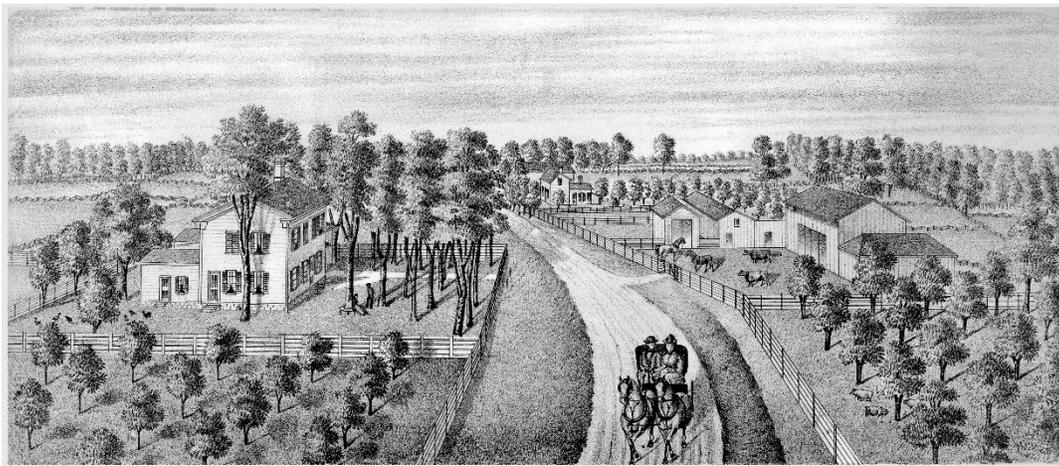
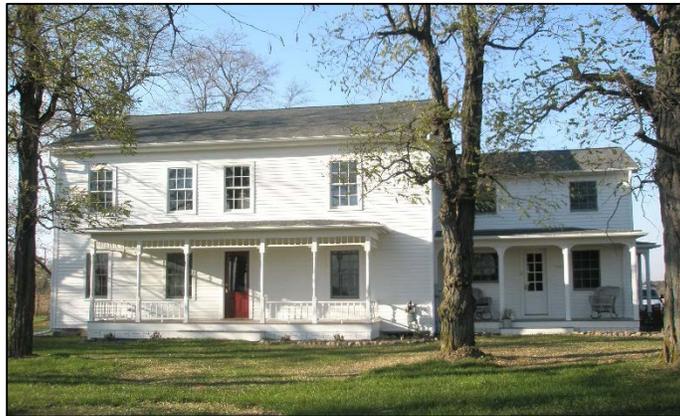


Harwood Heritage Farm
6356 E. Michigan Avenue
Saline, Michigan 48176

Pittsfield Charter Township
Washtenaw County, Michigan

Historic District Study Committee
Final Draft Report
September 10, 2015



RES. OF SIDNEY HARWOOD . SFC 27 PITTSFIELD TP MICH

**Harwood Heritage Farm
Historic District Study Committee
Final Draft Report**

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¹ Lithograph from *Combination Atlas of Washtenaw County* (Chicago: Everts and Stewart, 1874), 73.

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Note: all current photographs taken by members of the committee. Unless noted otherwise, older photographs and historical photographs provided by Janice Harwood.

Final Draft Report

September 10, 2015

I. Introduction

In a letter dated August 5, 2013 (**Attachment A**), Ms. Janice O. Harwood, representing herself and Alfred W. Harwood as the current joint owners of the Harwood Heritage Farm at 6356 E. Michigan Ave., Pittsfield Township, Washtenaw County, petitioned Pittsfield Charter Township to have the farmstead along with approximately ten acres designated a historic district under the jurisdiction of the Pittsfield Charter Township Historic District Commission. Following the provisions of Section 104 of the Township's Historic Preservation Ordinance (**Attachment B**), the Township Board of Trustees appointed a Historic District Study Committee by resolution on December 11, 2013 (**Attachment C**). The resolution charged the Study Committee to evaluate the property and determine if the farmstead meets criteria for historic district designation, as outlined in the Township Preservation Ordinance. Following is the report of the Committee's findings and recommendations.

The members of the **Harwood Heritage Farm Historic District Study Committee** are:

Ina Hanel-Gerdenich (Chair) – Ina Hanel-Gerdenich, A.B., M.S., is an independent consultant in historic preservation, specializing in the agricultural and architectural history of Michigan. She is the editor and a contributing author of "The Agricultural Landscape of Michigan: An Historic Context for the Theme of Agriculture," produced by the Michigan Agricultural Heritage Team in 2004 at Michigan State University and funded by the Michigan Department of Transportation. She was formerly employed as the Preservation Planner and Architectural Historian/Rural Specialist for Washtenaw County, serving the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission, and has completed several grant-funded historical surveys within the county and state. She has also served on several local historic district study committees, including Washtenaw County's Merriman Farm (Manchester Township) Study Committee and as Chair of the Conant Farm (Salem Township) Study Committee.

Carol E. Mull (Vice Chair) – Carol E. Mull, B.A., M.S., is a historic preservationist and Underground Railroad scholar, based in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Ms. Mull is the author of *The Underground Railroad in Michigan* (McFarland Publishers, Inc., July, 2010). Ms. Mull was a gubernatorial appointee to the Michigan Freedom Trail Commission, serving from 2001-2012. She is the recipient of the Eastern Michigan University 2012 Alumna Achievement Award and the Underground Railroad Free Press 2012 Prize for the Advancement of Knowledge.

Janice O. Harwood – Janice Harwood is a fifth generation owner of the W. W. Harwood Farmstead in Pittsfield Township. She has a B.S. degree in Home Economics Education from Michigan State University and an M.A. in Education from California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo. She has 31 years of experience as a home economist and 4-H Youth Agent for the co-operative Extension in California, Michigan and Pennsylvania. In this capacity she has published research in nutrition and food habits of immigrants from Laos and Mexico, and written education programs in nutrition education

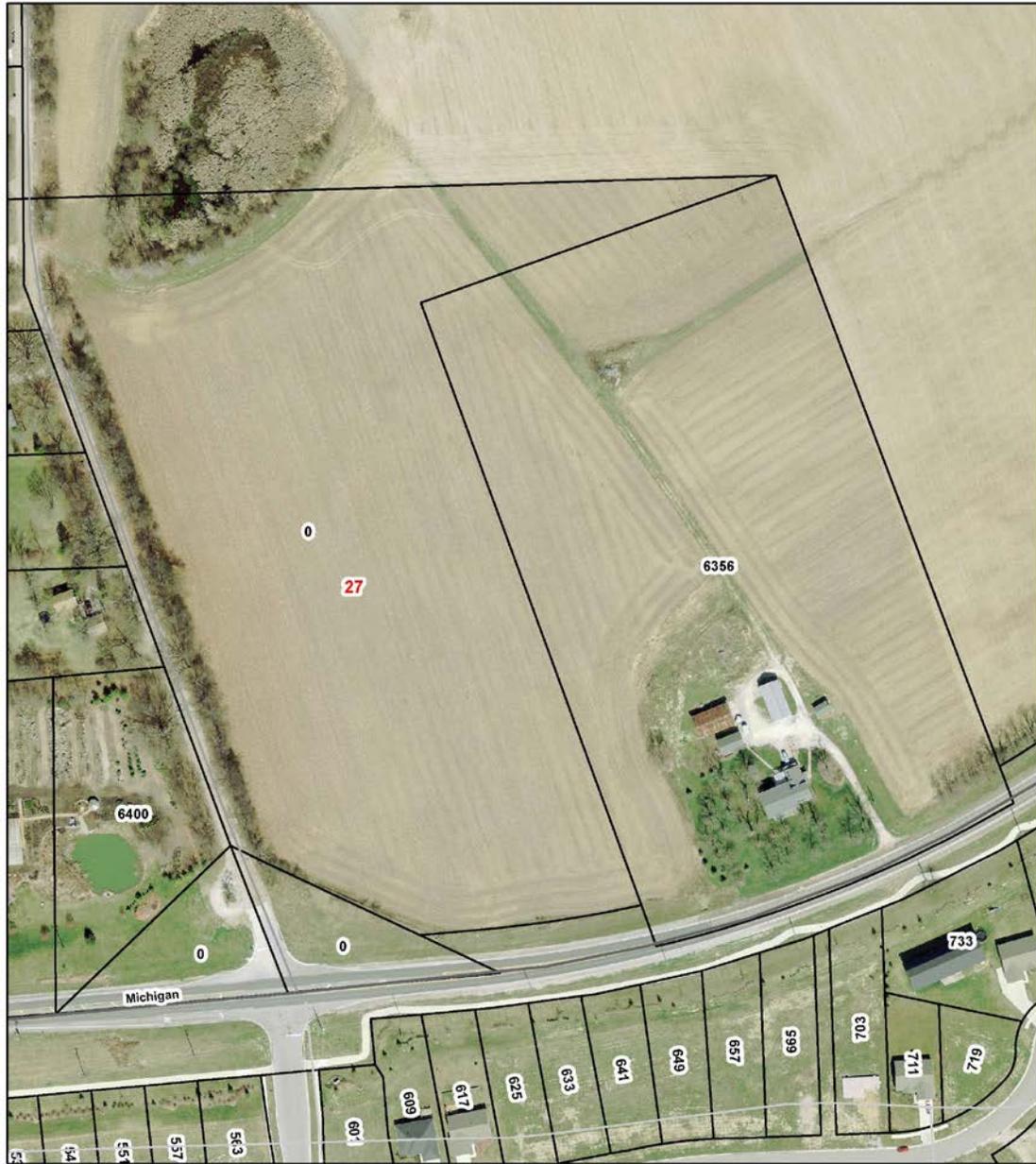
and educational materials for 4-H Clothing Projects. Recently Ms. Harwood used family photographs and an 1874 lithograph to complete a full rehabilitation of the 1848 Harwood farmhouse.

Patricia Tupacz Scribner – Patricia Tupacz Scribner is the elected Treasurer of Pittsfield Charter Township since November 2008 and serves on the Pittsfield Charter Township’s Board of Trustees. She is the board liaison to the Township’s Historic District Commission and the Arts & Culture Excellence Committee. In 2011 she served on the Sutherland-Wilson Historic District Study Committee. Presently, Patricia is also the Vice President of the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission (WCPARC) and has been a member for 26 years. Her interest in the community’s historical and cultural resources extends beyond the borders of Pittsfield Township. Patricia was instrumental in the acquisition and restoration of two of the County’s most historic sites: the Parker Mill County Park in Ann Arbor Township and Sharon Mills County Park in Sharon Township.

Mary Ellen Wall – Mary Ellen Wall is presently chairperson of the Pittsfield Charter Township Historic District Commission. In that capacity, she served as chairperson of the Sutherland-Wilson Historic District Study Committee in 2011. Ms. Wall also served on the Township’s Park and Recreation Commission for two four-year terms. In 1989, she was appointed liaison of the Commission to the then Pittsfield Historical Commission. Ms. Wall is also a member of the Pittsfield Historical Society. She has been a resident of Pittsfield Township for 41 years and conducts research in local history with her husband, Ed. Wall has four children and twelve grandchildren.

Susan Cee Wineberg – Susan Cee Wineberg, B.A., M.A., M.S., was born in Chicago, where she acquired her love of all things architectural, old and new. She came to Ann Arbor in 1964, worked as an archaeologist in Turkey, conducted research at the Ph.D. level, and obtained her advanced degree in Near Eastern Studies and Anthropology. The Ann Arbor Sesquicentennial and American Bicentennial fueled her interest in local history and in 1993 she obtained an M.S. in Historic Preservation at Eastern Michigan University. Susan has served as President of the Washtenaw County Historical Society (1994-1999); on the Ann Arbor Historic District Commission three times; as Chair of the Awards Committee of the HDC for 20 years; and on numerous committees, including the Downtown, Landmark, Individual Historic Properties, Lower Town, Old Fourth Ward, and Germantown Historic District Study Committees. She has written extensively on Ann Arbor, including three books: *Historic Ann Arbor: An Architectural Guide* (2014), *Lost Ann Arbor* (2004) and *Historic Buildings, Ann Arbor, Michigan* (1992). She lives with husband Lars Bjorn in an 1850 Greek Revival house in the Old Fourth Ward Historic District.

The Committee wishes to thank **Ms. Kimberley Johnson** for her excellent and much appreciated administrative assistance. We also thank **Mr. Allen Squire**, who produced Figures 1 and 2, and **Ms. Melissa Morgenthaler** for her assistance early in the project.



Harwood Farm

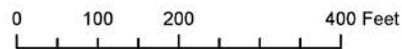


Figure 1. Harwood Farm Property and adjacent lands, 6356 Michigan Ave., Saline, Michigan 48176.

(Note former Harwood Barn on property labeled “733.”)

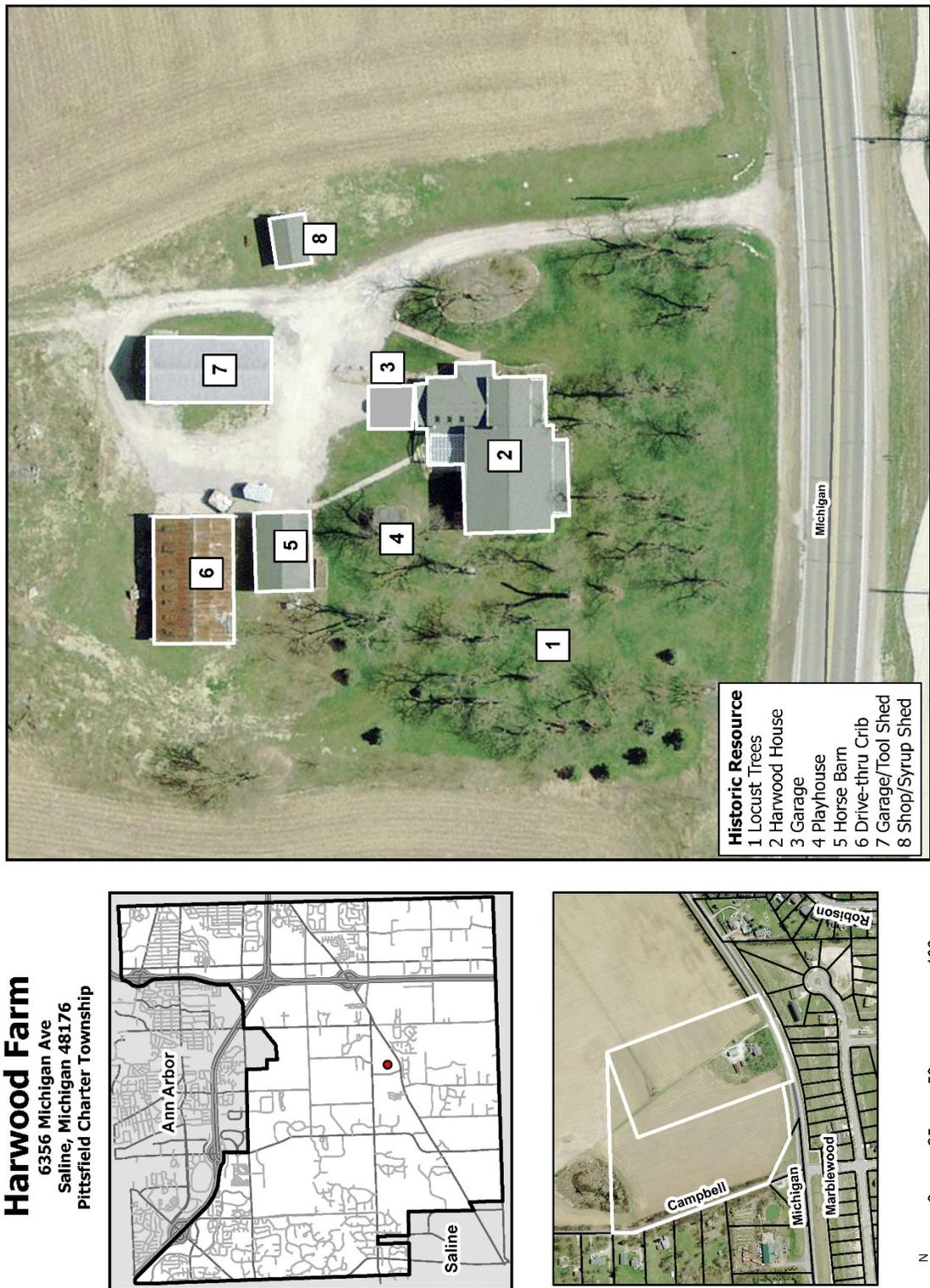


Figure 2. Aerial View of Historic Resources, Harwood Farmstead, 6356 Michigan Ave., Saline, Michigan 48176

II. Description of Property

Setting

The Harwood Farm is located at 6356 East Michigan Avenue in Pittsfield Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan. The property is situated in the Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 27 of T3S R6E. It lies approximately four miles northeast of the village of Saline, six miles west of the city of Ypsilanti and nine miles south of the city of Ann Arbor. The rectangular, ten-acre parcel is located on the north side of Michigan Avenue (US-12), at the point where the road makes a pronounced curve to the southwest. The mostly tilled property is surrounded by neighboring tilled fields to the north, east and west, and by Michigan Avenue and the Harwood Farms subdivision to the south. The adjacent parcel to the west, owned by the same family, is not a part of this study.



Figure 3. Grove of Locust Trees. Looking west.

The cluster of buildings defining the farmstead is located in the southern portion of the property. The farmstead boundaries are visually defined on the east, north, and west sides by the transition from a roughly rectangular field of grass and brush to the surrounding tilled fields, and along the south side by the public road (**Figure 1**). The driveway runs approximately parallel to the eastern edge of the farmstead, passing the farmhouse on its right, forming a loop behind the house and continuing to the fields to the north.

The two-story farmhouse is the most prominent of the buildings on the property, standing near the center of the farmstead with its long axis oriented parallel to the road. The remaining buildings behind the house include a horse barn, corn crib, garage, and syrup shed (**Figure 2**). The horse barn and corn crib are built parallel to one another along the west side of the farmyard. Both face east. The maple syrup shed stands along the eastern edge, facing west towards the other buildings. The garage is located between these buildings, with its long axis oriented north-south. It stands in the center of the driveway loop.

The landscape to the south and west of the farmhouse features a mown lawn dotted with older locust trees standing in a grove-like setting (**Figure 3**). The trees visually separate the house from the main road. To the east, a flower bed separates the house from the driveway. The bed's footprint is the shape of an elongated oval whose perimeter is defined by a fieldstone border. A single locust tree stands near its center. The house is connected to the driveway loop at the rear by a brick pathway. The land surrounding some of the outbuildings includes tall, unmown grasses and brush. A Sesquicentennial Farm marker

commemorating the Harwood family tenure stands adjacent to the driveway near the entrance to the property.

Farmhouse with 2012 Garage



Figure 4. Harwood Farmhouse, front and W elevations. Looking NE.



Figure 5. Harwood Farmhouse. Front and E elevations of main section and side wing. Looking NW.



Figure 6. Harwood Farmhouse. Rear wing and rear (N) elevation of main structure. Looking ESE.

The 1848 farmhouse, which is the oldest building on the property, is composed of three sections. The main section is a full two-story, side-gabled structure with a rectangular footprint (**Figure 4**). A lower and narrower, two-story side wing is attached to the east side of the main section (**Figure 5**). A third, one-story wing lies perpendicular to and is attached to the rear of the side wing (**Figures 6, 7**). It has been extended to the rear by a slightly offset, newer wing serving as a garage. The 2012 garage is attached to the house by a relatively flat roof covering a narrow open breezeway.

The original portion of the house rests mostly on a fieldstone foundation. Some sections have been replaced with a cinder block wall covered by a veneer of cut stone. The stones are mostly rounded ones separated by recessed concrete mortar (**Figures 8, 9**). The side wing and rear wing stand on a poured concrete foundation covered on the exterior surface with the matching stone veneer.

Above the foundation, the house is clad with horizontal siding. The siding on the southern elevation is made of cedar. The remaining siding used is “Hardi-plank.” The siding is framed on the outer corners by narrow corner boards. Notably absent on all elevations is the “water table” or “apron” board visually separating the siding from the foundation. The top of the walls are capped by a frieze board embellished with a strip of bullnose (torus-like) molding mounted in the lower third of the board. An additional narrow band of molding covers the gap between the top of the board and soffit.



Figure 7. Harwood Farmhouse. Rear wing and extended garage attached to the side wing of the house.



Figure 8. Harwood Farmhouse. Detail of stone foundation, south elevation of main section of house. Looking N.



Figure 9. Harwood Farmhouse. West elevation, depicting Greek Revival-style cornice returns. Looking E.

The decorative frieze runs along the full length of the house, ending in a cornice return on the side elevations (**Figure 9**).

The structural framing of the house varies by section. The main front-facing section is of timber frame (“post and beam”) construction. The remaining wings are framed with conventional two by fours. All sections are capped by a shallow-pitched gable roof covered with asphalt shingles.

