West Bloomfield Township Map of the 1817 Samuel Carpenter Survey (Oakland County)

Drawn & annotated by Robert Moller 2018

This map of a Township is drawn from the 1817 U.S. surveyor notes. These maps were made to make a visual description of the land as they were recorded. A township is a square, six miles on a side, divided into 36 sections of one square mile. The numbers in the center circles indicate the section number. Sections were numbered top to bottom, east to west, drop down one mile; west to east, drop down; east to west, and so on. All townships are numbered this way. The original surveyor notes are available for primary source research.

Surveyors marked the corners and 1/4 mile points along the section lines by placing a post. Two trees had to be identified with their diameter at each post. These trees were northeast, northwest, southwest or southeast of a post. On this map an X is placed in the area where the trees were recorded at each post. If a tree was on the section line it was identified and its diameter recorded. They also had to make a comment on the land type and type of trees at the end of each survey run along a section line. These are on the map with a line pointing to the corner where it occurred in the survey notes.

Within these descriptions, UO designates undergrowth. (The small trees or shrubs found under the forest canopy.)

Numbers along section lines show measurements in the Gunter’s Chain (and Link) a system.
A chain is 66 feet long, and a link is 7 92 inches long.
There are 100 links in a chain and 80 chains in one mile.
For example: the survey notes last a measurement as “3.32,” or 5 chains and 32 links. 5 chains equals 330 feet, and 32 links equals 21.12 feet, or 351 feet and 2 inches (or thereabouts).

ABBRIVATIONS and changes from survey notes:
BASE = Basswood (Lynn in survey notes)
BURR OAK = (Oak in survey)
BUFFALO W = (White Buffalo in survey)
BUTTERNUT = (White Walnut in survey)
B. ASH = Black Ash
B. WALNUT = Black Walnut
CEDAR = (Cypress in survey)
ENTY = entre
HAZEL = Witch Hazel
IRON = Ironwood, Hop-Horsemenn
MAPLE = Soft Maple (Silver, Red)
PIN OAK = (Spanish Oak in survey)

TREES, and LAND DESCRIPTIONS: Marked in Black

CHANGING LAND TYPES: Marked in red - forests, prairies, swamps etc.
RIVERS, STREAMS, CREEKS or RUNS: Marked in Blue

Example: STREAM 7 L, SE 2/4 stream 7 links wide and flowing southeast.
INDIAN PATHS: Marked in Green
Example: INDIAN PATH SE & NW = the trail ran in a southeast and northwest direction.

Topography Definitions:
Prairie: land without trees, grasslands. A Prairie can by dry or wet (Marsh)
Brushy Prairies: no trees but there are brushy shrubs
Swamp: wet forested land. Cedar, Tamahako, Willow swamps etc.
Plains: high dry land
Rivers: a savannah, a scattering of trees with a prairie beneath them (Oak Openings)

PRA = Prairie
R. ASH = Frisky Ash
R. OAK = Red Oak
SPICE = Spice Shale
SUGAR = Sugar Maple
SWAMP = swamp
SWAMP OAK = Swamp White Oak
TAM = Tamahako
TULIP = Tulipines (Polar in survey notes)
W. ASH = White Ash
W. OAK = White Oak

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