



# COMMUNITY PROFILE





## II. COMMUNITY PROFILE

The foundations for a community comprehensive plan are built upon the answers to such questions as “who are we?”, “what do we have here?”, and “what do we want?” Answering such questions for a community can take a lifetime of study, but a survey of a community can provide some answers and forms the basis for this Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Owensville.

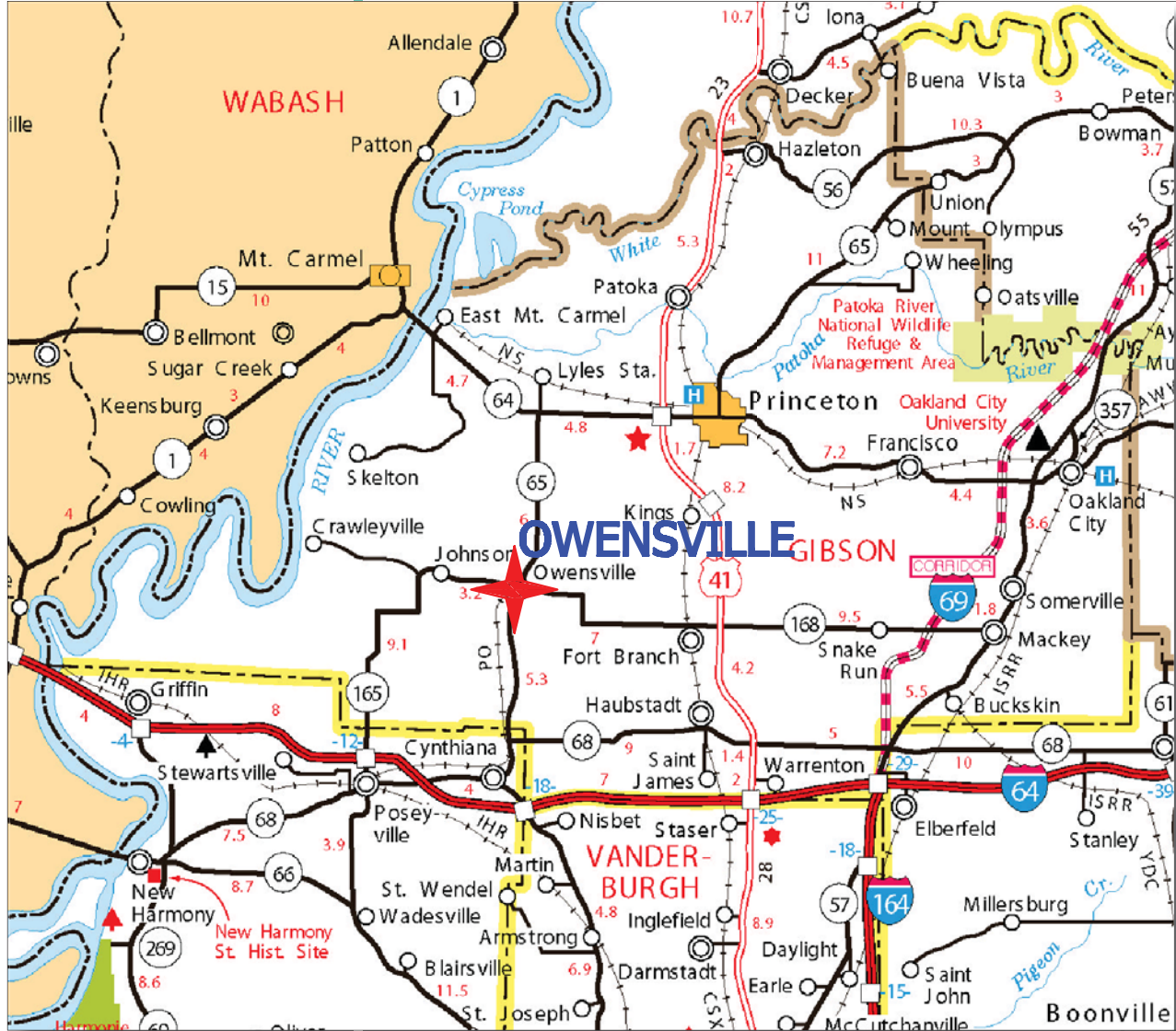
The Community Profile section provides brief synopses and analysis of existing and historical factors relevant to community planning. They provide glimpses of how the community has grown and developed, and offer insight into why conditions are what they are in Owensville. For the most part, the information is based on data derived from the US Census, historical surveys, or other regional or national data collection agencies. All data are derived from the most recent sources available. The Community Profile Section is organized into the following basis categories, each addressed separately in more detail.

- Location
- History
- Population
- Education
- Employment & Income
- Housing
- Natural Resources



**A. Location**

The Town of Owensville is located in Montgomery Township in the western portion of Gibson County of Southwest Indiana. The Township is bordered by the Wabash River and the State of Illinois to the West, Wabash Township to the Southwest, White River Township to the North, Patoka and Union Townships to the East, and Posey County to the South.





## B. History

The Town of Owensville began as an early settlement surrounding a small store operated by Willis Alsop. Other early businesses included the construction of a log storehouse by John McFadden and a blacksmith shop, an important trade for a community in the early settlement period, operated by John Reid.

In 1817, the Town of Owensville was laid out by Philip Brisco. The original town plat consisted of fifty-two lots, five out lots, and one whole block donated to the public to be used as a public square. The town was named in honor of Thomas Owens of Kentucky.

About 1820, John B. Warrick, son of Captain Jacob Warrick of the *Battle of Tippecanoe*, moved to the Town of Owensville, where he developed an extensive buying and shipping business for large quantities of pork, grain, and produce, and built a large warehouse on the banks of the Wabash River. This location allowed Warrick to utilize flatboats to float his products down river to New Orleans. Because of the size of his business, he became a significant employer for the area. Mr. Warrick also served as the community's first postmaster, was owner of the first steam grist mill, the *Imperial Star Mill*, and owned much of the Town. Until his death in 1847, he built many homes and encouraged many businessmen to locate within the community.

By 1850 the community was booming and was a close rival to Princeton, until a tragic fire consumed the entire northeast corner of Town in 1876. By 1879, the *Chicago and Eastern Railroad* had been constructed through Owensville, thus continuing its economic success. Other industries also flourished, including the *Owensville Brick and Tile Factory*, opened in 1881, the *Owensville Elevator Mill*, opened in 1880, and the *Montgomery News*, started in 1870.

In 1881, the Town of Owensville was incorporated with three wards. James Montgomery, Hiram Westfall, and James A. Robinson served as the first Board of Trustees.

In 1917, the Town Square laid out by Phillip Brisco in 1817 was developed with a Carnegie Library. This square, known as Owensville Library Park, also includes a war memorial, horseshoe pits (removed in 2007), and a bandstand. Important community events held within the Town of Owensville included the Community Chautauqua, and the Watermelon Festival which is still held today.



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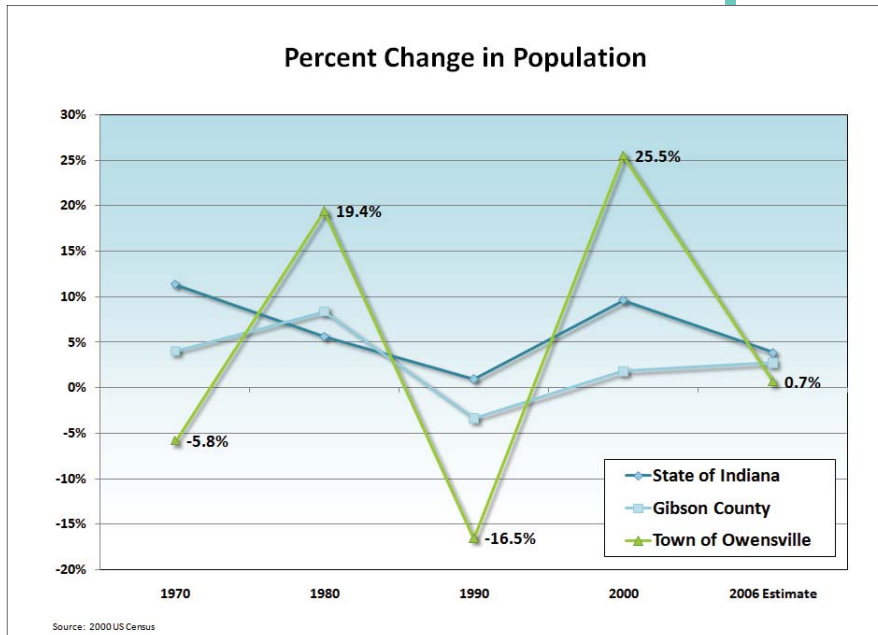
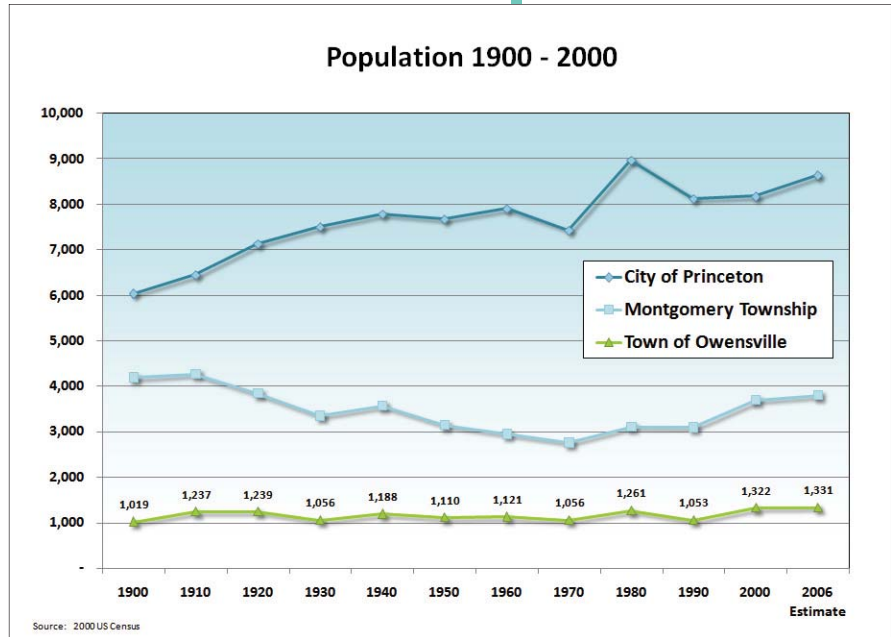
Through the 1950's, "almost every house in the country was a farm operation", which included both grain and livestock. (Owensville Alumni Association, 58) A lumberyard, slaughter house, and wagon works also contributed to the economy of Owensville. Paired with the local lumber company and the presence of the railroad, Owensville has been central to Montgomery Township's agrarian economy.

