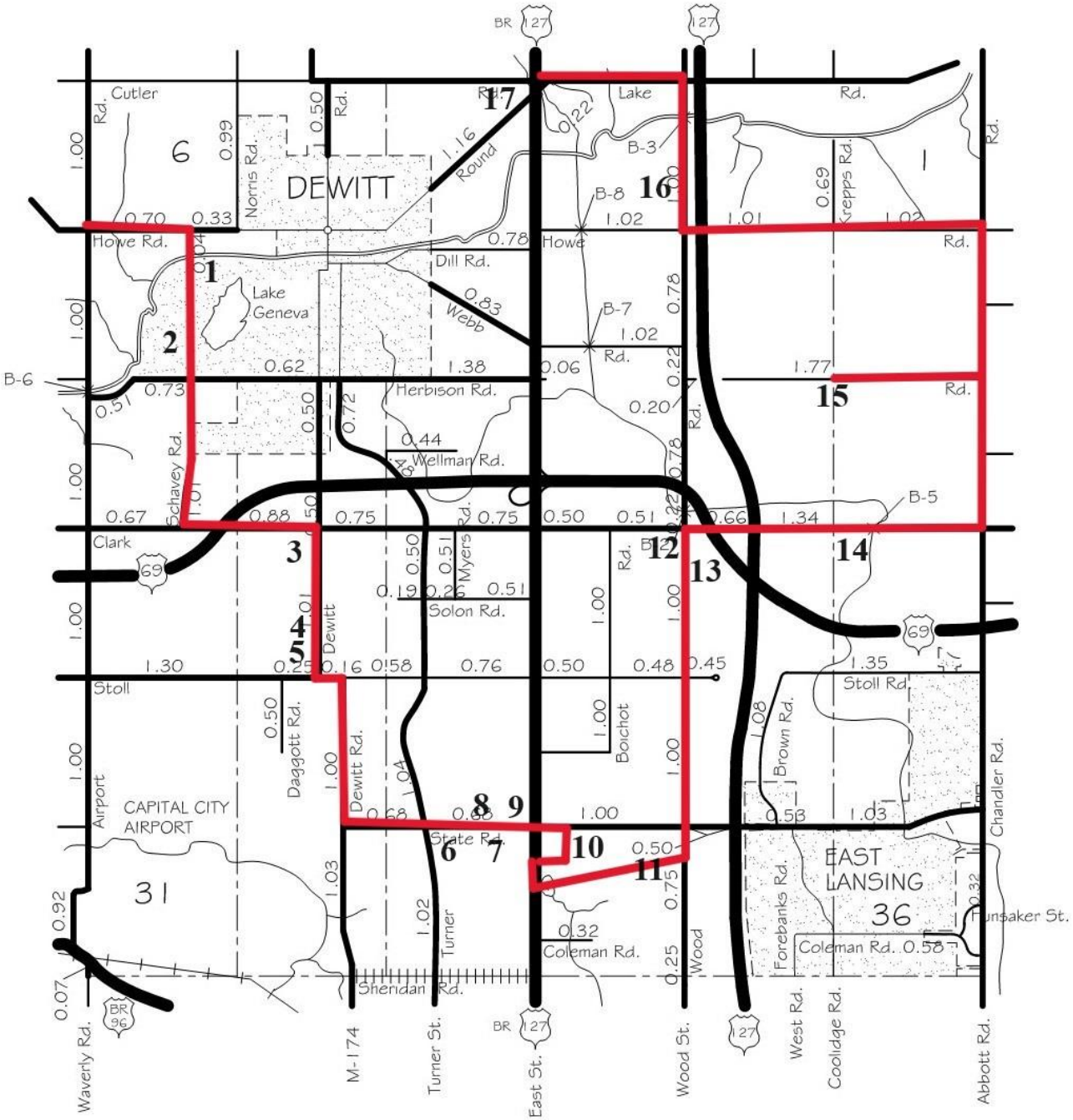
DeWitt Township Tour

The first non-Native American resident of DeWitt Township was Captain David Scott who purchased land near the Indian village of Wabwahnahseepee on the north bank of the Looking Glass River in 1835. He platted out what would be the village of DeWitt in 1841. The village was the county seat until 1857 when it was moved to St. Johns.

The road tour begins just south of the intersection of Howe Road/Main Street and Schavey Road. The first stop is the first house on your left. There is a DeWitt Historic marker in front.



