

Freeland was home to Native Americans long before the arrival of settlers of European ancestry. In the 1819 Treaty of Saginaw, in which the Chippewa, Ottawa, and Pottawatomie ceded a large portion of land including Saginaw County to the United States federal government. In that treaty, several areas were reserved for specific groups of Chippewa. One area, Black Bird's Village, consisted of 6,000 acres on the Tittabawassee (named as the Tetabawasink river in the text of the treaty), very near to the present location of Freeland.

In the 1850s, a lumbering outpost called "Loretta" developed in the area. It was given a post office named "Jay" in April 1856. The office was named for the first postmaster, Jefferson Jaquith. This outpost was very near the center of Tittabawassee Township. Another settlement was placed just a little to the north. In 1867, one resident of the second locale, George Truesdale, instigated moving the post office from Loretta to his settlement, which retained the name of Jay for several years afterwards.



Roads have improved greatly over the years, as shown from this view of Main Street looking north. The picture is taken from in front of where the Log Cabin Bar & Grill stands today.



The Freeland House

The name of Freeland comes from "Mammy Freeland" who operated a popular tavern on the river, frequented by lumbermen, who came to refer to the entire settlement as Freeland. The name of the post office was changed to Freeland in January 1879. The Freeland family name was prominent in business and politics of the area.

The Freeland House used to stand on the southwest corner of Washington and Main Street. The left side was built about 1857. The addition was built in 1879. It burned January 20, 1923.



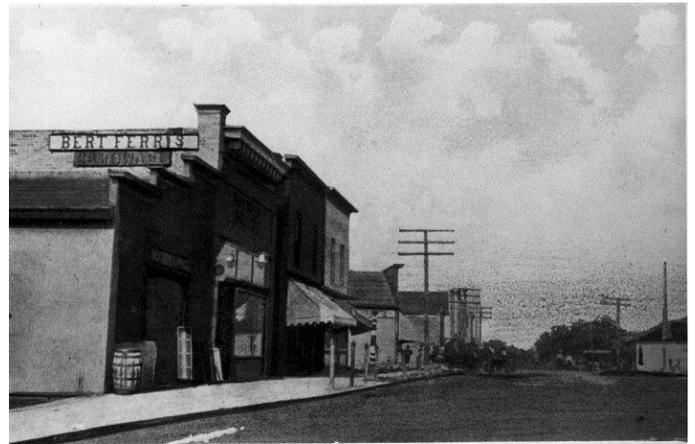
The Kapitan Ferry, which ran near Tittabawassee Rd. used to be the only way to cross the river.



A second bridge was built across the river in 1895



John Welzien's gas station, shown here on Labor Day in 1929, stood where the log cabin's parking lot is today.



A view of Washington Street, looking east in the early 1900's



Washington Street, Looking west toward the main corner in 1946



Looking south on Main St. in 1946



This building was the Freeland Post Office from 1897- 1918 was also Dietiekers Grocery Store. Mr. Dietieker was the postmaster for much of that time. The building was located on the southeast corner of town, where the Marathon gas station is now.





Tittabawassee Firefighters



Old Tittabawassee Fire Department



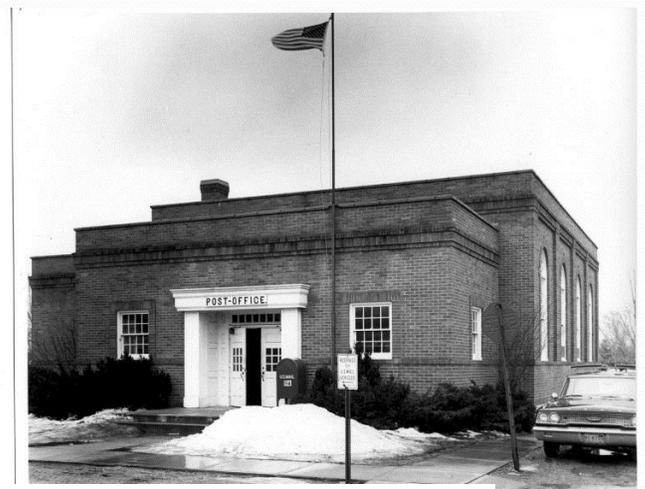
In 1875, this was Dr. William Cabbage's Home and Office. There is now a funeral home in the same place on Washington St.



Located on 6th Street (shown here around 1900) was the Bay City Grain Co. Elevator, owned by Charles Dieteiker. Also pictured is the train depot.



At different times, Elmer Lone's store and Edna's Beauty Shop, this building stood on the corner of Washington and 1st Streets, where Freeland State Bank is Today.



This building on the corner of 1st and Church Streets has been used as a post office and community hall. It is currently home to a daycare.