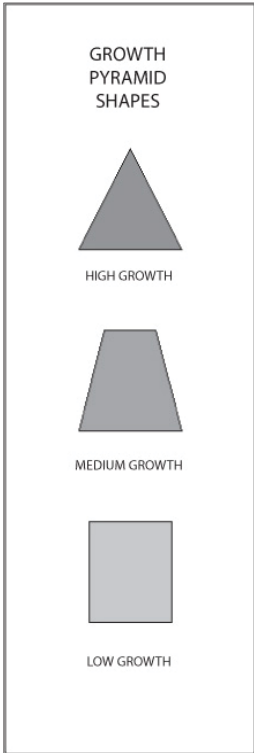


### C. Population

To understand the needs and desires of a community, it is important to understand the composition of a community's population. It is also helpful in planning for the future of the community and guiding the decisions that will help the community to flourish. The following information provides insight for the Comprehensive Planning Process and future decisions for the Town of Owensville.

According to the US Census, in 2000 the Town of Owensville had a population of 1,322 and Gibson County had a population of 32,500. Between 1900 and 2000, the population of the Town of Owensville remained relatively unchanged. The community's most significant changes in total population occurred between 1980 and 1990, following the closure of *Emge Meat Packing Facility* in Fort Branch (16.5% decrease), and between 1990 and 2000 following the opening of the *Toyota Motor Manufacturing Facility* between Princeton and Fort Branch (25.5% increase). These changes have occurred while the State of Indiana and Gibson County have seen little change in their populations.



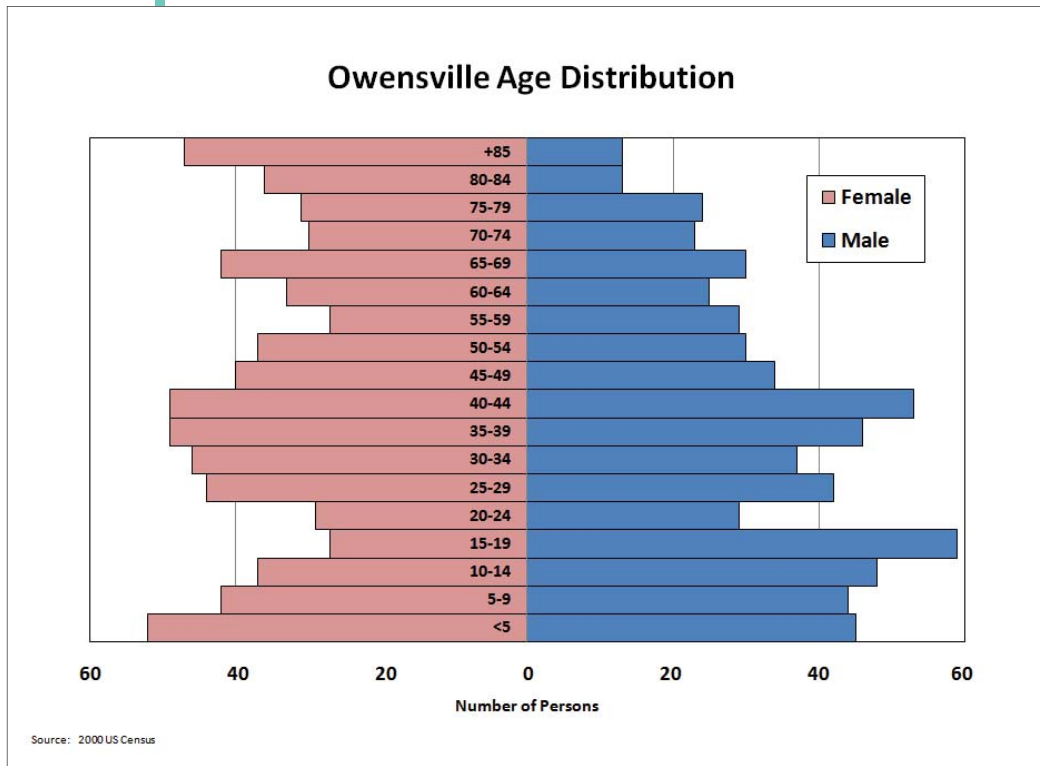


### Age Distribution

Age distribution of a population is most clearly presented by an age division pyramid. Using population data divided into age groups for each sex, a cohort chart is developed into a pyramid that represents the different age cohorts existing within the local population. The pyramid shape that is formed can be used to explain the recent pattern of population growth for the community. The diagram to the left provides three different pyramid shapes, which identify in general terms the different types of growth that can occur.

The largest age group within the Town of Owensville includes those persons (males and females) aged 25 to 49, with the largest 5-year cohort being those aged 40-44 years old. There is also a significant number of males aged 15-19 years old.

The Pyramid also shows a contrast when comparing male and female cohorts separately in the age divisions. More specifically, it appears that the male cohort supports a growth pattern representing medium to high growth, while the female cohort of the pyramid supports a growth pattern representing low to medium growth.

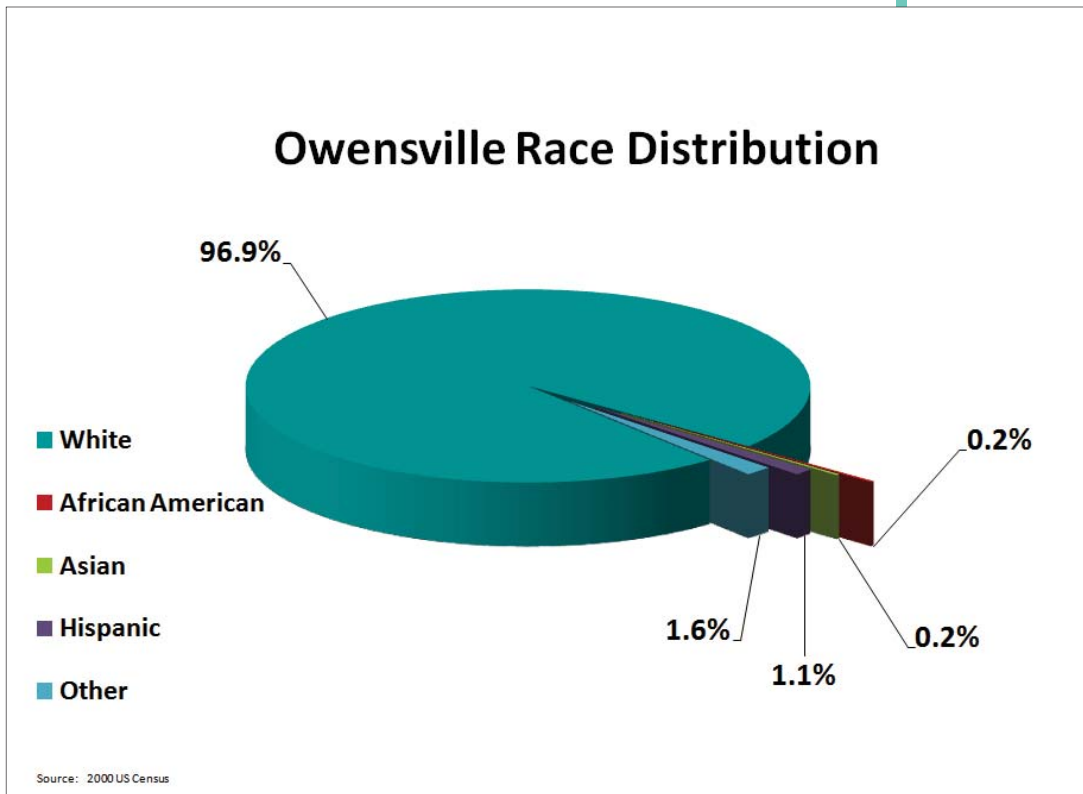






**Race Distribution**

The distribution of race for the population within the Town of Owensville is predominantly white (96.9%). While the State of Indiana remains predominantly white (87.5%), there have been significant changes in the racial make-up of the population. However, these changes occurring at the state-level have not occurred within the Town of Owensville.





