Maple Rapids

The first settler in Maple Rapids was George Campau who started a trading post here about 1834. At first most of his trade was with Ojibwe who lived along the Maple River.

The village of Maple Rapids was platted in 1854 by William A. Hewitt. He constructed a sawmill, hotel, and general store here. The town grew and it officially became a village in 1881.

Once St. Johns became the county seat, a stage line began operating between the two towns. The trip took about 2 ½ hours by horse drawn stage. In 1910 the horses were replaced with a horseless carriage.

By 1880 the village had three churches, two hotels, four general stores, two drug stores, three millinery shops, two groceries, two furniture stores, a music store, a jewelry store, two grist mills, a saw mill, two planing mills, a foundry, a bank, and a newspaper.

Maple Rapids early 1900's

Maple Rapids early 1900's

Maple Hotel 1920's

Clinton County Historical Society

The village declined after it was bypassed by the railroads and the trees in the area had been mostly harvested.

The first school was held in a double log cabin in 1850. In 1855 a wood frame school was built. It soon was too small so it was torn down. It was replaced with a 4-room school in 1869-1870.

Maple Rapids School c1900

This building was replaced in 1911 with a 5-room cement block school.

Maple Rapids School 1911

This building was added onto as additional space was needed. In 1945 a fire started in the basement and destroyed the building except for the gym. For several years people couldn't agree on how to rebuild the school. Students attended school in churches and other town buildings.

Finally, a new school was built in 1950. The district voted to join the Fulton School District in 1958. After the Fulton High School opened in 1960 the Maple Rapids school was used as an elementary school until it closed in 1982.