1	**Schavey House** 217 Schavey Road DeWitt Historic Site This house was built by Theodore W. Schoewe in 1883 on his farm which had originally been the Goodrich homestead. The house is Italianate and features bracketed eves and a two-story five-sided bay window. The house is currently a Sisters of Mercy convent.
2	**Scott House** 1300 Schavey Road DeWitt Historic Site *This stop is about ¼ mile south and on your right. Look for the DeWitt Historic marker in front.* Charles Scott, youngest son of Captain David Scott, built this upright and wing house in the mid-1840's after living in a log cabin on the river bank west of the house for several years. The house is one of the best-preserved examples of Greek revival style in Clinton County. At Clark Road turn left. At the roundabout take the first exit on right to DeWitt Road.
3	**Hurd House** 14230 DeWitt Road *Continue south on Schavey Road to where it ends on Clark Road. Turn left and at the roundabout take the first exit on your right. The house is back from the road on your right.* This large frame house was built about 1873 on part of the old Daniel Hurd an early settler homestead. The Hurd School and Hurd Cemetery to the south were once part of this farm and established by Daniel Hurd in the early 1840's.
4	**Hurd School** 14870 DeWitt Road *Go south on DeWitt Road about ½ mile to the Hurd School and Cemetery on your right.* This school was established in the early 1840's on land given by Daniel Hurd. The original log building was replaced by a wood frame one in 1853. After this building burnt in 1885, the present brick building was constructed in 1886-7. This building ceased being used as a school in 1966. It has recently been renovated into a residence.
5	**Hurd Cemetery** 14870 DeWitt Road This cemetery was established in the 1840's behind the Hurd School on land that originally was a part of the Daniel Hurd farm. Graves include the Daniel Hurd family along with other early area settlers. A particular grave of note is Dora Hall Stockman-Weinkauf. She was the first woman elected to statewide office on the Board of Agriculture, a Michigan State University trustee for 12 years, a member of Michigan House of Representatives for four terms where she helped establish Michigan Blue Cross/Blue Shield, and an inductee in the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame. Continue south to State Road and turn left.

6	**Briggs-Reed House** 1281 State Road *Continue south on DeWitt Road 1 mile to State Road. At State Road turn left and continue until just past Turner Road. The house is on your right just before Cooper Body Shop.* This house was built about 1916 by VanRensselaer Tyler Briggs on the northeast corner of Old-27 and State Road and was part of the Briggs farm which in 1918 became the Valley Farms Subdivision. In the 1930's or 1940's a gas station was attached to the house. The house and gas station (Reed's Standard Service) were purchased by Ivan and Alta Catherine Reed in the early1950's. In 1958 the house was moved to its present location.
7	**Interurban Car House** 1031 W. State Road *Travel east on State Road. This house is on your right the second west of Old-27.* This house was built around an old Interurban passenger car. Some records say it was build in 1939 and others 1943.
8	**Valley Farms** State Road near Old-27 area This area is known as Valley Farms. Valley Farms began as a subdivision created in 1918 by William and Alice Leland from the Briggs farm after VanRensselaer T. Briggs sold the farm and moved to California. An Interurban station was located here just west of the intersection. There was also a school on the corner which was replaced in 1949 by a new one on Brook Street. A number of businesses have operated in this area over the years. Granger Meadows Park is located here.
9	**Valley Farms School** 15980 OldUS-27 *This old school is across the road and slightly east of the Interurban house.* This school was founded in 1919 as a response to the growth of the Valley Farms area. What was probably the original building is just west of the old schoolhouse on the northwest corner of State Road and Old US-27. A new larger building was constructed a block east in 1949 on Brook Road and is your next stop. Go east past Old-27 and turn right at the first street.
10	**Valley Farms Community Center & CCHS Archives** 16101 Brook Road *Continue through the intersection of Old-27 and turn right on the first street on your right (Brook Road).* The building you see was built in 1949 as the new Valley Farms School. After it closed it was used as the DeWitt Township Hall from 1980 until 2000. The building is currently the Valley Farms Community Center. The CCHS archives are located here and are open to researchers during limited hours each week. Public restrooms are available during regular building hours. There is also a restroom near the picnic shelter. In back of the building are sports fields, a playground, picnic shelter, and a bike/walking path that connects with Granger Meadows Park. Go south and turn right on Wieland Road to Old-27. Turn at first road on your left.

