

THE GATES MILLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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THE MUSEUM
IS OPEN BY
APPOINTMENT.
440-423-1040

LOOK AT ALL OUR
PHOTOS OF GATES
MILLS THROUGH THE
YEARS AND OUR
PREVIOUS PINK SHEET
PAGES ON OUR
FACEBOOK PAGE

THE HOOKED RUG MAP OF GATES MILLS

The Historical Society has loaned the Village a hooked rug depicting a map of Gates Mills as it was in 1955. The rug, shown at right with Mayor Karen Schneider and Historical Society President Marcia Anselmo, is now on display at The Community House. It is 7'4" wide by 10'4" long. Previously the rug was on the floor upstairs in The Museum at The Southwick House.

The rug was planned, designed and drawn by Mrs. Wilbur W. Merkel of Berkshire Road. Mrs. Merkel, a daughter of Mrs. Walter C. White, had four aerial photographs taken of the village and worked from old records and maps to create the design. She painted the scenes she wanted depicted on heavy wrapping paper and included every housetop, orchard, barn, creek, road, garden, field, swimming pool and driveway that were visible from the air.



Mrs. Merkel engaged Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Masters of Harvard Avenue to execute the hooked rug. Rug making was their hobby. Mrs. Masters learned about hooking rugs in Boston and taught rug making in Milwaukee. She used only thin wool strips that she cut herself and dyed to suit the subject matter. Completing the rug took the Masters 962 hours. They started at the center and worked outwards. The couple agreed that making the woods was the most difficult section of the rug as they had to simulate the appearance of branches, leaves, birds and sunlight. Several features are easily recognizable on the map: Chagrin Valley Nursery, St. Christopher's Church, the Walking Bridge and the Town Hall. Mrs. Merkel signed the artwork with a red dot indicating the Merkel's home.