### Disabilities

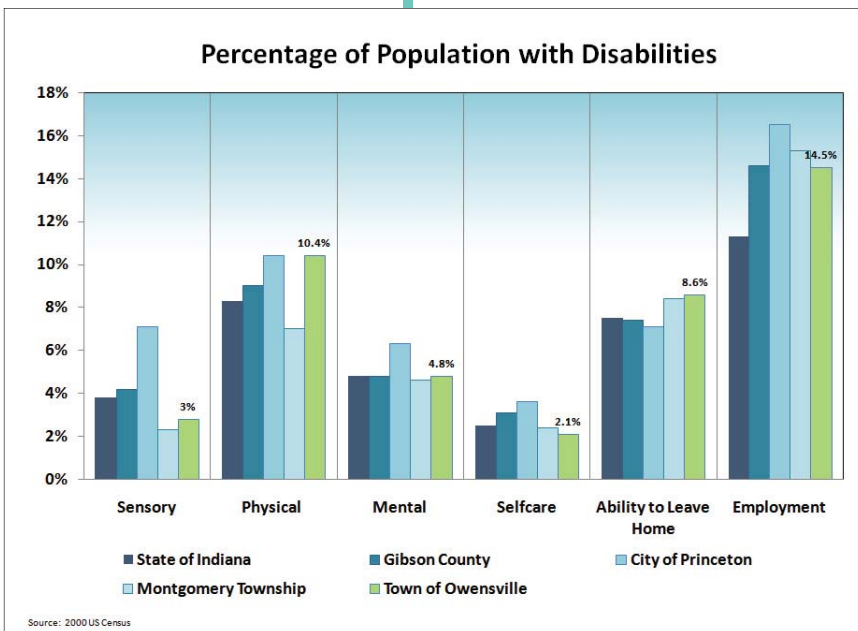
A disability is defined as a long-lasting physical, mental, or emotional condition that impedes a person from being able to go to work or go outside the home unassisted. Disabilities make it difficult for a person to do activities such as walking, climbing stairs, dressing, bathing, learning, or remembering, and may prevent a person from performing an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being. Because of these effects, persons with disabilities may need special accommodations, such as wheelchair access to facilities or interpretive stations for the hearing and visually impaired.

Disabilities are categorized as follows:

- **Sensory Disability** – difficulty with hearing or seeing
- **Physical Disability** – difficulty walking or climbing stairs
- **Mental Disability** – difficulty with cognitive tasks like learning, remembering, and concentrating
- **Self-Care Disability** – difficulty in taking care of basic needs like dressing and bathing
- **Go-Outside-Home Disability** – difficulty in getting outside the home for shopping, doctor’s office visits, and other trips
- **Employment Disability** – difficulty with work

A graph has been provided that shows the rates of different disabilities reported in the 2000 US Census. The Town of Owensville has a varied population of disabled individuals, ranging from physical to mental, as well as many other special needs.

The most significant area is the number of individuals with an Employment Disability, 14.5% of the total population. There are also a significant number of individuals who have a Physical Disability, 10.4% of the total population.





**D. Education**

The Town of Owensville is served by the *South Gibson School Corporation*. Three municipalities comprise the corporation: Fort Branch, Haubstadt, and Owensville. The schools within this corporation include *Fort Branch Community School*, *Haubstadt Community School*, *Owensville Community School*, and *Gibson Southern High School*. The Town of Owensville is specifically served by *Owensville Community School*, with students graduating to *Gibson Southern High School* to complete their secondary education.

**Enrollment**

Over the past 9 years, the enrollment for the *South Gibson School Corporation* has been steadily increasing, except for a small decline between 2003 and 2005. The overall enrollment increased a total of 175 students (8.7%) between 1999 and 2008. Similarly, Owensville Community School has seen a steady increase for over 9 years, except for a slight decline between 2003 and 2006. Between 1998 and 2008 total enrollment at in Owensville Community School increased by 57 students (11.5%). While reviewing the attendance rates for the two schools that serve Owensville residents, it seems that students maintain good attendance and consistently remain well above the average state attendance rate of 95.9%. It is also important to note that *South Gibson School Corporation* has seen significant improvements in attendance between 2005 and 2007 (2.7%). Likewise, the data reported by both the *Owensville Community School* (3.3%) and *Gibson Southern High School* (2.3%) is also representative of these improvements.

South Gibson School Corporation	School Capacity	96 - 97	97 - 98	98 - 99	99 - 00	00 - 01	01 - 02	02 - 03	03 - 04	04 - 05	05 - 06	06-07	07-08
Corporation Enrollment		1,841	1,854	1,852	1,840	1,843	1,856	1,868	1,857	1,865	1,903	1,971	2,015
Corporation Attendance		97.4%	97.0%	97.0%	97.1%	97.1%	97.0%	96.7%	97.0%	96.8%	97.2%	99.9%	
Percentage Change in Attendance			-0.4%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%	-0.3%	0.3%	-0.2%	0.4%	2.7%	
<b>Owensville Community School</b>	<b>600</b>												
Student Enrollment		475	457	439	454	454	472	477	455	461	462	477	496
Attendance Rate		97.3%	96.9%	96.7%	96.6%	96.5%	96.2%	96.2%	96.7%	96.6%	96.5%	99.8%	
Percentage Change in Attendance			-0.4%	-0.2%	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.3%	0.0%	0.5%	-0.1%	-0.1%	3.3%	
<b>Gibson Southern High School</b>	<b>1000</b>												
Student Enrollment		614	650	670	665	660	652	639	632	621	630	642	686
Attendance Rate		97.2%	97.0%	96.7%	97.0%	97.1%	97.3%	97.1%	96.9%	96.9%	97.7%	100.0%	
Percentage Change in Attendance			-0.2%	-0.3%	0.3%	0.1%	0.2%	-0.2%	-0.2%	0.0%	0.8%	2.3%	
Graduation Rate		98.4%	97.1%	98.8%	95.2%	90.7%	90.4%	97.5%	95.6%	93.0%	90.2	88.5	
SAT Average Score		1004	1008	1012	984	1008	1044	997	992	1005			
ACT Composite Score		18.6	18.4	19.2	21	19	22.7	21	21	20.2	23.1		

Source: Indiana Department of Education

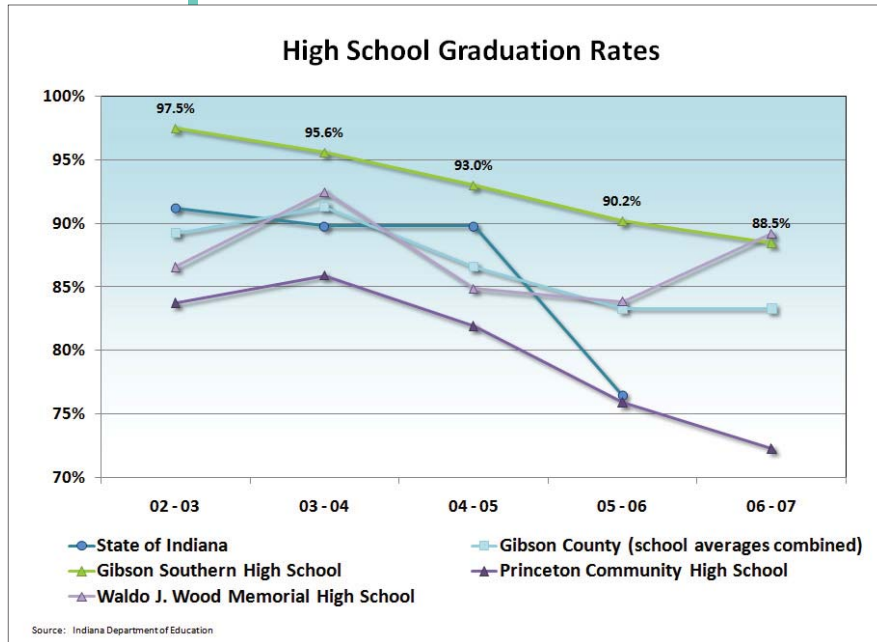


### Graduation Rates

The record established for graduating seniors has fluctuated over the past 10 years and has recently seen a significant decline since 2002 (9% decrease to 88.5%) falling below the state average of 89%. The average SAT Score also

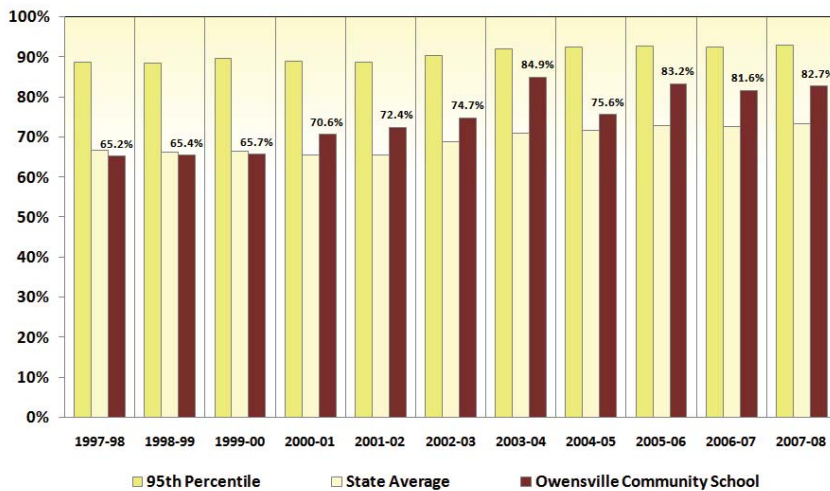
has fluctuated significantly, with the corporation's best improvements made during the 2002-2003 academic year (1044). Likewise, the average ACT Composite Score has fluctuated significantly, but has consistently remained above the State Average (21.6) with the corporation's best composite

score achieved during the 2001-2002 academic year (22.7). In comparison to other high schools in Gibson County, *Gibson Southern High School* has maintained better graduation rates even though they have been in decline between 2002 and 2007.



