

Appendix B

CULTURAL FEATURES

Geography and Early History

Waterloo Township is located in the northeast corner of Jackson County in the far south-central area of Michigan (see Figure D-6). The Township covers approximately 30,000 acres. In contrast to the traditional congressional township configuration of a six mile by six mile square, Waterloo Township extends eight miles from north to south and six miles east to west, covering 48 one mile square sections. The Township is bounded on the north by the Ingham County townships of Bunkerhill and Stockbridge and the Livingston County Township of Unadilla. The Washtenaw County townships of Lyndon and Sylvan bound Waterloo Township to the east and the Jackson County townships of Grass Lake, Leoni, and Henrietta bound the Township to the south and west. Within the Township are the small unincorporated communities of Waterloo and Munith. Access to and from the Township is facilitated primarily via state highways M-106 and M-52 which travel through the northern periphery of the Township, and Interstate 94 just south of the Township.

The nearest incorporated community is the City of Stockbridge with a population of approximately 1,200 and is situated less than two miles directly north. The City of Jackson is the nearest incorporated community with a population over 5,000 (approximately 35,000) and is situated approximately 15 miles to the southwest. Some of the other larger cities in the regional area of the Township, and their distances in miles are Ann Arbor

(25 miles), Lansing (45 miles), Battle Creek (60 miles) and Detroit (55 miles).

The original inhabitants of Jackson County were Indians of numerous tribes including the Pottawatomie, Kickapoo, Sac, Shawnee, and Fox. With the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825, eastern travelers began arriving in larger numbers to Michigan. Horace Blackman, a New Yorker, registered the first claim in Jackson County in 1829. As the County's first settlers arrived in the 1830's, the County was divided into numerous townships. The first township was Jacksonburg and consisted of the entire county. By 1823, Jacksonburg Township was divided into four townships: Jacksonburg, Spring Arbor, Napoleon, and Grass Lake. The number of townships increased to ten by 1836.

Hiram Putman was the first white settler in what is now known as Waterloo Township. He arrived in 1834 and was followed by a number of families. Waterloo Township was organized in March of 1836 under the name of East Jordan, which it retained until the winter of 1846-1847 when its name was officially changed to Waterloo. The first elections were held at the home of Jeremiah Riggs where 14 residents of the Township came to vote. The first saw mill was built by Patrick Hubbard in 1836 and the first school house followed in 1837 in the village of Waterloo.

Transportation Network

Regional Access

Regional access to Waterloo Township is provided primarily by Interstate 94 (I-94), M-52, and M-106 (see Figure D-6). I-94 travels across the middle of Jackson County in a east-west direction linking Detroit to the east with Chicago to the west, and the numerous urban centers along this corridor including Ann Arbor, Jackson, Battle Creek and Kalamazoo. The interstate passes within 1 1/2 miles of Waterloo Township's southern border. Exit 150 provides direct access into the Township via Mt. Hope Road as does Exit 153 via Clear Lake Road.

M-52 connects Interstate 94 near Chelsea with I-96, 20 miles to the north of the Township, and cuts through the northeast corner of the Township. M-106 starts at its intersection with M-52 in the Township and travels across the northern limits of the Township, terminating in Jackson.

Local Roadway Network Pattern

The Township's local roadway network does not reflect the more traditional grid like pattern evident throughout the majority of Michigan's Lower Peninsula townships. This is due, in part, to topographic and wetland conditions, the intersecting regional network, and the limited necessity for access and circulation throughout the Waterloo State Recreation Area.

In compliance with the requirements of Michigan Act 51 of 1951, the Jackson County Road Commission (JCRC) classifies all roads under its jurisdiction as either primary roads or local roads. Primary roads are considered the most critical in providing circulation throughout the County and to more regional areas. Roads within the Township which the JCRC classifies as "primary" include:

- Territorial Road
- Waterloo Munith Road
- Portage Lake Road
 - Parks Road
 - Mount Hope Road
 - Clear Lake Road
 - Seymour Avenue
 - Trist Road
 - Harvey Road

All other roads in the Township under the jurisdiction of the JCRC are classified by as "local." More than half of the "local" road miles have a gravel surface.

In addition to M-52 and M-106, the most heavily traveled roads within the Township according to 1998 traffic counts recorded by the JCRC were Clear Lake Road, Mount Hope Road, Portage Lake Road, Seymour Road, and North Territorial Road. All of these corridors are paved county primary roadways. Those specific road segments that exceeded daily traffic counts of 1,200 were:

- Clear Lake Road, between Camp and Maute Roads (1,867)
- Seymour Road, between Welch and List Roads (1,854)
- Territorial Road, between Parks Road and M-52 (1,795)
- Seymour Road, between Portage Lake and Mt. Hope Roads (1,757)
- Clear Lake Road, between Trist and Seymour Roads (1,415)
- Clear Lake Road, between Loveland and Waterloo Roads (1,414)
- Portage Lake Road, between Seymour and Huttenlocker Roads (1,354)
- Mount Hope Road, between Seymour and Trist Roads (1,178)

By comparison 1997 average daily traffic counts for M-106 and M-52 in the vicinity of Waterloo Township were approximately 6,500 and 4,000 respectively.

The relatively higher traffic counts along these roadways is not surprising given the access to and from Interstate 94 (Mt. Hope and Clear Lake roads), principle residential areas (Portage Lake, Waterloo, and Clear Lake Roads), and the role of state highways. It should be noted, however, that all of the traffic counts were below 2,000. These counts are generally considered acceptable in relation to the traffic volume these paved roads are capable of handling.

