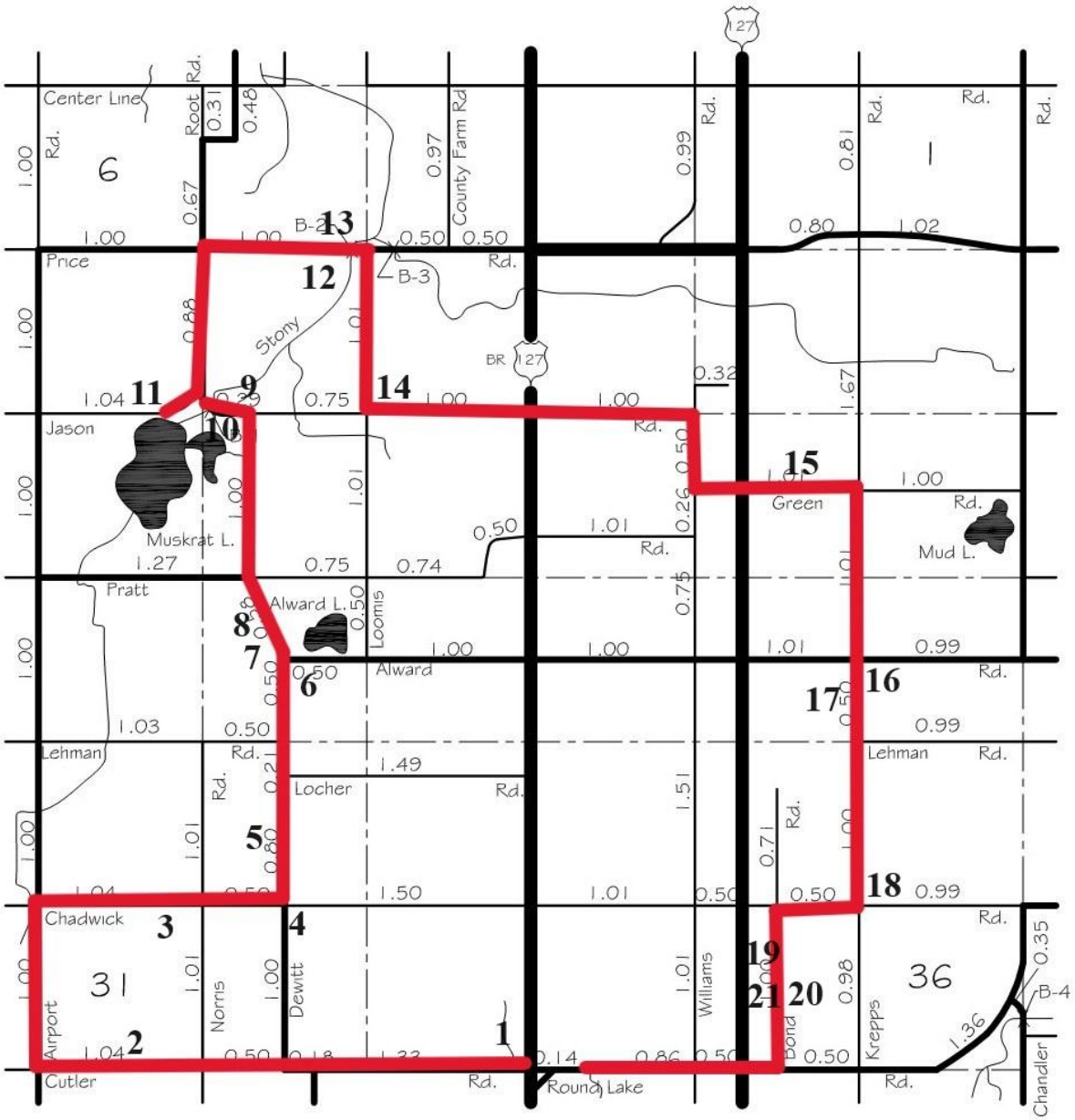
Olive Township Tour

The oldest roads in Olive Township are Round Lake Road, which was the original pioneer route, and DeWitt Road. This tour begins at Old US-27 and Cutler Roads. Travel west on Cutler Road to begin the tour.



1	**Dills-Vaughan House** 10960 DeWitt Road at northwest corner of Cutler. This large two-story brick Italianate house was built in 1873 by A. Middleton for William and Maria Dills. It originally had an ornate cupola on the roof. The old Clinton County Pioneer Society used to meet here. If you turned onto DeWitt Road return to Cutler and go west.

