

Independence Township
Historic Sites Survey

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Address	Site No.	Address	Site No.
7600 Allen Rd	17-04	5859 Dixie Hwy	33-10
8180 Allen Rd	17-03	5864 Dixie Hwy	33-06
8351 Allen Rd	18-01	5863 Dixie Hwy	33-09
8591 Allen Rd	07-02	5941 Dixie Hwy	33-07
8551 Allen Rd	07-03	5992 Dixie Hwy	33-03
9345 Allen Rd	07-01	6485 Dixie Hwy	32-01
9620 Allen Rd	05-06	7900 Dixie Hwy	19-01
10081 Allen Rd	06-01	unknown Dixie Hwy	19-02
10270 Allen Rd	05-05		
		6494 Eastlawn	29-01
6970 Andersonville Rd	32-05		
7256 Andersonville Rd	31-01	7701 Eston Rd	13-03
		7870 Eston Rd	13-01
6315 Balmoral Terr	32-03	9160 Eston Rd	12-01
		9241 Eston Rd	12-02
4750 Clarkston Rd	13-02		
5460 Clarkston Rd	14-03	9662 Hadley Rd	08-01
5535 Clarkston Rd	15-03	10300 Hadley Rd	04-05
5935 Clarkston Rd	16-01		
6211 Clarkston Rd	21-01	7300 Holcomb Rd	20-03
6440 Clarkston Rd	21-02	7755 Holcomb Rd	18-04
6527 Clarkston Rd	20-02		
6560 Clarkston Rd	20-01	6800 Hubbard Rd	08-04
		6801 Hubbard Rd	17-01
7785 Clement Rd	31-04		
		Lakeview Cem.	29-03
4680 Clintonville Rd	36-02		
5840 Clintonville Rd	25-04	6290 Main St S	29-02
6150 Clintonville Rd	25-02		
6480 Clintonville Rd	25-03	2400 Mann Rd	
36-01			
6851 Clintonville Rd	23-01	4531 Maybee Rd	25-01
7531 Clintonville Rd	14-04	5331 Maybee Rd	35-03
7610 Clintonville Rd	13-04	5585 Maybee Rd	34-01
		5794 Maybee Rd	27-02
6850 Cranberry Lake Rd	17-02	5931 Maybee Rd	34-03
		6091 Maybee Rd	33-01
9900 Darthmouth Rd	01-02	6201 Maybee Rd	33-02
10410 Darthmouth Rd	01-01	6450 Maybee Rd	28-02
10415 Darthmouth Rd	02-01		
		5285 Oak Hill Rd	02-02
7341 Deer Lake Rd	30-01	5511 Oak Hill Rd	03-01
		5839 Oak Hill Rd	03-05