Main Section – Façade

The main section of the house is four bays wide and a full two stories tall (**Figure 4**). The bays are expressed by the placement of windows on the façade and are of variable width. The center bays are relatively narrow, while the outer flanking bays are wider. The overall effect is one of double openings in the center flanked by single openings on the side, providing some visual balance to the asymmetric façade.

The windows on the façade consist of new double-hung 6/6 sashes that fill a rectangular opening cased in simple trim. The upper level windows appear to be slightly taller than those on the main floor (**Figure 5**). The windows on the south and east elevations feature real wood muntins; those on the west and north elevations have snap-in muntins.

A front door is similarly framed with simple trim (**Figures 10, 11**). The wood door features two vertical recessed panels at the bottom and a large, single pane on top.

Main Section-Side Elevations

The side elevations of the main section of the house are also relatively simple. Siding and trim details are similar to those placed on the front elevation, although, as mentioned above, the frieze board ends in the cornice return at the triangular base of the gables (**Figure 9**). The returns are a popular design element of the Greek Revival architectural style. The

frieze board is capped by a plain projecting cornice, which in turn visually supports the plain raking frieze under the gable roof. The fascia along the gable is capped at the top by stepped cyma recta molding.

The west elevation features rectangular, double-hung windows of similar size, two at each level. The windows are placed above one another on the elevation, but are off-set towards the back of the house relative to the center vertical axis of the elevation. The east elevation is mostly hidden behind the attached side wing. However, it does have several openings, including two matching small double-hung windows centrally located under the gable peak at the attic level, and one full-size window on the second level that is situated above the side wing's front porch (**Figure 5**). To avoid blocking this window, the end of the wing's roof edge stops short of the sash. A door opening is located on the first floor below this window, opening onto the side wing's porch. The door itself is made of



Figure 10. Front door, looking NW



Figure 11. Harwood Farmhouse. Front door and porch of main section. Looking WNW.



Figure 12. Harwood Farmhouse. Detail of side door and porch column. Looking NW.



Figure 13 (left). Harwood Farmhouse. West elevation of rear wing. Looking ESE.

wood, and includes eight lights (two columns of four) in the upper portion and a horizontal raised panel with beveled edges in the lower portion (**Figure 12**). A relatively small brick chimney runs up the exterior wall to the rear of the intersection of the wing and the main section of the house. The chimney cuts through the cornice and extends upward beyond the roof (**Figure 7**).

Main Section-Rear Elevation

The rear elevation of the main section of the house features similar trim and siding details to the other elevations (**Figure 6**). It is also punctuated by asymmetrically placed window and door openings—only three on each floor level. The dominant opening is a newer door with flanking side lights placed at the east end of the elevation. The door matches in style to the door on the east elevation described above. The flanking sidelights each contain a column of four lights and matching panel below. The door opens onto a wood deck covered by a full-size wood trellis mimicking a gable roof. The trellis is composed of open rafters with carved ends resting on a simple boxed frame. The frame is supported on square columns visually attached by small decorative brackets which match those on the secondary and side porch columns (**Figures 12, 13**).

Side Wing

Like the main section of the house, the side wing has a rectangular footprint (**Figure 5**). It is shorter and narrower than the main section, but it is positioned so that its long axis is an extension of the main section's axis. The side wing consists of three bays on the first floor and two bays on the second (**Figure 14**). It is two bays deep. With one exception, the double hung windows on the front of the wing are similar in width but exhibit only $\frac{2}{3}$ the height of the others on the house. This exception and the windows on the east elevation of the wing are almost the height of the main section's windows. The trim details of the window and door openings and the corner boards match those of the main house. However, the frieze board and cornice returns on the side wing are absent.



Figure 14. Harwood Farmhouse. Side wing porch. Looking NW.

Rear Wing

The rear wing to the house is punctuated by openings on its east and west elevations (**Figures 7, 13**). On the east side, a center door flanked by double hung windows is sheltered by an off-set side porch. On the west side, two sliding doors open onto the wood deck described above. The doors match those found elsewhere on the house (wood with lights above and horizontal panel below). The north end of the wing includes a single door and a small, square window in the gable. The gable is separated from the rest of the elevation by an attached flat roof that connects the wing to the adjacent garage.

Porches



Figure 15. Harwood Farmhouse. Cross section of front porch. Looking W.



Figure 16. Harwood Farmhouse. New porch on E elevation of rear wing. Looking NW.

The façades of both the main section and secondary wing of the house exhibit two newer porches reminiscent of the Victorian period (**Figures 14, 15, Front cover**). The porches are five feet deep. The main porch runs $\frac{3}{4}$ length of the main section, and the side porch is the full length of the side wing. A third porch is attached to the east elevation of the rear wing (**Figure 16**). All porches feature a shallow-hipped roof covered with asphalt shingles. The front porch is supported by six turned columns. The central column on each side is original (**Figure 17**). The columns on each outside corner and flanking the center steps were made to match the original pattern (**Figures 15, 18**). The columns are tied together at the top with a narrow band of decorative spindles, and at the bottom by a low railing composed of 2x4s attached to the top and bottom of widely-spaced spindles (**Figures 19, 20**). Like the porch columns and spindles, the porch skirt and decorative brackets were recreated from photographs to match the original features (**Figures 15, 21**; see Figure 52). The skirt consists of a single board below the porch frame, decorated with cut-outs in the form of circular holes tied together by narrow slits.

The east wing porch and rear wing side porch are constructed in similar fashion (**Figures 14, 16**). The main difference between these and the front porch is the style of column replicated (**Figure 12**). The east and rear wing porch columns are made of thick vertical boards with smaller boards attached on each side, thus creating a “+”-shape in cross-section. The inside corners of the cross-section are filled near the bottom of each post with small individual posts with beveled tops. The profile of this small embellishment resembles the inside corner pieces typically found on turn-of-the-20th century interior baseboard trim. The top of the columns are visually expanded with decorative sawn brackets. The brackets are approximately triangular in shape, with the hypotenuse cut into a gentle curve, and the adjacent outer corners expanding into a circle. A quarter-round trim board wraps around base of the columns and also caps the portion of the column that projects beyond the porch header. Unlike the front porch, the secondary wing and east side porches do not have railings.

All porch ceilings are covered in decorative plywood sheets mimicking bead board (Figure 20). Lighting is provided by recessed can lights or a fixed ceiling lamp.

The Garage Wing

The Garage attached to the north end of the rear wing was built in 2012, matching the rear wing in massing, scale, roof pitch and orientation, siding and foundation (Figure 7). The structure features an overhead, two-car garage door that faces the rear yard.



Figure 17. Porch column, looking NNW.



Figure 18. Porch column, new reproduction, looking SW.



Figure 19. Detail of porch railing, facing N.

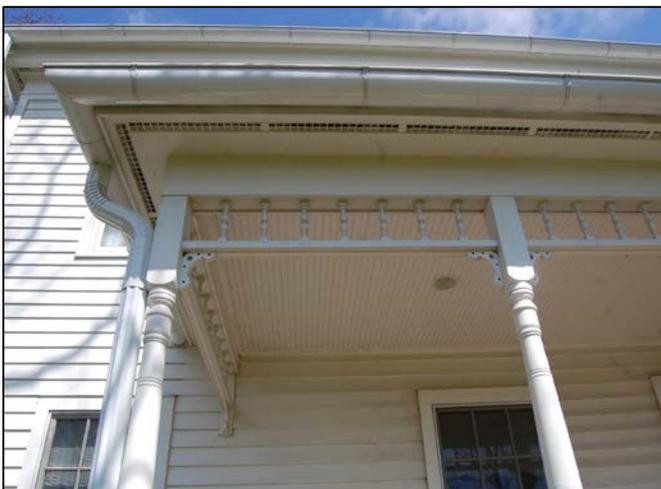


Figure 20. Detail of porch trim and ceiling, facing N.



Figure 21. Column bracket detail, facing S.

Play House



The c. 1950 Play House is a small, rectangular side-gable structure that sits on a boxed-in wood frame in the back yard of the farmhouse (**Figures 22, 23**). The building has a shallow-pitched, gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. The roof ends at an open cornice with a raking fascia attached to the exposed 2x4 rafter extensions. A series of closely spaced nailer boards is exposed at the gable ends (**Figure 24**). The building's walls are covered with wide wood siding with small, protective aluminum caps nailed to the outer corners of the boards. The top of the wall is capped by a narrow frieze board that in some places extends out to visually support the open cornice.

The façade of the building features a central door flanked by small, square windows. The door is made of vertical boards. The windows are single sashes divided into four lights. The sashes are mounted on the side with hinges. The surrounding trim consists of simple boards on the sides and top, capped by a small projecting lintel above. A sill with rounded edge defines the bottom of the window opening.

The remaining elevations feature different fenestration patterns. The south side elevation has one central window, the west (rear) elevation has two spaced windows, and the north side elevation has no windows, and is completely covered with siding.

Top. Figure 22. Playhouse. Front and side elevations. Looking NW.

Upper Left. Figure 23. Playhouse. Rear and side elevations. Looking SE.

Left. Figure 24. Playhouse. Detail of roof construction. Looking N.

Horse Barn



Figure 25. Horse Barn. Front (E) and side (S) elevations. Looking WNW.



Figure 26. Horse Barn. Side (north) elevation. Looking WSW.



Figure 27. Horse Barn. Window detail, side (north) elevation. Looking S.

The c. 1916 Horse Barn is a 1.5-story, rectangular building with a front-gable orientation (**Figures 25, 26**). It rests on a cinder block foundation and faces east, standing northwest of the farmhouse. The barn features a medium-pitch gable roof with an open cornice and exposed rafter ends. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The building's walls are covered with face-nailed vertical boards painted barn red. The boards on the front (east) and rear (west) elevations are narrower than those on the side elevations. Numerous areas of newer boards suggest patches covering former openings or replacement siding. Gouges on the south elevation suggest that the building once was attached to some kind of lean-to or other structure. The red walls are outlined by white corner boards, white eaves, and a narrow white frieze on the façade. The side elevations each feature two single, six-light sash windows (**Figure 27**). The windows are cased with simple, relatively narrow trim which is also painted white.

Access to the building is provided by openings on the front and rear elevations. The front elevation has a central opening covered by two sliding doors. A hay-loft opening above is covered by a hinged door. This opening is cased in simple board trim and features a slight reveal at the base of the opening serving as a sill. Both upper and lower level doors and the surrounding wall area are made of newer vertical boards, suggesting that the barn may have previously had a different door configuration on this elevation. The existing track for the lower door extends across the full width of the building. It is painted



Figure 28. Horse Barn. Rear (W) and side (S) elevations. Looking ENE.

white, similar to the corner board trim, the side edges of the lower doors, and the water table at the bottom of the front walls on either side of the lower doors. The rear elevation includes a single door opening on one side, which is covered by a sliding door made of matching new vertical boards. The door also features white-painted edging on its sides. Its track only extends half way across the building and is painted red. A patch of new siding at the west end of the south elevation suggests that the barn may have had an opening

adjacent to the rear opening at one time (**Figure 28**).

Although this building is called the horse barn, it originally housed a 3T scale used for weighing hay and later was occupied by swine.

Corn Crib



Figure 29. Corn crib. Front and rear sections. Looking WNW.



Figure 30. Corn crib. Front section. Looking NNW.

Built in the early 1950s, the corn crib building consists of two parts: the front section rests on a concrete block foundation, and the longer rear section is mounted on concrete block posts (**Figures 29-31**). Both sections are capped by a continuous, shallow-pitched gable roof. The roof is framed with 2x4 rafters tied together at their base and by widely spaced nailer boards (**Figure 32**). The framing is covered with standing seam metal strips. The cross section of a raised metal-covered ridge provides a decorative element at the peak of the façade as well as on the rear elevation. The roof is punctuated with numerous small square hatches on each side of the ridge (**Figure 33**).



Figure 31. Corn crib. Rear elevation. Looking ENE.



Figure 32. Corn crib. Roof framing. Looking E towards the front portion.



Figure 33. Corn crib. Hatches on roof. Looking S at N elevation.

The front elevation of the building is sided with vertical tongue-and-groove boards. The boards cover the walls as well as the center sliding doors and the adjacent hinged doors (**Figure 30**).

There is no trim or casing around the door openings. Corner boards and frieze boards are also absent. The thin, boxed-in raking cornice extends slightly over the wall elevation, and is framed with simple boards. An extended track supporting the sliding door runs across the façade and beyond the building's outer corners at the eave line. The side elevations of the front portion of the building are covered in metal strips with rounded standing seams applied horizontally.

The rear portion of the building is more open, maximizing air movement (**Figure 31**). The side walls are defined by two parallel cribs set apart to permit equipment to drive between them. The cribs are eight bays long and one bay wide (**Figure 34**). They are covered with sheets of perforated metal that are strengthened with horizontal projecting ribs. The corn cribs are accessed *via* openings covered with hinged plywood doors. The large opening between the cribs could originally be closed by a sliding track door (with track extending beyond the building's corners). The door is composed of vertical groove boards assembled in a

manner similar to those on the front of the building. The gable above the opening is also covered with vertical tongue-and-groove boards. The triangular area above each crib, however, is outlined with a plain frieze over a solid board painted white (**Figure 31**).

The entire building is in rough condition. Some of the roof strips have been bent or are crumpled, some of the siding is rusty, exposed wood is in need of paint and has partially rotted, and some of the posts on which the cribs rest are out of position (**Figure 35**).



Figure 34. Corn crib. Interior wall of crib. Looking NE.



Figure 35. Corn crib. South elevation, crib on posts. Looking NE.

Garage/Tool Shed



Figure 36. Garage. Front and side elevations. Looking NW.

The 1935 garage is an elongated rectangular building with front-gable orientation (**Figures 36, 37**). It faces south towards the rear of the farmhouse, and is the only building on the farm with an axis oriented north-south (**Figure 2**). The building rests on a poured concrete foundation and is capped by a gable roof of medium pitch. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and extends over the open cornice eaves. The underneath side of the eaves is covered with a simple board at the gable ends but

remains open along the side elevations (**Figure 38**). The building is sided in vertical, tongue-and-groove boards that envelope the entire structure. It has no corner boards or water table, but the walls are capped at the top by a simple board that runs along the eaves. In addition, the gable of the rear wall is highlighted by siding that overlaps the siding of the lower portion of the wall. This “decorative” element is frequently found on area barns. The design is not present at the front of the building.



Figure 37. Garage. Side and rear elevations. Looking ESE.

The front of the building features two single garage door openings placed to the right of center. The openings are covered with a small projecting pent roof above two metal overhead garage doors. The sides of the building are punctuated with two small, square windows outlined in simple board trim and a narrow sill. The single sashes frame

four lights each (**Figure 39**). A similar window is found near the top of each gable.

The rear of the building serves as a tool shed (**Figure 37**). The side elevations at this end of the building consist of openings covered with sliding track doors. The supporting tracks extend towards the front of the building. Old-fashioned metal handles are mounted onto the doors. The foundation drops to grade along this section, but remains high at the building's rear end.

Four, relatively short pointed lightning rods are mounted onto the ridge of the roof.



Figure 38. Garage. Detail of eave, E elevation. Facing N.



Figure 39. Garage. Window detail, E elevation. Looking WNW.

Shop/Maple Syrup Shed

The maple syrup shed is situated along the east side of the driveway as it begins to make a loop around the barn yard. The early 1950s building faces west towards the other outbuildings on the property. Its gable-roof ridge is oriented east-west, parallel to the length of the building. The small, one-story wood structure has a rectangular footprint (**Figures 40, 41**). Its foundation is made of older concrete blocks, which are recessed several inches from the plane of the walls. The walls are covered with vertical, tongue-and-groove beaded and V-notch boards of variable width. Decorative elements, such as corner boards, a water table, and window trim are absent. The simple gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The roof ends are defined by a fascia made from a simple board. Along the sides of the building, the fascia slopes inward, reflecting the angle of the exposed plain rafter ends to which it is nailed. The underneath side of the open eaves is covered with the exposed sheathing (nailer) boards oriented parallel to the length of the building.



Figures 40 (above) and 41 (below). Shop. Front (W) and south elevations, and rear (E) and north elevations, respectively.



The façade of the building is defined by the full-width double doors (**Figure 42**). Like the walls, the doors are made of tongue-and-groove siding held together at the top and bottom by plain horizontal boards nailed over the board ends. The doors are mounted with large strap hinges placed near the top and bottom of each door. Like the doors, the walls on the façade are capped under the gable by a simple board mimicking a frieze.

The side elevations feature a single rectangular window placed towards the front of the middle of the length of the building. The window consists of a single sash divided into four small, rectangular lights. The opening is cut into the siding, and is only embellished with a projecting wood sill.

The east (rear) elevation of the building appears to have been modified. The wall is divided by a projecting square chimney built of dark gray cinder blocks (**Figure 43**). The top of the chimney cuts into the peak of the

gable eave and extends three rows above the roof, where it ends with a simple clay chimney pot. A small access door probably once covered the recessed opening near the bottom of the chimney. Two additional doors made of vertical wood siding are located in the gable and flank the chimney. They are held in place with a wood latch on each side. Exposed flashing near the middle of the rear wall as well as at the rear end of the side elevations suggest that the building was originally built with a rear half-height, shed-roof lean. At some point, probably at the same time the chimney was constructed, the rear lean was raised to a full height and covered by the extended gable roof. The siding of the raised lean features narrower tongue-and-groove boards with a V-notch pattern on the rear and south elevations. The wider bead board pattern is found below. The siding pattern on the north elevation is reversed with wider, older bead boards above and narrower V-notch boards below the flashing.



Figure 42. Shop. Front doors on W elevation. Looking NE.



Figure 43. Shop. Rear (E) elevation showing outline of original lean. Looking WSW.

III. Summary of Resources on Harwood Farm

Note: Resource number ("No.") correlates to number on site plan (Figure 2).

No.	Resource	Date of Construction	Date of Major Change	Comments
1.	Locust Trees*	ever present		
2.	Harwood House*	c. 1848	before 1940 1950s 2006-2008	NW wing removed remodeling rehabilitation, restoration & reconstruction attached to house
3.	Garage	2012		
4.	Playhouse*	c. 1950		rehabilitated 2006-2008
5.	Horse Barn*	c. 1916		moved from across the road 2005
6.	Drive-thru Crib*	early 1950s		
7.	Garage/Tool Shed*	c. 1935		
8.	Shop/Syrup Shed*	early 1950s	rear extension date unknown	possibly moved to current location

**Resources considered historically significant.*

- Number of historic resources within proposed district: 7
- Number of non-historic resources within proposed district: 1
- Percentage of historic resources within proposed district: 87.5%

IV. History of the Property

The history of the Harwood Farm can be divided into several phases: the Initial Settlement Period, covering the time when the property was assembled by the farm's patent owner, John Gilbert; the Early Farm Development and The Golden Years Periods, when the William W. and Sidney Harwood families occupied and developed the 19th and early 20th century farm, respectively; and the 20th Century Harwood Farm Period, when the Webb S. Harwood family modified the farm to accommodate mid-20th to early 21st century needs. The final period covers the time the farm was reconfigured into its current form. Much of the information obtained for this report is derived from oral history, family and census records, county histories, atlases, plat maps and some secondary references.

The Initial Settlement Period – Major John Gilbert (1826-1835)

The land that would become today's Harwood Heritage Farm was part of a series of purchases made by Major John Gilbert from the Federal government between 1826 and 1831. Gilbert ultimately bought all of Section 27 and another 160 acres in Section 28 in Pittsfield Township (**Table 1** and **Appendix E**). He also purchased an additional 240 acres in Section 31 in 1826.

Table 1. Pittsfield Township purchases made by Major John Gilbert.

<u>Purchase Date</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Description</u>
<i>Gilbert Farm, total 800 acres</i>			
1/6/1826	320	27	SW ¹ / ₄ & E ¹ / ₂ NW ¹ / ₄ & W ¹ / ₂ NE ¹ / ₄
2/1/1826	160	27	W ¹ / ₂ SE ¹ / ₄ & E ¹ / ₂ NE ¹ / ₄
8/22/1831	80	27	E ¹ / ₂ SE ¹ / ₄
8/26/1831	80	27	W ¹ / ₂ NW ¹ / ₄
12/1/1831	160	28	SE ¹ / ₄
<i>Additional Land</i>			
2/1/1826	240	31	SE ¹ / ₄ & W ¹ / ₂ NW ¹ / ₄

John Gilbert was an explorer, surveyor and opportunist who purchased large tracts of land between Ypsilanti and Hillsdale County along or near the Detroit-Chicago Road during the early 19th century. Much of his biography is summarized by Ray Berg in 2008 and rewritten by Janice Anscheutz in 2013.² Gilbert was born 1774 in Lenox, Massachusetts, the son of a

² Ray Berg, "Major John Gilbert: Founder of Manchester" (Manchester Historical Society, <http://www.manchesterhistoricalsociety.org>, posted 7/22/2008 and accessed 9/5/2014); and Janice Anscheutz, "The Gilbert Family" (Ann Arbor District Library, <http://www.ypsilantigleanings.aadl.org/ypsigleanings/222476>, posted 4/10/2013, accessed 9/6/2014).

