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Eastmanville Farm County Park: The first white men to occupy this land were Daniel Realy and Captain Henry “Harry Bluff” Miller. In 1866 they sold the property to Ottawa County for purposes of a Poor Farm. Over time the place became known as the County Farm, Infirmary, and Community Haven, serving those who were unable to live independently. Stop here to tour the **Memory Grove** and enjoy a short hike to the **Poor Farm Cemetery**. Picnic and equestrian facilities are available onsite.

17*

Bur Oak Landing: This Ottawa County Park open space is divided into two parcels. From Leonard Road, parking for East Bur Oak Landing is located on the east side of 90th Avenue. Parking for West Bur Oak Landing is found near the end of 90th Avenue. There you will find a spectacular example of a bur oak tree and its frilly acorns.



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River Road HISTORIC

Jubb Bayou: To visit this Ottawa County open space, turn left off Leonard onto 96th Ave.

Jubb Bayou (a.k.a. Spoonville Bayou) is named for Edward and Moline Jubb who settled here in 1850. Their son Orange sacrificed a leg in the Civil War and is buried at the Ottawa Center Cemetery you will pass.

Members of the Anthropology Department at Grand Valley State University in 1991 unearthed a rare “Hi-Lo” projectile point in this area. It was dated to 8,000 to 10,000 B.C., and was used during the Paleo-Indian period when mastodons grazed beside the Grand River.



19*



Crockery Creek Natural Area: From Leonard Road, turn west on Wren Drive and travel a quarter mile.

This is the site of the Ottawa Indian village where Magdalene, daughter of Jean Bapiste Marcotte and Timothee (daughter of Chief Returning Cloud) was raised and where fur trader Joseph LaFramboise had one of numerous posts. The two wed when she was fourteen. Mme. Magdalene LaFramboise took over the entire trade in 1806 after Joseph was brutally murdered by an Indian denied alcohol. Upon her retirement in 1821, Rix Robinson bought the business. Mme. LaFramboise was celebrated for her ability to bridge cultural gaps that separated people by gender, religion, and race. She was one of the first inducted into the Michigan History Women's Hall of Fame.



Mme. Magdalene LaFramboise

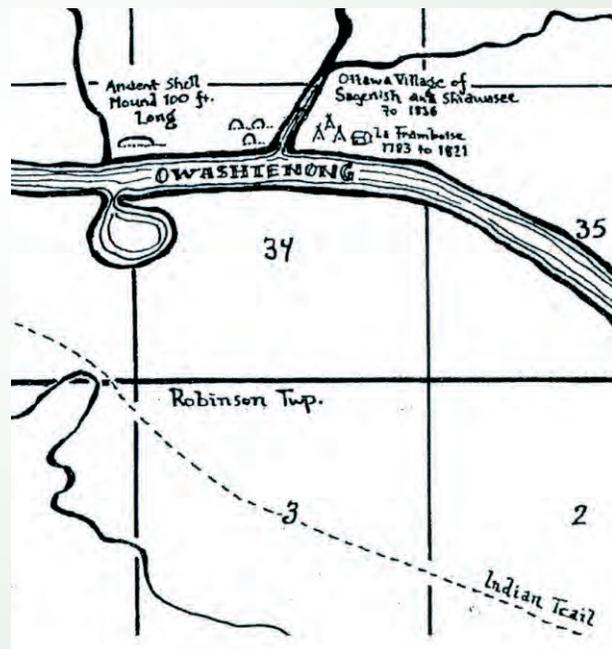


Image courtesy of: Kevin Finney

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River Road HISTORIC

Bruce Bayou Landing: Take 138th Avenue south to Cypress Street. Launch your boat at this State facility.

21*

From Bruce Bayou return to 138th Avenue. Continue traveling south connecting with Garfield Road and 144th Avenue, at the end of which you will find Indian Channel.

Battle Point was the site of Fort Village and an Ottawa Indian burial ground. Research done by GVSU, MSU, Martin/Mainfort, and others suggest that the cemetery was used between 1820 and 1835. The Washington Treaty of 1836 ceded all land north of the Grand River to the United States. Enraged at the prospect, Chief Shiawassee attempted to induce tribesmen here to revolt and massacre the whites. Rev. William Ferry and Indian friends successfully defused the threat. No blood was shed at "Battle Point." Numerous trade goods, including knives, firesteels, silver ornaments, and glass beads were found in excavations here, but the area has since been seriously undermined by erosion.