SITE INDEX

Address	Site No.	Address	Site No.
8490 Ortonville Rd	17-05	5015 Sashabaw Rd	34-02
8660 Ortonville Rd	08-03	6024 Sashabaw Rd	27-01
9000 Ortonville Rd	08-02	8290 Sashabaw Rd	15-04
9651 Ortonville Rd	05-03	8620 Sashabaw Rd	10-02
9700 Ortonville Rd	05-01	8809 Sashabaw Rd	10-03
10061 Ortonville Rd	05-02	9750 Sashabaw Rd	03-04
		10275 Sashabaw Rd	03-03
7951 Perry Lake Rd	16-04		
8051 Perry Lake Rd	16-03	6050 Shappie Rd	04-02
8265 Perry Lake Rd	16-02	6255 Shappie Rd	04-03
8551 Perry Lake Rd	09-04	6310 Shappie Rd	04-04
8610 Perry Lake Rd	09-01		
8700 Perry Lake Rd	09-02	5293 Sunnyside Dr	35-02
8780 Perry Lake Rd	09-03		
10491 Perry Lake Rd	04-01	8580 Thendara Blvd	12-06
		8646 Thendara Blvd	12-05
6151 Pine Knob Rd	26-02	8736 Thendara Blvd	12-04
6340 Pine Knob Rd	26-01	8821 Thendara Blvd	12-03
6650 Pine Knob Rd	23-03		
7192 Pine Knob Rd	23-02	5880 Waldon Rd	23-05
7275 Pine Knob Rd	23-04	6415 Waldon Rd	28-01
8295 Pine Knob Rd	15-02	6470 Waldon Rd	21-03
8315 Pine Knob Rd	15-01		
8550 Pine Knob Rd	14-01	6660 Walters Rd	22-01
8815 Pine Knob Rd	10-01		
9260 Pine Knob Rd	11-03	5941 Waterford Hill Terr	33-08
9635 Pine Knob Rd	03-02	6342 Waterford Hill Terr	32-02
unknown Pine Knob Rd	14-02	6350 Waterford Hill Terr	32-04
5240 Pine Knob Tr	35-01	4545 Waterford Rd	33-04
		4578 Waterford Rd	33-05
7278 Ranch Rd	24-01	175 White Lake	11-
		5051 Whipple Lake Rd	11-01
6780 Rattalee Lake Rd	05-04	5175 Whipple Lake Rd	11-02
8066 Reese Rd	18-03	4629 White Lake Rd	31-05
8220 Reese Rd	18-02	4861 White Lake Rd	31-03
8815 Reese Rd	07-05	5109 White Lake Rd	31-02
10250 Reese Rd	06-02		
10465 Reese Rd	06-03		
unknown Reese Rd	07-04		
4406 Rohr Rd	36-03		

historical
photos and
additional historic

was
structures
histories
ownership

Another invaluable resource, the WPA Rural Properties Inventory (1939), consulted to help determine the age and integrity of the houses and farm located each of the sites. A variety of historical maps as well as written were also consulted to ascertain the historical significance and the history of each property.

Each site included in the survey was assigned a new site number, and each was keyed to the Independence Township Fire Department Street Address Map - 2/14/98 .

For example...03-04.

03 refers to section 3
04 is its unique number within the section.

Site inventory forms are arranged numerically, first by section number and second by the unique number, starting with section 1.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

“In April, 1837, George Miller came to this State, walking the entire distance from his home to Lockport, N.Y., where he took the canal boat to Buffalo, and the steamer to Detroit. He then resumed his journey on foot to his new home in Independence Township.”

Portrait and Biographical Album, 1891. pg. 212

At the end of the War of 1812, the federal government set aside six million acres of homestead land for soldiers returning from the war with Britain, two million of it was to be located in Michigan. In preparation for land distribution to the soldiers, the territory of Michigan was to be surveyed. Initial reports from the Surveyor-General indicated that Michigan “...to all appearances, together with information received concerning the balance, is so bad (swampy) there would not be more than one acre out of a hundred, if there should be one out of a thousand, that would in any case admit of cultivation.” A result of this report was the temporary abandonment of the survey, and the subsequent distribution of homesteads to the soldiers. By 1816, the survey was reinstituted, due in large part to the persistence of Lewis Cass, the territorial governor of Michigan.

In the early years, emigration into Michigan was slow. With the completion of the Erie Canal in 1825, the numbers of settlers arriving in Michigan significantly increased. Prior to the opening of the canal, travel to Michigan from the east was primarily by stage coach over the Mohawk and Genessee turnpike, and by covered wagons and horses. Although this method would generally take less time than traveling by the canal, it was also more costly. In addition, it did not allow for the livestock, wagons and household goods that the emigrants would need to take with them to settle their land.

The first settlers arrived in Independence Township in the mid 1820s and early 1830s, primarily from New Jersey and New York. The first settler to purchase and settle land in the township was John W. Beardslee, from Sussex County New Jersey. Beardslee purchased his tract of land in section 35 in 1826, and settled on it five years later in 1831.

By 1834 nearly every section in the southern half of the township had been purchased, while only a few settlers had ventured north into sections 14 and 15. The lower sections of the township, characterized by flat plains, were generally more conducive to farming. The Sashabaw Plains, located in the southeastern corner of the township, were the most notable plains. They extended north and south nearly three miles, and east and west about two and one-half miles. This is the area where many of the earliest settlers first purchased land.

