

## Eagle

The first settlers arrived in 1834 from Troy, New York. They came by boat to Detroit and then traveled on the Northern Grand River Trail to DeWitt. At DeWitt they floated down the Looking Glass River in flat bottomed boats. The boat with the Anthony Niles family overturned and their cow escaped. Anthony Niles spent several days looking for his cow. While we don't know if Anthony ever found his cow, his search did lead him to tell the others they should settle there.

A small settlement called Waverly was started  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile east of the current village on the Grand River Trail. It had a hotel, town hall, and a post office. In 1842 the name was changed to Eagle.

When the railroad came through in 1871, the tracks ran about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile south of Eagle. George McCrumb erected a depot next to the tracks west of the town. The village, except for the school, was moved to the new location.



**Eagle depot with hotel in background**

The Grand River Trail became M-16 and later US-16. For many years it was the main road between Detroit and Grand Rapids.

The first store was built in 1873 by Loyal Hill. The store is still in business today as Swampers Party Store.

The Eagle Village school was founded in 1848 in a log cabin at the original town location. After the cabin burned a wood frame building was built about 1873. It was replaced with a two-room brick building in 1908 and was used until 1969. For much of that time the teachers were two sisters, Mary McCrumb and Helen McCrumb Smith. Today it is a residence.

