



Ephraim Shay designed and built this *hexagonal shaped* house with six wings opening off the central core with a tower on top. The interior and exterior walls were stamped steel. It is still in existence at 396 East Main Street, Harbor Springs, Michigan.

Ephraim Shay

Ephraim Shay lived out his years in Harbor Springs with the zeal of an active young man.

When he arrived here in 1888 at the age of 49, Shay had already established himself as an inventor, patent holder, engineer, lumber man and business man. His patented locomotive design had made him a wealthy man, but his local railroad would have to wait. Shay first immersed himself in other projects including designing his stamped-steel home, outfitting his machine shop and crafting a 40-foot steel yacht. What would prove to be his most lasting project, however, was the Harbor Springs Water Works. Recognizing the increasing demand for running water, Shay designed the water works and its 12 miles of water mains. After lengthy negotiations, Shay sold the water works for \$22,000 to the Village of Harbor Springs in 1911.

