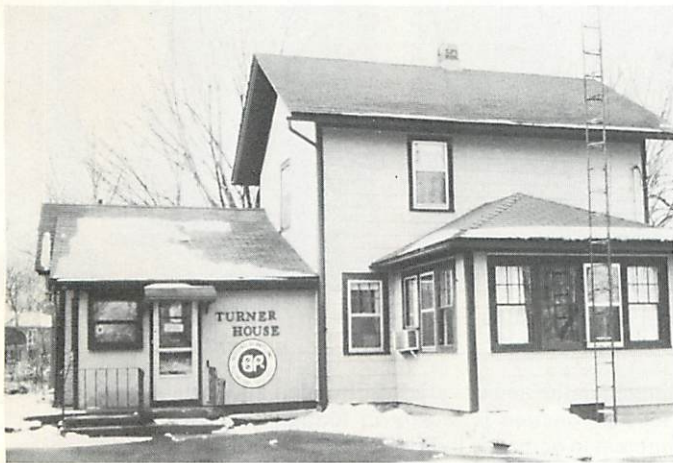


## BPI Moves To Turner House



Our new home is an old home! On August 15th, 1978, we set up our BPI offices in an historical landmark, the third oldest house in Okemos, Michigan.

The Turner House was built by Charles Turner in 1881. In 1887 he brought his bride, Mary, from Canada to make a home there with him. Charles worked for the Pere Marquette Railroad for 21 years but he was also noted for his cultivation of garden flowers. His yard attracted attention every year.

Charles and Mary had two children, Robert and Jessie, who were to be the last of their line, since neither married. After their parents died, Jessie lived in the house with her brother until he died also.

Jessie lived on in this home of her birth, an "old-maid schoolteacher" who defied the stereotype. Though she was a tiny woman, less than five feet, she had an eager enthusiasm that stood ten feet tall. She was head of the history department and also taught English at Pattengill Junior High School for 39 years. She made up for her lack of family by taking a special interest in her students, always willing to help them after school. She was 81 when she died but still respected the young people she had taught. "It's a common failing of the old," she said, "to be critical of the young."

Jessie's unfortunate death was precipitated on the night of April 18, 1975, when there had been extensive flooding in the area. Roads were closed, some homes had been evacuated, the community was in an uproar. Neighbors had been by to help Jessie with the pump in her basement. Apparently unable to sleep because of all the excitement, she went to fix herself a cup of tea. The sleeve of her robe was set afire by her gas stove burner. She ran out onto the

lawn but wasn't discovered till morning when someone reported what they thought was trash burning. Fireman rushed her to the hospital, but it was too late to save her. This strong, little woman didn't give up easily, however; it wasn't until June 1, 1975 that she died.

BPI is proud of the heritage of Jessie Turner and her family, and dedicated to perserving this fine, old house in its original condition. The downstairs rooms and garage have been converted to offices and work space, but none of the special features that make our new home unique have been disturbed. In future years we plan formal gardens of bedding plants to recreate some of the beauty of Charles Turner's original gardens. We invite our members to visit us and tour our beautiful, new, old home at 2043 Hamilton in Okemos.

Our thanks to Thelma Lamb, Trustee of the Okemos Historical Society, for information on the Turner family. She is noted for her book on Chief Okemos and is presently engaged in historical research on prominent Okemos families.



Our moving van - courtesy BPI'er R. A. Dinkel & Assoc.



The moving Crew - Will Carlson, Dick Skinner, Wayne Carlson, Tim Ewart, Barney Hobbs, Jr., Ricardo Miranda, Bill Bettinger