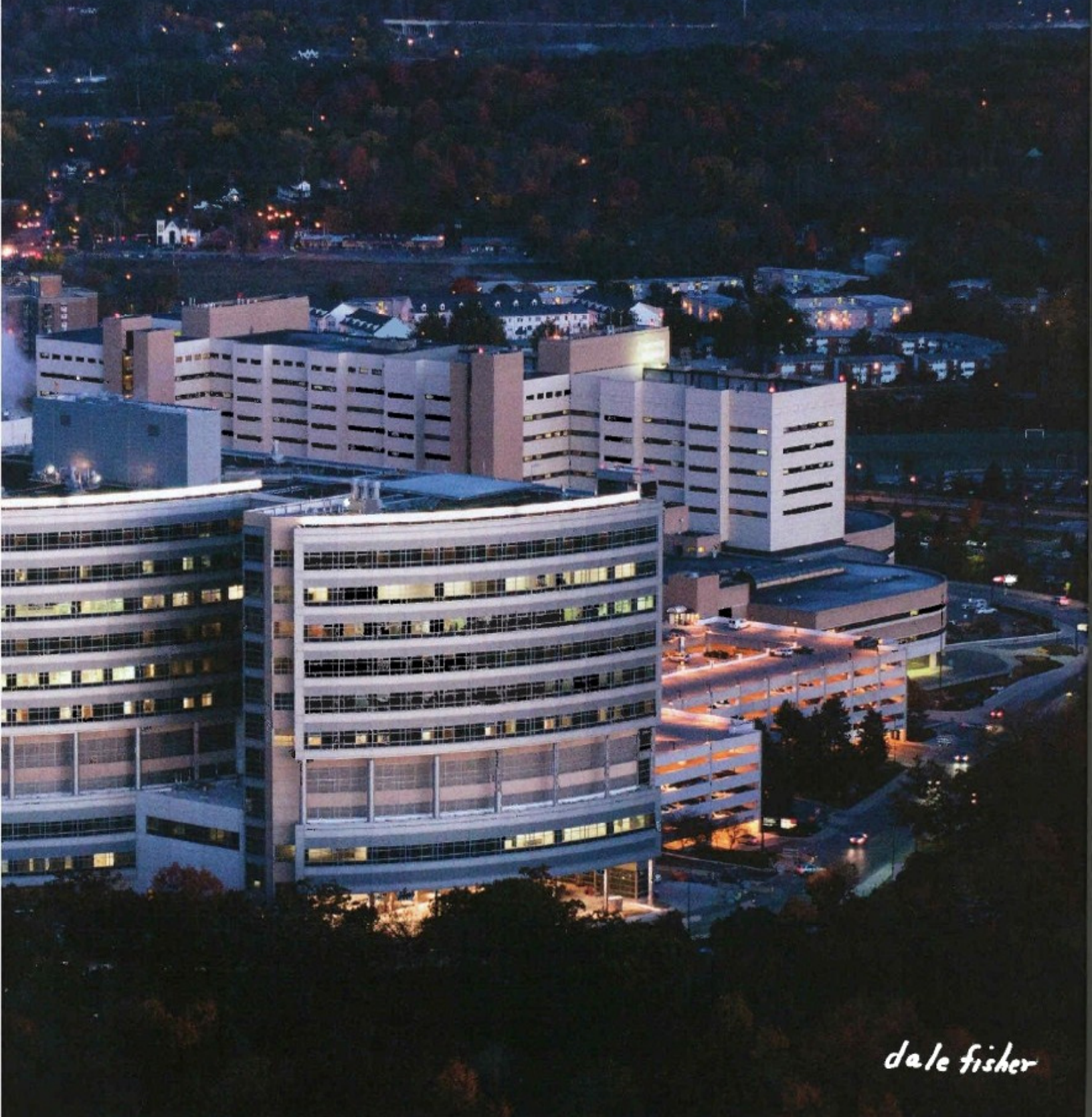


ANN ARBOR

Visions of the Eagle III



dale fisher

Baker Construction

Baker Construction Co., Inc. headquarters in semi-rural Hamburg Township is a testament to the skilled craftsmanship of one of the oldest masonry contractors in Michigan. With its natural limestone arches and Gothic brackets, this solid masonry structure demonstrates the fifty-nine year-old company's mastery of the masonry craft and represents a dream come true for owners Tim and Tom Baker.