Source: Indiana Department of Education

### ISTEP Average Scores - Owensville Community School



Source: Indiana Department of Education

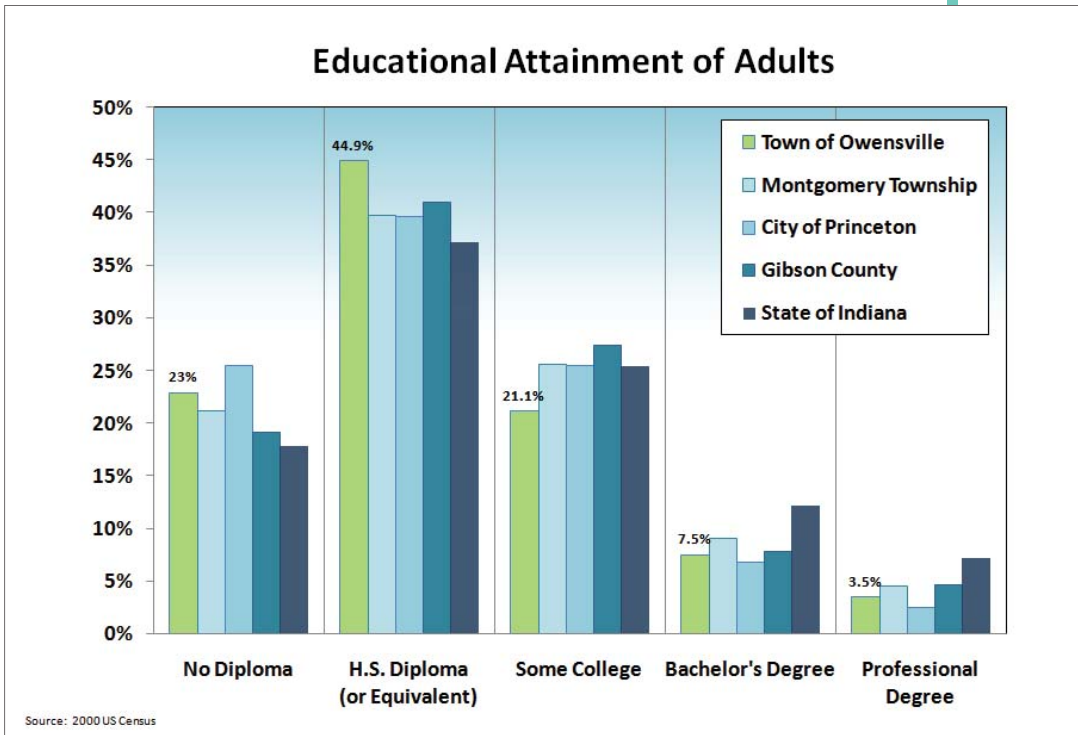
### ISTEP Testing

The record for *ISTEP* Testing for the *Owensville Community School* has been steadily improving in recent years. According to the Indiana Department of Education Website, *ISTEP* Average Percent Passing for all grades tested in both Language Arts and Math have been increasing since 1997, with the highest average score for those passing in 2003-2004 with 84.9%.



### Educational Attainment

While *Gibson Southern High School* can be recognized for its success in the number of students graduating each year and also exceptional college placement test scores for both the ACT and SAT, the number of persons living within the Town of Owensville who have pursued education beyond high school is limited. Of the 908 residents of the community over the age of 25, only 292 people (32.1%) have acquired a degree or pursued some type of higher education. This is below the rate for the State of Indiana (44.9%), as well as the City of Princeton (34.8% or 1,856 persons) and Gibson County (39.8% or 8,650 persons).



The number of people within the Town of Owensville who are over the age of 25 and have not achieved at least a high school diploma (23%) is also significantly higher than the State of Indiana (17.9%), similar to the averages for the City of Princeton (25.5%), Montgomery Township (21.1%), and Gibson County (19.1%). A total of 700 residents over the age of 25 (77%) have received a high school diploma, although the rate of attainment of high school diplomas in Owensville is lower than the State (82%) and National (80.6%) averages.



### E. Employment & Income

The residents of the Town of Owensville are employed by several types of employers. There were 523 residents within the Town of Owensville 16 years and older employed at the time of the 2000 US Census. This equals 39.7% (523/1,318 persons) of the total population and 49.6% (523/1,054 persons) of the population 15 years and older.

There are also 4.6% (60 persons) of the population above retirement age (65) and 21.4% (282 Persons) of the population below the working age (16). Together they make up approximately 25.9% of the population that is assumed to not be in the current labor force, although there may be individual exceptions to this assumption.

Employed and Unemployed Workforce	Workforce (16 yrs+)	Employed	Percent Unemployed
State of Indiana	3,117,897	2,965,174	4.9%
Gibson County	16,653	15,826	5.0%
City of Princeton	3,893	3,627	6.8%
Montgomery Township	1,878	1,842	1.9%
Town of Owensville	559	533	4.7%

By subtracting this 25.9% (328 persons) non-labor force residents from the total population (1,318 persons), a total of 74.1% (976 persons) are likely within or able to be within the current labor force. Comparing this number (976 persons) to the number of persons actually employed (523) leaves 34.4% (453/1,318 persons) who are 16 years old and older, in the current labor force, and unemployed.

Labor Force		% of Total Population
Population Over 65	60	4.6%
Population 16 and Under	+ 282	21.4%
Not Eligible for Labor Force	342	25.9%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>= 1318</b>	<b>100%</b>
Eligible/In Current Labor Force	976	74.1%
Employed 16+	= 523	39.7%
<b>Unaccounted Labor Force</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>34.4%</b>

There may be several reasons why a portion of the labor force is unaccounted for in the employed workforce. Some may be unable to work because of illness or disability, or they may be in the armed forces, or engaged in family care or volunteer responsibilities, but for statistical purposes people of the working age who are not employed are counted as unemployed.

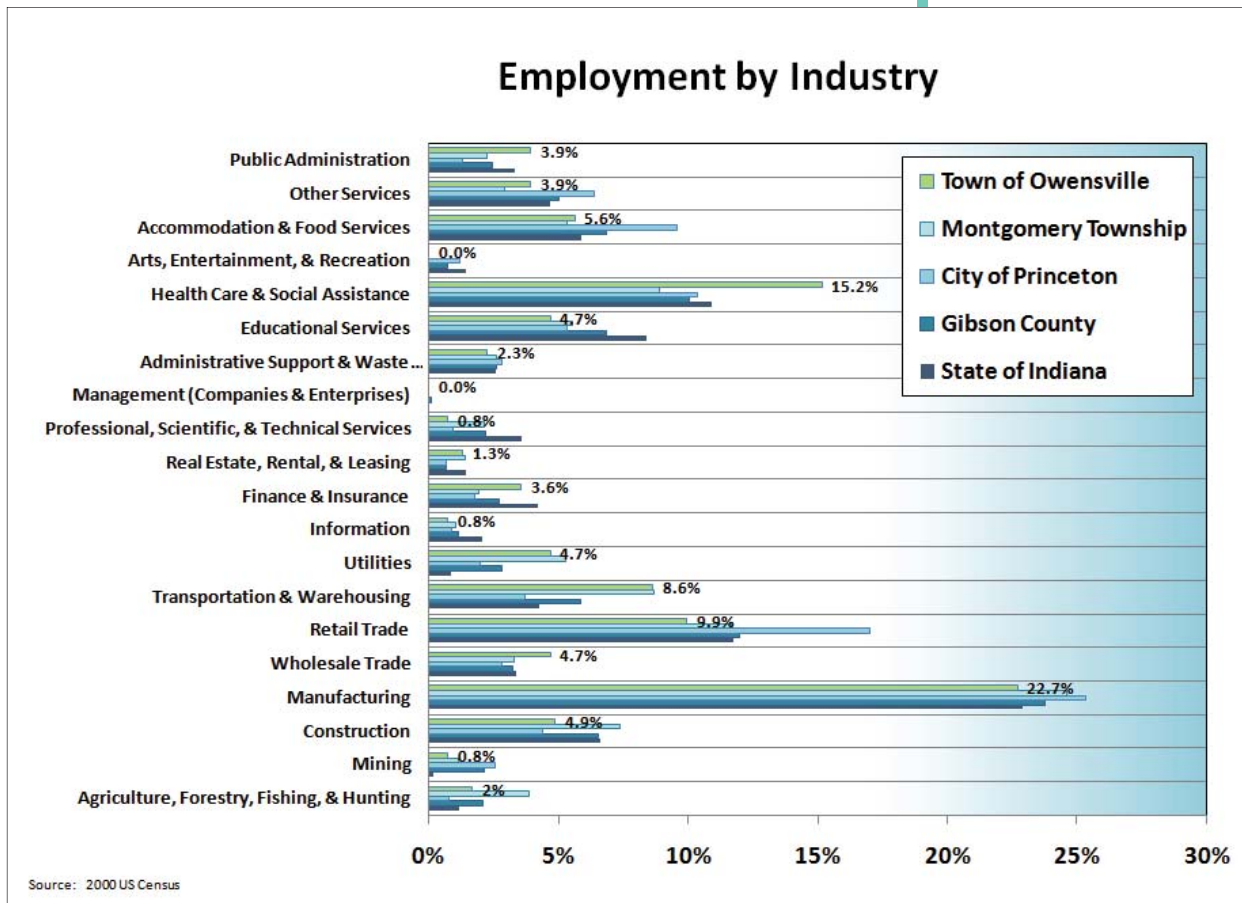


### Employed Workforce

For those who are employed, *Manufacturing* leads as the dominant employment type in Gibson County with 3,762 out of the 15,826 people employed (23.7%). The Town of Owensville also shows *Manufacturing* as the dominant employment type with 121 out of the 533 people employed (22.7%). The second largest field of employment in the Town of Owensville is in the area of *Health Care & Social Assistance* employing 81 people (15.1%).

### Unemployed Workforce

The total number of unemployed workers within Gibson County was 827 out of a 15,826 person labor force. In 2006, the unemployment rate for Gibson County was 5%, just barely above the average of the State of Indiana (4.9%). More recently, in June 2007, the unemployment rate of Gibson County had decreased slightly to 4.9%.