Revolutionary War soldier who was an engineer and surveyor. Lenox was located near the town of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, an area filled with early 19th century industrial mills.

As a young man, Gilbert learned the trades of his father and was exposed to the enterprises around him. The two men traveled west into New York in 1792 to survey the land around what would become the city of Rochester and vicinity, including the town of Manchester, New York. In 1803 John Gilbert married and settled in the Syracuse, New York area. There he and his father built the Onondaga Furnace to make military equipment. Subsequently Gilbert served during the War of 1812, achieving the rank of Major. From 1818 to 1823, he assisted in the surveying of land to develop the Erie Canal. It was during this time that he met and worked with Orange Risdon, a fellow surveyor and New Yorker. Once the survey job was completed, the two men followed the Erie Canal travelers west into Michigan, where Risdon was hired to direct the survey of the Detroit-Chicago Road. The survey work was authorized by the U.S. Congress as part of the General Survey Act of 1824. Gilbert worked with Risdon, becoming familiar with the route from Detroit all the way into Hillsdale County to the west.

Gilbert's background in surveying and working in the industries directly influenced his interest in the land along the Detroit-Chicago Road. Both he and Orange Risdon seized the opportunity to purchase tracts of land from the government, several years before pioneering settlers started to arrive. In Gilbert's case, he kept his eye out for land that would be ideal for the construction of mills or other choice parcels located along the route. Within ten years he purchased many parcels in Michigan, 25 of which totaled 2480 acres in Washtenaw County.³

According to Berg's account, Gilbert moved back to New York between 1826 and 1830.⁴ He returned to Ypsilanti in January 1831 with his family, partly to escape anti-Masonic activities rising in New York. By 1832 he was sufficiently established in Ypsilanti to be elected and serve two terms as the village President.⁵ In 1833 he commissioned a survey for the establishment of the village of Manchester on property he purchased in the southwestern corner of the County. He also developed a mill and other properties there. Gilbert amassed a fortune during the 1830s, positioning his Ypsilanti enterprises to take advantage of the railroad that arrived in 1837. During this time Gilbert also served as Washtenaw County's first sheriff.⁶ For the rest of his life he focused on entrepreneurial opportunities in the Ypsilanti area, eventually losing his fortune through unsuccessful investments. He passed away a relatively poor man in 1860.

From the written record, it appears that Gilbert made few improvements on his Pittsfield property. There may have been a pre-existing clearing on the property—a remnant of a Native American camp.⁷ The camp would have been one of many established along the

³ Bureau of Land Management Records (<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov>, accessed 9/5/2014); and Anschultz, "The Gilbert Family."

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ Berg, "Major John Gilbert."

⁶ *History of Washtenaw County, Michigan* (Chicago: Charles C. Chapman and Co., 1881), 447.

⁷ Berg, "Major John Gilbert." According to Jan Harwood, Dr. Henry Wright of the University of Michigan found flint fragments near the homestead during archaeological digs conducted in 2005 and 2006. Surveyor C.S. Woodard references an Indian campground on the Gilbert Farm in an 1893 letter (www.ypsigleanings.aadl/ypsigleanings/13939).

Old Sauk Trail that was to become the Chicago Road. The Pittsfield Township assessment records from 1835 indicate Gilbert cleared about 100 acres of the land. Gilbert also built a cabin on the property, as suggested by early Township meeting minutes which mention the Township's first organizational meeting held there "in a log cabin" on April 8, 1834.⁸

According to the Washtenaw County Record of Deeds, Gilbert sold the land in Sections 27 and 28 to William Webb Harwood, a fellow pioneer and Ypsilanti entrepreneur, for \$6000 in 1835. In exchange, Gilbert purchased Harwood's Ypsilanti properties including a grist mill for \$12,000 (Liber F: 291, 400).

Early Farm Development – William Webb and Polly Holden Harwood (1835-1860)

The first chapter in the development of the former Gilbert property into a farm took place during the years William Webb Harwood and his wife, Polly, occupied the farm. Like John Gilbert, William Harwood was a native of Massachusetts. He was born in 1785 and moved with his family to New York while still a child. Those early years in western New York would influence Harwood's religious and social views and lead him to actively participate in community affairs and the Underground Railroad.

In 1789 the Harwoods left Adams, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, to settle in western Palmyra, New York, a town recently established by General John Swift. During the construction of the Erie Canal in 1823, this portion of Palmyra was renamed Macedon. William Harwood and members of the Swift family are linked through the first church in America to ban slaveholders after both families moved further west to Michigan.⁹ From the age of four until he was 39, William Harwood lived in one of the most dynamic places in America. With the Erie Canal opening travel to the West, people from all races, ethnicities and social classes poured through New York. As high-minded New Englanders witnessed the evils of drinking, illiteracy and plantation slavery, some proclaimed society needed reforms. The most famous evangelist, Charles Grandison Finney, preached in a series of revivals across western New York for a Second Great Awakening. The Harwood and Swift descendants were at the heart and center of this "Burned over District."

William Harwood married in 1814 and immigrated to Michigan with his family ten years later.¹⁰ He purchased land in Ypsilanti Township from both the federal government as well

⁸ Mary Campbell, *Family History Capers* (Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County, Vol. 9: 3). The cabin is also described as the "house of John Gilbert which he generally occupies in that township" (Legislative Council of the Territory of Michigan, *Terr. Laws*, vol. 3, March 7, 1834), 1276. *History of Washtenaw County* (1242) states that an earlier meeting took place at the McCracken School where the name "Pitt" was selected for the new township. That name was changed to "Pittsfield" in 1839.

⁹ Orsamus Turner, *History of the Pioneer Settlement of Phelps & Gorham's Purchase, and Morris* (Rochester, New York: William Alling., 1851), 387.

¹⁰ A granddaughter reported Harwood first visited Michigan in 1812. Restless Indians and the eruption of the War of 1812 caused Harwood to return to New York (Josephine A. Drury, "History of Ypsilanti is Commenced," *The Daily Press*, November 21, 1911, 1). Janice Harwood, citing Helen Harwood Davis-Brown, says Harwood's initial visit may have been around 1817 (Janice Harwood, June 17, 2015 Study Committee Meeting).

Table 2a: Family of William Webb Harwood

Name	Birth year	Comments
<i>First wife: Sally Aldrich (d.1824), married 1814</i>		
Isaiah		moved to Jackson, MI
Sarah (Sally) Morse		moved to Leslie, MI
Hannah Drury		moved to Ypsilanti, MI
Mabel Dearborn		moved to Hillsdale, formerly Clinton, MI
Rosina		died 1827
William M.		died 1825
<i>Second wife: Abigail Albro (d.1825), married 1825, no children</i>		
<i>Third wife: Alma Coe (d.1836), married 1831</i>		
William W.	1833	died 1863
Joel C.	1834	died 1861
Alma C. Evans	1836	moved to Republic, MI
<i>Fourth Wife: Polly Morris Holden (d.1894), married 1839</i>		
Harrison	1840	married 1860, moved to Lenawee Co., MI
Henry	1841	died 1842
Franklin	1844	moved to Madison, MI, died 1872
Luther	1846	died 1848
Sidney	1848	inherited farmstead, land north of road, strip of land south of road, died 1927
John	1853	inherited land south of road (minus barnyard and strip east of barnyard), died 1928

Table 2b: Children of Polly Morris Holden (later Harwood)*First Husband: Nymphos P. Holden (d. 1839), married 1828*

George	1828	married Lydia Cole, died 1887
David	1830	married Harriet Cole, died 1910
Charles		died young
Fanny		died young
Harriet	c.1837	

Second Husband: William W. Harwood, see above

Sources: Watson Herbert Harwood (*Genealogical History of the Concord Harwoods*, Volume III: Chasm Falls, New York: New England Harwood Genealogy, 1912): 54; and Janice O. Harwood *et al.* ("Settlers Family Still a Presence," *Ypsilanti Gleanings*, Spring 2012, ypsigleanings.aadl.org/ypsigleanings/219317).

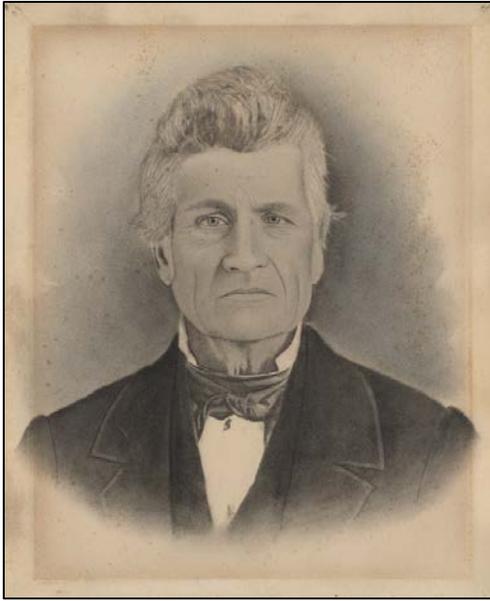


Figure 44. William Webb Harwood



Figure 45. Polly Holden Harwood

as from settler Eli Kellogg.¹¹ He settled on the latter property, situated on the east banks of the Huron River. Harwood constructed the area's first mill in partnership with Kellogg in the same year. In 1825, Harwood and neighbors John Stewart and Augustus Woodward formally platted the Village of Ypsilanti.¹² Harwood continued developing the area, establishing a grist mill with Mark Norris, another early resident of the village, in 1828, and building a third flour mill and an accompanying water dam with Norris in 1829. In the meantime, the village provided school sessions under the tutelage of several women. Mrs. Mark Norris provided a room in her house during the winter of 1828-1829, and William Harwood provided a room in his house for the same purpose the following year. He then erected a brick school building, which opened in 1831.¹³

By most accounts, William Harwood remained in Ypsilanti until 1835. His first wife passed in 1824 and his second wife in 1825. Harwood was left with six children (**Table 2a**). He married a third time in 1831. It is with the third wife, Alma Coe that Harwood decided to invest in rural land and farming. In 1835 he traded his holdings in Ypsilanti, including his mill and its water rights, for the 800 acres in Pittsfield Township owned by John Gilbert. He moved out to the farm, attracted by the presence of a locust grove at a bend along the main road.¹⁴ His third wife also soon passed away, and four years later, in 1839, Harwood married for the fourth and last time. His wife was Polly Morris Holden (born 1808 in Benton, Yates County, New York), a widow with several children of her own (**Figures 44, 45, Table 2b**). Together, the Harwoods would have six additional sons—three of whom inherited the farmstead and surrounding acreage after William's death in 1860 (**Table 3**).

¹¹ *History of Washtenaw County*, 1093 and 1109.

¹² *Ibid*, 1109.

¹³ *Ibid*, 1128, 1161.

¹⁴ Janice O. Harwood, Interview by Ina Hanel-Gerdenich, 24 August 2014.

**Table 3. Chronology of Farm Ownership
(Land directly associated with the farmstead)**

Acquisition Date(s)	Acreage	Section No.	Owner of record
1826-31	800	27, 28, 31	John Gilbert
1835	800	27, 28	William W. and Polly Harwood
1859	various	27, 28, 21	William W. Harwood heirs, including Franklin, Sidney, and John.
1881	191+	27, 28, 21	Sidney Harwood purchases additional land in subsequent years, some of which remains with the family to the present
1927	191	27	William S. Harwood, son of Sidney. Farm managed by son Webb S. Harwood beginning in 1934
1949	191	27	Webb S. and Ada May Harwood
1976	191	27	Webb S. Harwood family (including Ada May, Alfred W. and Janice O.)
1994	191	27	Alfred and Janice Harwood (2002 Land on N side of road minus 30 ac sold to Pittsfield Township; 2004 Land on S side of road sold to Harwood Land Development, LLC; 2014 10 ac parcel on N side of road sold to Washtenaw County Natural Areas Preservation Program)
Present	10	27	Farmstead on 10 acre tract, adjacent field is separate 10 acre parcel.

Little is known of the appearance of the Harwood farmstead during the tenure of William Webb Harwood. According to an 1840 plat map of the township, the Harwoods were the largest land owners in the township (**Appendix E**).¹⁵ The same map suggests that some land had been sold and other acreage had been purchased after 1835 for a net loss of 40 acres. The Harwoods probably lived in a log cabin during the early years of occupation, either formerly John Gilbert's or one built by themselves.¹⁶

By the end of the 1840s, the Harwoods were sufficiently well off to replace their original cabin with a new, two-story house, completed in 1848. As was typical of the time and geographical area, the house was built on a fieldstone foundation with a hewn timber and log framework clad with wood siding and covered with a wood shingle roof. The house was relatively large, encompassing 17 rooms. A built-in loom for rug weaving was placed in the attic and remains there to this day (**Figure 46**). An itemized list dated August 1848 served as a receipt of payment to Mr. C. B. Earl, who may have been the builder. Items on the list are materials that were apparently used to construct the original windows: 33 feet

¹⁵ "Map of Pittsfield Township" (Pittsfield Township Historical Society, 1840, http://pittsfieldhistory.org/images/platmap_1840_80.jpg, accessed 9/5/2014).

¹⁶ See Footnote no. 8. A Harwood family history titled "The William W. Harwood Homestead in Pittsfield Has Been in Family for Over 100 Years," suggests that Harwood built a log cabin in the locust grove on the farm (copy located in the Emil Lorch files, University of Michigan, Bentley Historical Library).



Figure 46. Built-in loom in attic of farmhouse.

of fine lumber, glass, primer, putty, lithridy [sic], and “100 lbs. pure lead in oil.”¹⁷ Despite its size and classical proportions, the house expressed a vernacular vocabulary. It featured a frieze board and cornice returns at its gable ends to acknowledge the then popular Greek Revival style, but other decorations and stylistic detailing as well as exterior symmetry on the façade appear to have been absent.¹⁸

By 1850, the farmstead included at least one barn, referenced in a contract written in or shortly after 1850 between William

Harwood and Moses J. Corey.¹⁹ The contract indicates that William owned a barn that needed to be moved and repaired and that Corey was to do the work. It is not clear if the barn was already on the property (meaning that William had built it at an earlier time) or if it was an older barn that William had acquired and needed to have moved onto his property. The relative placement of dots on the farmstead on the 1856 area plat map of the township suggest that the barn or barns were located on the south side of the road (**Appendix E**). This layout is also referenced in a family history, which includes the comment that it is believed the first barns on the farm were constructed about 1850 on the “opposite sides of the road.”²⁰

The 1850 agricultural census reveals a snapshot of the Harwoods’ farming activities during this time. The farm consisted of 300 improved acres and 620 unimproved acres, maintaining its status of being one of the larger farms within the township. Animals on the farm at the time included five horses, two oxen, seven milk cows, ten additional cattle, 50 sheep and ten swine. The value of livestock was \$577, considerably higher than the township average of \$421, and most likely due to the relatively large number of sheep. In the fields, the farm raised 550 bushels of wheat, 100 bushels of corn, and 50 bushels of oats. Despite the larger amount of acreage of improved land, the harvested amounts of grain reflect a relatively average to below average output. The farm was either not reaching its full potential, or there may have been a relatively large amount of pasture land, which again suggests that the sheep were a significant commodity. The overall cash value of the farm was \$2700, comparatively lower than its neighbors. William, aged 64, was assisted by sons William, 18, and Joel, 16, who are both listed as “farmers” in the census.

During this time, William Harwood took an active role in both the Ypsilanti and Pittsfield Township communities. He served several terms as an overseer of highways beginning in 1835 and ending in 1845, and sat on a petit jury in 1841 and a grand jury in 1847. He was

¹⁷ Receipt in possession of co-owner Janice Harwood, Harwood Farm, accessed 11/14/2014.

¹⁸ *Combination Atlas of Washtenaw County* (Chicago: Everts and Stewart, 1874), 73.

¹⁹ Untitled note in “Harwood Family File” (Pittsfield Historical Society Archives), written and signed by William W. Harwood.

²⁰ “The William W. Harwood Homestead in Pittsfield Has Been in Family for Over 100 Years;” and *Map of Washtenaw County, Michigan* (Philadelphia: Bechler and Wenig, Co., 1856).

also a member of the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Ypsilanti, and later the Wesleyan Methodist Society of Pittsfield Township. William and his third wife, Alma Coe, sold an Ypsilanti lot to the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1834.²¹ William and Polly's association with this particular denomination since at least the mid-1840s is noteworthy, in that it strongly suggests their collaboration with organizers of the Underground Railroad.²²

Documentation exists that show William and Polly Harwood maintained connections with anti-slavery activists. In the early Ypsilanti years, they were acquainted with Mark Norris' brother, Justus, who was elected President of the Washtenaw County Anti-Slavery Society in 1841. They were also long-term friends of the Swift family of Palmyra, New York, some of whom resettled near Ypsilanti in Nankin (now Westland), Michigan. Among them, the Reverend Marcus Swift pastored the Methodist Episcopal Church. The Early Methodists adopted the teachings of John Wesley who believed that personal salvation came through Christian mission and service and love of one's neighbor as oneself. No exceptions were to be made for race or color. When in 1839 William Harwood and Polly Holden Norris wed, they chose Rev. Marcus Swift to marry them (Polly's extended family [including the surnames Morris and Patchen] are also linked to activists). Rev. Swift would soon after lose his standing in the Methodist Episcopal Church for preaching about the evils of slavery.²³ He led the congregation in dissolving ties with the M. E. Church in 1841 and founded the Wesleyan Methodist Society to answer to a call for a religious organization that condemned slavery and denied membership to slaveholders. In 1845 the Wesleyan Methodist Society of the Township of Pittsfield recorded a meeting in which William W. Harwood was elected trustee.²⁴ He later deeded two acres of his land in Pittsfield Township for a Wesleyan Methodist Society church.²⁵ In 1853 Harwood sold one acre of his land across from the church for 50 cents to the "Trustees of the Pittsfield Central Society" for the purposes of establishing a burial ground. The Trustees at the time were Shearson Drury, Joseph Marriott, Asher Aray, VanRennslear Tyler, and William Geddes.²⁶

In his 1898 book, *The Underground Railroad*, Dr. Wilbur Siebert wrote that the Wesleyan Methodists included African Americans in their church. He stated that where the denomination was found, "the Road [Underground Railroad] was likely to be found in active operation."²⁷ Though it is difficult to identify people who defied the Fugitive Slave Laws because of their convictions, ample documentation describes how William and Polly Harwood, along with neighbors Asher and Catherine Aray (a free African-American couple who purchased land nearby in 1829), and Roswell and Mehitable Preston, hid freedom seekers on their neighboring Pittsfield Township farms in the decades before the Civil War.²⁸ Wesleyan Methodist Fitch Reed wrote in a letter to Dr. Siebert the names of the Underground Railroad station keepers along the Michigan Avenue route: "...next east

²¹ Register of Deeds, Washtenaw County, Liber E: 232.

²² Carol E. Mull, *The Underground Railroad in Michigan* (North Carolina: McFarland and Co., Inc., 2010), 74-75.

²³ Swift Family papers 1934-1921 (Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan).

²⁴ Washtenaw County Records, 1824. Bentley Historical Library. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

²⁵ Register of Deeds, Liber 41: 224.

²⁶ Register of Deeds, Liber 35: 333.

²⁷ Wilbur Siebert, *The Underground Railroad from Slavery to Freedom*, 6th edition (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1988), 32.

²⁸ Mull, *The Underground Railroad in Michigan*, 74-75, 134-136.

was Ypsilanti. Bro's Harwood and Ray [sic], keepers."²⁹ Asher and his wife, Catherine Aray, offered sanctuary on their farm to one of the largest groups ever to escape successfully from Kentucky to Canada. In 1853, 28 escaping slaves traveled by wagon through Ohio, Indiana and into Michigan. Four teams of horses carried them from Fitch Reed's house in Cambridge, Michigan, through Clinton to the Aray farm where they spent the day in hiding. The following evening, the freedom seekers traveled to Detroit and crossed over to Canada.³⁰ Sometimes, freedom seekers stayed on Preston's property and he supplied food, wagons and horses.³¹ The farms lay directly on the route taken by many fleeing slaves escaping the South through Cincinnati and Indiana, traveling north into southern Michigan before continuing east along today's Michigan Avenue towards Detroit and the Canadian border.

There is limited physical documentation linking the Harwood Farm to the Underground Railroad. However, a small space in the cellar of the 1848 Harwood house was identified as a place for hiding runaways.³² Elizabeth Harwood Katz, a great-granddaughter of William Harwood, remembered being taken to the cellar by her grandfather Sidney and shown a place along the stairs where boards concealed a hiding place. She recalled putting her hand into an empty space in the stairway wall near the east end of the house.³³ Only



Figure 47. Open cavity in basement walls.

one or two people standing upright would have fit in the opening. The cellar has an original stone floor and foundation with some brick infill. The original beams (hand hewn with bark attached) for the first floor run north to south indicating this area was an original part of the house. In earlier years, a woodshed, connected to the main house, allowed access to the hiding place. Currently, the hiding place remains visible from a small opening where the upright space connects to a large low crawl space (**Figure 47**). The opening in the stone wall along the stairs has since been bricked over.