11	**Granger Meadows Park** 1745 Granger Meadows Lane *Go south on Brook Road to where it ends. Turn right on Wieland Road and then left on Old-27. Turn left into the entrance (Granger Meadows Lane) which will be the next road on your left.* Granger Meadows Park was created in 2005 by Granger Waste Management and given to DeWitt Township. It has entrances on both US-27 and Wood Road. It features 2 miles of paved biking/walking trails, a sledding hill, picnic area, pickleball courts, playground, ponds, disc course, and ball field. Public restrooms are located at both ends of the park. The site of the Gladden/Wieland School (demolished) was located in this park near the corner of State and Wood Roads. That school was in operation on this corner from 1864-1958. At that time is closed and merged with Gunnisonville. Go north on Wood Road to Clark Road.
12	**Gunnisonville Historic District** Wood and Clark Roads Michigan Historical Marker Purchasing one hundred sixty acres of farm land from the government, Elihu Gunnison, first settled on this site, originally known as Gunnison, in 1853. The area once had a general store, post office, church and school. The Gunnisonville School was first established in 1836. The present one room schoolhouse, the fourth to sit on this site was constructed in 1907. It was refurbished as a living educational museum by the joint efforts of the Gunnisonville Restoration Committee and the Lansing School District in 1975. The Methodist Episcopal Church, now the United Methodist Church, was organized in 1862 and the present building was built in 1888. Seven years prior to this, the local cemetery was established.
13	**Gunnisonville Cemetery** Southeast corner of Clark and Wood Roads The first burial was 11 year-old Ora Gunnison who died June 11, 1855. His father, Elihu Gunnison, gave what is now section A for use as a public cemetery. Among the notable burials is Carlyle W. Geisenhaver, age 9, who was a victim of the Bath School Disaster. His grave which was originally unmarked was mistakenly resold and his body along with his family were then moved to a different lot in section C. There are also graves here that were moved from the Cushman Cemetery when it was obliterated. Go east on Clark Road to Chandler Road and turn left.
14	**Cushman Farm** 3360 E. Clark Road This farm was established by the Cushman family after they received a land grant from President Millard Fillmore in 1839. The house was built in the late 1800's. Go north to Herbison Road and turn left.

15	**Cushman-Zeeb Farm** 2840 Herbison Road Sesquicentennial Farm Russell Cushman purchased 80 acres, the beginning of what today is Zeeb Farms, on November 2, 1837. The land has been passed down through Perrin Cushman, Syrena Cushman, Russell Bird Cushman, Bernard (Virgaline Cushman) and Ronald Zeeb, and the Robert and Virginia Zeeb family. The farm also includes land once owned by the Stampfly family. Having over 1000 acres today, the oldest structure is the hip roof barn dating from 1928. It was designated as the 2015 Outstanding Centennial Farm of the Year. Backtrack to Chandler Road and turn left. At Howe Road turn left and left again onto Wood Road.
16	**Andrews House** 11630 Wood Road This brick Victorian house was built in 1864. At Round Lake Road turn left and in 1 mile you will be at Old-27.
17	**East DeWitt** Round Lake Road and Old-27 This area is known as East DeWitt. The corner has been the location of restaurants and gas stations since the 1920's when Round Lake Road was M-104 and what is now Old-27 was M-14.
	Philip Orin Parmalee Marker Capital City Airport Michigan Historical Marker Due to the location, it is not recommended you visit this site. The complete marker text is listed below. Philip Orin Parmalee's grave is available to visit as a part of our Tour of Lebanon Township. Philip Orin Parmalee, noted early aviator, lived a tragically brief but venturesome life. Born in 1887 in Matherton, Michigan. Parmalee grew up in nearby St. Johns, Clinton County, where he developed a keen interest in mechanical devices. This led him to join the Ohio flying school run by Wilbur and Orville Wright. After training he went on to become a famous flier for the Wright Exhibition Team. Fascinated with aircraft, Parmalee was the first pilot to transport merchandise, drop live test bombs from a plane and search from the air for criminals. Nicknamed "Skyman," Parmalee held world endurance, speed, and altitude records, and performed at flying exhibitions. During one such flight on June 1, 1912, in North Yakima, Washington, Parmalee's plane crashed and he was killed, ending a promising career dedicated to the then perilous adventure of flying. He was buried in East Plains Cemetery in Clinton County. By constant experimentation with their primitive planes, Parmalee and other early fliers contributed to the science of aviation which was the forerunner of today's sophisticated and safe air travel.

Additional Reading Suggestions:

Clinton County Schools by Wayne Summers
DeWitt Area History by Ken Coin
History of Gunnisonville by Gunnisonville Historical Community Preservation