The rest of the township was a mix of flat plains, rolling hills and numerous lakes - connected by branches of the Clinton River. There was considerable marsh surface in the vicinity of these lakes, and nearly all were bordered by swamps.

In 1840 there were eight hundred and thirty people in the township. Among the adult men in the township, the primary occupation was farming. Two hundred and twenty-five men declared themselves as farmers on the 1840 Federal Census, while only seventeen were reported as associated with manufacturing and trades, and two in commerce. By the 1850 Federal Census, the population had increased to well over twelve hundred people, and farming remained the dominate occupation. While there was a slight increase in the number of farmers (two hundred and sixty-one), there was a tremendous increase in the number of other professions, due primarily to the growth of Clarkston Village. Professions listed on the 1850 Federal Census included: carpenter, cooper, blacksmith, wagon maker, shoe maker, merchant, cabinet maker, physician, preacher, teacher, and ten others. The most prevalent of this group were the carpenters, with twenty-four located in the township. This was undoubtedly due to the significant the number of houses being constructed during the mid 1800s.

While the most significant number of settlers in reported in the 1850 Federal Census originated from the New England states, there were also emigrants from Canada, Ireland, England, Scotland and Germany, with the number of English settlers being the highest at forty-six.

By 1877, nearly all of the swampy "waste-land" had been put into agriculture, with the help of artificial drainage. The 1880 Federal Census reported that there were sixty-nine farmers in the township, and fifty-three farm hands, the distinction being that farmers owned the land that they farmed. Many of the larger farms had multiple farm hands living on site.

While the township was primarily agricultural in the late 1800s, the numerous lakes were beginning to draw vacationers out of Detroit in the hot summer months. Several inns located throughout the township were the initial destinations for travelers, who would arrive by railroad and disembark at the township's railroad depot, just south of Clarkston. By the early 1900s, travel to the township was make even easier with the convenience of the personal automobile. Small summer cottages began to be built within the township, and farms - especially those around the lakes, began to be sold and subdivided. This trend continued until the early 1930s, when the depression put a temporary end to further land developments.

Northwest Quadrant

Some of the earliest inhabitants of Independence Township settled in the Northwest Quadrant. Among them were Jeremiah Clark, who came in 1832 and settled in section 7. Clark built a cabin and seeded ten acres with wheat that same year. In 1834 he built a frame barn with a basement, hiring laborers from Pontiac to raise it. He also planted the first apple trees in the township, obtaining them from Buffalo, New York in 1833. Other early settlers in the Northwest Quadrant included Ebenezer Clark (ca. 1834), Amos H. Cross (1835), and William Dunstan, John Derrick, Eli Walter, Job Urch, Jacob Walter and James Clark, all purchasing land in 1837.

The thirty-three sites listed below are located in the Northwest Quadrant.

<u>Address</u>	<u>Site No.</u>
7600 Allen Rd	17-04
8180 Allen Rd	17-03
8351 Allen Rd	08-01
8591 Allen Rd	07-02
8851 Allen Rd	07-03
9345 Allen Rd	07-01
9620 Allen Rd	05-06
10081 Allen Rd	06-01
10270 Allen Rd	05-05
6850 Cranberry Lake Rd	17-02
9662 Hadley Rd	08-01
10300 Hadley Rd	04-05
7755 Holcomb Rd	08-04
6800 Hubbard Rd	08-04
6801 Hubbard Rd	17-01
8490 Ortonville Rd	17-05
8600 Ortonville Rd	08-03
9000 Ortonville Rd	08-02
9651 Ortonville Rd	05-03
9700 Ortonville Rd	05-01
10061 Ortonville Rd	05-02
7951 Perry Lake Rd	16-04
10491 Perry Lake Rd	04-01
6780 Rattalee Lake Rd	05-04
8066 Reese Rd	18-03
8220 Reese Rd	18-02
8815 Reese Rd	07-05
10250 Reese Rd	06-02
10465 Reese Rd	06-03
unknown Reese Rd	07-04
6050 Shappie Rd	04-02
6255 Shappie Rd	04-03

Clinton River Quadrant

This area was named for the Clinton River. The Clinton River flows from Upper Bushman Lake through Independence Township to Deer Lake and Green's Lake (both lakes are located in the Clarkston-Saginaw Trail area). Two lakes in the Clinton River area are Whipple Lake and Crooked Lake. Whipple Lake was formerly known as Bailey Lake. On an outlet of Crooked Lake Jeremiah Clark built a saw mill, ca. 1830s or 1840s. The water power was not sufficient to keep it going and the project was abandoned.