In 1859 William Harwood divided his holdings amongst his wife and children (**Appendix E**). Many of the older children of William and Polly born prior to their marriage were already established on their own properties, including David Holden, Polly's son, who lived on a farm nearby. Thus it was the Harwoods' younger (and mutual) children who

²⁹ Wilbur Siebert Papers (Ohio Historical Society Archive/Library, Ohio Historical Society, Columbus, Ohio). Includes Fitch Reed letter to Wilbur Siebert.

³⁰ *Ibid.*

³¹ Edward M. Preston, *A History of Captain Roswell Preston* (Ypsilanti Historical Society Fletcher White Archives, 1899), 27. Roswell Preston, Jr. purchased an improved farm in Pittsfield Township between Harwood and Aray in 1845.

³² Mull, *The Underground Railroad in Michigan*, 135.

³³ Katz, Elizabeth Harwood, granddaughter of Sidney Harwood (1848-1927), interview by Carol E. Mull, 9 September 2005, notes in the possession of Carol E. Mull.

retained most of the land associated with the Harwood farmstead (**Table 3**). The sons also divided the land and fruit of the apple orchard.

In 1860, the year of William Harwood's death, the Federal agricultural census revealed a farm much reduced in size and output. William Harwood owned 100 improved and 60 unimproved acres valued at \$8000. The value is approximately the same as those of neighboring peers John Cody, Langford Sutherland, Arba Hurd and William Geddes, among others. However, the farm kept only two horses, three milk cows and three swine, and reported no sheep, additional cattle or oxen. Only 40 bushels of corn and 30 pounds of potatoes were harvested in that year. Other items produced included a significant amount of unspecified "orchard products" (the sale of which earned a relatively high \$212) and 150 pounds of butter. In comparison to the production of surrounding farms, items notably absent on the Harwood farm include wheat, oats, rye, hay and clover. The census records do not list a farm hand or laborer from outside of the family, but do include David Holden (Polly Harwood's younger son from her first marriage) as residing with the family.

William Harwood's death in 1860 cut short his work on the Underground Railroad and he did not live to see the end of slavery. He did ensure his progressive racial tolerance would remain visible for succeeding generations, however. In the private cemetery behind the farmhouse, William Harwood is buried near the graves of his African-American neighbors and co-workers on the Underground Railroad, Asher and Catherine Aray.

The Golden Years – Sidney and Mary Harwood (1860-1927)

After William Webb Harwood's death, Polly Holden Harwood received the use of 191 acres from her husband's estate, which included the buildings of the Harwood farmstead and surrounding land. The 1864 plat map of the township identifies the farm as that of the Harwood Brothers (**Appendix E**). Sidney, twelve years old in 1860, and John, only seven years old in 1860, owned 157 acres on both sides of the highway and an additional 40 acres to the southwest in Section 28. The remainder of the land in Section 27 was divided among L.M. Harwood, H. Harwood, F. Harwood, and W.W. Harwood.³⁴ Most of the siblings sold their share to family and non-family members relatively quickly, leaving brothers Sidney and John with the bulk of the 1850s farmstead by the early 1870s.

In 1870 Sidney is listed in the Federal agricultural census as a farmer with 275 acres. Of these, 150 are listed as "improved," 65 are covered by woodlands, and the remaining 60 acres are labeled "unimproved." The value of the farm has jumped to \$17,800.³⁵ Sidney owns five horses, four milk cows, five additional cattle, and 175 sheep. The relatively high number of sheep was not unusual for a farm in the Pittsfield Township area, especially

³⁴ *Map of the Counties of Washtenaw and Lenawee, Michigan* (Philadelphia: G.R. Bechler and E. Wenig, Co., 1864). W.W. Harwood refers to William Webb Harwood, Jr. (1833-1863). Washtenaw County Register of Deeds information reveals that William Webb, Sr. divided his holdings among all of his surviving children, including Sidney and John Harwood, Alma C. Harwood, Sally Morse, Joel C. Harwood, Isaiah Harwood, Mabel Dearborn, Harrison Harwood, Franklin Harwood, and William W. Harwood, Jr. (Liber 45: 473-483).

³⁵ *United States Federal Census Records* (1870). The Federal population census of the same year lists the real estate value of the property as \$25,600 and the personal estate value as \$10,000.

during the 1860s.³⁶ The grains raised include 400 bushels of winter wheat and 500 bushels of Indian corn. The family harvested 300 bushels of Irish potatoes, 65 tons of hay and eight bushels of clover. The family also earned \$340 from the sale of unspecified orchard products and \$650 from unspecified forest products. Finally, the farm produced 640 pounds of butter and obtained 500 pounds of fleece. In a general comparison to the production of neighboring farms, the Harwood farm stands out as one of seven in the entire township which earned more than all other farms in the sale of orchard products, and ranks third in the township in the amount earned from the sale of forest products. Sidney (age 22) was assisted by his brother John Harwood (age 17) and farm laborer Chester Clark, whose wages that year were \$600. Polly kept house for her sons with the aid of a domestic servant and her 90-year-old mother.

The farm continued to evolve during the 1870s into a general subsistence farm with a significant second enterprise as an apple orchard. A snapshot at the end of the decade provided by the 1880 Federal agricultural census data reveals a typical farm with tilled fields (140 acres), meadows, pasture and orchard (20 acres), woodlands (20 acres), and other unimproved land (25 acres), for a total of 205 acres. Farm products produced relied on only a little over 100 of those acres (**Table 4**). The reduction in the total acreage probably contributed to the drop in the overall estimated value of the farm to \$13,300, including land and buildings. However, the census data suggest that Sidney had been placing an increasing amount of effort into the apple orchard. The farm has the greatest number of apple trees in Pittsfield Township, and reported a relatively high \$75 value in the amount sold and consumed.³⁷

Table 4. Sidney Harwood Farm, Farm Products (1880 Federal Agriculture Census data).

Land Use	Acreage	Product	Amount produced
Grassland	15	Hay	18 tons
Tilled fields	28	Wheat	600 bushels
Tilled fields	10	Corn	1040 bushels
Tilled fields	12	Oats	708 bushels
Tilled fields	2	Rye	62 bushels
Tilled fields	0.5	Potatoes	40 bushels
Orchard	15	Apples	300 bushels from 700 trees
Forest/Woodland	22	Wood	15 cords

(note: remaining land is designated as fallow/grass in rotation, pasture/meadow/vineyard, and old field/growing wood)

Livestock	Number	Product	Amount produced
Horses	4		
Cattle	10 (5 milking)	Butter	650 pounds
Sheep	55	Fleece	330 pounds
Swine	6		
Poultry	40	Eggs	190 dozen

³⁶ Ina Hanel-Gerdenich, "Agriculture," *Washtenaw County Thematic Survey* (1997), 10-11.

³⁷ *United States Federal Census Records*, Schedule 2 (1880).

An 1874 engraving of the Harwood farm provides a visual depiction of the farm during this time (Front cover).³⁸ The buildings are situated on both sides of the Detroit to Chicago Road. The 1848 farmhouse is visible on the north side facing south, with two one-story rear wings and one side wing on its east elevation. The house stands in the middle of a rectangular lawn punctuated by numerous large trees in the front and side yards, and shorter trees in the back yard. The lawn is outlined by a board fence, beyond which are fenced fields with a woodlot on the horizon. Although no other buildings are visible on this side of the road, the presence of a board (rather than split rail) fence around the field to the immediate rear (north) of the house raises the possibility that some kind of outbuilding may have been there. The main barn buildings, however, are located on the south side of the road. The barnyard is defined by a large barn on the south side, two parallel outbuildings on the east side, and board fencing around the perimeter, including along the road. All three buildings have a gable roof whose ridge lies parallel to the road. The main barn includes a one-story hip-roofed lean attached to its west gable end. At its east end, the barn is connected to the adjacent building by a one-story structure that appears to have a shed roof. The apple orchard is featured in the foreground of the etching. It is depicted on the west side of both the house and the barnyard, as well as east beyond the barnyard. The plat map of that year shows it extended well past the barn to the south as well (**Appendix E**).³⁹ The orchard by the house and adjacent to the barn was also enclosed with a board fence. Livestock depicted in the etching included horses and cattle in the barnyard and hogs in the apple orchard.

Sidney married Cornelia Stevens in 1877 (**Figures 48, 49**). Cornelia kept a diary, which is in the possession of her descendants.⁴⁰ In it she reveals her daily household activities by listing her accomplishments. Over the course of 19 days during the warm months of 1879 or 1880 she seems to have spent most of her time in the kitchen, baking multiple loaves of bread, cookies, cakes and pies each on five separate occasions; churning butter four times; ironing two times, and washing and making yeast one time each. She also found time to turn the calves out, write a letter, and visit relatives.⁴¹ Cornelia writes that Sidney traveled to Ypsilanti seven times during this time period, of which at least three times it was to deliver wheat. Brother (-in-law) John was busy shearing sheep and haying had begun.

Cornelia also listed the sales from the farm during this period: 23 pounds of butter at 12.5 cents per pound to Harris Brothers, 22 pounds of butter at 10 cents per pound to Harris Brothers, and 56 pounds of oats to Kings [*sic*]. Purchases made during this time period include 7 quarts of strawberries at 6 cents per quart, 5 quarts of strawberries at 8 cents per quart, and a hay fork for \$25. Sadly, Cornelia passed away shortly after the birth of her second child, William Sidney, in 1882. In 1884, Sidney's household included two young children, his late wife's two sisters (one of whom, Mary R. Stevens, he would marry in December 1887; **Figure 50**), his mother, and an elderly boarder, Mr. Fittaker Mungar, who is identified as an uncle from Connecticut. Sidney's younger brother John and wife and

³⁸ *Combination Atlas of Washtenaw County*, "Res. Of Sidney Harwood" (1874), 73.

³⁹ *Ibid*, 74.

⁴⁰ Harwood Family Records in the possession of Janice Harwood. Includes item below.

⁴¹ Cornelia Stevens Harwood, "Household Diary of Cornelia Harwood" (1879 or 1880). The 19-day period is not dated, but the temperatures for the time period are listed as being between 60 and 80 degrees.



Figure 48. Cornelia Stevens Harwood, c. 1880

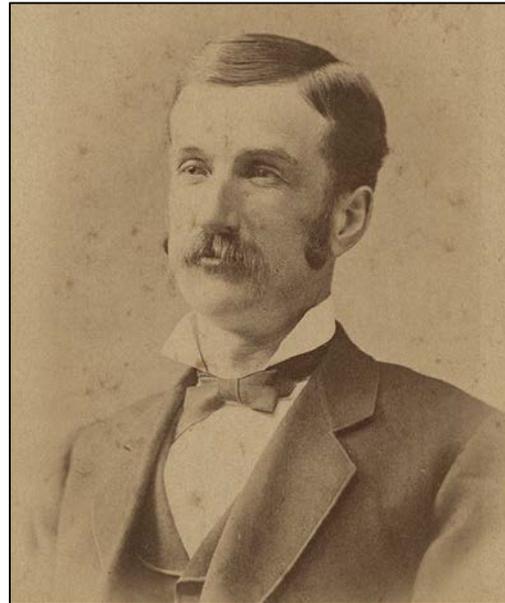


Figure 49. Sidney Harwood, c. 1880

children are listed in the adjacent household. Neither household lists a farm laborer on the premises.⁴²

Until about the time of his marriage, Sidney and his brother John Harwood operated the farm together. In 1881 the brothers separated their farm operation in two. Sidney received the farmstead, the surrounding land north of the highway and a narrower strip of land on the south side of the highway that included the barns. He also retained ownership of a narrow, 40 acre parcel in Section 28. John received the rest of the land south of Chicago Road (now US-12).⁴³ Polly maintained her residence with Sidney until her death in September 1894.



Figure 50.
Mary Stevens Harwood,
c. 1895

Sidney remained sufficiently successful throughout the 1880s, expanding his farm through the purchase of several neighboring properties (**Table 5**). With the ownership of additional land near the end of the 19th century came a new enterprise: dairying. Dairying became a popular and profitable business model at this time for many farms located near urban centers. The growing non-farm population in the cities and villages created a relatively large demand for milk and other dairy products, a demand which could be met due to technological advances such as the invention of the cream

⁴² *State of Michigan Census Records* ("Population Schedule," 1884). Sidney did employ a farm hand in 1880, according to the United States Population Census of that year.

⁴³ *Combination Atlas of Washtenaw County* (1874), 74; *Standard Atlas of Washtenaw County* (Chicago: George A. Ogle and Co., 1895), 31.

Table 5. Land added to the Sidney Harwood Farm, 1880s.

Year	Parcel & Sales Price	Acres
1881	John K Boise, \$2500	40, Section 27
1885	Patrick and Wm. Murphy, \$1200	
1888	Wm. Allison, \$1500	160, Section 28

Source: *Ann Arbor Courier*, February 25, 1881 and November 18, 1885; *Ann Arbor Argus*, June 15, 1888.

separator (1879) and the adoption of the tower silo (late 1880s in Washtenaw County⁴⁴). These new, labor-saving devices also enabled a farmer to maintain a larger herd that could produce milk during the winter months.

The timing for dairy farming was good for the Harwood family. Sidney and his son, William S. Harwood, were able to handle the work without hiring additional laborers.⁴⁵ The Harwood farm was ideally located near three urban centers: Saline, Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor (in fact, it is so centrally located that its postal address has included each of those villages [now cities] at one time or another). The interurban rail connecting Ypsilanti and Saline ran directly in front of the house, providing direct access to local markets.⁴⁶ On any given day the Harwoods could load up butter, cream and eggs in coolers and send them *via* the rail to the grocer and other destinations in Ypsilanti. The train operated from the late 1890s into the mid-1920s, but its use peaked in about 1912.⁴⁷

The financial opportunities provided by a dairy operation helped to offset the decrease in income from the apple orchard. The trees were getting relatively old and were vulnerable to disease thanks to a newly arrived worm, as reported in the *Ann Arbor Argus* in 1894. The worm stripped apple trees of their leaves. “A good many orchard in this town are badly damaged by them,” it was reported.⁴⁸ Family history states that “Around 1900, an apple disease destroyed most of the apple trees and they [the Harwoods] gave up the fruit business.”⁴⁹ A list of area fruit growers provided in the 1910 *Washtenaw County Gazetteer* does not include the name of Sidney Harwood.⁵⁰

With the new focus on dairy farming, the Harwood farmstead underwent some physical changes, primarily to the barnyard side of the road. A comparison of the 1874 engraving

⁴⁴ Hanel-Gerdenich, “Agriculture,” *Washtenaw County Thematic Survey*, 20.

⁴⁵ William S. is listed as a farm laborer on his father’s farm in the 1900 Federal Population census. By 1904, an accounting book in the possession of the family is labelled, “S. Harwood and Son, Saline, Michigan.” William S. is credited with planting peas, oats, corn (twice) and fall wheat that year.

⁴⁶ In 1899, the interurban rail was completed from Ypsilanti to near the Harwood Farm, stopping at “Harwood’s Corners.” A railroad by-pass that would enable the interurban to connect to Saline was to be completed by August of that year (*Ann Arbor Argus-Democrat*, July 21, 1899).

⁴⁷ Hildebrandt and Churchill, *Electric Trolleys of Washtenaw County* (Arcadia Publishing, 2009); Notes from interview with Janice and Alfred Harwood (26 August 2014).

⁴⁸ *Ann Arbor Argus* (June 15, 1894).

⁴⁹ *175 Years of the Harwood Homestead* (as reprinted 2009).

⁵⁰ *Washtenaw County Gazetteer* (1910).

with a photo taken during the early 20th century from the main road reveals the types of changes that were made (**Figure 51**).⁵¹ The biggest change was the addition of two barns and a silo to the existing complex. The first of the new barns was relatively narrow but long, and featured a gambrel roof. It stood on the east side of the barn yard, its west gable end facing the yard. It had widely-spaced windows along the visible elevations, framed in white trim with a gentle peak at the top. The barn appears to



Figure 51. Barn complex on the south side of the road (looking SE). Note interurban rails in the foreground. Early 20th century.

have replaced two smaller outbuildings that once stood at the east end of the yard, as visible in the 1874 engraving. A tower silo with a low-pitch cone roof stood at the east end of the narrow barn. Sidney listed the name of the person hired to fill the silo each fall in his annual farm diary. The first reference to such a task dates to 1910.⁵² The proximity of the silo, the gambrel roof configuration with an extended gable peak over the gable door, and the presence of windows suggests that this structure was used as a barn for cows below and hay storage above. It was built sometime around the turn of the 20th century. A second newer structure was located parallel to, but farther south of, the original main barn. The building featured a gable roof. The structure is not present in the 1874 engraving, but it is possible that the building is one of the two outbuildings originally standing at the east end of the yard. The existing main barn was also slightly modified from its original appearance as presented in 1874. The roof of the west end lean was modified from a hip-roof style to a shed-roof style, and a similar lean was added to the east end of the barn. And finally, a relatively tall windmill was built. It stood to the southeast of the main barn.

According to family history, Sidney was eager to try new methods and technology to improve efficiency on his farm.⁵³ In addition to constructing a silo, a windmill, and a hay barn with mangers, Sidney obtained a power separator and churn, purchased hay hooks, and maintained a manure pit with a roof. A small barn housed a 3T scale for weighing the hay to be sold.⁵⁴ An early 20th century (pre-1930) photograph depicts a milk delivery truck with the name “Harwood Dairy Farm” painted onto its side. The house, too, received upgrades. Sometime before about 1895, the house received a $\frac{3}{4}$ -width front porch with turned columns and spindles (**Figure 52**). The original 12/12 windows were replaced with

⁵¹ *Combination Atlas of Washtenaw County*, “Res. Of Sidney Harwood,” 73; Photo of Harwood Barnyard, taken between c. 1909 and 1915, Harwood family papers owned by Janice Harwood. The photo is dated by the presence of the c.1850 barn which burned in 1915, and the presence of the silo, which was probably built about 1909.

⁵² Sidney Harwood Farm notes, 1909. In the possession of Janice Harwood.

⁵³ *175 Years of the Harwood Homestead*, (reprinted 2009).

⁵⁴ Mary L. Wermuth, ed. *Michigan’s Centennial Family Farm Heritage* (Hillsdale, Michigan: Michigan Centennial Farm Association, 1986), 135.

more “modern” 1/1 sashes. By 1918, the house had a powered vacuum cleaner, two telephone lines (one to Ypsilanti, one to Saline), a wood cooking range, and a furnace with central heat. It was soon to have electricity as well.



Figure 52. Sidney Harwood Family, c. 1895.

The barn complex was in use until a devastating fire in 1915 cleared the yard. Sidney hired Martin Seitz for \$545 to build a new large barn in 1916, incorporating the modern gambrel-shaped roof in the design to accommodate larger loads of hay for the cows in winter. Extra roof and wall braces were tied together with metal rods. The new barn was 36 by 100 feet in size, and much of the lumber to build it came from the F.D. Ford Lumber and Building Company in Saline.⁵⁵ Hardware, including roofing nails, pump rod,

glide hangers, truck, hay car truck, trough, door handler, door tracks, hinge, barn door steps, and other items were purchased at Muir and Gross Hardware, Plumbing and Heating in Saline. The barn also received lightning rods from the Hicks Lightning Rod Company in 1917. It and the house were painted in that year. During this time Sidney kept up the farming on his property. A 1916 booklet indicates that he threshed 486 bushels of wheat, 628 bushels of oats in August of that year with the aid of three laborers.⁵⁶

It is not clear when and by whom the replacement silo was built. The new one was made with concrete staves and featured a hip roof. It was constructed sometime after the new barn (the family has a photograph of the 1916 barn without a silo), but probably before 1926. The silo is included on the list of buildings built prior to 1926 as found in the Rural Property Inventory.⁵⁷ In addition, grandson Alfred, who was born in 1938, has no recollection of its construction.⁵⁸

As Sidney neared retirement, very few changes were made to the farmstead during the 1920s. Two documented changes in 1925 are both related to transportation: the road separating the house from the barns was paved, and the Interurban train “Old Maude” that passed in front of the house ceased operations. The former made it easier and the latter made it necessary to travel by car or truck. Entries in Sidney’s 1922 accounting book mention “cattle, hay, sheep, heifer.” According to the City Directory of 1926, Sidney’s

⁵⁵ Selected receipts of Sidney Harwood for barn construction in the possession of Janice O. Harwood. Viewed November 14, 2014.

⁵⁶ Sidney Harwood note booklet, 1910s in the possession of co-owner Janice Harwood. Viewed November 14, 2014.

⁵⁷ Michigan State Tax Commission, *W.P.A. Project S-110. Rural Property Inventory* (1938). See discussion in Webb S. Harwood section below.

