

# Surveying's Heritage has a Home

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**T**he Northwest Ordinance of 1787 set the plan for an orderly survey of the "Old Northwest Territory." The rectangular survey system used was repeated throughout most of the American West. Across this land, surveyors have left a significant mark on the cultural landscape; so much so that the rectangular survey system and the Great Wall of China are the only man made creations visible from space.

The Museum of Surveying in Lansing, MI is the only museum in the United States (and possibly the world) dedicated solely

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to the profession, history, and technology of surveying. Its unique collection of historic artifacts related to surveying contains everything from chains, solar compasses, and original bearing trees to astronomical

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theodolites, aerial surveying cameras, and a circular dividing engine used to scribe verniers on a compass face. Visitors are able to view instruments used by William Austin Burt, Deputy Surveyor and inventor of the solar compass and the typographer (typewriter). The Bausch & Lomb display houses surveyor's instruments made by the optical company, which has not produced this line of product since

the original surveyors. This mobile museum, and the volunteers who support it are able to reach many more individuals who would otherwise not be able to visit the Museum. In another outreach program, the Museum of Surveying has been working in connection with the Virtual Museum of Surveying on the internet at [www.survey-history.org](http://www.survey-history.org). Virtual visitors can view surveying instruments from collections across the country, date their own instruments, and contact many groups such as the Museum of Surveying and the Surveyors Historical Society.

*If you would like information regarding visits to the Museum of Surveying, our museum store, or research capabilities, please contact the Director at 527/484-6605 or [museumofsurvey@acd.net](mailto:museumofsurvey@acd.net).*



America entered World War 1.

The Museum of Surveying is also the home of an active reenactment group, which travels throughout the region displaying artifacts and recreating the job of