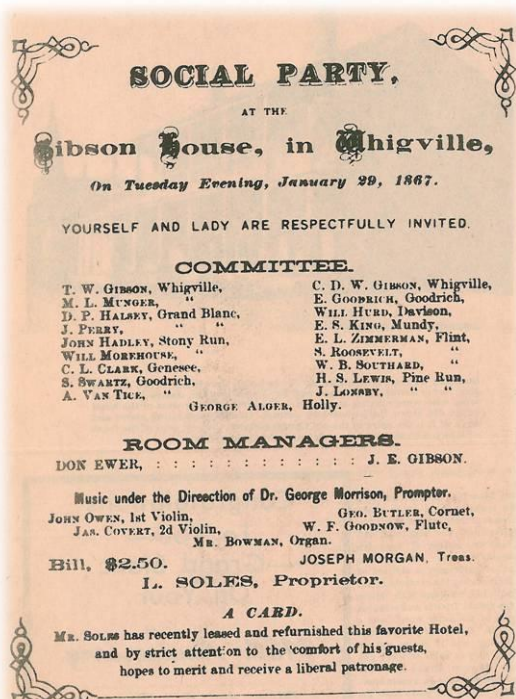


## The Whigville Community

The Brainerds were the first to settle in the Saginaw, Hill, and Center Road area, which became known as the “Brainerd Settlement”. Soon after, in 1833, Charles De Witt Gibson settled into this area and purchased 160 acres. Later he would purchase 240 more acres, making him a prominent land owner in this community. He opened a store where he sold goods to the new residents and traded with the Indians. At the northwest corner of Saginaw and Hill he built a tavern known as the Gibson Hotel. His home was located opposite of it, on the south side of Hill. The hotel was a place of great social gatherings in the community, as well as a halfway house for travelers between Detroit and Saginaw. In 1851, the First Baptist Church was built south of Gibson’s property. This settlement became known as “Gibsonville” and was a developing commerce area. However, in the 1870s refusal by Gibson to allow the railroad to cross his property led to the decline of business and routed most commerce to Grand Blanc Center (now the City of Grand Blanc), where the railroad was allowed. Rather than running through the Gibson property, the railroad ran along the east side of Saginaw Road through the Davison Farmstead.

The area was also commonly known as “Whigville”. Some speculate it was named after the Whig political party. To this day it is still considered the unincorporated community of Whigville.

There are no remains of the Gibson home, hotel, or store. In fact, the center of this area has experienced virtually all new development. There are some scattered structures that fall within the designated historic timeline but not necessarily relevant to the Gibson era. This area is, however, one of the most historically noteworthy in terms of pioneer activity and milestones. The fact that it has been given its own community name signifies it as a possible historic district worth researching further. The few remaining resources that could be considered in this potential historic district include the First Baptist Church, Davison Farmstead, Maple Cemetery, Morgan Home, U.S. Military Road marker, and Evergreen Cemetery. Two of these sites are currently Michigan Registered Historic Sites.



