

FINAL

Large two-sided marker
Different Text Each Side
2" caption
1 ½" text
Livingston Co.
Hamburg
Side One

HAMBURG

1 The Potawatomi spent summers in this
2 area for centuries before the 1831
3 arrival of the first Euro-American
4 settlers—Felix Dunlavy, Heman Lake,
5 Jesse Hall, Calvin Jackson, Cornelius
6 Miller, and their families. In 1835 E. F.
7 Gay and Amariah Hammond purchased
8 land along Horseshoe Creek and built a
9 dam and the area's first sawmill. They
10 later sold their interests to the Grisson
11 brothers—emigrants from Hamburg,
12 Germany—who added a gristmill, a
13 store, and a hotel later known as the
14 Hamburg House to the village. A fire
15 destroyed the hotel in 1968. In the
16 1880s the Ann Arbor and Grand Trunk
17 Railroads laid tracks through Hamburg.
18 This spurred economic growth and
19 drew tourists to the nearby lakes. In the
20 1950s and 1960s, the development of
21 I-96 and U.S. 23 prompted an influx of
22 residents that made Hamburg Township
23 the largest municipality in the county.

Michigan Historical Commission ~ Michigan History Center
Registered State Site No. 583
This Marker is the Property of the State of Michigan, 2022

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Side Two

EDWIN B. WINANS

1 Edwin B. Winans (1826-1894) was the
2 first Democrat to be elected governor of
3 Michigan after the Civil War. Serving a
4 two-year term starting in 1891, he
5 instituted the secret ballot system. A
6 New York native, Winans had moved
7 to Livingston County, Michigan, at the
8 age of eight. He attended Albion
9 College before leaving the state to join
10 the California Gold Rush. After success
11 as a miner, he became a banker there. In
12 1858 he returned to Michigan and
13 purchased a four hundred acre farm in
14 Hamburg. Winans enjoyed an active
15 political career. He served as state
16 representative (1861-65), constitutional
17 convention delegate (1867), township
18 supervisor (1872-73), probate judge for
19 Livingston County (1877-81), and as
20 U.S Congressman (1883-87). On July
21 4, 1894, he died at his Winans Lake
22 home in Hamburg Township, where he
23 had lived for thirty-six years.