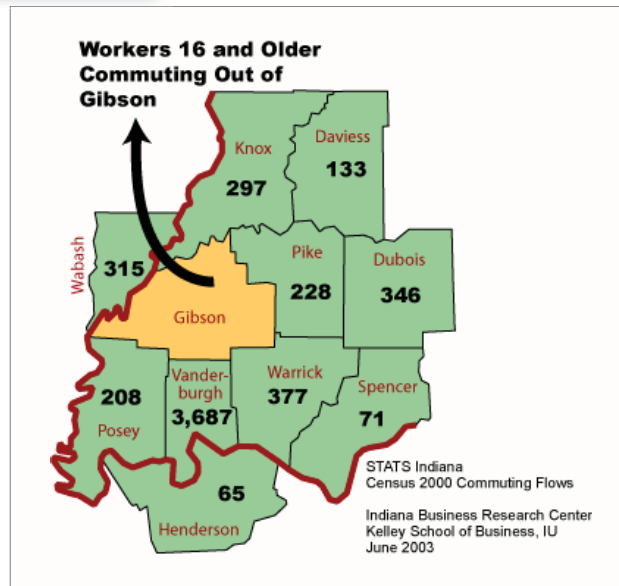
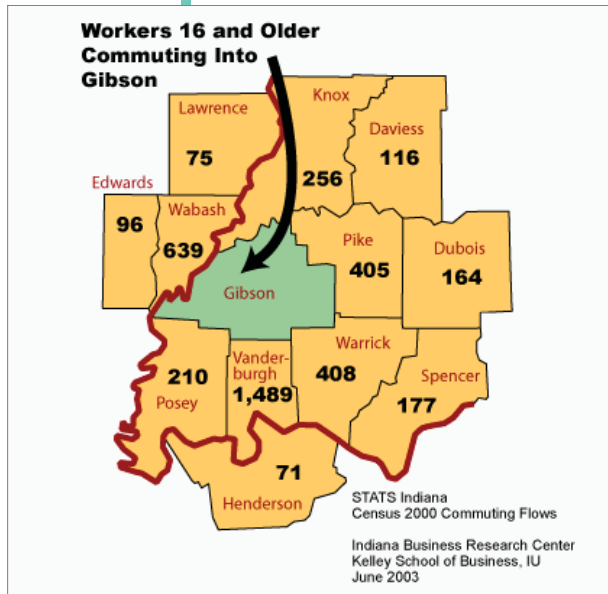
### Gibson County Commuting Patterns

According to the 2000 US Census, Gibson County has approximately 15,592 workers (persons over the age of 16) that responded with a specific *place of work*. Of those workers, some work within the county, while others commute to other counties for their primary place of employment. About 9,546 (61.2%) of Gibson County workers are employed within Gibson County, while 6,046 (38.7%) travel to some other location for work.

Although Gibson County employs approximately 61% of its total labor force, the counties surrounding Gibson County contribute 4,106 workers

to the county. Of these, the primary contributors are Vanderburgh County, which provides 1,489 workers and Wabash County, Illinois, which provides 639 workers to the Gibson County economy.

Although there are some significant contributions to the Gibson County workforce from outside of the county, it is evident that the total number of persons who work in Gibson County is greater than the number of workers that live within Gibson County (13,971/15,592). Based upon the commuters of neighboring counties,



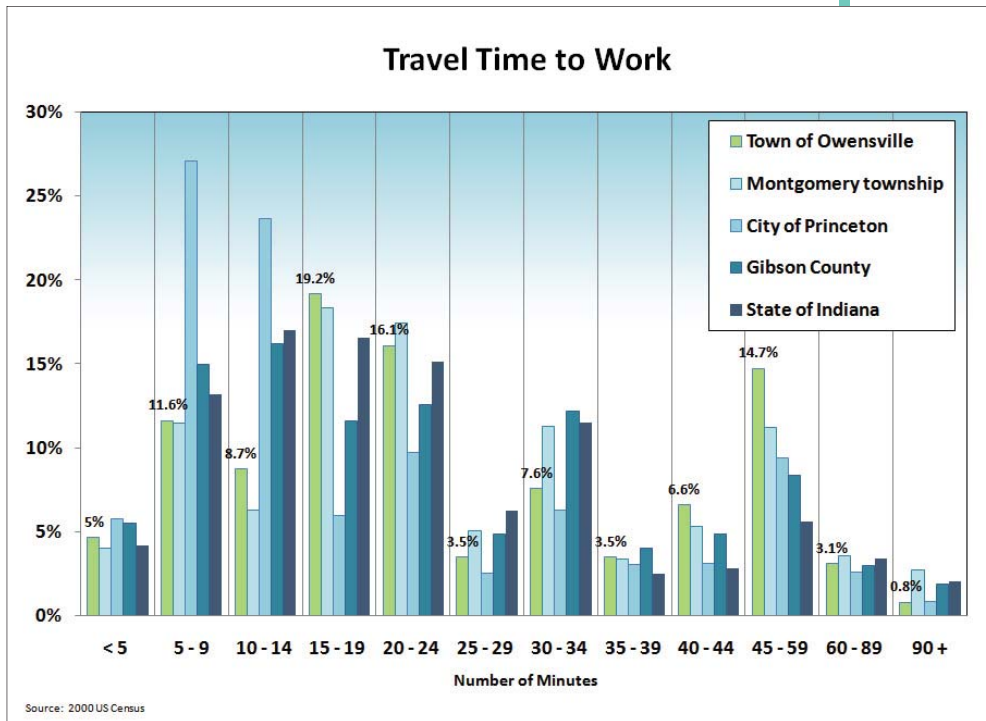




about 28% more workers commute out of Gibson County than those who commute into the county for employment (5,727 commuting out vs. 4,106 commuting in).

### Owensville Commuting Patterns

The distance of the commute for the workforce is an indication of how many persons work within and without the Town of Owensville. Assuming that commuting times of 15 or more minutes indicates working outside the Town of Owensville, we see that in the 2000 US Census, out of the 523 workers in Owensville, the largest number (99 commuters - about 19% of the Owensville commuters) travel between 15 to 19 minutes to their primary place of employment. The second and third largest groups of workers travel between 20 to 24 minutes (83 commuters – about 16%), and 45 to 59 minutes (76 commuters – about 15%). Those that travel 15 minutes or less, and presumably work in Owensville, account for 136 workers (26%) including seven who reported working from home. From this information we can conclude that the majority of workers residing in Owensville commute outside the community to work.



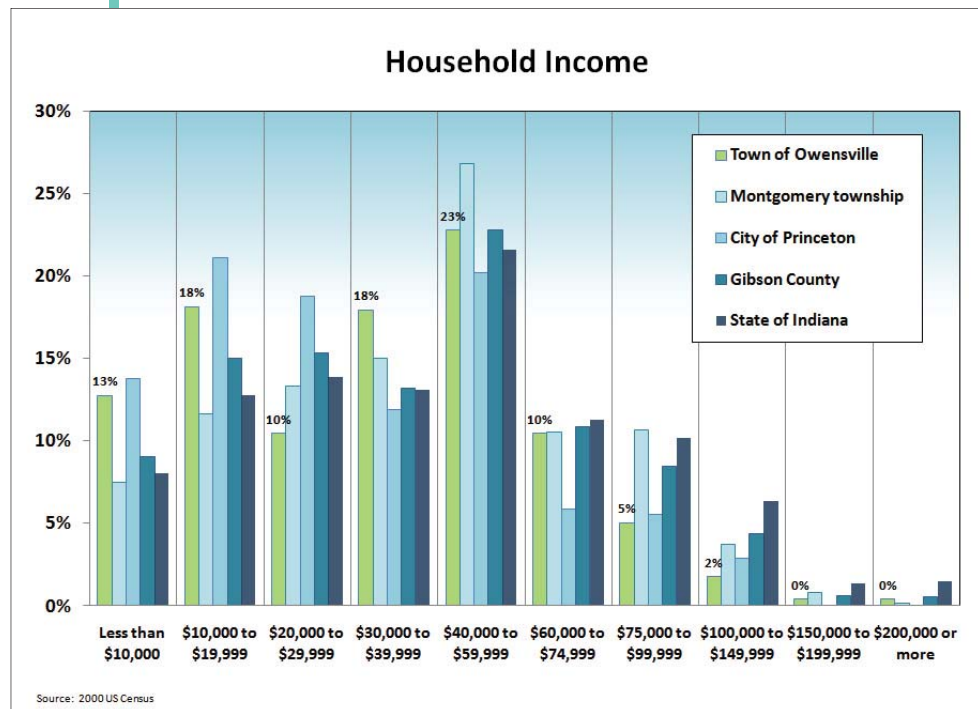


**Income & Poverty**

In 1999, the median household income for the Town of Owensville was \$34,306, a 52% increase from 1989 when the median income was \$22,593. While an improvement was made, this amount was still lower than Gibson County (\$37,515) and the State of Indiana (\$41,567) in the year 1999. However, the most significant improvement between 1989 and 1999 was for Montgomery Township, which at \$41,968 had a median income just above the State average in 1999.

