

Appended: Recorded in the Land Office at Detroit
Liber E folio 109.

teste
Geo. Hoffman

Endorsed: Land at the River Rouge Certificate of
Survey say Race Ground²⁶ Detroit April 7th 1786 N^o 4
Harvey²⁷

SALE OF MORAVIAN LANDS

River Huron Apr. 9th 1786

Dear Sir, I have wrote a Letter, or rather a kind of
petition to the Major concerning our Improvements
agreable to what we was speaking of. You will be so kind
and look over it, and if it answers the purpose keep or
present it, but if any thing should be wanting, or I had not
wrote it properly, I beg of You to correct it and send it to
me back again, that I might copy it off. I did for that reason
not seal it, but if it answers the purpose as it is, You will
Seal it or not according to Your Judgement. I suppose
I must give You a Bill of Sale, but must ask You the
favour of writing it and it shall be signed when we come
down. Last Week a Dunker with his Son was here looking
at the place, likes it very well, and thinks to find more of
his profession that will join and get Farms of You. Two
Men, the bearers of this were looking at the fields over the
River, they tell me likewise they will rent them for a Year,

²⁶ The race course was on land which John Askin had transferred to Isaac Todd and James McGill and which subsequently (in 1802), acting as their agent, he sold to John Harvey. Still later it was known as the Edwin Reeder farm. For the long legal controversy over its ownership see *Burton Hist. Coll. Leaflet*, IV, No. 1. It lay just east of Fort Wayne, between modern Cavalry and Junction streets.

²⁷ John Harvey was an Englishman who came to America about the year 1796, leaving his family behind. After a considerable sojourn in New York he came to Detroit about the beginning of the nineteenth century. Here he followed the trade of baker, and also conducted an inn, and acquired considerable property. The fire which burned Detroit in 1805, originated in his shop. In 1816 Harvey left Detroit, intending to return to England, but instead he turned up at the falls of the Ohio (lured there by the prospect of the canal which was subsequently built around the falls) and passed the remainder of his life at Jeffersonville, Indiana, dying Dec. 5, 1825. In 1801 Harvey had purchased from Isaac Todd and James McGill a tract of land west of the town now known as Private Claim 39. With the growth of the city this land became very valuable, and was the subject of an extended litigation, which was not finally settled until half a century after Harvey's death. For a fuller sketch of Harvey's career see *Burton Hist. Coll. Leaflet*, IV, No. 1.