Gibson Social Party invitation

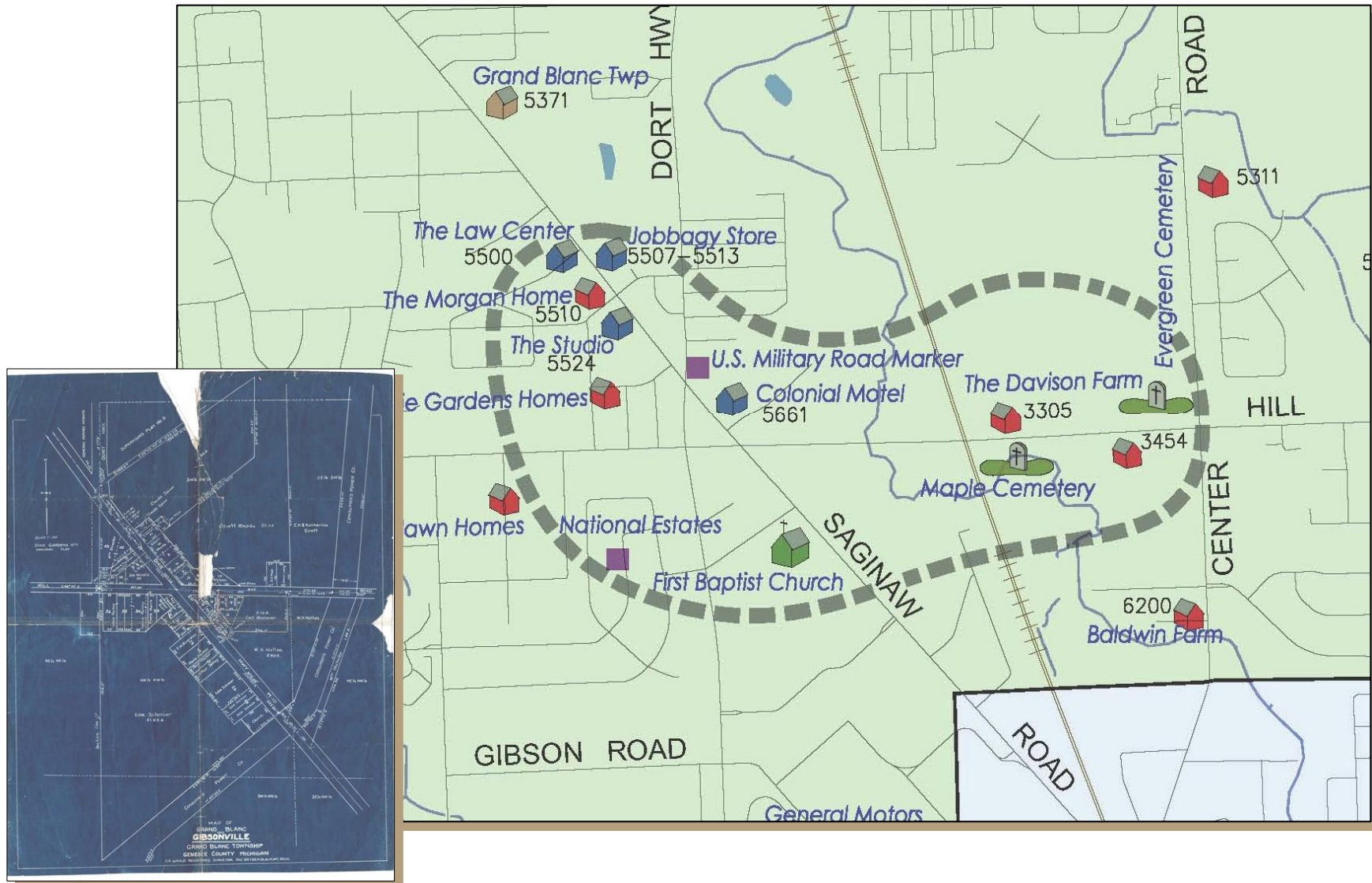
Photo from the Grand Blanc Evening News - 1973



Fort “Wigvill” cafe

Photo courtesy of Grand Blanc Heritage Museum

The boundary of this community has been mapped extensively throughout the years. However, there isn't much consistency in the limits represented on various maps. Perhaps this is due to changes in commerce and ownership boundaries. We recommend further research of the various boundary locations and a comparison of these with today's property ownerships and structure locations and that the committee considers this area for its historic significance.



Old map of Gibsonville (Whigville) by Ora Gould  
 Courtesy of Gould Engineering, Inc.

## The Perry Settlement Area

The 1400 acres of Grand Blanc Territory that the Perry family and their relatives owned was often referred to as the “Perry Settlement”. They were the second family to settle in Grand Blanc in 1824 and stayed with the first family, Jacob Stevens, who ran the stage coach while the Edmund Perry built their first log home. The family contributed greatly to the community and its growth including establishing the first school in Genesee County in 1830, building the first community “wash” house or laundry, built the first sawmill which served settlers and was the first “industry” in Genesee County, and was involved in local as well as state government.