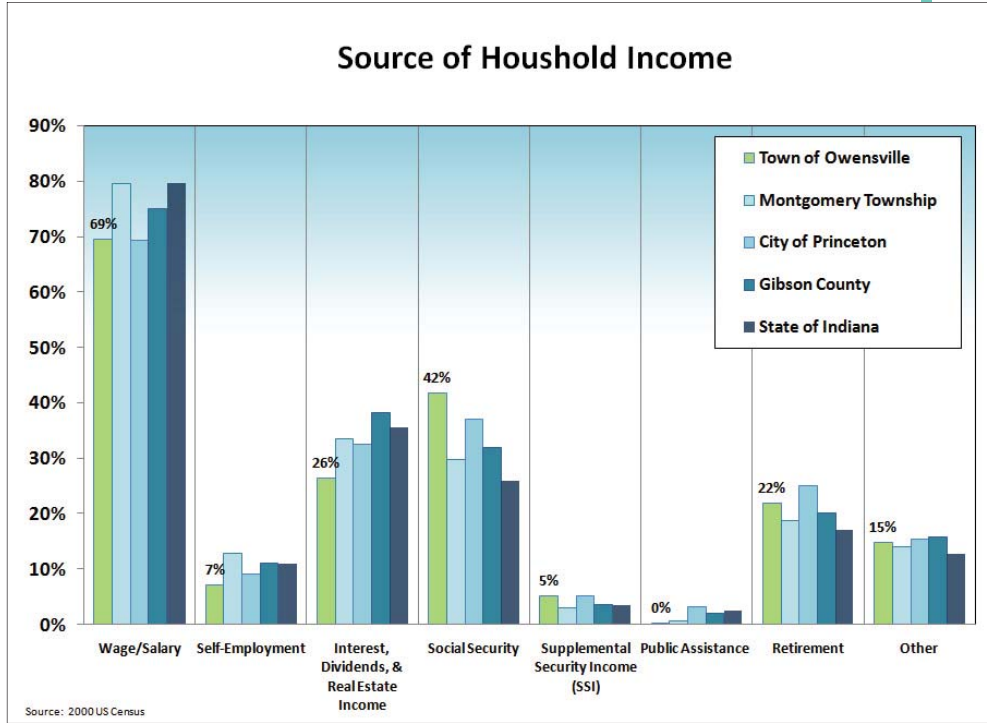
Median Household Income	1990 Census (1989)	2000 Census (1999)	Percent Change
State of Indiana	\$28,797	\$41,567	44%
Gibson County	\$25,985	\$37,515	44%
City of Princeton	\$20,648	\$26,689	29%
Montgomery township	\$25,853	\$41,968	62%
Town of Owensville	\$22,593	\$34,306	52%

About 23% of the income earners in the Town of Owensville have a combined household income of \$40,000 to \$59,999. The second and third largest groups fall between \$10,000 to \$19,999 and \$30,000 to \$39,999, each representing 18% of the income earners in Owensville. The primary





source of household income is from wages or a salary, supplying 69% of the total households in the Town of Owensville. The second largest source of income is from Social Security (42%) which represents a portion of households that is comparatively higher than the City of Princeton, Gibson County, and the State of Indiana.



Those persons living below poverty level within the Town of Owensville have decreased from 9.4 in 1990 to 8.9 in 2000, a 5% decrease. Montgomery Township has seen a significant decrease of 37% in persons below the poverty threshold. In contrast, the City of Princeton has seen an increase of 13% in the number of persons below the poverty level, from 14% to 15.8%. Owensville Community School reported that of the 477 students enrolled during the 2006-2007 academic year, nearly 29% (138/477 students), utilized the Free or Reduced Lunch Program.

Percent of Individuals Living Below the Poverty Level	State of Indiana	Gibson County	City of Princeton	Montgomery Township	Town of Owensville
1990 Census	10.7	9.6	14	10.3	9.4
2000 Census	9.5	8.2	15.8	6.4	8.9
Percent Change	-11%	-15%	+13%	-37%	-5%

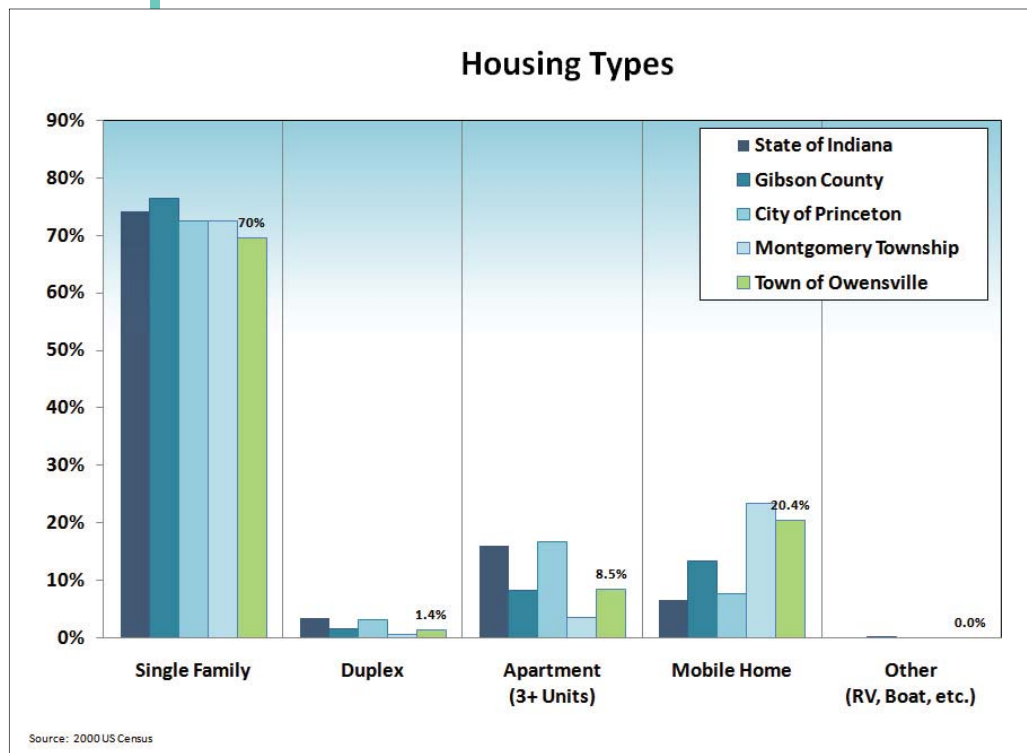


### F. Housing

According to the 2000 US Census, there were a total of 553 housing units within the Town of Owensville, an increase of 91 units between 1990 and 2000 (See *Age of Existing Housing Chart* on page 32). Approximately 70% (385 units) of the housing units were single-family structures, while

Housing Units	State of Indiana	Gibson County	Montgomery Township	City of Princeton	Town of Owensville
1990 Urban	1,489,891	4,969	(*)	(*)	(*)
1990 Rural	756,155	8,485	(*)	(*)	(*)
1990 Total	2,246,046	13,454	1,269	3,734	474
2000 Urban	1,826,886	6,866	(*)	3,758	(*)
2000 Rural	705,433	7,259	1,488	48	565
2000 Total	1,826,886	14,125	1,488	3,806	565

apartments and duplexes made up 9.9% (47 units and 8 units, respectively) of the housing units counted. The Census also reported 113 mobile homes, sited predominantly in two mobile home parks in the northeast corner and southwest corners of the community, making up 20.4% of the total housing units.



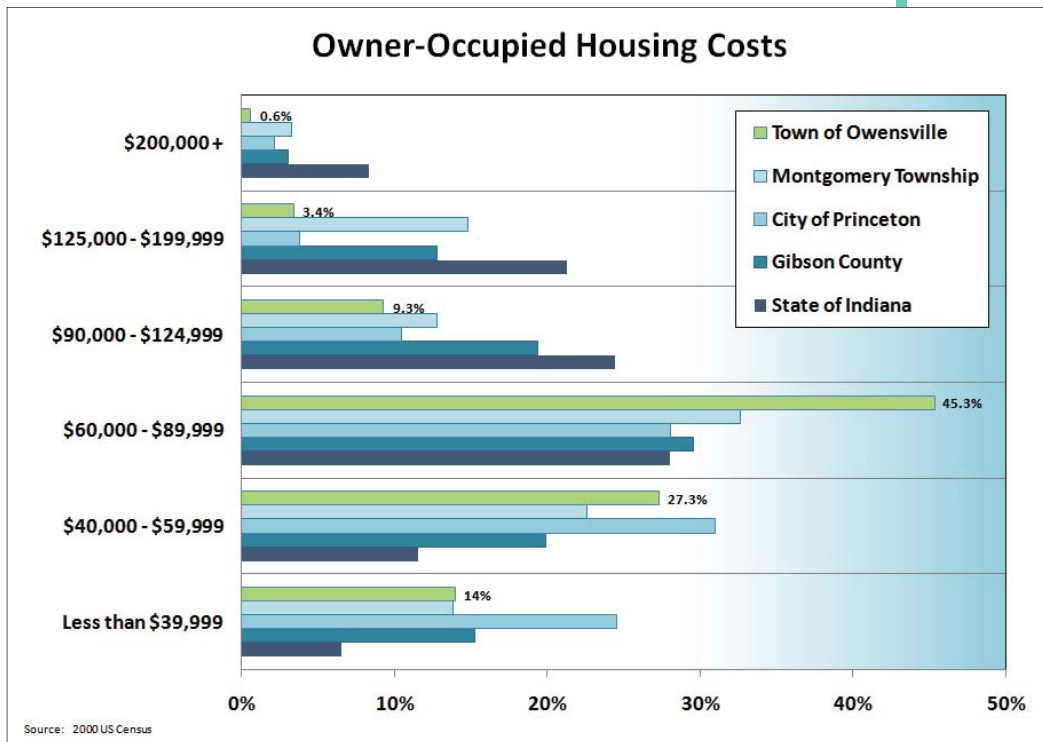


### Cost of Housing

The median value of a single-family home in the Town of Owensville was \$58,300 in 2000. This number is significantly higher than the median value for Gibson County (\$43,900) and significantly lower than the State of Indiana (\$78,600). Additionally, the largest number (146 or 45.3%) of owner-occupied housing units cost between \$60,000 and \$89,999, which is in line with those found in Montgomery Township. Only 13.3% (43) of the housing units within the Town of Owensville have costs above \$90,000.

It is important to note that the Town of Owensville has a higher percentage of owner-occupied homes in the \$60,000 - \$89,999 range, and smaller percentages of homes costing over \$90,000 than the State of Indiana, Gibson County, the City of Princeton, and Montgomery Township (see chart below).

The Town of Owensville has one multi-family apartment complex (housing disabled and elderly residents), one additional multi-family apartment building, and a few duplexes. The median rental cost within the Town of Owensville was \$238 per month in 2000. This monthly average was lower than comparable rates for Gibson County, at \$376 per month, and the City of Princeton, at \$367 per month.