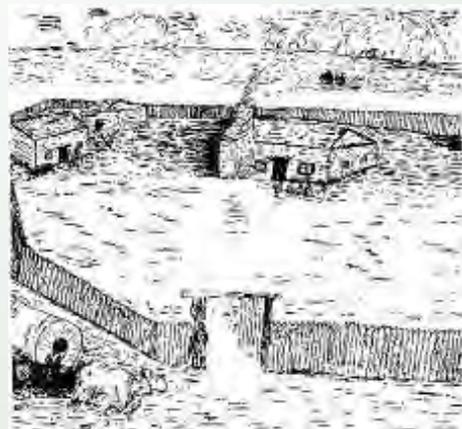
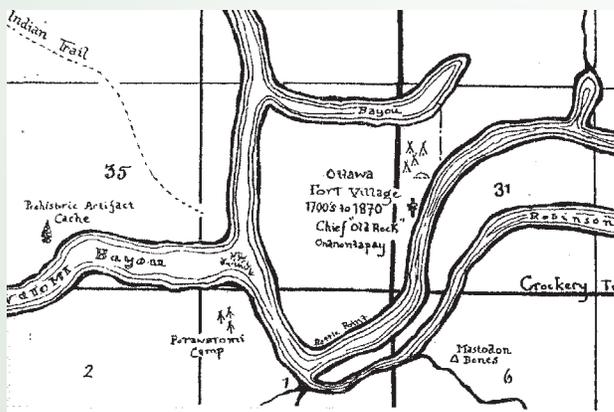


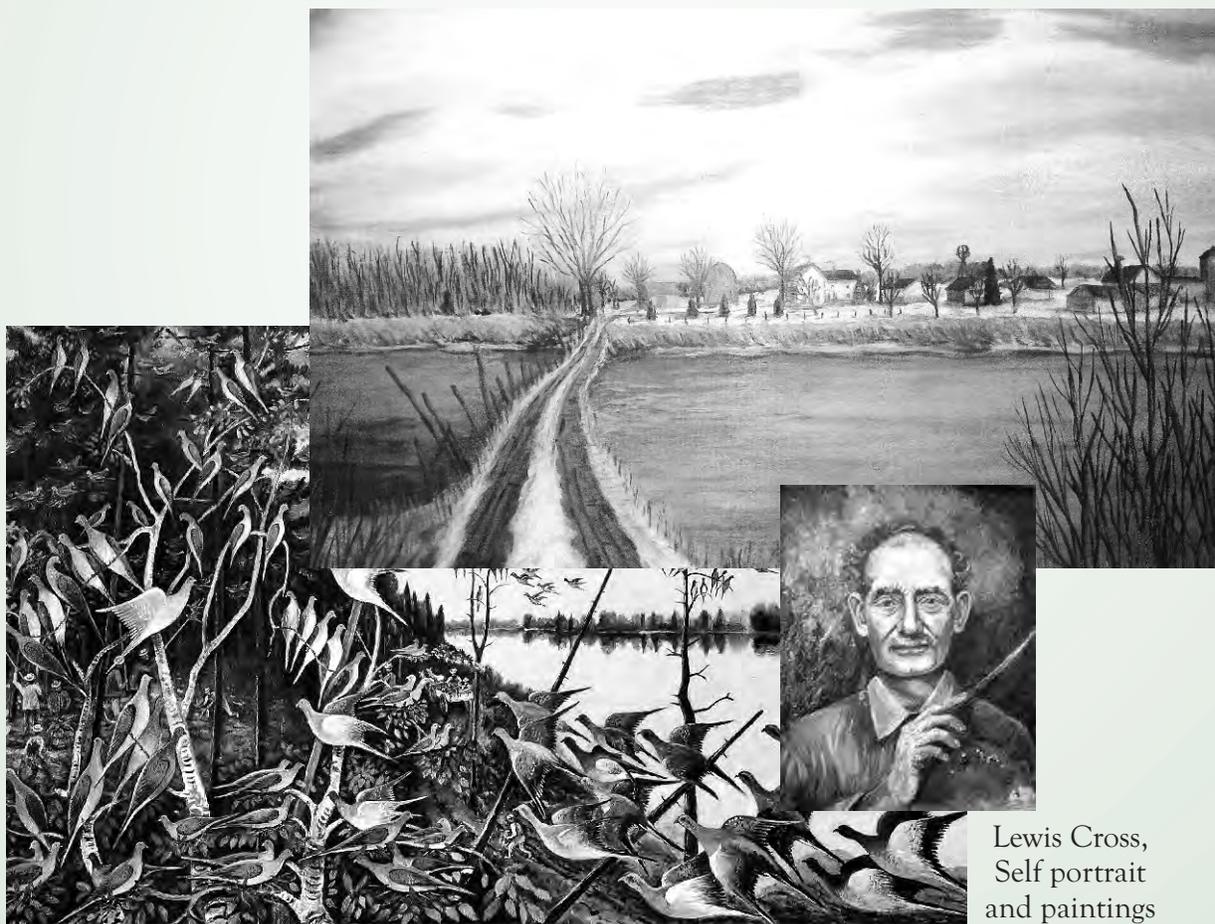
Image courtesy of: Kevin Finney



Lewis Cross

Return to Leonard Road. Drive west to 144th Avenue south.