Edmund was born on February 10, 1779 in Rhode Island and moved to New York. He first came to the Grand Blanc Territory in 1824 with his nephew Rowland Perry. He returned to New York to load up the rest of his family and in October of 1826, Edmund brought all ten children to Grand Blanc from New York. Among his sons was Simeon, whose daughter Isabel was the first white child born in Genesee County on May 13, 1829.

William Ray Perry  
Home - 6025 Perry Road



Simeon Perry -  
Photo courtesy of  
John Schlaud

Simeon M. Perry

Edmund Perry was named Commissioner of Roads and Overseer of the Poor at the first Grand Blanc Township meeting held on April 1, 1833. His son-in-law, Caleb Johnson, built the plank road between Grand Blanc and Holly (presumed to be Saginaw Road). Edmund's grand-niece, Harriet, married Squire Davis, who was the Justice of the Peace in the township for over 25 years and also served as a member of the Michigan State Legislature.

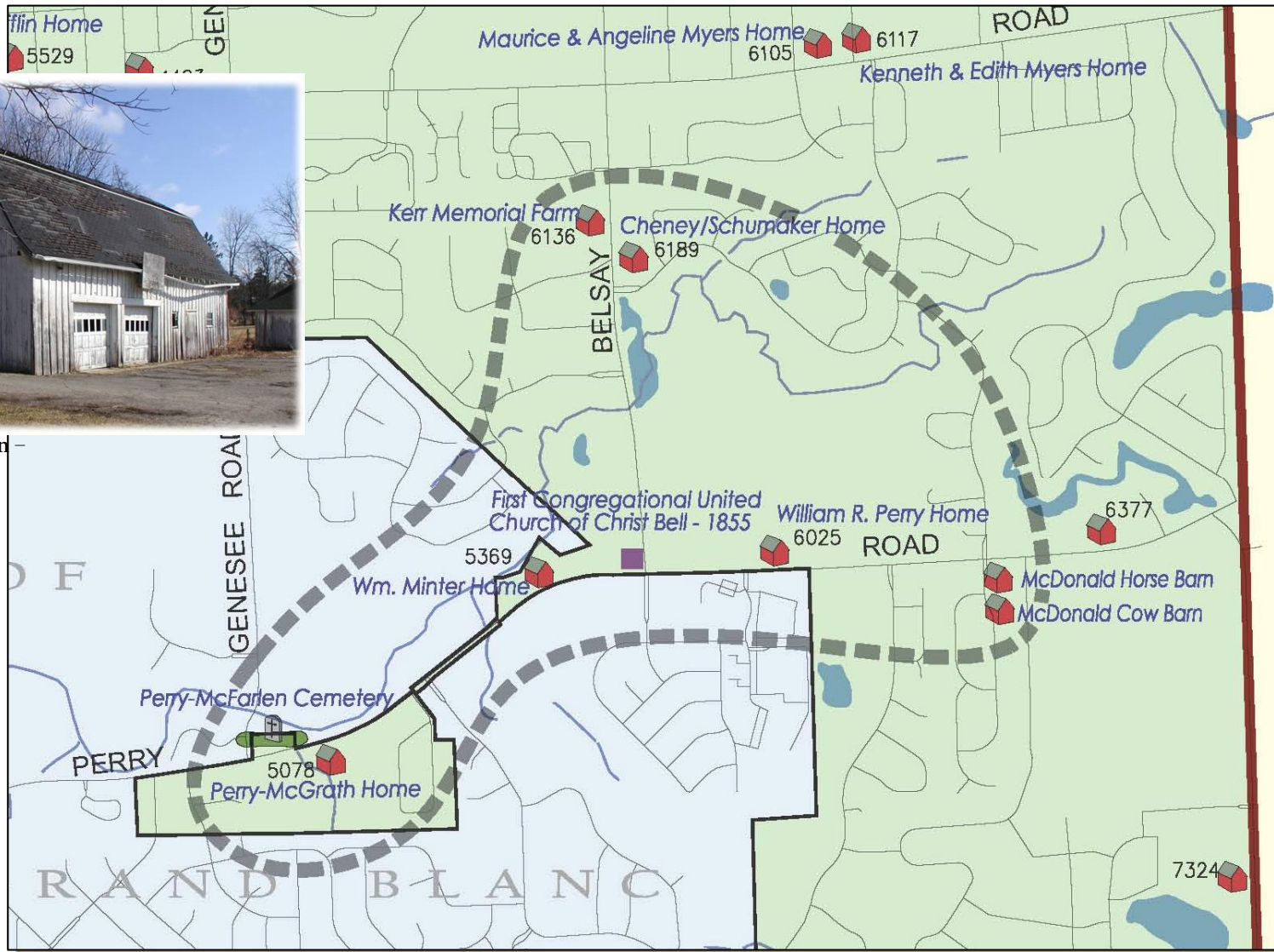
Several buildings remain today that were owned by the Perry family, including the Perry-McGrath house built by Simeon, which is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places per the SHPO in Lansing as of 2005.