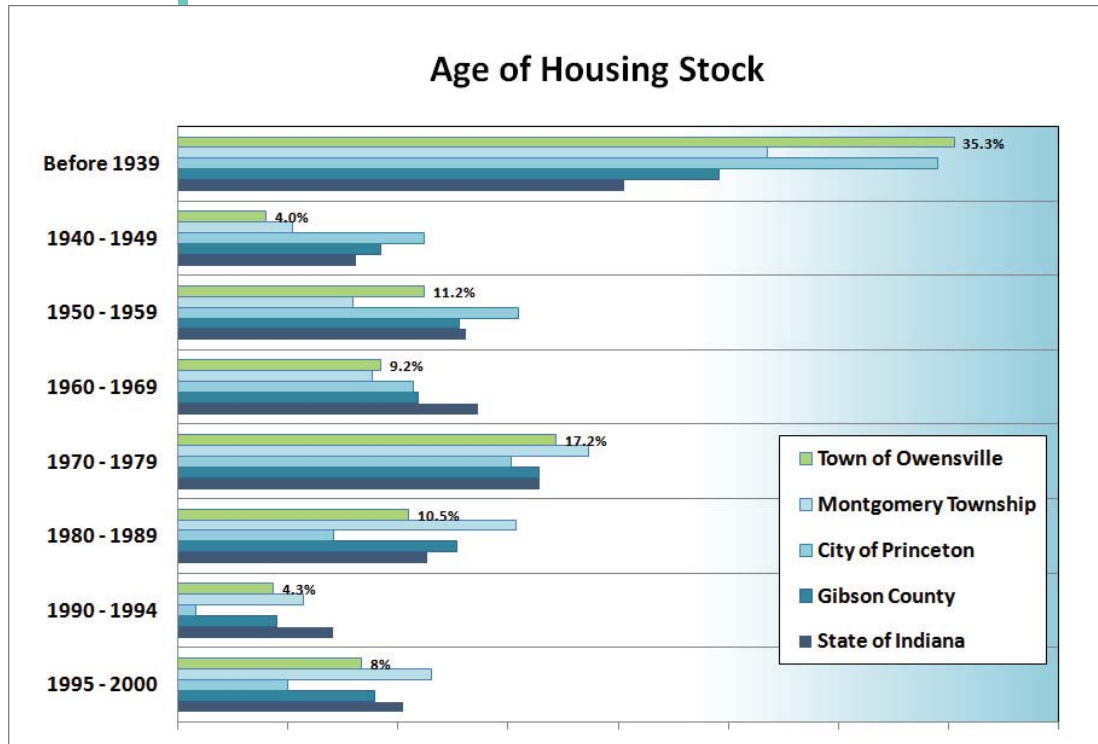




### Age of Housing Stock

Homes built between 1970 and 2000 (30 years old or less) make up 48% of the housing stock within the Town of Owensville (277 units). Compared to Gibson County (42.5%) and the State of Indiana (45%), the Town of Owensville is below the county and state in this age of housing stock category. The next largest age grouping of housing units in the Town of Owensville are those built before 1939, which is 35.3% of the housing stock within the community.

Below is a chart showing the age of the existing housing stock within the Town of Owensville, as compared to Montgomery Township, the City of Princeton, Gibson County, and the State of Indiana. The quality and age of housing varies throughout the community.



In the Town of Owensville over 50% (279/553 units) of the housing stock is nearly 50 years old or older. This is significantly higher than in Gibson County (46.5%) and in the State of Indiana (41.4%). It is also important to note that the Town of Owensville has approximately 15.1% more units built before 1939 than the State of Indiana and 10.7% more than Gibson County.

Of the housing stock located within the Town of Owensville, several structures have historical significance and are considered historic homes



within the community. The *Gibson County Historic Structures Inventory – Interim Report* identified 39 residential structures listed as “Contributing”, 12 listed as “Notable”, and 2 listed as “Outstanding”.

Those homes identified as “Notable” include:

- House – 102 East Clark Street (North Side); American Four Square, c. 1915
- House – 103 East Clark Street (South Side); Carpenter-Builder/Eastlake, c. 1890
- Strickland House – 208 East Brumitt Street (North Side); Queen Anne, c. 1895
- House – 210 East Brumitt Street (North Side); Free Classic, c. 1905
- House – 106 North Mill Street (West Side); Greek Revival, c. 1855
- House – 314 South Main Street (West Side); Arts & Crafts, c. 1915
- House – 202 North Main Street (West Side); Queen Anne, c. 1890
- House – 206 North Main Street (West Side); Carpenter-Builder/Eastlake, c. 1880
- House – 315 South Main Street (East Side); Bungalow, c. 1925
- House – 402 North Second Street; Greek Revival/Eastlake, c. 1870
- House – 215 Poplar Street; Bungalow, c. 1925
- House – 406 Main Street; Queen Anne, c. 1890

Those homes identified as “Outstanding” include:

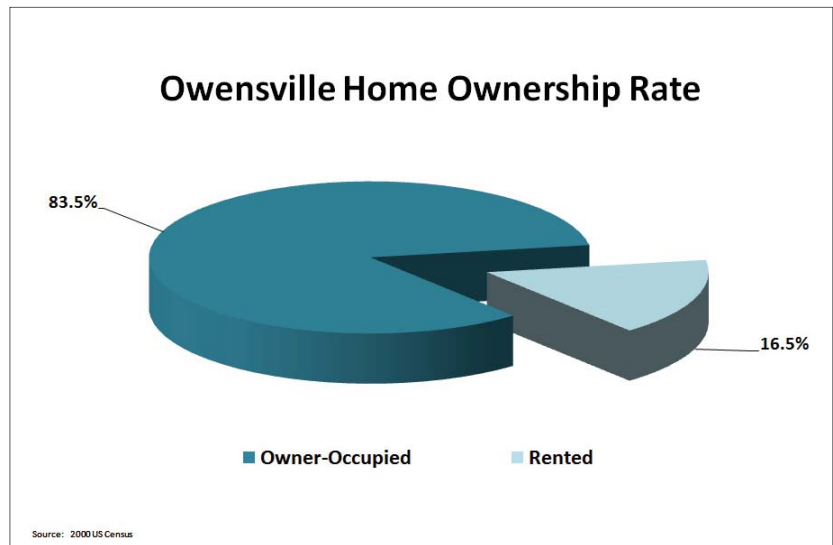
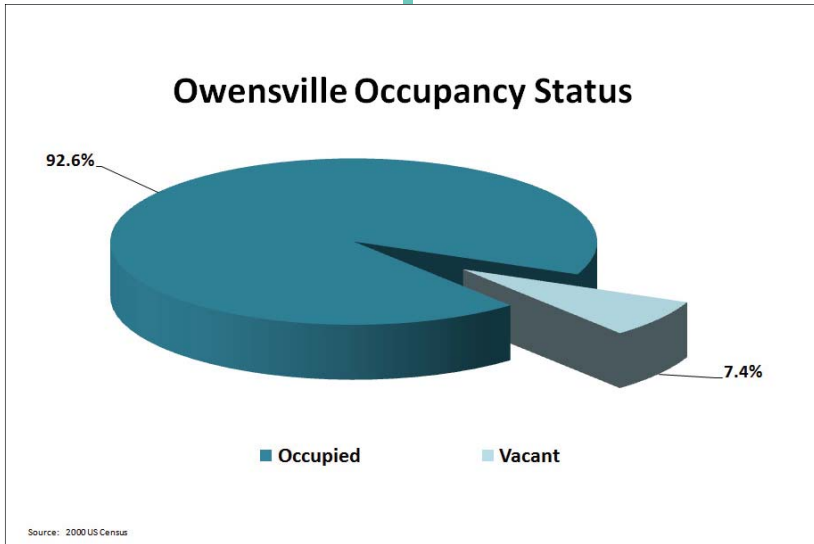
- House – 414 South Mill Street; Greek Revival/Italianate, c. 1870
- House – 108 South Church Street; Free Classic, c. 1905

It should be noted that this *Gibson County Historic Structures Inventory – Interim Report* was completed in September of 1984 and some structures may have been altered or razed since their documentation in this volume. *(An excerpt from the Gibson County Historic Structures Inventory – Interim Report has been included in the Appendix of this document.)*



### Occupancy Status

Approximately 92.6% of the housing units were occupied at the time of 2000 US Census, leaving a 7.4% vacancy rate. Of the occupied units, 83.5% were owner occupied. The largest number of owner-occupied housing units (45.3%) cost between \$60,000 and \$89,999.







## G. Natural Resources

Certain amenities exist within a community, and of these, its natural resources can guide much of the decision-making process. The availability of land, the composition of that land, the availability of water resources, and the percentage of natural landscapes all contribute to the identity of the community. Maintaining and preserving these natural resources can greatly impact the growth and sustainability of the Owensville Area.

According to the US Census Bureau, Gibson County has a total area of 509 mi<sup>2</sup>. Of this total area, 499 mi<sup>2</sup> or 98% is land and 10 mi<sup>2</sup> or 2% is water. Gibson County is dissected by several creeks, rivers, and drainageways, which flow into the White, Patoka, and Wabash Rivers.

The outcrop/sub-crop area of the *McLeansboro Group* covers about 92% of Gibson County, but has been removed by down-cutting streams in the eastern part of the county. This aquifer system consists in ascending order of the *Shelburn, Patoka, Bond, and Mattoon Formations*, all of which are present in parts of the county. The sandstone is typically gray to tan in color, fine to medium-grained, and massive. It is inter-bedded in places with gray shale. It is fairly extensive and is used in places as an aquifer.

In about 4% of the county, various coal seams within the *Carbondale Group* have been removed by underground mining methods. In underground mines, approximately 50% of the coal seam was typically removed, leaving the potential for storage of substantial amounts of water in the larger mines.

*[Data in this section was taken from the Gibson County Soil Survey.]*

### Topography

Gibson County is located on the *Eastern Shelf of the Illinois Basin*, a prominent regional down-warp centered in Southeastern Illinois and encompassing parts of Indiana, Illinois, and Kentucky. The Cincinnati and Kankakee Arches form the eastern and northern boundaries of the basin in Indiana.