At 144th Avenue and Bayou Drive is a privately owned residence that was originally the home of painter, naturalist, and historian Lewis Cross. Known as "The Castle," the building blocks of this unique abode were molded by Cross himself. The home overlooked a floating bridge spanning Deremo Bayou, as seen in this image painted by Cross. It is one of over 400 landscape, marine, and portrait pictures created by this modest, self-reliant man. Some are as large as 8' by 11' and many depict carrier pigeons that long ago swarmed the Grand River Valley, but are now extinct. Old and sick, Lewis Cross committed suicide on April 4, 1951.



Lewis Cross,
Self portrait
and paintings

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River Road HISTORIC

Follow charming Boom Road to 152nd to return to Leonard Road. Head west. Leonard will become Pinewood as you cross the bayou.

Turn right on to S. Lake Avenue.

Turn left at the stoplight on to River Street.

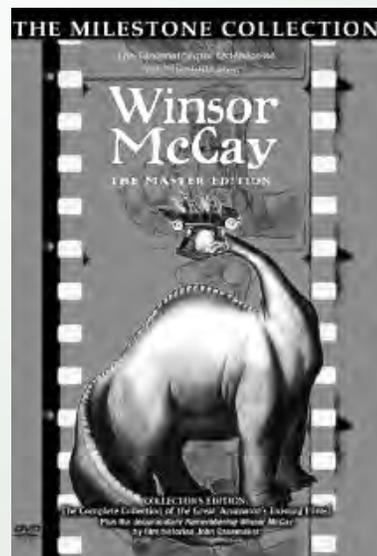
Turn right at Meridian Avenue at Exchange Street.

Near the corner of Meridian and Exchange, just steps west of the Spring Lake District Library, you will find a Michigan Historical Marker honoring artist/cartoonist **Winsor McKay**. You are encouraged to read the plaque and peruse the library for details of McKay's interesting life and stunning images of his playful work.

Continuing west at 102 W. Exchange you'll see the **Barber School** Community Building. Built in 1855, Barber School has had a long journey. In 1873 the building was purchased by Hunter Savidge and moved from the SE corner of Park and Liberty Streets to the Cutler and Savidge Lumber Mill, where it was used as a warehouse and later as the Spring Lake Yacht Club. In 1987 the SL Heritage League moved the structure to its present location. Today Barber School is used for Village Council meetings, community functions, and private gatherings.



Winsor McKay
Photos courtesy of: Spring Lake District Library



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Turn left on School Street to enter **Mill Point Park**.

What is now Mill Point Park and Spring Lake's newly opened Grand River Greenway Walk, in 1870 was the site of the Cutler & Savidge Lumber Company covering the entire west end of Mill Point (SL). Employing up to 500 men seasonally, Cutler & Savidge was one of the largest, most productive mills in the world during the lumbering era. By the 1880s the Grand River Valley was logged out. Hunter Savidge, a well-respected community leader, died in 1881. Dwight Cutler went on to invest in resort properties serving early tourists to this area.



CUTLER & SAVIDGE.

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River Road HISTORIC

Charles Langlade

Exit Mill Point Park on School Street which connects to Savidge. Head west and follow signage to Grand Haven via U.S.31 south. Turn right on Coho Drive.

It is impossible to say where specifically, but in 1754 Charles Langlade established a fur trading post in this general neighborhood. Langlade was awarded exclusive trading rights on the Grand River for the heroic role he played in the French Indian War, aided by Ottawa Indians he personally recruited from along the Grand. Despite having been on the losing side of that conflict and being reprimanded when his troops killed, butchered, boiled, and ate a Miami Indian chief, Langlade maintained his status. He oversaw seasonal operations here from 1754 through at least 1791, when explorer Hugh Heward recorded their meeting in his famous journal. Here Charles Langlade is pictured on a commemorative coin issued by Langlade County in Wisconsin.



C. Langlade's house as seen at Fort Michilimackinac