A post office was established in this area in section 15 probably sometime in the 1840s or 1850s. The exact date is unknown and it was moved to Clarkston just a few years later.

The eleven sites listed below are located in the Clinton River Quadrant.

<u>Address</u>	<u>Site No.</u>
5935 Clarkston Rd	16-01
5511 Oak Hill Rd	03-01
5839 Oak Hill Rd	03-05
8051 Perry Lake Rd	16-03
8265 Perry Lake Rd	16-02
8551 Perry Lake Rd	09-04
8610 Perry Lake Rd	09-01
8700 Perry Lake Rd	09-02
8780 Perry Lake Rd	09-03
8809 Sashabaw Rd	10-03
10275 Sashabaw Rd	03-03

Walter's Lake Quadrant

Early citizens such as Aaron Beardslee, Jacob J. Perry and W. Wyckoff settled in the Walter's Lake area in 1833; Aaron Beardslee settled in section 13 and William Wyckoff in section 1. The establishment of the Union Burying Ground in section 2 was due to the death of an infant in the W. Wyckoff family. The Moran Tree Farm is currently operating in this area, on land formerly owned by the Wellman Fur Company.

The eleven sites listed below are located in the Walter's Lake Quadrant.

<u>Address</u>	<u>Site No.</u>
4750 Clarkston Rd	13-02
5460 Clarkston Rd	14-03
9900 Darthmouth Rd	01-02
10410 Darthmouth Rd	01-01
10415 Darthmouth Rd	02-01
7870 Eston Rd	13-01
9160 Eston Rd	12-01
9741 Eston Rd	12-02
5285 Oak Hill Rd	02-02
8295 Pine Knob Rd	15-02
8315 Pine Knob Rd	15-01
8550 Pine Knob Rd	14-01
8815 Pine Knob Rd	10-01
9260 Pine Knob Rd	11-03
9635 Pine Knob Rd	03-02
unknown Pine Knob Rd	14-02
8290 Sashabaw Rd	15-04
8620 Sashabaw Rd	10-02
9750 Sashabaw Rd	03-04
8580 Thendara Blvd	12-06
8646 Thendara Blvd	12-05
8736 Thendara Blvd	12-04
8821 Thendara Blvd	12-03
5051 Whipple Lake Rd	11-01
5175 Whipple Lake Rd	11-02

Clarkston-Saginaw Trail Quadrant

The first land purchased in the township was in section 20, where Clarkston is now located. Among the earliest landowners in the Clarkston-Saginaw Trail area were Linus Jacox, James Cronk, Butler Holcomb, Isaac Davenport and the Clark brothers. The Territorial Road, better known as the Saginaw Turnpike, was built in the Clarkston-Saginaw Trail area in 1832. This is now the Dixie Highway. The first cemetery in this area was established in section 20 in 1839. Three years later this cemetery was replaced with a new cemetery, established on three acres in section 29, donated by William Van Syckle. A burial association was organized in 1850 and the cemetery was given the name Clarkston Union Cemetery.

In the early 1900s Independence Township began to attract tourists who came to enjoy the area lakes. By the 1920s, the Clarkston-Saginaw Trail area was known for summer resorts including the Caribou Inn, the Deer Lake Inn and "Viets on the Hill." The popularity of this resort area was indicated by the fact that the railroad put on twelve coaches each week-end to bring people from the city into the area.

The twenty-nine sites listed below are located in the Clarkston-Saginaw Trail Quadrant.

