

Feakin Avenue, 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 Ernily 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 the house which still stands at 247 Burton S.W., using 100,000 bricks. It is the oldest structure in Burton Heights.