2	**Seyfried House** 3446 Cutler Road This modified Georgian Colonial house dates to 1885. The original portion may date to 1860. Once you reach Airport Road turn right and go 1 mile north and then turn right on Chadwick Road.
3	**Pearce-Fedewa House** 3263 W. Chadwick Road Two carloads of brick from the brick factory on East Michigan Avenue in Lansing was hauled to this site to create this Victorian style house back in 1872. Continue east until you reach DeWitt Road.
4	**Old Brown School** Southeast Corner of DeWitt and Chadwick Roads The Brown School was built in 1865 and got its name from the color of paint. After the school closed in 1967 it was used as a church and is now a residence. Turn left on DeWitt Road and the next building is on your left.
5	**Blizzard-Dieter House** 9920 S. DeWitt Road This two-story brick Italianate house was built in 1873 for Thomas and Hannah Blizzard. One of the oldest brick houses in the area, it replaced a log cabin which originally stood on the site. Mr. Blizzard hauled the bricks from North Lansing and William Dills built the house. Travel north on DeWitt Road.
6	**Alward Lake Cemetery** Southwest Corner of DeWitt and Alward Roads Originally a family cemetery, this small burial ground is believed to date back to the 1850's. Across DeWitt Road to the west was also a small cemetery at one time. Just south of the Alward Cemetery on the east side of DeWitt Road was the location of the Traveler's Home stagecoach stop during the mid-1800's. Just east of here is Alward Lake which was a popular swimming and picnicking location during the first half of the 20th century. It is now privately owned with no public access.
7	**Jacquish House Site** 8460 S. DeWitt Road The old Jacquish Halfway House sat here. It was halfway between DeWitt and St. Johns and was used as a stagecoach horse changing station.
8	**Rockwell House** 8160 DeWitt Road This upright and wing farmhouse was built for C. M. Rockwell. The original section is believed to date to 1854. At the stop sign on Price Road turn right.
9	**Merle Beach School site** East side of DeWitt Road just north of Jason. This school sat unused after it was closed in 1968 and slowly deteriorated. As it was beyond repair, it was demolished in 2021. Some of the remnants including the flagpole still mark the site.

10	**Olive Grange Hall** Southwest corner of Jason and DeWitt Roads The Olive Grange was organized on March 27, 1874, and this decaying building was constructed in 1875. The modern bridge on DeWitt/Jason Roads replaced an old iron one the remnants of which might still be visible just to the south of the road. Turn left on Jason Road until you reach Muskrat Lake on your left.
11	**Merle Beach/Muskrat Lake** DeWitt Road between Jason and Alward Roads. The lake is a DNR hunting and fishing site just west of DeWitt Road on Jason Road. Muskrat Lake is now owned by the State of Michigan, but at one time this lake had a dance hall on the northside of the road and a boat that did scenic cruises. This area with Muskrat and Alward Lakes is known as Merle Beach. In addition to the lakes, it had a post office and school. Turn around and go back to DeWitt Road and turn left.
12	**Cressman Farm** 2337 W. Price Road The land for this farm was purchased from the government in 1837. The house was built in 1858 for John Merrihew.
13	**Merrihew Cemetery** North side of Price Road between DeWitt and Loomis Roads This small cemetery was once close to the North Olive Methodist Episcopal Church and the Merrihew School which were located just to the east near what is now the intersection of Price Road and Old-27. At the next intersection turn right on Loomis Road.
14	**Interurban Power Plant Site** Northeast corner of Loomis and Jason Roads The old Interurban ran along Loomis Road and the grade is still visible in places. A power plant for the electric railroad once stood here next to the tracks and was used from 1903-1927. Turn right on Jason Road and continue east past Old US-27 until the road ends at Williams Road. Turn right and go 1 mile south until you reach Green Road and turn left.
15	**East Olive Community Center** 2583 Green Road Built as the East Olive Elementary School in 1968, it was converted to a community center after it was closed in 2017. Continue east on Green Road until you get to the next intersection and then turn right on Krepps Road.
16	**Old Rheubottom School** Southeast corner of Krepps and Alward Roads This building was built about 1924 to replace the earlier one that had burned. After it closed in June 1954 with the students attending Laingsburg that fall before being annexed by the St. Johns School District. In the late 1960's it was incorporated as a non-profit and used as a community center until 1987 when it was sold and converted into a residence. [Thanks to Sarah and Allan Boron for corrections and additional information.] Go south until you get to Chadwick Road and then turn right until you get to the Bond Road intersection.

17	**Boron Farm** 8514 S. Krepps Road This farm was established in 1867.
18	**Old Lemm School** 2417 E. Chadwick Road This brick building was built in 1889 and closed in 1967. It is now a residence. Turn left on Bond Road.
19	**Cook House** 10408 Bond Road This wing and upright house was built prior to 1873.
20	**Wilsey Cemetery** East side of Bond Road between Round Lake and Chadwick Roads. This is the largest cemetery in Olive Township was established about 1860 on land owned by David and Armina Wilsey. David and Armina's graves are in the 4th row of the north section. The oldest graves are thought to be that of the Newman children buried in the 13th row of the north section. In the 17th row of the center section is the grave of Blanch Harte, a teacher who perished in the Bath School Disaster on May 19, 1927.
21	**Old South Olive Methodist Episcopal Church (Wilsey Church)** 10504 Bond Road This church building was constructed about 1895 after Mrs. A. Wilsey gave $500. The building was paid for in 1905. The church was a part of the DeWitt circuit until about 1920. Records after that date have not been located. After sitting unused for a number of years it was converted into an attractive residence which still shows its roots as a church. Continue south on Bond Road to Round Lake Road and turn right. Continue until you reach Old US-27 where the tour began.

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