

Burton Street, S.W.

As the name of Louis Campau is important to the history of Grand Rapids, just so are the names of "Aunt Hattie" and Barney Burton to the history of Burton Heights. Burton Street and Burton Woods perpetuate the name. In 1891, while still retaining many of its rural characteristics, Burton Heights became part of the City of Grand Rapids. After the trolley line was extended as far as Burton Street in 1893, the entire locality was known as Burton Heights. Barney Burton was a farmer born in New York state in 1804 and moved to Grand Rapids from Ypsilanti. In 1834, Barney and Harriet Burton were the first settlers to marry in Grand Rapids. Having traveled west in search of land for crops, Barney bought 320 acres from the government for \$400. The boundaries of his property were present-day Burton, Madison, 28th, and Division, one-half of a square mile. Besides farming, Burton was the county assessor and a justice of the peace. Eventually the Burtons sold the farm and moved to Barclay Avenue, where Barney died at the age of 52. Harriet remained in the community until her death at 83.

30

33 10/09/98 8837 Fensco

42 06/23/99 8911 Pitsch

245-47 Burton S.W. The earliest settler west of the Barney Burton farm was Edward Feakins. He was born in England, came to the United States in 1830, worked two years in the woods of Pennsylvania, and then came to this part of Michigan in 1834. He helped raise the fourth and fifth houses to be built in Grand Rapids and helped to bury the first white child who died. He was always active in community affairs. Land was cheap at the time, and he bought 120 acres from the government at \$1.25 per acre; its boundaries were the present-day Elm, Division, Alger, and Stafford. He built a log cabin and in 1841 married Emily Johnson, the daughter of a Paris Township family. He was the first to grow apple trees in the Grand River valley. In 1860 he built this house, using 100,000 bricks. It is the oldest structure in Burton Heights, and was apparently planned by Mr. Feakins to be a town hall.

319 *2-story flat replaced by gas station.*

321

335 08/16/90 8075 Pitsch

341 11/16/79 5861 James Steward

345 10/30/72 4296 Pitsch

349	03/26/90	8028	
353	09/09/94	8442	Courtade
459	07/31/70	3562	Capitol
513	<i>1½-story frame dwelling.</i>		
520			
534			
540	<i>Partial photo in 125-C026710.</i>		
541	<i>Plating works.</i>		
600	National Refining. Photo in 125-E1797.		
601	<i>Gas station.</i>		
607-09	<i>Flat.</i>		
612-14			
617	<i>Dwelling. Partial photo in real estate file with 623. Also 125-C009087.</i>		
620			
623	Warehouse.		
624			
625	<i>Dwelling.</i>		
630	<i>2-story frame dwelling, southwest corner of Burton & Ruth.</i>		
638	<i>1-story frame dwelling.</i>		
643	<i>Dwelling, northwest corner of Burton & Cadillac Court.</i>		
644	<i>Used auto sales.</i>		
647	04/09/96	8621	Pitsch

The bridge across Plaster Creek was reportedly 90 years old when it was removed and replaced in the spring and summer of 1996. Just to the south is a small bridge that was built for a Pennsylvania R.R. spur to the industrial area along Clyde Park. A plate on the bridge reads, "American Bridge Company of New York U.S.A. 1910."

701 03/23/2004 9294 Pitsch
 Grand Rapids Dowel Co.

721

729 04/01/74 4594 E.E. Parker Co.
 Partial wrecking. No cutoffs.

1259 05/09/72 4182 Cannon
 Voided. Address in Wyoming.