⁵⁸ Alfred Harwood, Interview by Ina Hanel-Gerdenich, 26 August 2014, notes in the possession of Ina Hanel-Gerdenich.

farm consisted of 499 acres with an assessed value of \$33,500. This was double to triple the size of most of the surrounding farms at the time.⁵⁹



Figure 53. William S. and Amanda Hertler Harwood.

By this time Sidney leased the farmland and continued to live in the farmhouse with his middle-aged daughter until his death in 1927. Sidney's son, William S. Harwood, who had married Amanda R. Hertler in 1907 and moved to 285 Textile Road, near the southeast corner of Textile and State Roads, worked his own dairy farm and assisted his aging father prior to the latter's death (**Figure 53; Appendix E**). The family accounting book labels the 1926 farm operation as "Wm. S. Harwood and Sons." Even after his father's death, William continued to manage both farms while raising eight children with his wife. The Sidney Harwood farmhouse was rented to a family cousin, Frank Harwood, until 1934 when William's oldest son, Webb Sidney Harwood took over Sidney's farm operation.

The 20th Century Harwood Farm – Webb S. and Ada May Harwood (1934-1994)

The third chapter in the history of the Harwood Farm begins in 1934 with the arrival of Webb Sidney Harwood and his bride, Ada May Bachman of Milan (**Figure 54**). The couple were married August 6 of that year and spent one month honeymooning in the West before moving to the Sidney Harwood farm, where they would spend the rest of their lives. Just as his grandfather before him, Webb conducted several enterprises on the farm, adapting to the opportunities provided by the local markets. According to the 1940 Federal census, Webb was assisted on the farm by hired hand Theodore Handley. By the 1950s, son Alfred worked with Webb and Ada May ably led the egg business with the help of daughter Janice.

At first the farm raised a diverse collection of animals, a collection that would supplement the farm's income during the entire time that Webb and Ada May were actively farming. These included lambs, hogs, chickens and cows. The lambs were purchased by the half-car load every fall and housed in the west end of the barn. In 1941, the number of lambs purchased was 150.⁶⁰ The lamb business ended during the 1940s when the space they occupied in the west end of the barn was needed for additional cows. Later, the family returned to sheep, raising registered Corriedales for wool. The wool was sold for \$1/pound to a buyer located north of Pinckney. In addition to sheep, the Harwoods purchased and raised hogs. The hogs were initially housed in their own building located northwest of the farmhouse. After that building was replaced by a new chicken house in about 1950, the

⁵⁹ Polk City Directories, *Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, and Washtenaw County Directories* (Detroit: R. W. Polk Co., 1926).

⁶⁰ Receipt for Freight, 10/18/1941, delivered *via* the Wabash Railway Co., Milan, Michigan. The receipt is in the possession of Janice Harwood.

hogs were housed in the former horse barn on the south side of the road. Although not a major part of the farm's source of income, there were a sufficient number of hogs present in 1960 for Webb to cement the "hog yard" and add new hog waterers and feeders.⁶¹ In 1964 the family owned 141 hogs but sold 10; in 1968 they sold 138 hogs (and sows).⁶²



Figure 54. Ada May (Bachman) and Webb Sidney Harwood.

Poultry became a major component of the farm operations from the mid-1930s to the 1980s. At first Rhode Island Red chicks were purchased from a hatchery in Saline. Later the farm selected a hybrid Leg Horn variety from the Bridgewater area. The latter bird was smaller and laid more eggs. The chicks were initially housed in two brooder houses located adjacent to the barn and in a shed-roofed chicken coop attached to the "Shop" on the north side of the road. At its peak during the late 1940s and 1950s, the farm was home to between 800 and 1000 birds. To support this expanding enterprise, Ada May's father, Fred Bachman, with the assistance of Webb and son Alfred, constructed a large hen house around 1950. The elongated, rectangular building had a gabled roof facing east. Its front elevation featured a centrally placed single garage door and adjacent pedestrian door. These were flanked by a 1/1 window on each side. A ventilation opening was placed at the peak of the gable. The east 15 feet of the building were used for storage. The remaining portion of the building was dedicated to the chickens. On the inside, the floor of the chicken roaming area was constructed of slatted floor boards placed approximately two feet above the ground. The south wall featured a bank of windows, and the north wall was covered with hanging metal nests. The building was thoroughly cleaned each year. It stood to the northwest of the house, approximately in the same location occupied by the horse barn today. It replaced a hog shelter that stood there previously. The poultry operation was supported by temporary brooder houses placed by the barn and a children's chicken coop located adjacent to today's syrup shed. The eggs were delivered to "Mrs. Olsen's Truck Stop" and to customers on an egg route in Ypsilanti. The family also sold eggs at the farm. During the 1950s, the price for a dozen large eggs was 60 to 65 cents per dozen, medium eggs cost 50-55 cents, and the smallest were sold for 40 cents per dozen.

Fred Bachman and Webb Harwood also constructed a modern, drive-through double corn crib adjacent to the new chicken house. The building is very similar in scale and massing to the hen house, although somewhat shorter in length. It includes two parallel cribs flanking both sides of the drive which are placed under one roof. The front portion of the building was constructed of wood to serve as a granary. The farm also used a gable-roofed shed located to the north of the crib but oriented facing south. This tool shed was not built on a foundation and was removed around 2005. It stored equipment and lumber.

⁶¹ Harwood, Webb and Ada May Family Records, "Schedule of Farm Income and Expenses," 1962.

⁶² *Ibid*, 1964 and 1968.

Webb returned to dairying in the late 1930s with 14 to 15 cows. The dairy operation produced grade A milk, which was delivered to various dairies in the vicinity of Saline (including the Warner Dairy) and Ypsilanti for the production of milk and cheese. It also provided milk to the Eloise Asylum Hospital on Michigan Avenue in Nankin Township. The operation made use of the existing barn and concrete silo on the farm. As Webb increased the number of cows from 16 to 30, he expanded the interior of the barn by removing a double drive through to make room for 25 metal stanchions. He also switched from milking by hand to using a milking machine with a vacuum pump, becoming the first farmer in the area to do so in 1949.⁶³ In the late 1940s Webb added a modern milk house made of cinder block to the northeast corner of the barn. The milk house had an approximately square footprint and an almost flat roof. It included a milk cooler in which ten gallon cans of milk were placed. At the same time Webb purchased a wagon and other farm equipment (1947).⁶⁴ To improve the sanitation conditions with the larger number of cows, Webb paved in the barnyard with concrete in 1954.⁶⁵ The dairying business ended in 1956 when son Alfred left the farm to attend Michigan State University and changes in regulations would have required costly modifications to the infrastructure.

The dairy operation was supported by the hay and grain raised in the fields. Prior to the purchase of his first tractor in the 1930s, Webb used two teams of horses to work the fields. The horses provided the power to mow and rake hay and pile up manure. The hay was stored loosely in the barn. Baling came rather late because Webb was worried that the bales would be too heavy for the barn. In addition to hay, the farm raised corn, barley, oats and certified clover seed. The grain was stored in the granary next to the barn, in a storage bin inside the barn, and also later in a cylindrical grain bin located on the east side of the garage and in the granary adjacent to the drive-through corn crib. The farm made its own feed during the early 1940s, and later took the grain to the Mercantile Mill in Saline. Ear corn was stored in a metal cage corn crib next to the granary. Wheat was raised as a cash crop and stored in a portable granary on skids. Some of the wheat and corn was raised on a neighboring 49-acre farm owned by Mrs. Fred Forsythe.⁶⁶ During this time, much of the type and amount of grain raised was controlled by the Agricultural Conservation Program (North Central Region) of the US Department of Agriculture.

By several accounts, Webb's dairy operation was very successful. Webb was recognized as an outstanding calf club member of the Washtenaw County Holstein Association. He was included on the "National Honor Roll" of the National Dairy Association for the amount of butter fat in the milk for the years ending in March 1939 and 1940.⁶⁷

When the dairying operation ended in 1956, the family shifted to a veal calf operation. Supplemental income was generated by the sale of straw, hay and the occasional produce from the vegetable garden, which was located along the east side of the driveway. The customers were those who stopped at the farm for eggs as well as local grocers to whom

⁶³ Alfred Harwood, Interview, 26 August 2014. Date obtained from the Webb and Ada May Harwood "Schedule of Farm Income and Expenses," 1962.

⁶⁴ Webb and Ada May Harwood Family Records, "Schedule of Farm Income and Expenses," 1963.

⁶⁵ *Ibid*, 1962.

⁶⁶ Harwood Family Records, "1939 Farm Acreage allotments, normal yields and productivity index," 1/31/1939.

⁶⁷ Information from family papers in the possession of Janice Harwood, accessed 11/14/2014.

the farm made deliveries. During this time, the open land continued to be planted under a lease agreement with a local farmer.

The Harwoods also supplemented their income with the sale of maple syrup beginning in the late 1940s. A small, gable-roofed shed was outfitted with a cinder block smokestack to enable the first stages of the processing of the syrup. Although the building still stands along the east side of the driveway, it may have first been built as a shed at a different location.⁶⁸ The syrup was collected from trees on the property and along Textile Road. It was finished in the house kitchen, where it was filtered and boiled down to the desired weight percent of sugar, bottled in canning jars and then sold to customers coming to the farm. To process larger quantities of syrup, the family eventually purchased a commercial boiler/evaporator.

Several sources reveal the appearance of the farmstead during the late 1930s and early 1940s. A 1936 photo taken from the public road shows the house standing among very tall locust trees scattered throughout the front yard.⁶⁹ Its rear wing, serving as a wood shed, has one door on the east side leading out onto the driveway. Barely visible in the photo are the corner of a keystone corn crib and the shed-roofed hog house.⁷⁰ The former is located right behind the house, and the latter stands slightly further back (north). To the east of the hog house stands the large garage that was built in 1935 by Webb S. Harwood. The western boundary of the lawn is marked by a wood post and wire fence beyond which there appears to be an open field. The driveway to the east of the house is barely visible in the lawn, marked only by the appearance of slightly worn grass.

Another view of the farm is provided by the Rural Property Inventory (RPI) completed in 1938 (**Figure 55**).⁷¹ The information on the farm is compiled and presented through sketches and a populated form. The inventory identifies the buildings on the property as the farmhouse, general purpose barn, silo, corn crib, granary, and tool shed. With the exception of the house and garage, all buildings are dated to (prior to?) 1926.⁷² The house is described as having a partial basement, heated with hot air, and fully wired and plumbed. Its floors consist of pine and hardwood, and its walls are covered with plaster with decorative pine trim. It has two covered porches. The homestead is located on 3.5 acres surrounded by 137.5 acres of cropland, 37.75 acres of swamp land and woodland standing in the northeast corner of the property, and 13.3 acres of road for a total of 188 acres. There is no pasture. The fencing to protect the house yard and some of the fields is made of wood posts supporting a woven wire.

⁶⁸ Personal communication, Alfred Harwood, Interview, 26 August 2014.

⁶⁹ Stanger, Eric, "Harwood Farm Home: US-112" (Photograph depicted in the *Ann Arbor News*, 11 December 1936, http://oldnews.aadl.org/N020_0240_001.jpg, accessed 8/22/2014).

⁷⁰ The hog house structure is identified as such by Janice Harwood, Interview, 8/26/2014. It appears as a shed-roofed building facing south with its long axis running east-west. The hog house was replaced by the Chicken House in about 1950.

⁷¹ Michigan State Tax Commission, *W.P.A. Project S-110. Rural Property Inventory*, (1938).

⁷² The Rural Property Inventory (RPI) provides a wealth of information on the appearance of the state's farms during the late 1930s and early 1940s. Although dates for construction of specific buildings are provided, they are frequently incorrect or in need of interpretation. The construction date of 1926 probably applies to those buildings with unknown construction dates that were in existence prior to the death of Sidney Harwood in 1927. The farmhouse is incorrectly dated to 1884, but the garage is correctly dated to 1935.

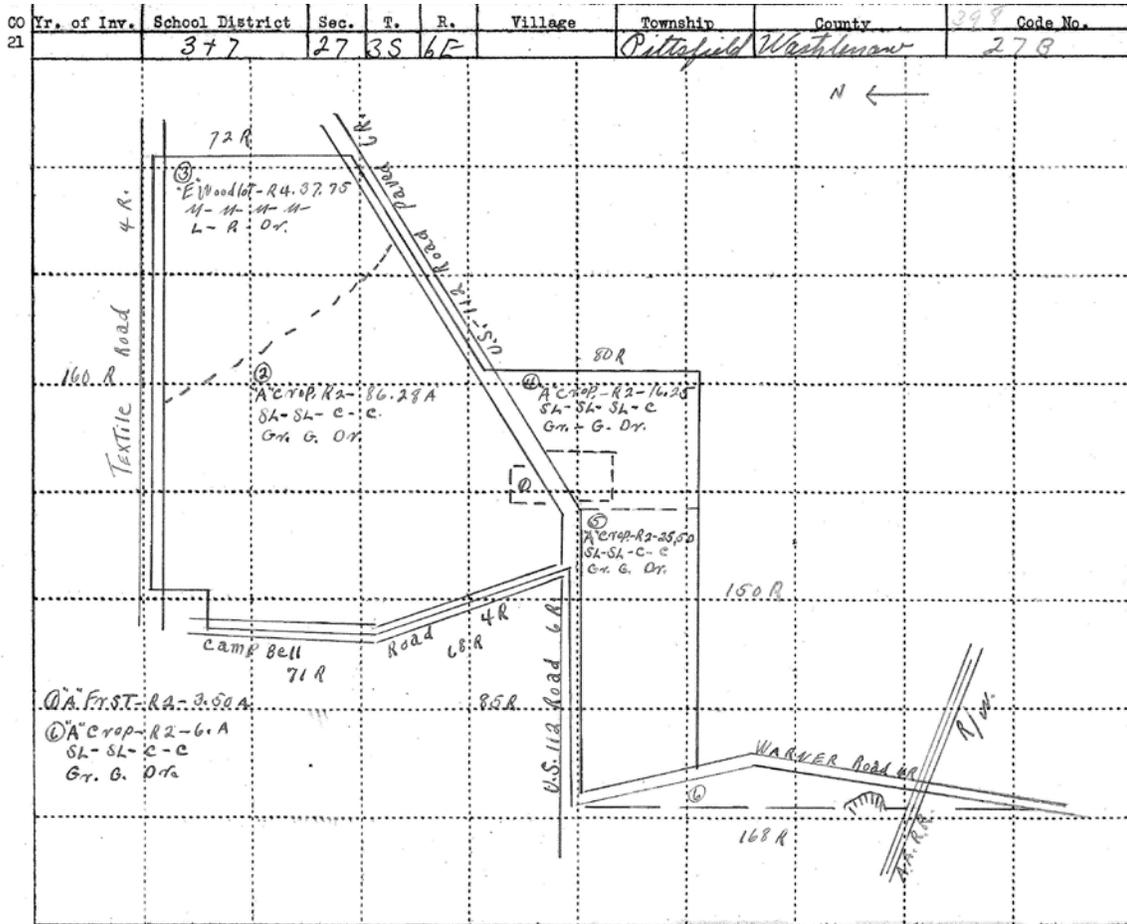


Figure 55, continued

The RPI Inventory data is complemented by the 1939 Agricultural Conservation Program’s Farm Plan.⁷³ The map depicts the individual fields that were in existence at the time. On the north side of the road, the open space around the residential lawn was planted with alfalfa. An elongated field ran north of the alfalfa field parallel to and along the east side of Campbell Road. This field was planted with red clover. In the middle of the property were three fields. The southernmost one parallel to Michigan Avenue was planted with oats. Two elongated fields to the north of this were planted with barley and wheat, respectively. The northeast corner was labeled as “woods.” The fields on the south side of the road were all roughly rectangular, some wider than others, but with the narrow edge along the road, and the longer sides extending southward. From east to west, the fields are labeled as alfalfa pasture, red clove pasture, red clover hay, corn, and alfalfa hay, for a total farm acreage of 191 acres.

A list dated 1945 found in the Harwood family personal papers suggests what may have been grown in that or the previous year. The property was divided into areas A through K (excluding D): A) 14.3 acres barley seeding to red clover, B) 1.9 acres potatoes, C) 15.8 acres alfalfa, D) 22 acres corn, E) 11.4 acres alfalfa, F) 22.3 acres red clover, G) 11.1 acres

⁷³ Harwood Family Records. Agricultural Conservation Program, “Farm Plan for Participation,” 1939, 33-081, Pittsfield #59.

alfalfa, H) 28.6 acres oats, J) 10 acres wheat seed to red clover, and K) 88.5 acres rye pasture.⁷⁴

Webb made numerous infrastructure changes to the farm during his tenure. The first new building was the aforementioned 1935 garage. It included a tool shed at its rear, which was accessible by sliding doors on each side. From then until the early 1960s, there was a steady pace of additional resources added to the farmstead, including buildings, structures and fencing (**Table 6; Figures 56, 57**). Generally, farming lumber for all the buildings incorporating wood was obtained from the property and milled by “Luther Schaible’s dad” on Pleasant Lake Road.⁷⁵

Webb and Ada May also made changes to the farmhouse. These changes are included in **Table 7**.

Family records provide a glimpse of the farm during the 1950s and 1960s. During the 1950s, tax records indicate that the farm had four different parcels: 126.4 acres in Section 27 that included the farmstead; 55.76 additional acres in Section 27; and 59.1 and 18.0 acres in Section 21. The land in Section 21 consisting of the W ½ of the SE ¼ (except a strip fifty feet wide sold to the Toledo-Ann Arbor-Northern Railroad Company) was obtained from father William S. Harwood in 1943. The land in Section 27 was officially deeded in 1950.⁷⁶

Table 6. List of resources known to be present on the Webb S. and Ada May Harwood Farm, mid-20th century. Those built before 1935 were in existence prior to the Webb Harwood operation. Those marked with an * remain standing today.

Year Built	Resource(s)	Year Built	Resource(s)
1848	Farmhouse*	1935	Garage*
Late 19 th C	Horse Barn*	20 th C	Tool Shed
1916	Main Barn*	20 th C	Syrup Shed*
1910s	Silo*	1940s	Milk House
		1946	Fence
		1948	Steel granary
		c. 1950	Play house*
		c. 1950	Chicken House
		c. 1951	Steel Corn Crib*
		1952	Line fence
		1957	Brooder II & range shelters
		1960	Corn Crib

⁷⁴ Undated list associated with 1945 Harwood Family papers.

⁷⁵ Alfred Harwood, Interview, 26 August 2014.

⁷⁶ *Register of Deeds*, Libers 367: 514 and 560: 501.

Table 7. Summary of Selected Farmhouse Remodeling Activities. Those listed 1934 and later were completed by Webb and Ada May Harwood.

Year	Remodeling changes
Unknown	Removal of northwest wing (former summer kitchen) sometime between 1908 and 1934
1904	Windows (23) replaced. New windows are 1/1 double hung from Webster, Cobb and Co., Ypsilanti, Michigan
1934	Interior plumbing and bathroom added, kitchen modified
c. 1955	Kitchen remodeled with new cabinets and appliances, picture window installed at east end of side wing
c. 1958	Dining room and living room remodeled, new windows installed and trimmed. Bedroom remodeled.
2005-06	Entire house rehabilitated (<i>see discussion below for details on this project</i>)

Tax records also reveal details of the farm operation during the 1960s. The family raised cattle, hogs, sheep and poultry and also sold grain and hay. The amounts varied by year

(**Table 8**). In 1966 the family added soybeans to the list of items sold. The number of eggs sold increased to 4000 by 1967. The 1968 tax records show the farm received income from the same sources as in previous years but also received income from the sale of wood and wool. Livestock sold in that year included 118 calves and 138 hogs and sows. Expenses incurred were also similar to those of previous years. One new item listed among the expenses is that of advertising.⁷⁷



Figure 56. Harwood Farm Barnyard, looking SW. Mid-20th century. The small Horse Barn near the center of the picture was moved to north of the farmhouse in 2005.

⁷⁷ Webb and Ada May Harwood, "Schedule of Farm Income and Expenses," 1968.



Figure 57. Harwood Farmstead, North side, looking WSW. Mid-20th century.

In addition to farm work, Webb served on the Saline Fair Board for over 30 years, most of that time as its Treasurer. He was also the Treasurer for the Valentine School district board. He served on several additional boards, including the Board of Directors of the Citizens Bank of Saline and as Trustee to the Pittsfield Charter Township Board. He was a member of the Pittsfield Grange and the

Table 8. Sources of Income, early 1960s. Data from Harwood Family tax records.