<u>Address</u>	<u>Site No.</u>
6970 Andersonville Rd	32-05
7256 Andersonville Rd	31-01
6315 Balmoral Terr	32-03
6211 Clarkston Rd	21-01
6440 Clarkston Rd	21-02
6527 Clarkston Rd	20-02
6560 Clarkston Rd	20-01
7785 Clement Rd	31-04
7341 Deer Lake Rd	30-01
5941 Dixie Hwy	33-07
5992 Dixie Hwy	33-03
6485 Dixie Hwy	32-01
7900 Dixie Hwy	19-01
unknown Dixie Hwy	9-02
6494 Eastlawn	29-01
7300 Holcomb Rd	20-03
Lakeview Cem.	29-03
6290 Main St S	29-02
6201 Maybee Rd	33-02
6450 Maybee Rd	28-02
6415 Waldon Rd	28-01
6470 Waldon Rd	21-03
5941 Waterford Hill Terr	33-08
6342 Waterford Hill Terr	32-02
6350 Waterford Hill Terr	32-04
4545 Waterford Rd	33-04
4629 White Lake Rd	31-05
4861 White Lake Rd	31-03
5109 White Lake Rd	31-02

Pine Knob Quadrant

The Pine Knob area was first settled in 1832. Among the earliest lands owners was John J. Beardlsee (section 24), Bildad Philips and Bine Bathrick (section 23) and Peter Voorheis and his son also named Peter (sections 22 and 23). In April 1837, the first town meeting was held in the Pine Knob area in the home of Arthur Davis in section 22. Daniel Burrows was chosen to be moderator and Arthur Davis, clerk. Up until this meeting, the people of Independence Township were part of the governmental body of Pontiac Township.

The eleven sites listed below are located in the Pine Knob Quadrant.

<u>Address</u>	<u>Site No.</u>
5535 Clarkston Rd	15-03
6851 Clintonville Rd	23-01
7531 Clintonville Rd	14-04
7610 Clintonville Rd	13-04
7701 Eston Rd	13-03
6650 Pine Knob Rd	23-03
7192 Pine Knob Rd	23-02
7275 Pine Knob Rd	23-04
7278 Ranch Rd	24-01
5880 Waldon Rd	23-05
6660 Walters Rd	22-01

Sashabaw Plains Quadrant

The Sashabaw Plains were named for Chief Sashabaw. The first white settler in the township was John W. Beardslee, who purchased land in the Sashabaw Plains area in 1826 and constructed a shelter on his property in 1831 with the Thomas Beardslee family and Marcus Riker. In 1831 a few more settlers moved into the Sashabaw Plains area including William Stephens, Peter Voorheis, Archibald Ayers, and Bildad Phillips - who later settled in the Pine Knob area. The first white child born in the township was Townsend Beardslee, son of John W. Beardslee.

The Sashabaw Plains Cemetery was established after the deaths of Mr. Beetle in 1836 and Aaron Beardslee in 1838. Adam Fisher and John D. Fischer each donated one acre of land for the cemetery. The cemetery was established adjacent to the First Presbyterian Church of Independence, the first church in the township, built in 1856. The first school in the township, established in 1834, was also located in the Sashabaw Plains Area.

The twenty-two sites listed below are located in the Sashabaw Plains Quadrant.

<u>Address</u>	<u>Site No.</u>
4680 Clintonville Rd	36-02
5840 Clintonville Rd	25-04
6150 Clintonville Rd	25-02
6480 Clintonville Rd	25-03
5859 Dixie Hwy	33-10
5864 Dixie Hwy	33-06
5885 Dixie Hwy	33-09
2400 Mann Rd	36-01
4531 Maybee Rd	25-01
5331 Maybee Rd	35-03
5585 Maybee Rd	34-01
5794 Maybee Rd	27-02
5931 Maybee Rd	34-03
6091 Maybee Rd	33-01
6151 Pine Knob Rd	26-02
6340 Pine Knob Rd	26-01
5240 Pine Knob Tr	35-01
4406 Rohr Rd	36-03
5015 Sashabaw Rd	34-02
6024 Sashabaw Rd	27-01
5293 Sunnyside Dr	35-02
4578 Waterford Rd	33-05