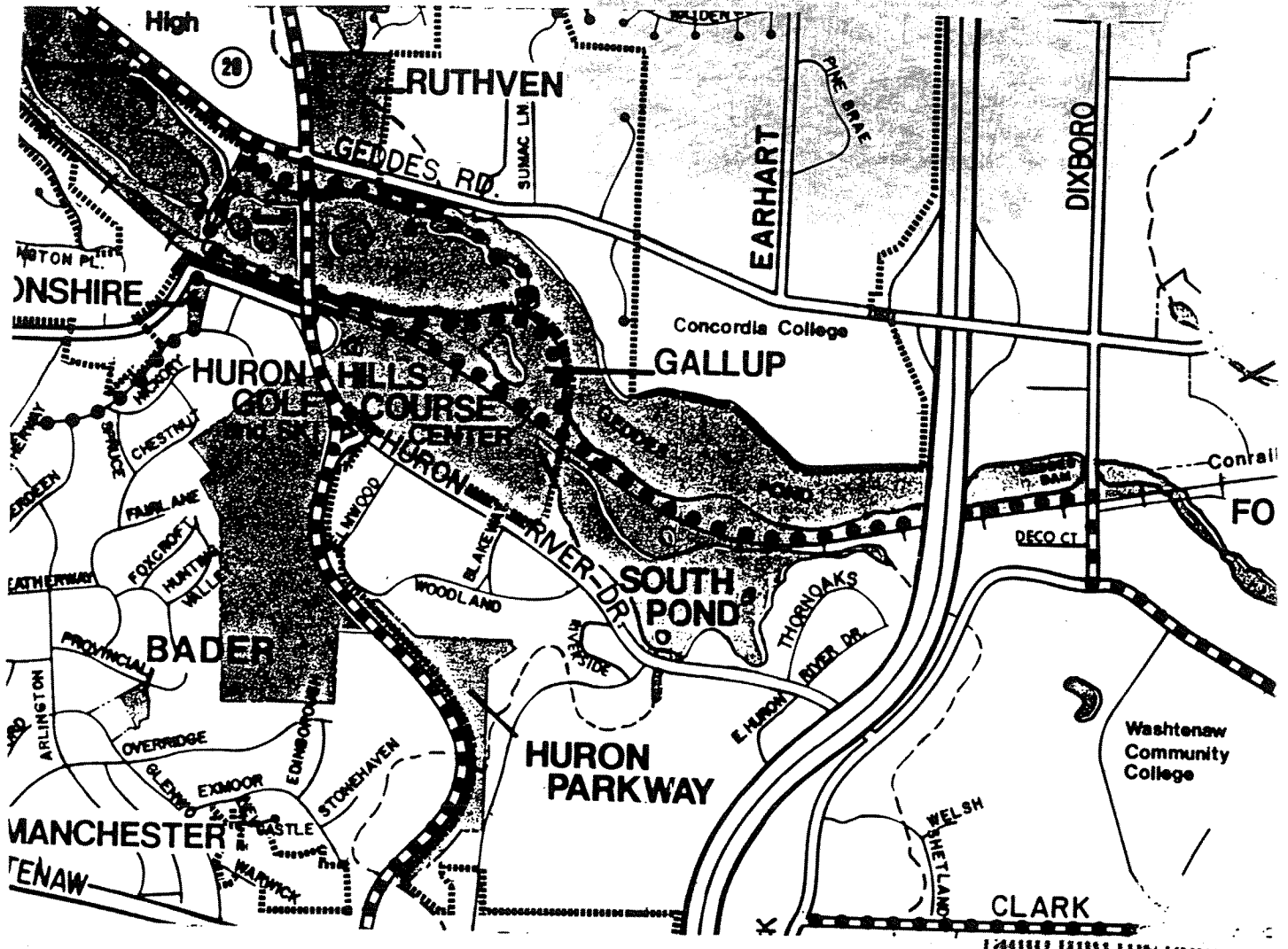


# South Pond



*Compilation of  
historical information  
to be used exclusively  
for South Pond research*

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4 Aug '98*

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## GEDDESBURG

At this junction of the Huron River and Dixboro Road, a village was founded in 1826 by John and Robert Geddes, who constructed a water-powered saw mill. Homes, a plaster mill, grist mill, pulp mill, schoolhouse, post office and railroad station were built here. A hydro-electric plant operated from 1916 to 1925.

WASHITENA COUNTY AT-2 HISTORICAL MARKER

act 167 flood  
plain legislation  
1800-1874 58 mi of  
Huron River

(A)

excerpt from: Kilowatts at Work  
Raymond Miller

IV

BY ALL ODDS the largest purchase was that of the Washtenaw Light and Power Company. Late in December, 1904 Dow employed John A. Russell to acquire a right of way for a high voltage line from Delray to the Washtenaw Company system at Ypsilanti; the actual purchase was made the next year. This company, providing the public and private lighting service of the small cities of Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, represented a recent merger; buried in its records are at least a half dozen once hopeful companies. The power plant lay half way between the two cities at a spot called Geddes on the Huron River. This location not only avoided offending either of the cities, but it offered the more material benefit of a small water power development. A small steam plant was also in use at Geddes.

White made an inspection tour accompanied by Dow and the local manager of the Washtenaw Company and was completely sold on the project. His report to Wetmore led to instructions to Dow to close an option for purchase at once.<sup>14</sup> Dow protested by telegram that the asking price was far too high and that with time he could do better; but this objection was rejected and, under White's eager drive, the project advanced.

White's enthusiasm was engendered not so much by the present value of the established plants as by a conception of an organized development of the whole Huron River valley, a project of which the existing Washtenaw Company had to be an essential part. A first investigation showed a total of nine spots along the Huron where hydroelectric power might be developed. With proper development the fifteen miles of the Huron would, it was stated, generate 10,000 kilowatts at a capital cost no higher than the capital cost of Delray and with operating costs thereafter half as great. Such prospects made caution seem to be timidity and to White reduced the question of original price almost to insignificance.<sup>15</sup>

Dow was not in position to oppose or object, but his reaction to White's enthusiasm was characteristically cautious. He had his own man, R. S. Stewart, investigate the plant and equipment, and received the report that it was worth not the optioned \$432,000 but only \$231,000. The records of the company were so jumbled that auditors could not be sure of their statements, but it appeared that the company was not earning 5 per cent even on this lower valuation.

Courtesy of Bentley Historical Library  
The University of Michigan

(B)