Although we indicated the outline for the Perry Settlement district to include the William Minter Home, it should be noted that it is included due to its architectural significance and not because it was part of the original Perry Settlement. The boundaries extend from Perry and Belsay Roads including the former Eldon L. Auker Estate.

We recommend that the Historic Study Committee consider a marker acknowledging the Perry family's contribution to Grand Blanc Township.



Perry/McGrath Barn -  
5078 Perry Road

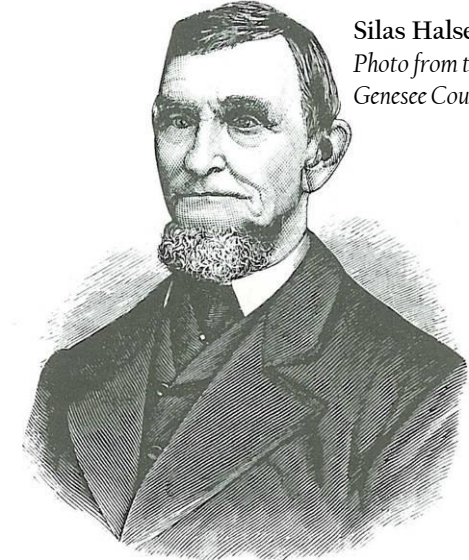


## The Halsey Road Area

Halsey Road is a gravel road today that pays homage to the Halsey family and other historic resources including a church, cemetery, and a plaque marking the location of a school dating back to 1837.

Mr. Silas Halsey married for the second time and traded his farm in New York for 200 acres of “wild land” in Grand Blanc. He arrived in 1837 with his family, built a log cabin, dug a well, and settled on his land. Within the first year of his arrival, Mr. Halsey was elected Assessor for seven years. Later, he was elected Supervisor, an office he held twice, and as Treasurer. Throughout his life, he continued to contribute his time and energies to the members of the Grand Blanc community.

His daughter, Sarah, married Charles Case and they, too, lived along Halsey Road with Charles serving as Township Clerk in 1875. Mr. Halsey’s son, David, married John Waterous’ daughter, Artemisia, and although they moved to Flint, the majority of the Waterous family remained on Halsey Road. In fact, a descendant of John Waterous still owns the South Grand Blanc Cemetery today.



Silas Halsey  
Photo from the “History of  
Genesee County”

S. D. HALSEY.



The church (with members of the congregation) at its present location- Photo courtesy of Grand Blanc Heritage Museum

The church was the original site of the Halsey School. The school was later re-located across the street at the current site of Grand Blanc Fire Station #3. There is a stone with a plaque marking the original site. There is a high concentration of remaining historic homes along Halsey Road that can contribute to the historic district in addition to the Halsey United Methodist Church.

We have indicated the outline for the Halsey Road Settlement area to include the entire road as well as a few sites along Baldwin Road near the intersection. We recommend that the Historic Study Committee consider a marker acknowledging Halsey Road and its former residents for their contribution to Grand Blanc Township.



The John Perry Home -  
10275 Halsey Road