Year	Livestock sales	Grain sales	Other
1961	124 feeder hogs 125 feeder lambs 121 calves 700 chickens, pullets		
1962	poultry sales 144 feeder hogs 115 deacon calves 1 heifer	grain	eggs, straw, hay, fox bounty
<i>Expenses incurred were for labor, repairs, interest, feed, seed, fertilizers, machine hire, supplies, breeding fees, vet care, gas, taxes and insurance, utilities, rent, freight, automobile, bank charges, magazines and papers, memberships, and bookkeeping.</i>			
1963	poultry sales (2713 lbs) 144 feeder hogs 108 deacon calves	grain	eggs, wool, straw
1964	10 hogs 131 calves 7 heifers		eggs (\$2025)
<i>Family kept 9 cattle, 1 bull, 141 swine, 507 chickens, raised grain and hay</i>			
1965	3 cattle 65 swine	862 bu grain	20 T hay, 1000+ eggs
<i>Family purchased 79 calves, 1 boar, and 32 hogs for next year</i>			

Washtenaw Farm Bureau. He served with the Civil Defense during World War II. It was his responsibility to stop traffic in front of the house on US-12 during air raids and to ensure that auto lights be turned off (neighboring farmers served in a similar capacity). Ada May also participated in community activities. She was a teacher by training, and had taught in Washtenaw and Oakland Counties before her marriage. Afterwards, she was a 4-H Club leader for 40 years, a school census taker, and an active volunteer with the Ann Arbor Zion Lutheran Church. She was a member of the Pittsfield Ladies Aid Society and the Fosdick Extension Homemakers group. She served as a leader, attending training sessions in home economics at the County Extension office and then teaching members of the Fosdick group what she had learned.

Ada May and Webb raised two children, born in 1938 and 1942, respectively. Grandfather Fred Bachman and Webb constructed a playhouse for the children in the yard immediately behind the house. Completed in 1950, the playhouse is traditional in design. It features a side gable roof with open eaves, a central door flanked by small window openings and relatively wide horizontal wood siding.

There is little data available suggesting how the farm operated during the 1970s and 1980s, although no buildings or other resources appear to have been added. An article celebrating the 175th anniversary of the farm makes reference to the poultry and egg business continuing until 1990 and Webb working the farm until the 1980s.⁷⁸ Another article indicates that by 1986 all livestock and poultry were gone. The land was leased on a share basis, and was planted with cash crops, including wheat, corn, oats and hay. In the same article Webb described himself and Ada May as “semi-retired.”⁷⁹

Webb passed in 1994 and Ada May passed earlier in 1992. For a short while Alfred’s son William and his family lived in the house. They are the 6th and 7th generations of the Harwood family in Michigan to have done so. The farm was recognized as a Michigan Sesquicentennial Farm in 1987.⁸⁰

In the early 1970s, the Harwoods added their children to the list of owners of the farm. The children, Alfred W. and Janice O. Harwood, remain the current owners (**Figures 58 and 59**).



Figure 58. Alfred W. Harwood



Figure 59. Janice O. Harwood

⁷⁸ “Celebrating a Milestone: Harwood Farm marks 175 years,” www.heritage.com, 8/20/2009.

⁷⁹ Wermuth, ed., *Michigan’s Centennial Farm Heritage*, 135.

⁸⁰ *The Saline Reporter* (June 24, 1987), 1b.

Figure 60. Left column: Harwood Farmhouse, looking NW. Photos from 1936, 2005 (before rehabilitation) and 2014 (after rehabilitation). Right column: Front of Farmhouse, looking N. Photos from the early 20th century, 2005 (before rehabilitation) and 2008 (after rehabilitation).



Harwood Reconfiguration Period (2002-present)

As was done by each of the preceding generations of the family, siblings Alfred and Janice Harwood have made adjustments to the farm within the scope of modern-day needs and economic forces. Because the siblings are not farmers and have residences elsewhere, the functional use of the historic farm has shifted from one of active agriculture to that of a (potential) gentleman's farm. In 2002 the Harwood Siblings sold all but 30 acres of the land north and east of the farmhouse to the Pittsfield Charter Township to be included as part of the Pittsfield Preserve.⁸¹ This move has ensured that the land behind the farmstead remains as open space. The land south of US-12 (Michigan Ave.) was sold to a developer in 2004. The barn and silo were included in the latter sale. While the silo was recently demolished, the barn remains standing on an individual lot within the subdivision and is protected from demolition until 2035 by a contract made between the Harwoods and the developer. The farmstead now sits on ten acres. The remaining ten acres are situated to the west. Most of the land on all three sides of the farmstead is being cultivated under a lease arrangement.

The change in the use of the land and farm has resulted in a reconfiguration of the farmstead. From the sale of the land on the south side of the road, outbuildings associated with the farmstead needed to be removed. The old milk house was transported to a property in Saline for bee keeping. The granary now serves as the storage building for the Weber-Blaess one-room school house (itself moved from a Lodi Township farm to the Saline School District's campus). The horse barn was moved to the north of the farmhouse and replaced the now demolished chicken house. The old tool shed was demolished. The current farmstead now only exists on the north side of the extremely busy highway, and consists of the farmhouse still nestled in the grove of locust trees, the horse barn, steel corn crib, garage, and syrup house.

The farmhouse also underwent a major rehabilitation, restoration and reconstruction in 2006-2008, with many mid-20th century modifications removed. The front porch and kitchen porch were rebuilt to replicate those of the late 19th century using old family photographs. The dilapidated kitchen wing and wood shed were removed and rebuilt on the same footprint with similar massing (**Figure 60**). Several 20th century window openings were modified, inspired by 19th century photographs of the home and/or modern needs.



Figure 61. View into Cistern

Similarly, the wood shed, which now serves as a family room, received additional windows and door openings. It features paneling and timbers repurposed from other areas of the house. A hatch opening in the floor reveals the very large, intact cistern (**Figure 61**). The fieldstone foundation under the main house was repaired in some sections and replaced with poured concrete in other sections. Where concrete was used, the foundation was covered on the exterior with a veneer of cut stone to resemble the original stone foundation. The house received new 6/6 double

⁸¹ Ten of these acres were sold to Washtenaw County in 2014, and an additional ten acres are now platted as a separate parcel.

hung windows which replaced the non-original 1/1 windows in order to better match the style of the original house. The windows on the front (public) side of the house feature real muntins; those in the back have snap-in muntins. Similarly, the house is covered with real cedar siding on the public side and hardi-plank siding on the non-public elevations. Finally, the Greek Revival-style cornice returns were rebuilt. The original ones had been removed, probably during the mid-20th century when the building was cloaked in aluminum siding.

On the interior, the house was gutted and its utilities upgraded. Scorch marks discovered on timbers at the west end of the structure suggest a fire that once took place (the chimney associated with that end of the building had since been removed). The interior arrangement of rooms was modified to incorporate a more modern traffic pattern. Specifically, the stairs leading both up and down have been repositioned into spaces that enable them to have dimensions outlined by the modern code. The living and dining room floors are covered with repurposed white oak planks made from original studs. The master bedroom on the first floor received a poplar floor made of boards recycled from the attic. The house is now in excellent condition and with additional upgrades (such as French doors opening onto a back deck) is ready for the next generation of occupants.

V. Historic Significance of the Harwood Farm

Areas of Significance: Agriculture, Settlement, Social History, Transportation

Period of Significance: 1834-2008

Criteria for historic significance are referenced in Chapter 5 of the Pittsfield Charter Township Historic Preservation Ordinance, and are based on the criteria established by the National Register of Historic Places (**Attachment B**).⁸²

The Harwood farmstead meets criteria A for historic significance as defined by the National Register of Historic Places because of its association with 19th and 20th century agriculture in central Washtenaw County. In addition, the property is affiliated with the early settlement period of the township, the development of US-12 (today known as the US 12 Heritage Trail), and one of the nation's successful Underground Railroad operations.

The period of significance begins in 1834 when the organizational meeting to establish the local area as Pittsfield Township took place on the property. The meeting was hosted by then owner Major John Gilbert who purchased the land beginning in 1826. Gilbert was an early surveyor of the Indian trail that would become Michigan Avenue. He took advantage of his position and purchased numerous large tracts of land during his tenure. In addition to being part of the establishment of Pittsfield, Gilbert is recognized as a founding member

⁸² *National Register Bulletin #15*. Criteria A, National Register of Historic Places: "The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association; and that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history."

of the village of Manchester and a significant contributor to the growth of early Ypsilanti in Washtenaw County.

The Pittsfield property was traded to William Webb Harwood shortly after the first township meeting took place. Once his farm was successfully established, Harwood was able to build a relatively large, grand house. Throughout its existence the 1848 house has served as the “nerve center” of the Harwood farm, providing housing for the owners and workers of the farm, space for the farm office and a kitchen used for processing products of the farm, and extra storage space for some of those products. William Webb was succeeded by son Sidney Harwood and great-grandson Webb S. Harwood. Both men became very successful farmers and community members, adapting the farmstead’s appearance to accommodate changes in enterprises. Under the ownership of Sidney, the farm became the largest fruit tree operation in the township before shifting its emphasis to dairying. Webb S. Harwood developed the farm into a modern dairy, poultry farm and veal operation of the 20th century. In addition to cows and chickens, the farm raised heifers, lamb, sheep, and hogs. The farm sold a significant number of eggs among other products, delivering them to Ypsilanti groceries and residences on an egg route. Fields and the wood lot on the property were used to grow grains and hay, or were mined to produce products such as maple syrup and lumber. This collection of smaller enterprises combined to produce an income that supported multiple buildings and generations of the Harwood family. The farm was successful because each generation was able to adapt it to changing enterprises and technology.

The roadway has been an integral part of the Harwood farm, separating the house from the barnyard while simultaneously linking it to nearby markets. Built on “the Curve,” the farm has been a focal point to those traveling Michigan Avenue. It is one of numerous historic properties on the road, which is designated as the US-12 Heritage Trail (www.us12heritagetrail.org). The farm contributes to the understanding of the road’s evolution from a Native American path known as the Old Sauk Trail, a military turnpike, a stagecoach route connecting Detroit to Chicago and the towns in between, to a modern two-lane highway. Several archaeological digs on the farm have yielded flint, linking it to a Native American campsite on the trail. The farm was also the property of John Gilbert, an early surveyor of the road. At the other end of the story, the farm made full use of the interurban railway that once connected Ypsilanti to Saline along US-12. For several decades the train delivered farm products to buyers of the goods in Ypsilanti. The stop in front of the farm was called “Harwood Corners.”

In addition to being an early and prominent settler and farmer, William Webb Harwood was an abolitionist, and with his family, assisted people escaping slavery. At least one of Michigan’s interstate Underground Railroad networks ran roughly parallel to today’s US-12. Harwood descendants described sheltering freedom seekers in a shed as well as in a small open space hidden within the basement foundation underneath the east wing of the house. In addition, the Harwoods participated with neighbors and organizations that supported the operations of the Underground Railroad. Harwood donated acreage for the construction of a church building for the local antislavery Wesleyan Methodist Society. He donated land for use as a cemetery where he and his African American neighbor and fellow Underground Railroad conductor Asher Aray are buried. The cemetery’s significance as an early integrated resting place was recognized with a Washtenaw County Historic

District Commission marker in 2004. The Harwood farmstead and cemetery are included in the Journey to Freedom Tours, sponsored by the African American Cultural and Historical Museum. Both the Journey to Freedom tours and the W. W. Harwood Farmstead were approved by the Secretary of the Interior for inclusion in the National Park Service National Network to Freedom.

The period of significance ends in 2008 with the completion of the rehabilitation and restoration of the farmhouse and the reconfiguration of the farmstead to meet the needs of the future generation of occupants. The size of the farm has been reduced to 10 acres, and although the setting of open fields contributes to an agricultural backdrop, the farm owners are no longer actively farming.

VI. Boundary Justification

The legally recorded boundary lines of the Harwood property have been selected to make the boundary for the proposed historic district. In addition to having been part of the farm since 1826, the 10-acre parcel provides a sufficient buffer around the farmstead to maintain the integrity of the setting and location (**Attachments D, E**).

The present southern boundary is marked by Michigan Avenue. It was established in 2005 when the land to the south of the highway was sold for development. That land includes the 1916 barn, which remains standing across the road from the farmhouse, screening a good portion of the subdivision from the setting of the farmstead. The southern boundary curves slightly around the farmstead as the road shifts from a southwesterly course to a more westerly course.

The western boundary is located west of a hedgerow of overgrown grasses and brush, separating the farmyard from the tilled field to the west. The eastern boundary of the property is approximately 150 feet east of the driveway, which runs from the main road to the north past the farm buildings and out into the tilled fields. The northern boundary of the property is not visible on the landscape, but is clarified in the legal description.

There are a number of nearby historic resources that contribute to the setting and/or are related to the history of the proposed district. These are listed in **Attachment G**. While they illustrate parts of the Harwood Farm story, the resources are not included in the proposed district because of one or more reasons. Some of the Harwood farm buildings have been removed a distance to noncontiguous parcels. Other resources, such as the adjacent Preserves are owned by the Township as protected open space. Finally, US-12 and the Harwood Cemetery are historic resources whose respective historic significance extends well beyond the Township boundaries and that of the proposed historic district.

VII. Conclusions and Recommendations

The Harwood Heritage Farm Historic District Study Committee finds that the Harwood Farm, consisting of a farmstead (farmhouse, horse barn, drive-through corn crib, garage/tool shed, shop/maple syrup building, and a collection of locust trees surrounded by

approximately ten rural acres), is a unique property with historic significance to the development of early Pittsfield Township and a major highway, local agriculture, and the regional contribution to the Underground Railroad. It possesses local historic significance Criterion A of the National Register of Historic Places.

The Study Committee finds that the farmstead has sufficient integrity of location, design, materials, setting, feeling and association to make it worthy of preservation. The Harwood Farmstead is situated in its original location, with house, outbuildings, and farm lanes still intact. The surrounding pastoral setting evokes the nineteenth to mid-twentieth century rural landscape and serves as a significant backdrop to the agricultural heritage portrayed by the historic resources on the farmstead. The farm's history mirrors that of many family-owned farms that operated in the rural areas surrounding the growing population of southeast Michigan. In addition, the farmhouse provides a physical link to the early settlement era when successful farmers were able to replace their original log cabins with prominently-scaled home and organize local units of government. It is also a physical link to activities associated with the Underground Railroad operations. Finally, the farmhouse "on the Curve" witnessed the evolution of US-12 from the Old Sauk Trail to a stage coach road linking Detroit to Chicago, to an early highway, and finally to a modern two-lane highway.

While a number of outbuildings have been removed during the 180 years of the farm's association with the Harwood family, many of the changes made are associated with the evolution of a farm from subsistence to specialization—resources associated with the early general farm were gradually replaced or accidentally burned as the farm evolved into a dairy and poultry farm. The current farmstead includes a sample of the outbuildings present to support the setting of a twentieth century farming operation. The existing (and historic) design and setting of the farm as expressed by the open fields, grove of locust trees, and the placement of the driveway and buildings in relation to one another, reflects its evolution over time. The integrity of the individual buildings, complete with their own histories, also contribute to the sense of feeling and association with the evolution of a Michigan farmstead spanning almost two centuries.

The Harwood Heritage Farm is recognized by several organizations for its distinctive history. The U.S. Department of the Interior's National Park Service added the property in 2005 to the Network to Freedom List to commemorate the activities associated with the Underground Railroad (**Attachment H**). The Michigan Centennial Farm Association has recognized the farm as having been owned by the same family for over 150 years. Detroit Edison awarded the family with a Michigan Sesquicentennial marker in 1987.

The proposed historic district is similar in some respects to several County Historic Districts established by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners. Specifically, the Merriman Farm in Manchester Township features a mid-19th century house that has been extensively rehabilitated, a horse barn, and several additional outbuildings. The Harwood farmhouse is similar in scale and proportions to the 1839 Esek Pray House in Superior Township. That farm, too, is a small remnant of its original size. The evolution of the farm from one of general subsistence to specialization in order to serve nearby urban customers is similar to the path followed by the Conant family in Salem Township, as described in the Conant Farm Historic District Study Committee Report. The historic significance of

the Harwood Farm is complementary to that of the Township's historic Sutherland-Wilson Farm, which was designated a historic district in 2012.⁸³

The Harwood Heritage Farm is a significant contributing resource to the agricultural and settlement contexts of Pittsfield Township, to the transportation context of the southeast Michigan region, and to the social history context of the nation. The Study Committee recommends that the Harwood Heritage Farm be designated as a local historic district by the Pittsfield Charter Township Board of Trustees.

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Attachments

Attachment A Letter Petitioning Designation

Janice O. Harwood
6356 E. Michigan Ave., Saline, MI 48176
Phone: 734.429.4154 Cell: 831.578.5454
E-mail: joharwood@comcast.net

August 5, 2013

Mandy Grewal, Supervisor
Pittsfield Charter Township
6201 W. Michigan Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Dear Supervisor Grewal,

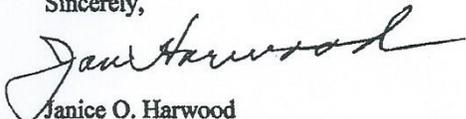
I would like to submitted an application to the Pittsfield Charter Township Historic District Commission to establish a historic district that will include the Harwood Heritage Farm (house, out buildings and 10 acres) located at 6356 E. Michigan Ave. This farm, originally 800 acres, was purchased by my great-great grandfather, William Webb Harwood, in August of 1834. The house, which was used as a stop on the Underground Railroad, was built by him in 1834. The farm site is listed on the National Park Service, Network to Freedom.

I am requesting the Pittsfield Charter Township Board to approve a resolution which: authorizes the Pittsfield Charter Townshipp Historic District to create a historic district study committee for the Harwood Heritage Farm

If you have any questions regarding this please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for this consideration.

Sincerely,



Janice O. Harwood

Attachment B **Pittsfield Charter Township Historic Preservation Ordinance (Excerpt)**

General Code: Chapter 5, Section 104:

“At any time, the township board of trustees may by ordinance establish additional historic districts, including proposed historic districts previously considered and rejected, may modify boundaries of an existing historic district, or may eliminate an existing historic district. The procedure for such action will be governed by Section 399.203 (1-3) and Section 399.214 of Public Act 169 of 1970, as amended.”

(<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/mcl/pdf/mcl-act-169-of-1970.pdf>).

Attachment C **Resolution Appointing Study Committee**

**PITTSFIELD CHARTER TOWNSHIP
WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICHIGAN
RES # 13-56**

**RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH THE HARWOOD HERITAGE FARM
HISTORIC DISTRICT STUDY COMMITTEE AND TO APPOINT MEMBERS**

December 11, 2013

At a Regular Meeting of the Township Board for Pittsfield Charter Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan, held at the Pittsfield Charter Township Administration Building, located at 6201 W. Michigan Avenue, in said Township on Wednesday the 11th day of December, 2013 at 6:30pm.

Members Present: Israel, Scribner, Hunt, Krone, Lotfian, Yi.
Members Absent: Grewal.

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Treasurer Scribner and supported by Trustee Krone.

WHEREAS, The State of Michigan has declared historic preservation to be a public purpose and has established procedures whereby a local unit of government may establish local historic districts; and

WHEREAS, The Local Historic Districts Act (“the Act”) requires and authorizes a local unit of government to appoint a historic district study committee before establishing a historic district; and

WHEREAS, The Pittsfield Charter Township Historic District Commission has requested the Board of Trustees to appoint a historic district study committee to consider establishment of the Harwood Heritage Farm Historic District; and

WHEREAS, The Pittsfield Charter Township Board of Trustees supports historic preservation efforts in the Township; and

WHEREAS, The Local Historic Districts Act requires that the committee contain a majority of persons who have a clearly demonstrated interest in or knowledge of historic preservation; and

WHEREAS, The Local Historic Districts Act also requires that the committee contain representation from 1 or more duly organized local historic preservation organizations a clearly demonstrated interest in or knowledge of historic preservation; and

WHEREAS, The persons listed below meet both of the above criteria;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Pittsfield Charter Township Board of Trustees establishes The Harwood Heritage Farm Historic District Study Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Harwood Heritage Farm Historic District Study Committee shall perform the following tasks, as required by Section 3 of the Local Historic District Act (MCL 399.203):

- (a) Conduct a photographic inventory of resources within each proposed historic district following procedures established or approved by the department.
- (b) Conduct basic research of each proposed historic district and the historic resources located within that district.
- (c) Determine the total number of historic and nonhistoric resources within a proposed historic district and the percentage of historic resources of that total. In evaluating the significance of historic resources, the committee shall be guided by the selection criteria for evaluation issued by the United States secretary of the interior for inclusion of resources in the national register of historic places, as set forth in 36 C.F.R. part 60, and criteria established or approved by the department, if any.
- (d) Prepare a preliminary historic district study committee report that addresses at a minimum all of the following:
 - (i) The charge of the committee.
 - (ii) The composition of the committee membership.
 - (iii) The historic district or districts studied.
 - (iv) The boundaries for each proposed historic district in writing and on maps.
 - (v) The history of each proposed historic district.
 - (vi) The significance of each district as a whole, as well as a sufficient number of its individual resources to fully represent the variety of resources found within the district, relative to the evaluation criteria.
- (e) Transmit copies of the preliminary report for review and recommendations to the local planning body, to the department, to the Michigan historical commission, and to the state historic preservation review board.
- (f) Make copies of the preliminary report available to the public pursuant to the Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Harwood Heritage Farm Historic District Study Committee shall meet all other requirements and deadlines established for such committees by the Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the following persons are appointed to the Harwood Heritage Farm Historic District Study Committee:

- Ina Hanel-Gerdenich
- Carol Mull
- Susan Wineberg
- Patricia Scribner

- James E. Davis
- Mary Ellen Wall
- Janice Harwood

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ayes: Israel, Scribner, Hunt, Krone, Lotfian, Yi.