The Bakers turned the key in the front door of their own facility in late November 2001. Setting up shop in their own office was a fitting way to usher in the firm's next half century; the year 2002 marked the fiftieth anniversary of Baker construction.

The two-story building is a true load-bearing masonry structure that employs brick and block from its exterior skin and structural walls all the way down to its foundations. It is a high quality masonry structure rarely seen in today's private sector. Hopefully, there will be several generations after us that will use the facility.

Working in the business since the age of twelve, the Baker brothers officially took over the helm in 1995 and are already grooming a third generation for leadership roles in the family firm. Soozie Baker (Ray's daughter), joined the company in 2001 as office/project manager. Nathan Baker (Tom's son) is in the field now as Mason Foreman and Tim's son, T.C. Baker is in office as Estimator/Project Manager.

The firm has expanded from generation to generation, taking on ever more challenging projects to earn its reputation as a high-quality masonry contractor with the ability to produce demanding projects on schedule. Baker is noted for doing high quality difficult custom jobs. The jobs have escalated in complexity over the course of the last fifty-nine years.

It all began with Ray Baker, the founder, who laid the building blocks of Baker Construction's success in the early '50s. The 18 year-old Ray worked for other contractors for three years, learning the block and brick laying trade.

At only 21 years of age, he established his own business in 1952, laying block basements for individual houses during the suburban construction boom of the '50s. Beginning in Allen Park, Lincoln Park and Riverview, Ray literally laid the foundations for emerging communities, eventually expanding his business to encompass laying block and installing brick veneer for entire subdivisions in Berkley, the eastern suburbs, and in communities throughout the Detroit metropolitan area.

Baker branched out into apartment and small commercial construction. Tackling on of its largest apartment complexes of the '60s, Baker performed work on various phases of the Lake in the Woods complex located on the shores of Belleville's Ford Lake. In the same time period, Baker shifted the majority of his firm's work to the Ann Arbor area. On July 14, 2010 at the age of 80, Ray Baker was honored by the Mason Contractors



Association with "The Lifetime Achievement Award," which is granted to an individual who has rendered special service to the masonry industry.

Ann Arbor and its environs proved fertile ground for an expanding business in the commercial, institutional and educational market. Baker Construction has performed work for virtually every school district in fast-growing Livingston and Washtenaw counties, including the Baker brother's own alma mater, Pinckney High School, Willow Run High School and Chelsea High School. The list has expanded over the years to include Howell Parker High School and Ann Arbor Skyline High School. In 2010 Baker was awarded the contract for Belleville High School a 6.5 million dollar mason project.

The University of Michigan's Willard H. Dow Laboratory (Chemistry Building) including inside atrium was one of Baker's most intricate and challenging projects. The firm earned a 1989 Masonry Institute of Michigan award for the project. A list of other projects earning awards over the course of years; includes the U of M Gerald Ford Library in 1981, the U of M Alumni Center in 1983, U of M Shapiro Library in 1995 and Our Lady of Good Council in 2004. Other prominent U of M projects include the brick perimeter fence surrounding the university's football stadium, as well as brickwork around the famed field and in 2008 Football Stadium Bid Pack #3. Baker Construction has participated in the construction of over 45 U of M projects throughout the years.

Baker has performed work for Eastern Michigan University as well. EMU projects include the university's striking Convocation Center, Goodison Hall, and the College of Education building. The firm's compendium of projects includes a sprinkling of commercial endeavors, including the 110 Miller Ashley Building, a structure for which Baker earned a 1992 MIM award.

Almost 60 years later and 3 generations of Bakers, the legacy will live on as well as the Landmark Masonry Projects in the Ann Arbor and surrounding areas.



U of M Chemistry Building and Willard H. Dow Laboratory



Michigan Stadium