Except for M-106, M-52, and private roads, the JCRC is responsible for the maintenance of all county roads and improvements to primary paved roads. The Township must share the cost (50%) for improvements to non-primary paved roads. The Township maintains a five year plan for the paving of selected road segments.

Land Use and Development

Waterloo Township's overall land use pattern reflects a very low level of development and expansive areas of open spaces (see Figure D-7). The vast majority of the Township is characterized by woodlands, wetlands, farmland, and other open spaces and water bodies. Much of the expansive open space is attributable to the Waterloo State Recreation Area which covers approximately one half of the Township area. Approximately 5% of the Township area has been developed for residential, commercial, industrial, and/or related urban uses. A review of some of the more significant characteristics concerning land use and development within the Township follow.

Agriculture: Farmland is most prevalent in the Township's northern half. The most concentrated agricultural area is in the northwest corner of the Township where, not surprisingly, soils are particularly supportive of agricultural operations. Much of the Township's farmland has been left fallow during the past five years due to, in part, a lessening commitment to farming. Nearly all of the active agricultural lands are used as cropland. The most commonly harvested crops are corn, oats, wheat and soybeans. Only a very limited amount of dairy, orchard, or other farming activities occur within the community.

In an effort to better protect the State's farming interests, Michigan adopted P.A. 116 of 1974 which provides a program whereby farmers can enroll their properties to get property tax relief, provided the farmland is maintained in agricultural/open space use. There are approximately 6,000 acres in Waterloo Township currently enrolled in the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program (see Figure D-8).

Residential/Housing The 1990 U.S. Census reported 1,070 housing units in Waterloo Township. However, the Township identified approximately 1,400 dwelling units during its own field investigations in 1991, and a follow-up investigation in 1998 identified approximately 1,650. Residential development in Waterloo Township has two principle development patterns – individual lot splits of approximately two to ten acres in size, and mobile home park communities. There are four mobile home park communities in the Township, ranging in size from approximately 100 to 300 units and 10 to 50 acres. All of these communities are situated on lakes in the southern third of the Township. In total, these mobile home communities accounted for ap-

proximately 600 dwellings, or approximately one third of the dwellings in the Township in 1998. Because of these mobile home parks, more than one half of the Township's current dwelling units are situated in the southern third of the community.

Nearly all of the dwellings not otherwise located in the mobile home park communities are stripped along principal county roads. This pattern of residential development, relying on existing road frontage rather than the building of new interior roads into a parcel as part of a unified subdivision, is particularly evident along segments of Trist, Harr, Baldwin, Mount Hope, Seymour, and Waterloo-Munith Roads.

Dwellings not located in the mobile home communities or along the county road frontages are comparatively few and generally limited to the communities of Waterloo and Munith where subdivision plats were established many years ago. These residential neighborhood areas account for approximately 60 dwellings.

Commercial/Industrial Commercial and industrial development is limited. Except for the east side of Main Street in Munith and a convenience store in Waterloo, it is restricted to the M-52 and M-106 corridors. M-106, in and approaching Munith, includes such facilities as a hardware store, restaurant, and steel and metal fabricators. The east side of Main Street in Munith falls within the Township's limits and includes a bank and bakery. Several commercial facilities are situated along M-52 including a motel, convenience store, and propane gas supplier.

Extractive Though vast portions of the Township are characterized by muck soils, there are pockets of sand and gravel deposits where a number of sand and gravel extraction operations exist. Most of these facilities are under five acres in size although two, directly across the road from one another in the far southeastern corner of the Township, cover a total area of more than 75 acres. There has been an increase in excavation sites. The Township is concerned about the potential scarring of the landscape and requires reclamation practices to minimize the long term negative impacts of these uses.

Waterloo State Recreation Area The Waterloo State Recreation Area is the largest state recreation area in Michigan. Covering approximately 20,000 acres, the majority of the W.S.R.A. is within Waterloo Township but parts extend into the Townships of Leoni and Grass Lake in Jackson County and into Washtenaw County. The recreation area provides the public with over 400 camp sites, picnic and beach areas, interpretive center, opportunities for swimming, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, hiking, cross country skiing, and horseback riding. The boundary of the W.S.R.A. sets the future limits for the facility as currently desired by the State. Approximately two thirds of the land within the W.S.R.A. is publicly owned. The state places greater emphasis upon acquiring private in-holdings rather than expanding the limits of the recreation area. Use of privately held parcels within the W.S.R.A. is in no way restricted due to the presence of the parcels within the legal boundaries of the recreation area.

Community Facilities and Services

Waterloo Township is governed by a five member Township Board. Township offices are located on Washington Street in Waterloo. The Hall serves as the meeting place of the Township Board and other public bodies of the Township.

There is no public sewer or water service in the Township. Sewage disposal is accommodated through septic fields, and solid waste collection is provided by private services. The closest source of public sewer is Stockbridge. Electrical service is provided throughout the Township by Consumers Power Company and the Tri-County Electric Company. Telephone service is available throughout the Township as well and is provided by Ameritech and GTE.

Police protection is provided by the Waterloo Township Police Department, consisting of a police chief and several deputies. There is generally one police officer on duty during the day and night. Michigan State Police and the County Sheriff's Department provide assistance on an as needed basis. Fire protection is provided by a number of neighboring fire departments that the Township contracts with. The Stockbridge Fire Department provides fire protection to the northern half of the Township. The Chelsea and Leoni Township Fire Departments provide fire protection services to the southeastern and southwestern quarters of the Township respectively.

Waterloo Township is served by four separate public school districts although there are no public school facilities within the Township. There are also no public recreation sites within the Township except that of the W.S.R.A.