Nays: None.

Absent: Grewal.

Abstain: None.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED

Alan Israel, Clerk
Pittsfield Charter Township

Mandy Grewal, Supervisor
Pittsfield Charter Township

DATED: December 12, 2013

CERTIFICATE

I, Alan Israel, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Board of Pittsfield Charter Township, County of Washtenaw, State of Michigan, at a Regular Meeting held on December 11, 2013 and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as required by said Act.

Alan Israel, Clerk
Pittsfield Charter Township

DATED: December 12, 2013

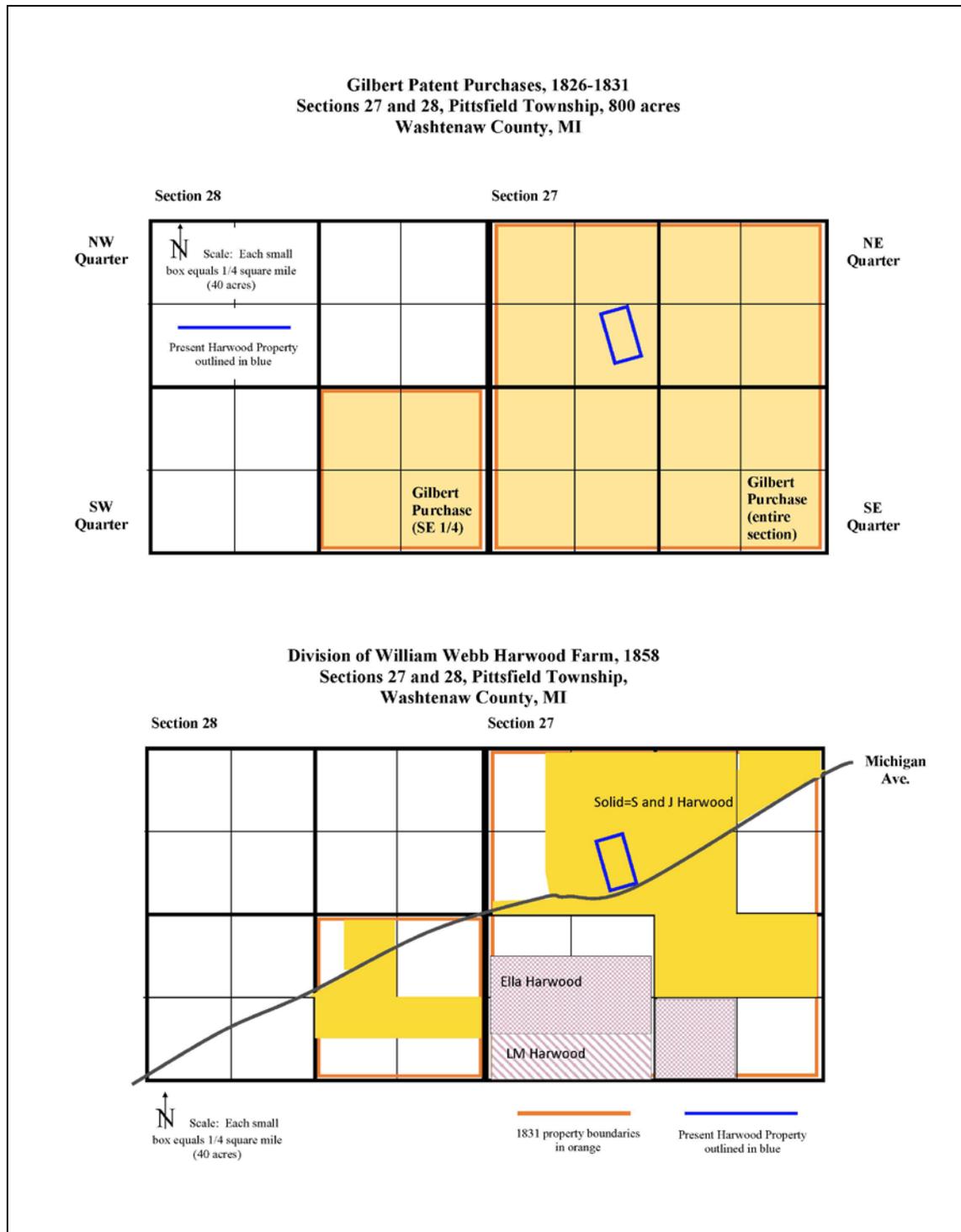
Attachment D **Legal Description of Proposed Harwood
Heritage Farm Historic District**

Parcel Number: L-12-27-200-023

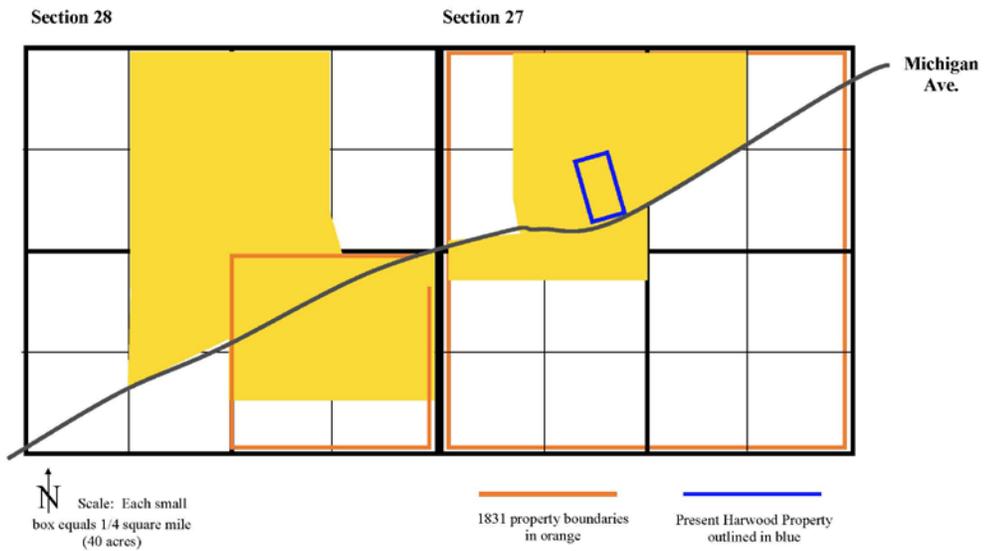
COM AT INTERSECTION OF C/L CAMPBELL ROAD AND MICHIGAN AVE, TH
ELY 487 FT IN C/L MICHIGAN AVE FOR POB, TH NLY PARALLEL TO
CAMPBELL RD 890 FT, TH DEF 90 RT 495 FT, TH DEF 90 RT 890 FT, TH SWLY
IN C/L MICHIGAN AVE TO POB, BEING PART OF NW ¼ SEC 27, T3S R6E, 10.10
AC.

For Corresponding map, see Figure 1 of this report.

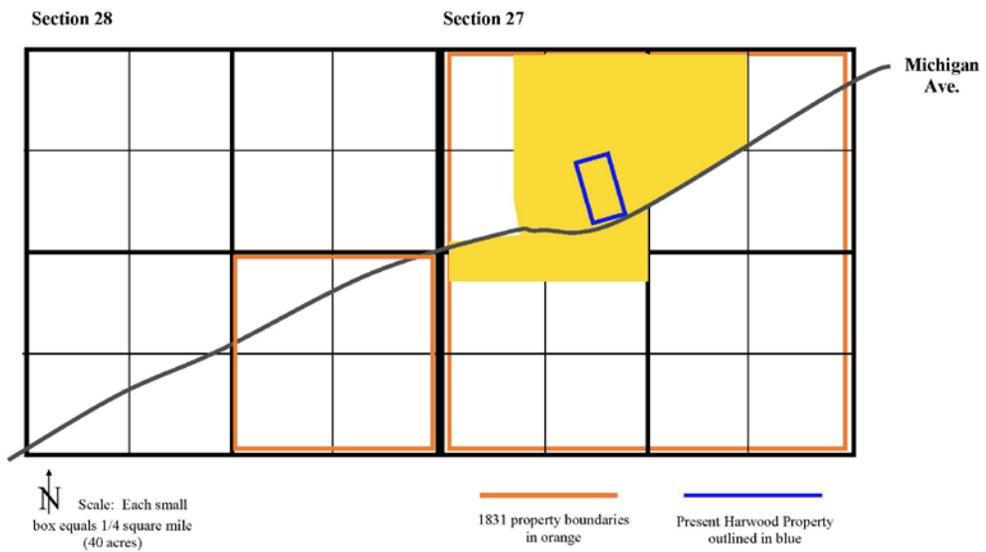
Attachment E Selected Maps



Maximum Extent of Sidney Harwood Farm, early 20th C
Sections 27 and 28, Pittsfield Township, 492 acres
Washtenaw County, MI

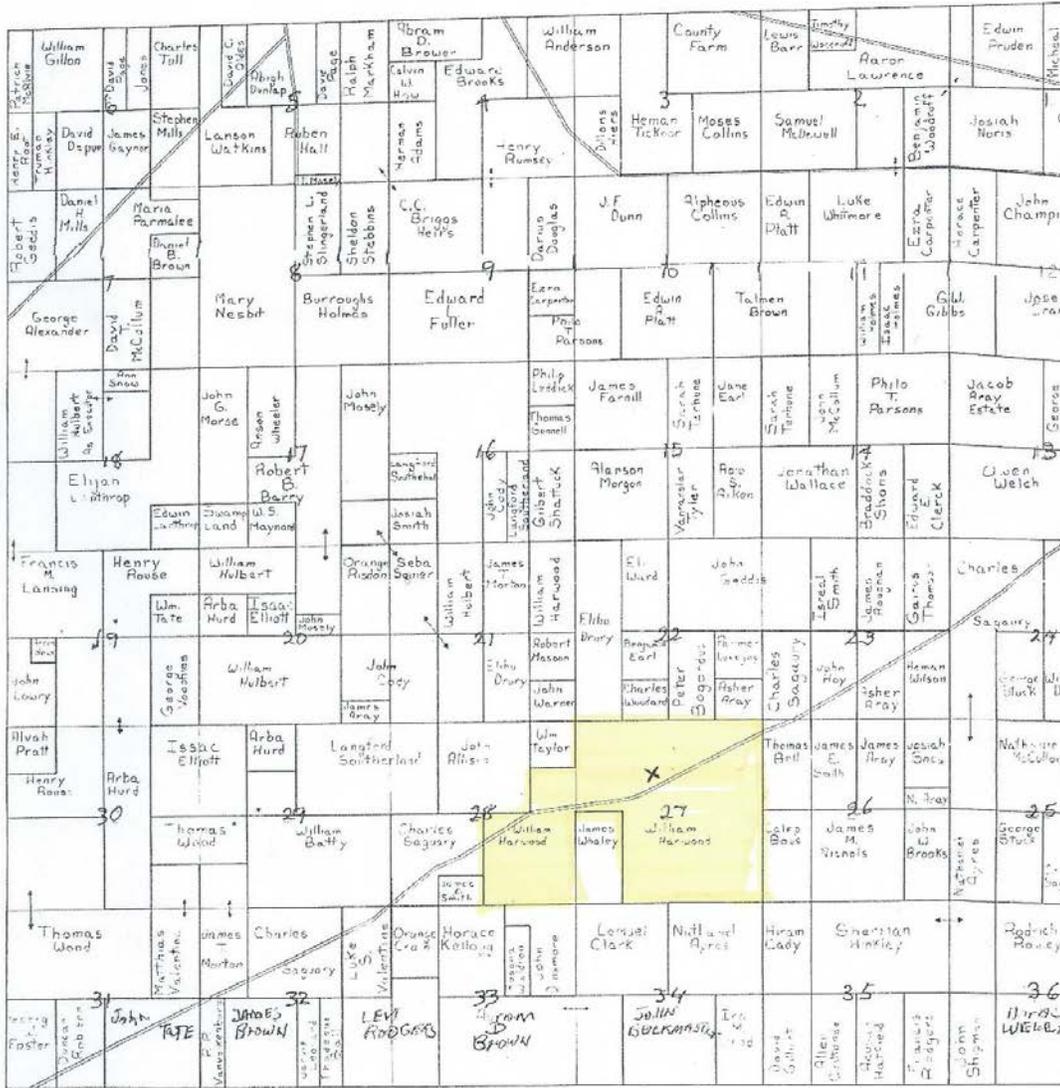


Extent of Webb S. Harwood Farm, 1934-2002
Sections 27 and 28, Pittsfield Township, 191 acres
Washtenaw County, MI



MAP OF PITTSFIELD TOWNSHIP
TOWN THREE SOUTH RANGE SIX EAST

1840

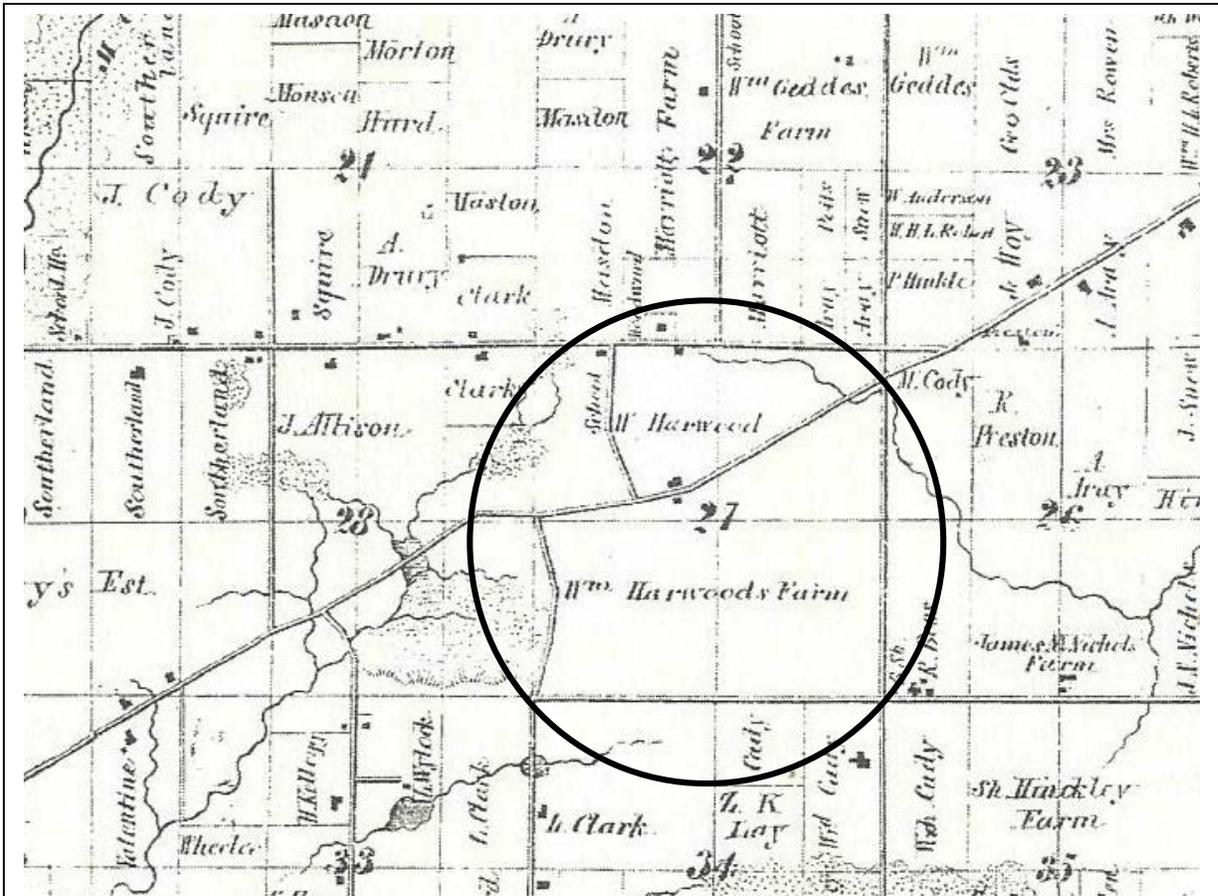


**Detail, Map of 1840 Plats,
Pittsfield Township, Michigan**

William Harwood Farm in Sections 27 and 28
(highlighted in yellow)

“X” marks the location of the farmstead

Source: “Map of Pittsfield Township, 1840.”

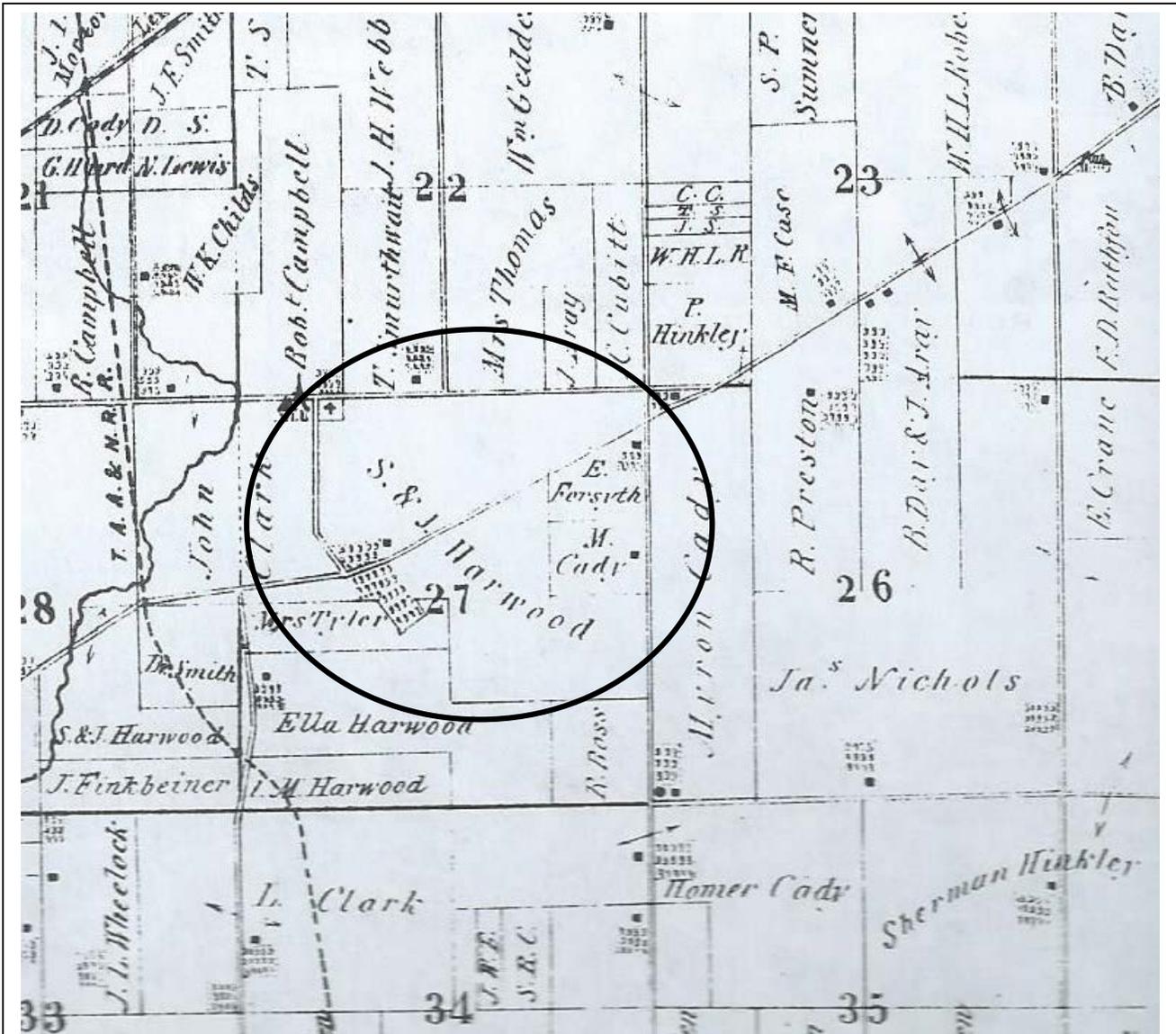


Detail, 1856 Plat Map
Pittsfield Township, Michigan

William Webb Harwood Farm, Section 27

Note “split” farmstead arrangement, with buildings on both sides of the main road; and location of R. Preston and A. Aray Farms to the east

