

Site Name: *Grand Blanc Township Offices*

Address: 5371 S. Saginaw Street

Tax Parcel Number: 12-05-576-016

Year Built: unknown at this time

Architectural Style: Block and Brick Commercial

Other Buildings/Features: Several storage/maintenance buildings, water tower, and new police station.



The north wall (building entrance) under renovation in 1975 - Photo courtesy of Grand Blanc Township



The north wall (building entrance) today.

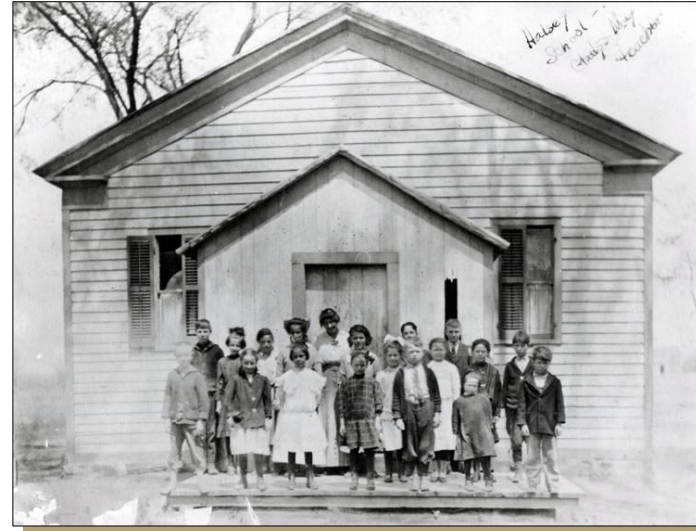
History/Descriptive Notes: The present Grand Blanc Township office site was a National Guard armory building prior to the township's purchase in the mid 1970s. It sat vacant for some years and was in very bad disrepair. Architect Cliff Gibbs (now deceased) and Gould Engineering, Inc. were selected to design this property for a government center using the existing armory structure. This redevelopment was the first of many site improvements that have led to the present government campus.

Site Name: *Various Historic School Sites*

Address: Throughout the Township

Tax Parcel Number: various

History/Descriptive Notes: The Grand Blanc School District has a long and interesting history including consolidation, shared rides, and honoring early pioneers by naming schools after the prominent residents. It all began in 1830 when Edmund Perry built the first school in Genesee County on his own property with his own money. It was the only school between Waterford and Mackinaw City. As the township continued to grow, there were more schools built for students near their homes.



Halsey School - Photo courtesy of Grand Blanc Heritage Museum

Several school districts were established including Mason, Sherwood, and Kennedy District 10, which was organized in 1858 at the corner of Baldwin and Fenton Roads. This school was known as a fractional school because it was split between Grand Blanc and Mundy Townships. The dividing line is said to be on the north side, through Valetta Calder's parent's farm at 1425 Baldwin Road. Amazingly, there are some former students still living in the area who are eager to share their knowledge and history of the early Grand Blanc school system.

The concept of public transportation for students was born when the Cook, Porter, and Grand Blanc districts were consolidated in 1904. Parents realized that they were all driving their kids to school in carriages and sleighs, so they started arranging to share rides, and carpooling was born in the horse and buggy era.



Grand Blanc Schools were the first to consolidate in the State of Michigan, creating one district and school house for all students. The school was built after an earlier structure had to be demolished and was ultimately destroyed by fire in 1920.

As was the tradition, most of today's schools were named after pioneers of early Grand Blanc such as Myers Elementary, Cook Elementary, Perry Center, Reid Elementary, and McGrath Elementary.

First school buses

Photo courtesy of Grand Blanc Heritage Museum

We recommend further research to determine the exact location of the first school house and suggest placing a commemorative marker at the site. It is believed to be on the Simeon Perry property, also known as the Perry-McGrath house. An archeological dig may discover school artifacts which may confirm the site.

Additional school sites worth researching:

Although these pioneer schools are now gone, we feel they too, set the precedence for the highly regarded school system of the Grand Blanc community and warrant further research for placement of a commemorative marker such as the one placed for the Halsey School Site. The 1873 settlement map shows the locations for several of these buildings.

These school sites (within the township) include:

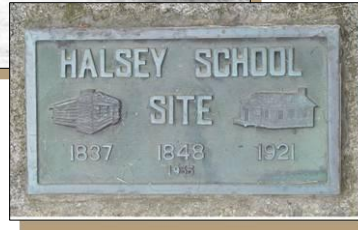
<u>Historic School Site</u>	<u>Location</u>
Whigville School	Saginaw near Hill Road
Butler School	Saginaw near Baldwin Road
Walker School	Hill near Belsay Road
Sherwood School	Fenton and Hill Road
Porter School	Porter and Reid Road
Mason School	Fenton near Grand Blanc Road
Cook School	Cook and Embury Road



1948 Football Team
 Photo courtesy of Grand Blanc
 Heritage Museum



Halsey School site marker dedication
 Photo courtesy of Grand Blanc Heritage Museum



Site Name: *The Halsey School Marker*

Address: northeast corner of Halsey and Baldwin Roads

Tax Parcel Number: n/a

Year Est: 1848 (date source: marker)

History/Descriptive Notes: This marker was placed in honor of the original Halsey School log cabin building of 1837 and the second Halsey School building of 1921. The marker was placed in 1935 at the second school site, which is now the property of Township Fire Station #3. This marker area is known as Halsey Park.