Early History of White’s Landing

The community commonly referred to as White's Landing consists of two parts. The one on the east side of County Road 290 in Erie and Sandusky Counties was begun in 1919 by Lewis White. The other on the west side of C.R. 290, north of TR 277 and completely in Sandusky County was platted by William Hommel the Trustee for the Fairview Beach Co. and is properly called Fairview Beach.

Both of these allotments are in what was called the Congress Lands of Northwest Ohio. They were the last to attract settlers because of the native Americans living there and the swampy conditions known as the Black Swamp. Because they were surveyed later, surveying was done using a method that was mandated by the federal government and has been used in all States surveyed since. With this system, property lines run east-west and north-south for the most part. Using this method the land was divided into Counties consisting of Townships composed of 36 one mile Sections. Each 640 acre Section could be divided into four 160 acre pieces which could be further divided into four 40 acre parcels. See Fig. 1.

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Fig. 1 Parcels within a Section are identified by their location within the square.
Earlier surveys in Ohio were done using what was called the metes and bounds method. This method created land boundaries that were determined using rocks, trees, streams, etc. Property was difficult to identify and as markers were moved or become lost, boundaries were almost impossible to validate. For instance, on an early drawing titled, "Annexation North of Patterson", markers were listed as, "Post in Road", "N31 Elm 22", etc. As can be seen, these would be very difficult to find today. By the way, Patterson was the early name for Margaretta Township.

On Feb 12, 1820 Sandusky County was created by the Ohio government and Fremont became its county seat. It had previously been part of a large area called Huron County. In 1834, Erie County was separated from this same tract and the county seat was located at Sandusky. In 1840 Ottawa County was created from parts of Sandusky, Erie and Huron Counties and its county seat was at Port Clinton, in Portage Township. Some of Portage Township’s one mile Sections namely 33, 34, 35 and 36, ended on the south side of Sandusky Bay, These sections were annexed to Margaretta Township, so if you own property in this area, your deed will have something to the effect... "Portage Annexation to Margaretta Township...". This is referring to one of those Sections that were annexed. See Fig. 2

![Fig. 2 Relative position of White’s Landing & Fairview Beach, Erie & Sandusky Cos. Ohio.](image-url)
A little aside to all of this. After Erie and Ottawa Counties were created, they did some trading. Ottawa County got Marblehead Peninsula and Erie County got Kelley's Island. Also any records for Erie County prior to 1838 are still housed in Norwalk which was the county seat prior to these splits.

Some of Lewis White's platted lots are in the NE ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 4 of Townsend Township, Sandusky County, OH. The others are in Section 33 of the Portage Annexation to Margaretta Township in Erie County. All the lots platted by William Hommel are in the NW ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 4 in Sandusky County. See Fig 2.

Knowing which county you are standing in at certain places in White's Landing and Fairview Beach can be tricky. There is a boundary marker in the grass just to the east of C.R. 290 near the Cove Inn. The line passes westward through the bar property and the marina next door, then goes west out into the Sandusky Bay. Going east from the marker, the line passes between Mary Osburn's and Jim and Debra Trala's (Formerly Jim and Ruth Best). From there it goes east through Lynn (Jess) Burr's (formerly Ralph and Lena Lane's) and across the fields to meet the Erie County line around the junction of Northwest Road and SR 6.

Early Owners

As mentioned previously, the United States government began selling land to pay for debts accrued during the Revolutionary War. Sales were slow and large tracts were sold to companies who in turn sold them to individuals. Land was still sold individually, however, out of a Government Land office in Bucyrus. In 1836 Horatio Fish and Jesse Tainter bought the E ½ of the NE ¼ of Sec 4, all in Sandusky County, from the U.S. government (Fig. 1). This would be approximately the land from the marker in CR 290 near the Cove, south along CR 290 a distance of 1320 feet, then east from CR 290 about to the ditch on the east of Jess Burr's place (between Don & Cindy Bower's home plot and Wes Miller's farm ground. It was deeded as 85 acres but had to be 80 acres according to the system of Townships and Sections. (A Section is 640 acres, a quarter section is 160 acres, therefore, half of a quarter section is 80 acres) This changed hands many times and the north 10 acres were purchased from the Charles White estate (William Karbler Adm) by Lewis F. White September 17, 1912. John Davy bought the NW ¼ of the NE ¼ on the 18th of October, 1834. This forty two and a half deeded acres (40 acres) would begin at the marker in CR 290 by the Cove Inn and extend to the west end of the lots facing Catawba St. (TR 298). It would extend south to about Vineyard Rd. and then east to CR 290. This property, too, changed hands many times and on 11th of October, 1920, Hannah M. White sold 30 acres to William H. Hommel and a 14 acre parcel which he then sold to Fairview Beach Co., of which he was the Trustee on November 16, 1920.
The Hommels were in the wine business and had grapes growing on part of the property. On December 07, 1920 a plat was recorded (Vol 7, Pgs 74 & 75) for the first 119 lots in Fairview Beach. This would be the lots on Fairview Ave., Glad Ave. and Bay Blvd. west to the Bay shore. In May of 1946 lots 120 to 165 were platted. The home built by the Hommels has recently been owned by Alvin and Clara Osmon and is now owned by Vance & Catherine Myers. (See picture).