Source: *Map of the Counties of Washtenaw and Lenawee, Michigan, 1856.*

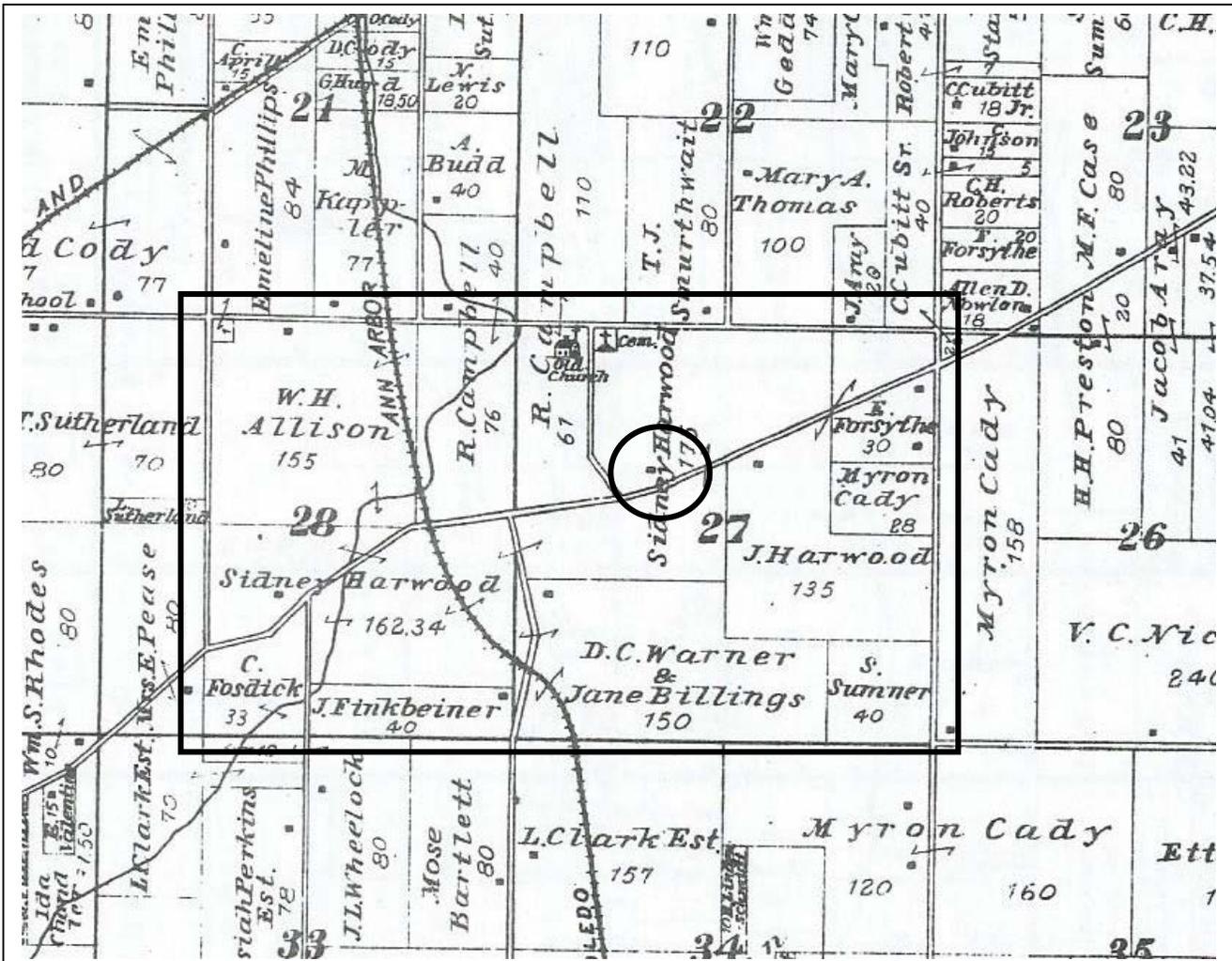


Detail, 1874 Plat Map
Pittsfield Township, Michigan

S. and J. Harwood Farm, Section 27

Note extensive orchard to the west and south of the farmstead

Source: *Combination Atlas of Washtenaw County, Michigan, 1874.*

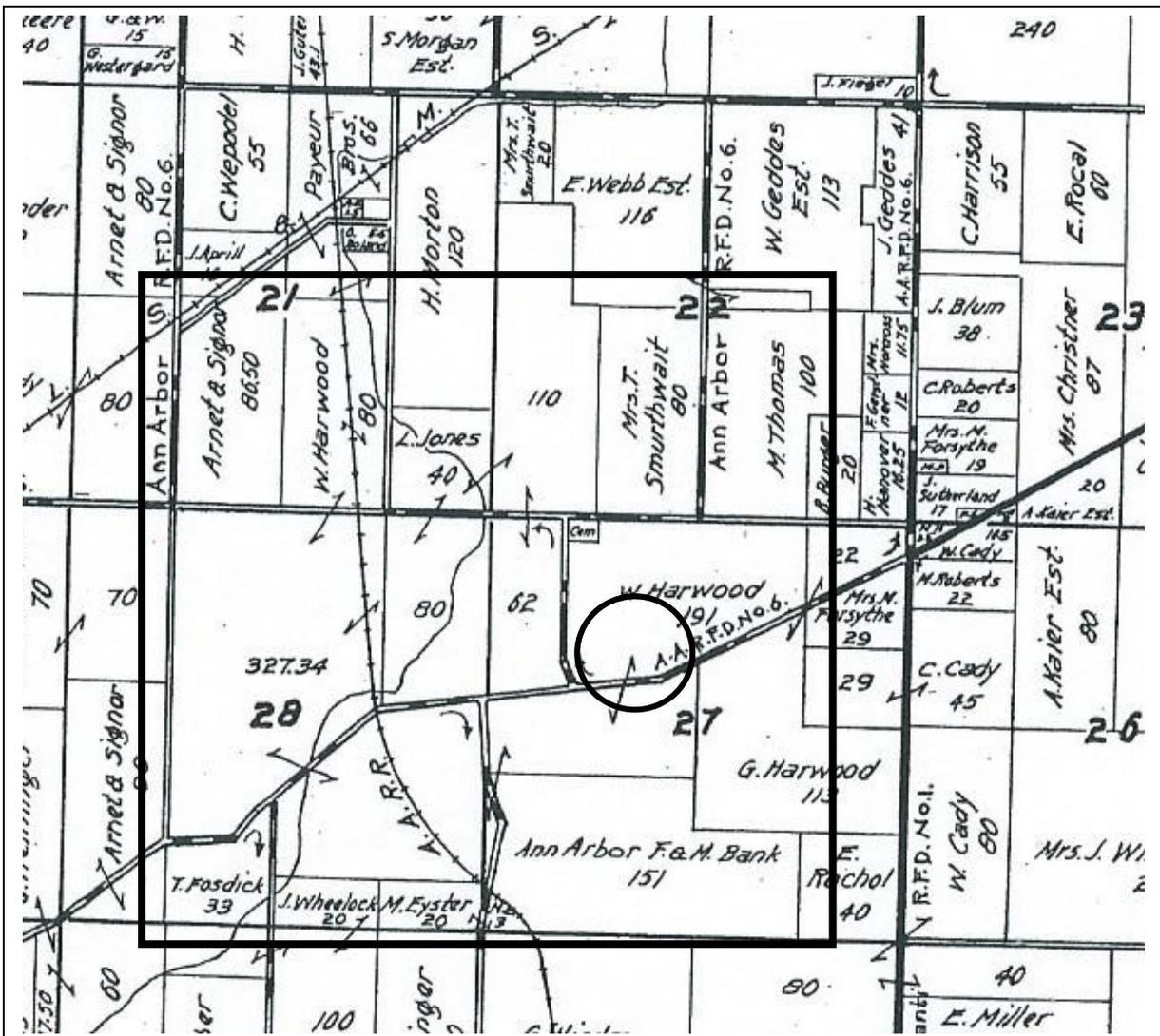


Detail, 1895 Plat Map
Pittsfield Township, Michigan

Sidney Harwood Farm, Sections 27 and 28
(location of farmstead is circled)

Note J(ohn) Harwood Farm to the east

Source: Standard Atlas of Washtenaw County, Michigan, 1895.

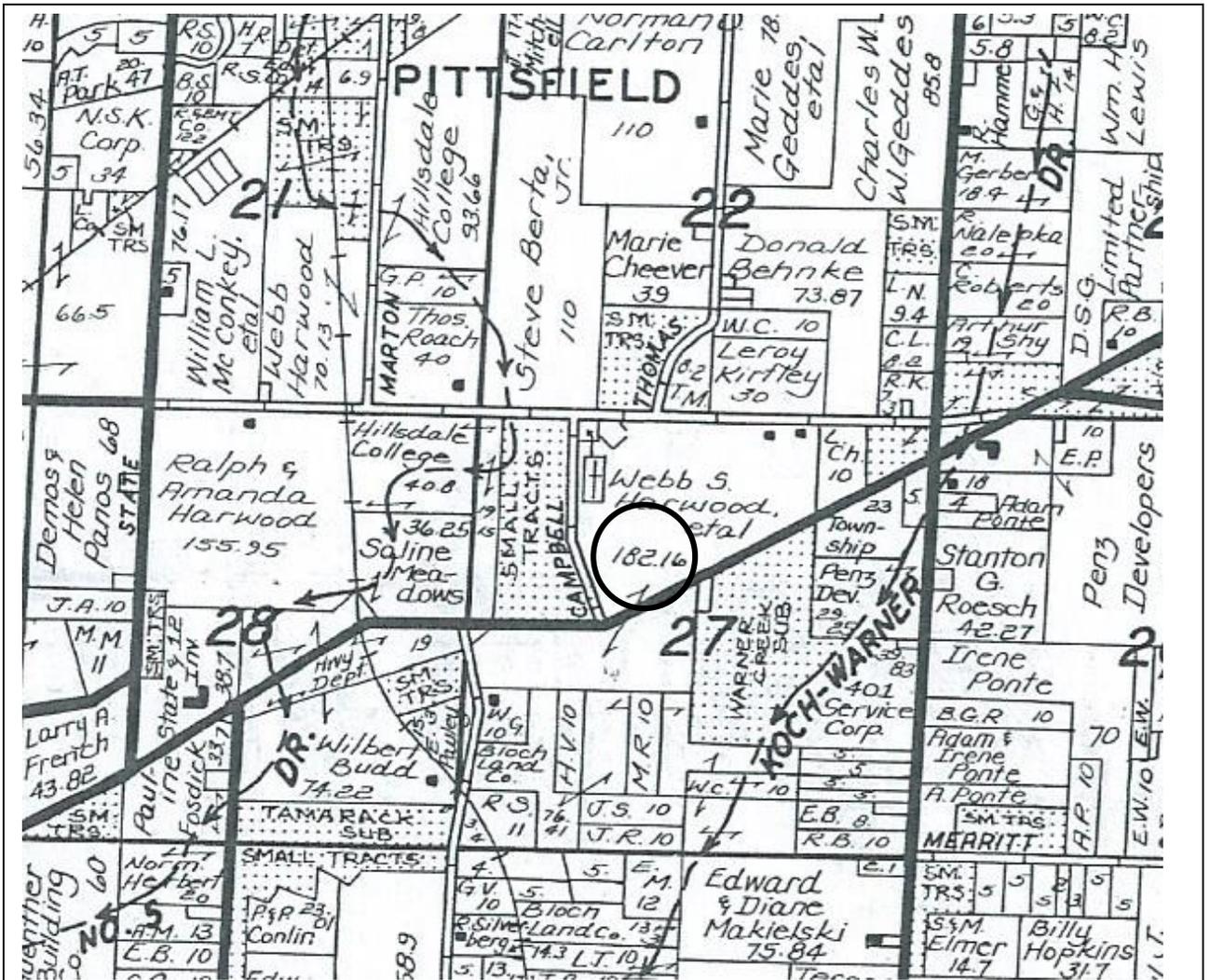


Detail, 1934 Plat Map
Pittsfield Township, Michigan

William S. Harwood Farm, Sections 21, 27 and 28

Note: Location of Farmstead circled

Source: Paul Weinlander, 1934.

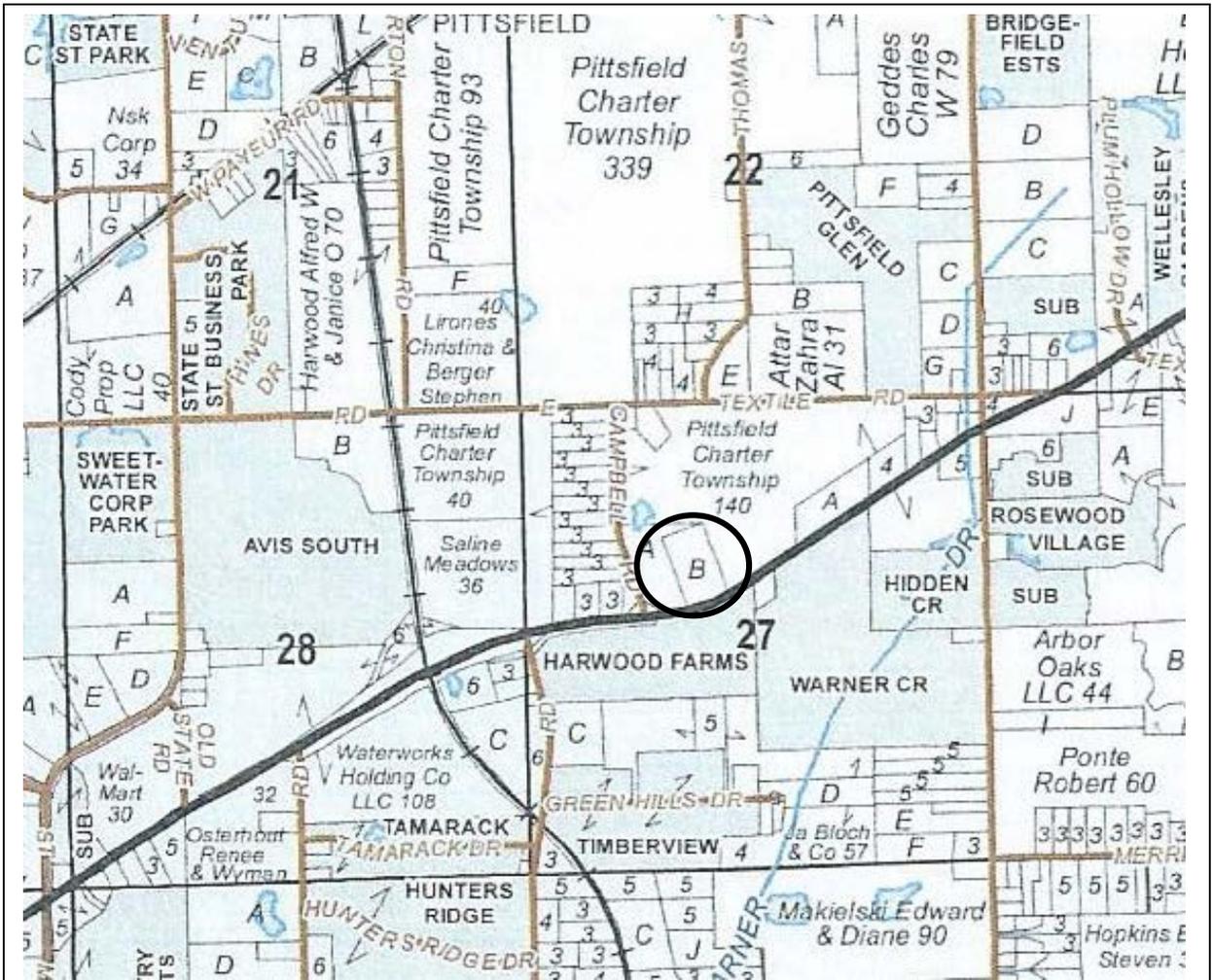


Detail, 1989 Plat Map
Pittsfield Township, Michigan

Webb S. et al. Harwood Farm, Sections 21 and 27

Note: Location of Farmstead circled

Source: Rockford Map Publications, Inc., 1989.



Detail, 2012 Plat Map
Pittsfield Township, Michigan

“B” = Harwood Heritage Farm, Section 27 (circled)

Note: Land south of Michigan Ave is developed as Harwood Farms; and land surrounding farmstead to north and east is part of the Pittsfield and Harwood Heritage Preserves

Source: Rockford Map Publications, Inc., 2012.

Attachment F **Harwood Family Tree, Pittsfield Township**

William Webb Harwood (1785-1860)

Parents: Webb Harwood and Hannah Anderson

Wife 4, m. 1839: **Polly Holden Harwood** (1808-1894)

Children:

Harrison (1840-?), m. Lydia Jane Haynes 1860, 3 children

Henry (1841-1842)

Franklin (1844-1872), m. Harriet Sutherland 1867, 1 child

Martin Luther (1846-1848)

Sidney (1848-1927; see below)

John (1853-1928), married 1 Jane E. Forsythe 1873, 6 children
married 2 Martha Elizabeth Stevens 1894

Sidney Harwood (1848-1927)

Wife 1, m. 1877: **Cornelia Stevens** (c 1858-1882)

Children:

Mary Elizabeth (1879-1936)

William Sidney (1882-1963; see below)

Wife 2, m. 1887: **Mary R. Stevens** (c 1855-1917)

William Sidney Harwood (1882-1963)

Wife, m. 1907: **Amanda R. Hertler** (c 1883-1979)

Children:

Webb Sidney (1908-1994; see below)

Harrison H. (1910-1943)

William George (1912-1915)

Ralph H. (1914-1992)

Helen Marie (1916-1978), m. Charles Sterling

Sidney (1918-1989)

Elizabeth B. (1918-2006), m. 1 Richard Correll; 2 Donald Katz

Maurine (1923-2014), m. Stuart Plettner

Webb Sidney Harwood (1908-1994)

Wife, m. 1934: **Ada May Bachman** (1907-1992)

Children:

Alfred William (b.1938; see below)

Janice Orienne (b. 1942)

Alfred William Harwood (b. 1938)

Wife, m. 1961: Marsha Ann Stapp

Children:

William Webb (1962-1962)

Suzanne Margaret (b. 1964) – m. 2001: Jay Brown.

Child: Jaycie Doran (b. 2002)

William Doran (b. 1967) – m. Tamara McKenna

Children: Zachery William (b. 1998), Tyler Alan (b. 2000)

Attachment G **Nearby Related Historic Resources**

(These resources are not part of the proposed district)

Resource	Relevance	Comments
Barn, 1916	Former resource	Main barn & surrounding land sold 2004 and is now part of a subdivision
Harwood Cemetery**	Part of original property	Land sold 1853 to Trustees of the Central Burying Ground for a burial site of Harwood and neighboring families; early example of a racially integrated cemetery
Former site of Wesleyan-Methodist Society's Church**	Part of original property	Land sold 1856 to Society; associated with activities of Underground Railroad. Church no longer standing; land is currently a private residential parcel.
US-12 Heritage Trail**	Main road dividing original farmstead	http://www.us12heritagetrail.org/
Pittsfield Preserve	Part of original property	Maintains rural setting around farmstead. Land is owned by the township.
Harwood Preserve	Part of original property	Maintains rural setting around farmstead. Land is owned by the township.
Old milk house, 1916	Former resource	Moved to Saline in 2005
Granary	Former resource	Gable-roofed wood structure moved to Weber-Blaess Schoolhouse, Saline in 2005

****Refer to text for additional information on historic significance.**

Attachment H **National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program Acceptance, 2005**



United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

Midwest Region
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha Nebraska 68102-4226



December 12, 2005

H22 (MWR-CRSP/UR)

Ms. Carol E. Mull
1111 Fair Oaks
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

Dear Ms. Mull:

Congratulations! The National Park Service (NPS) evaluated the application for the **W. W. Harwood Farmstead** to be included in the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. We found that it makes a significant contribution to the understanding of the Underground Railroad in American history and that it meets the requirements for inclusion as a site. We commend you on your dedication to this important aspect of our history and expect that you will join with us in continuing to exemplify the values expressed in the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act.

We notified the owner or manager of the site and are sending them a Certificate of Acceptance that they may display. As a site included in the Network to Freedom, they may use the Network logo under certain conditions, such as in plaques or publications. The NPS Regional Coordinator will be pleased to share further information and guidelines on the use of the logo. We will also include the site on the NPS Network to Freedom web site at www.cr.nps.gov/ugrr.

Please know that we are aware of your commitment to be stewards of all that the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act embraces. To ensure accurate interpretation of the Underground Railroad to the public, we wish to emphasize that the association with the Network may only be represented as it has been approved in the application. We know that you are as committed to quality and high standards as we are, and will realize the need for periodic review. Any site in the Network is subject to periodic review and may be removed from the Network if there is evidence that it no longer meets the criteria for inclusion or if the steward's activities are inconsistent with the goals of the Network to Freedom Act. In order to help us stay up-to-date, we rely on you to send us news and examples of flyers, newsletters, programs, brochures, etc. Additionally, you may post news of your upcoming events on the Network to Freedom web site.

Congratulations again on your successful application for the **W. W. Harwood Farmstead** which we welcome into the Network. We wish you continued success. Please do not hesitate to contact your regional coordinator at any time to seek assistance, advice, information, or to let them know what you are working on.

Sincerely,

Ernest Quintana
Regional Director

**TAKE PRIDE
IN AMERICA** 