

Pierport

2. Pierport, surrounding Thirteen Mile, Lakeview, and Burtker Roads



Looking West from Burtker Road across Thirteen Mile Road to Lake Michigan; Rear of Perry House at Left

The early road (Burtker Road) that entered Pierport from the south afforded a view of the old Indian planting grounds and Lake Michigan. Gibson and Murray were investors in the property that was developed by Turner & Eckels, and that later became Pierport. As early as 1866, the Turnersport Pier Company had built a pier into Lake Michigan at this location. This pier was for the purpose of shipping wood; the village at that time consisted of three dwellings. In 1871, Charles W.

Perry took possession of the property at Turnersport; and shortly afterward, the Post Office established there became Pierport.



Upper View—Hopkins Manufacturing—Bear Lake Pier;
Lower View—Remains of the Early Piers at Pierport

He went into the general merchandise and shipping business, and kept a store in a log building at the pier. In the *1883 Manistee City and County Directory*, Pierport is described as a village of around 250 inhabitants. In 1875, Hopkins Bros. of Bear Lake built the Bear Lake Tram Railway, constructed of maple rails and operated by

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horses. Costing \$ 10,000, this line extended from Bear Lake to Pierport, which was a distance of 6 miles, and opened in 1876. After the Hopkins Manufacturing Company was organized in 1877, the Bear Lake Pier was built north of the Perry Pier at Pierport in 1879 and a general store was opened there. The Perry Pier also continued to be used.