Streets in the 1946 plat were named after grape varieties such as Duchess, Ives, Catawba and Concord. The other streets were named Vineyard Road and Diana Street. Ives replaced one of the original platted lots, #47. Concord street does not show on the County maps but I think this is the street from the north end of Catawba, going NE to the end of Diana St. It is currently considered to be the extension of Catawba Street. All of Diana Street and Duchess Street as well as Bay Blvd from Ives westward have been abandoned as of 2007. During Prohibition, the Hommels were rumored to have smuggled whiskey from Canada and unloaded the boat at their house at the end of Bay Blvd.
Platting White’s Landing

ERIE COUNTY

11 Aug 1919 - Platted 2.43 acres creating lots 1 thru 13 along the south side of Wahl Rd. beginning at the center of the road on the west end, lot 14 beginning south 148.9' from the center of the east-west Wahl Road. This lot was 140.9' deep and 57' wide. 14 total V7 Pg 24

20 July 1921 - Platted Lots 15 and 16 lying partially or wholly south of Lots 8 thru 10, and Lots 17 thru 36 facing Willow Ave. Would have needed to abandon part of Lot 11 to extend Willow Ave. to Wahl Road. The south lots lay on the Sandusky-Erie County line. Total 22 Lots 15 to 36 Plat V 8 Pg 6

11 Oct 1921 - Platted Lots 37 to 57. Lots 37 thru 44 lying behind Lots 19 thru 36 which face Willow Ave. No street platted for these. Also Lots 45 thru 51 facing Wahl Road. Lots 52 thru 55 lay to the southwest with a 24’ roadway. Lots 56 & 57 lay to the southwest of these with a 24’ roadway between. Lots 58 & 59 lay behind Lots 45 & 46. Total 23 V8 Pg8

29 Aug 1923 - Lots 58 & 70 lying south of Lots 15 & 16, Lots 67 thru 69 lying south of Lot 70 with a street in between, and 59 thru 66 lying in north south tandem along Rainbow St. Total 13 Lots 58 to 70 V9 Pg 2

12 Jan 1925 - Platted Lots 71 thru 86 with 71 thru 86 facing Pleasant Ave. and Lots 77 to 81 facing Wahl Rd. Total 16 V9 Pg 8

22 Sep 1928 - Platted Lots 87 thru 93. Lots 88 & 89 lying behind 28 & 29 on Willow Ave. Also 87, 90 thru 93 behind the Wahl Rd. lots and separated by a 25’ roadway. There was a 25’ road platted from the back
street to Wahl Rd. and there was a 9’ alley between Lots 87 & 90 and a 22’ street between lots 90 & 91 as well as an 18’ street between Lots 92 & 93. Bay Blvd dedicated at 25’. Total 7 Lots 87 to 93 V 10 Pg 7

24 Oct 1931 - Platted Lots 94 thru 97. Lot 94 and a tiny triangular 95, a rhombic 96 and a small triangular 97 behind Lots 28 & 29 on Willow Ave. Total 4 Lots 94 to 97 Plat Vol 10 Pg 20

30 July 1931 - Platted Lots 98 thru 103. Lots 98 thru 100 lay along Bay Blvd. and Lots 101 thru 103 to the south of them. Total 6 Plat Vol 10 Pg 7

18 Sep 1931 - Platted Lots 104 thru 110 lying south of the lots facing Bay Blvd. and extending to the south street which goes to the county line. Total 7 V10 Pg 20

Bay Ave runs behind lots facing Wahl Rd to the north. Bay St. is behind the lots on the south side of Bay Ave and turns south and goes to the county line. Bay is 23’ and Ball is 20’ Pleasant Ave. is the street where Jess Burr lived. The street behind Terry Osburn’s old place is not named on the 1925 plat.

SANDUSKY COUNTY

Sep 1921 - L.H. Wismer platted Lots 1 thru 13 beginning where E line of Willow Ave. intersects county line. This is part of the 10 acres (N ½ N ½ NE ¼ NE ¼) acquired by Lewis F. White from the Charles White estate on 17 September 1912 (Deed Vol 96 Pg 297). A 20’ street exists on the SW side of Lots 2 and 13. On another drawing an engineer J.R. Kuns has a drawing with 21 lots and a 26’ drive west of Lot 4. There are duplicate lot numbers in this group. V7 Pg 84

29 Aug 1923 - L.H. Wismer platted Lots 22 thru 52 with streets starting between Lot 6 and Lot 44 and Lots 35 and 49. V 7 Pg 87

10 May 1930 - Platted Lots 53 thru 58 beginning where W line of Willow Ave. intersects county line. This is also part of the 10 acres described above. These lots are on the NW side of the street running SW from end of Willow Ave at the county line. V8 Pg 11

Submitted by Jim Norrocky