During the Paleozoic Era, the *Illinois Basin* underwent repeated cycles of subsidence and uplift with consequent sedimentation and erosion. Post-Depositional Tectonics produced major and minor faulting in the basin. Two of these faults are found in Gibson County. The northeast trending *New Harmony Fault* cuts across extreme western Gibson County and has more than 400 feet of vertical displacement. The west central *Owensville Fault* also trends northeast but has much less displacement and appears to end north of Owensville. During the Pleistocene period, Gibson County was mantled with till, outwash, and loess deposits from successive cycles of continental glaciations.



The principal bedrock aquifers in Gibson County are Middle and Upper Pennsylvanian Fluvial and Deltaic Sandstones. These sandstones generally are found in narrow channels or broad sheets, are variable in thickness, and are frequently inter-bedded with shale or grade laterally into shale or siltstones. Although these sandstones have a relatively low permeability and commonly produce 4 gallons per minute of water or less, in many areas, they constitute the only available source of potable water. Fractured coals and jointed limestone beds are also used as aquifers in the consolidated rocks.

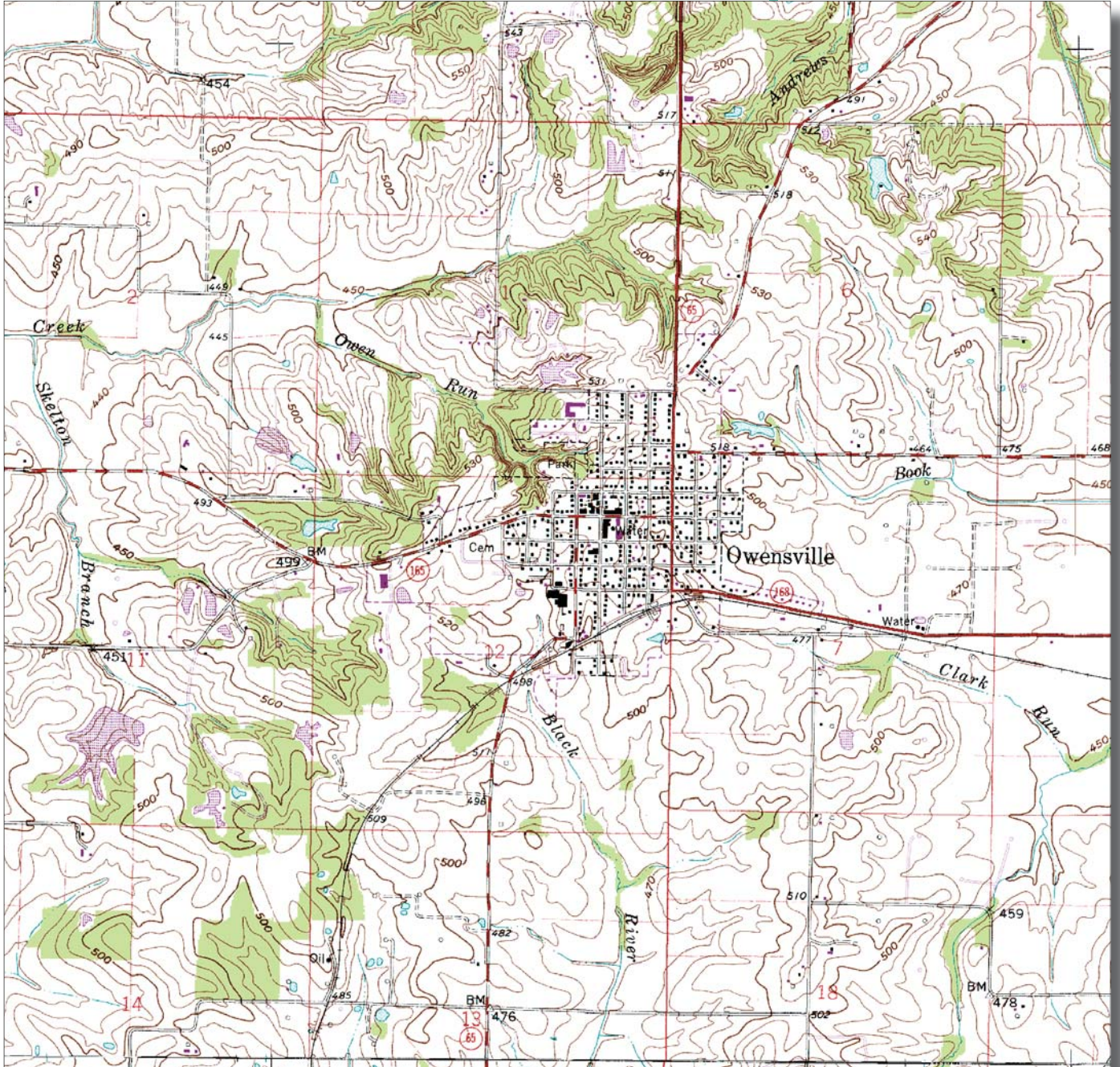
Gibson County lies entirely within the *Wabash Lowland Physiographic Region*. The topography includes rugged uplands, gentle rolling hills, broad flat plains and lakes, and the Wabash River Valley punctuated with isolated valley braid core hills.

*[Data in this section was taken from the Gibson County Soil Survey.]*

The Topography of the Owensville Area is shown on the USGS Quad map located on the following page.



# USGS Quad Map



[The USGS Quad Map was taken from the Purdue University CAAGIS Website.]



## Soils

The Owensville Area contains a variety of soils within *Uniontown Association*. Uniontown Soils generally consist of deep, well-drained and moderately well-drained soils. Permeability is moderate and includes gently-sloping to sloping soils. Most areas are cultivated or used for hay or pasture lands. Crops grown include corn, soybeans, and small grains. Some areas are in forests consisting chiefly of oaks, hickory, and yellow poplar.

- **Alford Series:** (AIB2, AIC3, AID2, AID3) – These soils are the primarily types of soils found within the Town of Owensville. However, they also are found in the areas that surround the Town of Owensville. These soils are deep, well-drained, and moderately permeable soils located in upland areas. All of the soils represented in this series have slight to moderate limitations for use as developmental sites, such as small commercial buildings, lawns, and other extensive development areas, but pose severe limitations regarding the development of local roads and streets.
- **Sylvan Series:** (RIA) – Soils within this series are found throughout the corporate limits and also in the areas that surround the Town of Owensville. They are generally similar to Uniontown and Alford Soils and often found in close proximity to Alford Soils. These soils are deep, well-drained, and moderately-permeable located in upland areas. For development uses, these soils have slight to severe limitations for small commercial buildings, lawns, local roads and streets, and other extensive development areas depending on wetness and slope of the terrain.
- **Uniontown Series:** (UnA, UnB2, UmD3) – Soils within this series are found throughout the Owensville Area. This soil consists of deep, well-drained, moderately well-drained, and flat to strongly-sloping silt loam soils. For development uses, this soil has slight to severe limitations for small commercial builds, local roads and streets, and lawns and other extensive development areas depending on wetness requirements. Likewise, the soil has severe limitations for use as sanitary facilities and construction material for areas that require mild wetness, little to no sand, and limitations on humus.

In review, the *Alford Series* is the predominant soil series in the Owensville Area. However, the other soil types are interspersed relative to the contours and slope of the land. Overall, each of these soils have some limitations for development purposes, some severe, either because of slope, drainage, or low strength quality. The location of these soils can be found on the Owensville Area Soil Map located on the following page.



[Data in this section, as well as the Soil Map for the Owensville Area, was taken from the Gibson County Soil Survey.]



## Water Features

The principal waterways of Gibson County are the *Wabash River* located to the west, and the *White River* and the *Patoka River* located to the north. Several creeks or man-made drainage ditches are located in the Owensville Area. They include *Owen Run* to the northwest, *Montgomery Ditch* to the south and southwest, *Book Run* to the east, and *Clark Run* to the east and southeast.

**Watersheds** - Gibson County is made up of six watersheds: *Brown Ditch-Skelton Creek Basin* in the northwestern part of the county, *Pigeon Creek-Clear Fork Ditch Basin* in the northeastern and eastern parts of the county, *Pigeon Creek-Snake Run Basin* in the southeastern part of the county, *Hurricane Creek Ditch Basin* in the southeastern and southern parts of the county, *Pond Flat Ditch-Jordan Creek Basin* in the southwestern part of the county, and the *West Fork Creek Basin* in the western and central parts of the county. The northern part of Gibson County is drained by the *Patoka River* and *White River*, which join the *Wabash River* at the western edge of the county. The central and southeastern portions of the county are drained by tributaries of *Pigeon Creek* which flow southward to the Ohio River. The southwestern portion is drained by ditches, small streams, and the *Black River* which flows into the *Wabash River*. The Owensville Area Watershed Map shows that boundaries of these six watersheds.

**Floodplains** – Floodplains are a key factor when planning for future development. A floodplain consists of areas on both sides of a body of water that is prone to both seasonal and intermittent flooding. High water tables, insurance restrictions, and other problems with potential groundwater contamination can severely restrict or prohibit development within a floodplain. Typically, only land uses compatible with these severe limitations are allowed. Such uses would include agricultural, forestry, parks, recreation, and open space. All development allowed within a floodplain should be limited to uses that do not diminish the surface water quality, do not contribute to increased flood stages, or risk contaminating the groundwater aquifer.

Floodplains are defined on official maps produced by the *Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)*. FEMA defines the floodplain as the zone designated as the area(s)



in a river valley that would be inundated in a 100-year storm. Flood-Hazard Maps can be obtained from FEMA or the *Indiana Department of Natural Resources - Division of Water (DNR)*. State and federal permits may be required for development in these areas.

The only existing floodplain areas in the Owensville Area are located to the northwest of the community several miles outside of town in an area locally known as “the bottoms”. Because of significant drainage issues associated with the type of soils that are located here, this area is prone to flooding.

*[This floodplain area is shown on the existing land use map located in the Land Use portion of the Action Plan Section.]*



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