

Washtenaw County Road Names
Official Names As Shown in the Road Commission Minute Books.

The following Washtenaw County road names were obtained from the minutes of the Good Roads Commission (1915-1919) and the Washtenaw County Road Commission (1919 through December 31, 1936). Some of these original road names have since been changed and if this is the case the current road name is shown in parenthesis. Minute entries follow; it often being a description of the road location. Date of entry into the minutes is shown.

This list incorporates only those roads that were "officially" named in the minutes but it is quite evident that not all roads were officially named, or if they were the action was not entered in the minutes. Many other roads are referred to by a name in the minutes but there appears no official action in the minutes giving these roads their name.

East-West Trunk Line Road (Michigan Avenue, Washtenaw Avenue, Huron Street, Jackson Avenue) - March 4, 1918.¹ The road beginning at the county line between Washtenaw and Wayne County known as Michigan Avenue extending westerly through Ypsilanti to Ann Arbor over the road formerly known as the middle road between Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti and thence running west through Ann Arbor over the road formerly known as the Territorial Road. This road to be named the East-West Trunk Line Road.

Chicago Road - March 4, 1918. That road leading from Ypsilanti to Saline. To be named the Chicago Road.

Ypsilanti - Milan Road - (Whittaker, Stony Creek Roads) March 4, 1918. The road leading south from Ypsilanti between sections 20 & 21, and across sections 29, 31, and 32, to be named Ypsilanti-Milan Road (This description is faulty, perhaps an error of transcription into the minutes.)

Packard Road - March 4, 1918. That road running between Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti formerly known as the South Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti Road, now named Packard Road.

Superior Center Road (Prospect Road) - March 4, 1918. The road running north from Ypsilanti between section 3 & 4 in Ypsilanti Township and sections 33-34, 27-28, 21-22, 15-16, 9-10 and across a portion of section 9 to be named the Superior Center Road.

Liberty Road - March 4, 1918. The road leading westward from Ann Arbor as an extension of Liberty Street, through section 30 of Ann Arbor Township, and through sections 25 and 26 and between sections 26 & 35 in Scio Township, to end at the section corner common to sections 26, 27, 34, and 35, named Liberty Road.

¹ The first 13 entries come from the minutes of the Good Roads Commission, book one, pages 105 & 1-6 dated march 4, 1918.

Dexter Road - March 4, 1918. The road running northwesterly from Ann Arbor to the village of Dexter, named the Dexter Road.

Whitmore Lake Road - March 4, 1918. The road running northerly from the city of Ann Arbor, through the townships of Ann Arbor and Northfield and through the village of Whitmore Lake to the county line. Following the same route as that described under Division 10 of Act 334 of the Public Acts of 1913. This road to be named Whitmore Lake Road.

Pontiac Road - March 4, 1918. The road extending northeasterly through the city of Ann Arbor, Ann Arbor, Northfield and Salem Townships, following the section line in Salem Township between sections 17-18, 7-8, 5-6 connecting with the county road in Oakland county running south through South Lyon. This road to be named the Pontiac Road.

Salem Road (Six Mile Road) - March 4, 1918. The road in Salem Township beginning at the corner of sections 7, 8, 17, 18 and running easterly along the section line through the village of Salem to the east county line of Washtenaw County, terminating at the northeast corner of section 13 of Salem Township. This road to be named Salem Road.

Plymouth Road - March 4, 1918. The road running northeasterly from Ann Arbor through Ann Arbor and Superior Townships, passing through the village of Dixboro and sometimes spoken of as the Dixboro Road, connecting with the county road in Wayne County at the east county line of Washtenaw county at the northeast corner of section 1 in Superior Township. This road to be known as the Plymouth Road.

Salem-Frains Lake Road (Salem Road, Brookville Road, Curtis Road) - March 4, 1918. The road in Salem Township beginning at the village of Salem and running south through sections 11 and 23 to Brookville (the settlement of Brookville), thence west 1.5 miles along the section line between sections 23-26, 22-27 to the corner common to sections 21, 22, 27, 28, thence south along the section line between sections 27-28, 33-34 of Salem Township and between sections 3-4 in Superior Township connecting with the Plymouth Road near the corner of sections 3, 4, 8, 10 of Superior Township. This road to be named Salem-Frains Lake Road.

Dexter-Chelsea Road - March 4, 1918. The road beginning at the western corporate limits of the village of Dexter and running southwesterly parallel to the Michigan Central right-of-way to the township line through section 6. This road to be named the Dexter-Chelsea Road.

Cherry Hill Road - March 6, 1924. Motion by commissioner Luick that A.D. 6 be known as Cherry Hill Road.

Chelsea Road - (Chelsea-Manchester Road) - March 6, 1924. Motion by commissioner Luick that the road from Chelsea to Manchester be known as Chelsea Road.

Stockbridge Road - (Stockbridge-Chelsea road) - March 6, 1924. Motion by commissioner Luick that the road known as Trunk Line route 92 be known as Stockbridge Road.

South Salem Road (Curtis Road) - March 6, 1924. Motion by commissioner Luick that the road from Salem Road (Six Mile) to Plymouth Road be known as South Salem Road.

Superior Road (Prospect Road) - March 6, 1924. Motion by commissioner Luick that the road from Ypsilanti to Plymouth Road be known as Superior Road.

Geddes Road - April 12, 1924. The Wayne County Road Commission has approved our name of Geddes Road as applying to AD roads 10, 11, and 13.

Six Mile Road - December 3, 1926. Motion by commissioner Roberts that the name Salem Road and also its extension beyond Pontiac Road be changed to Six Mile Road.

Milford Road (Pontiac Trail) - February 6, 1928. Motion by commissioner Luick that the name of Pontiac Road be changed to Milford Road in order to agree with the name of the same road which extends entirely across Oakland County.

Church Road in Webster Township - November 10, 1932. A petition from Webster Township residents requesting that the road dividing section 22-23, 26-27 and 34-35 beginning at North Territorial road and running two miles south to Joy Road be officially called Church Road. (There is no indication in the minutes that the road commission officially acted on this request. Still this is now known as Webster Church Road.)

Huron River Drive - July 7, 1933. Moved by commissioner Andres that the road beginning at the Livingston County line in the northeast 1/4 of section 5, Webster Township, thence generally southerly and southeasterly on the east side of the Huron River to the intersection with the Dexter North Road, be officially designated as Huron River Drive. (This was a northerly extension of the already named Huron River Drive south of Dexter).

Pontiac Trail - February 11, 1938. A letter received from the Kiwanis Club of South Lyon has requested that the Milford Road be renamed "Chief Pontiac Trail". March 18, 1938. Moved by commissioner Gill that we change the name of the Milford Road to Pontiac Trail in Washtenaw County.

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During the period 1924 through 1934 the Washtenaw County Road Commission created a series of road maps for the county and a number of additional road names are shown on these maps. On a county map created by Harry Raschbacher in 1937 all of the road names we currently have are shown, except for the Pontiac Trail, which on the map is named Milford Road, and Fuller Road. The minutes of the Washtenaw County Road Commission were examined through December 31, 1936, plus the Pontiac Trail item. It is quite possible that the existing road names were made official after that date.