

## INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP INVENTORY

**Address** 7278 Ranch Rd

**Governmental Unit** Independence Township  
**County** Oakland

**USGS Map Title** Pontiac North  
**Area Map** Independence Fire Department  
Street Address Map - 2/14/96

**Original Usage** Farmstead  
**Present Usage** Golf Course (development)

**Ownership** Oakhurst Limited Partnership

**Photography**  
**Roll: Frame No.** 19:17 2:30,31,32,33,34  
**View of Photo** SW SE,NW,S,S,NW  
**Date of Photo** 2/91 8/98

**Surveyor/Date** D. Dietrich-Smith/Aug 8-12, 1998  
**Recorder/Date** D. Dietrich-Smith/Aug 28, 1998

**Site No.** 24-01  
**Sidwell No.** 08-24-200-003



### 17. Residence

**Description** Two-story house with a stone foundation, and a wrap around front porch. The original house has been added onto many times, several since 1939 (WPA Rural Properties Inventory). It is unknown which section is the original house built in the 1837. The exterior of the structure is a combination of wood and cut stone finish. The stone finish was probably added ca. 1930.

Also located on the site are several farm structures including a large barn with post and beam construction with both stone and brick half walls, a concrete silo, stone half-walls ruins of a large barn, stone half-walls ruins of a smaller barn, a metal corn crib, and a wood frame outbuilding with a stucco exterior surface.

**Date of Construction** house-1837; large barn with a gable roof-1837; silo-unknown; smaller barn (stone walls)-unknown; larger barn (stone walls)-unknown; metal corn crib-unknown; stucco outbuilding-unknown

**Condition** house-poor; large barn with a gable roof-fair; silo-fair (cap missing); smaller barn (stone walls)-ruins; larger barn (stone walls)-ruins; metal corn crib-good; stucco structure-good

**Integrity** house-undetermined; large barn with a gable roof-good; silo-fair; smaller barn (stone walls)-poor; larger barn (stone walls)-poor; metal corn crib-good; stucco structure-undetermined

**Ownership**  
**History** See Appendix B

**Significance** Although the architectural integrity of the site is generally low, the site is significant because of the amount of extant farm buildings and ruins located on it.

The large existing barn is significant because it is one of the oldest remaining barns in the township.

**Bibliographic** Oakland County Office of Deeds, Independence Township, Section 21-24. Loose Leaf.  
**Reference**

Wilson, Gar (Fire Chief, Independence Township). Personal communication. 11/20/90

Tax Assessment Roll Microfiche, 1900-1926. (Independence Township Public Library)

Additional references: see Appendix A

## INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP INVENTORY

Address 7278 Ranch Rd  
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Site No. 24-01  
Sidwell No. 08-24-200-003



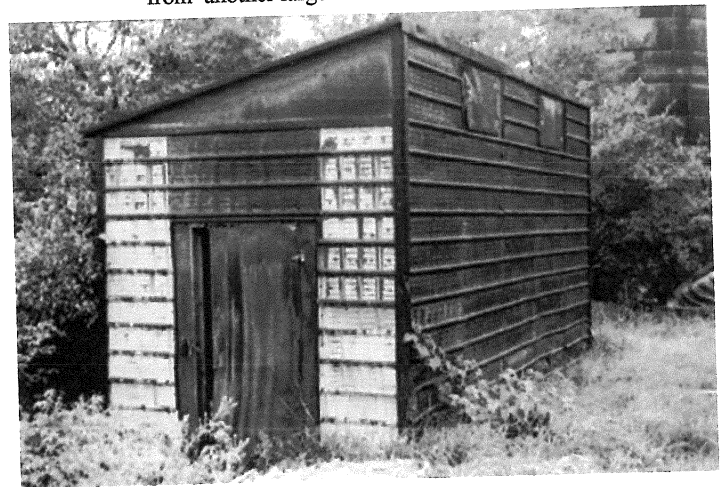
30. Largest existing barn (left), ruins of smaller barn (center)



31. Largest existing barn (NW view), foundation ruins from another large barn



32. Largest existing barn (S view) and silo



33. Crib



34. Outbuilding

## INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP INVENTORY

**Address** 6780 Rattalee Lake Rd

**Governmental Unit** Independence Township  
**County** Oakland

**USGS Map Title** Ortonville  
**Area Map** Independence Fire Department  
Street Address Map - 2/14/96

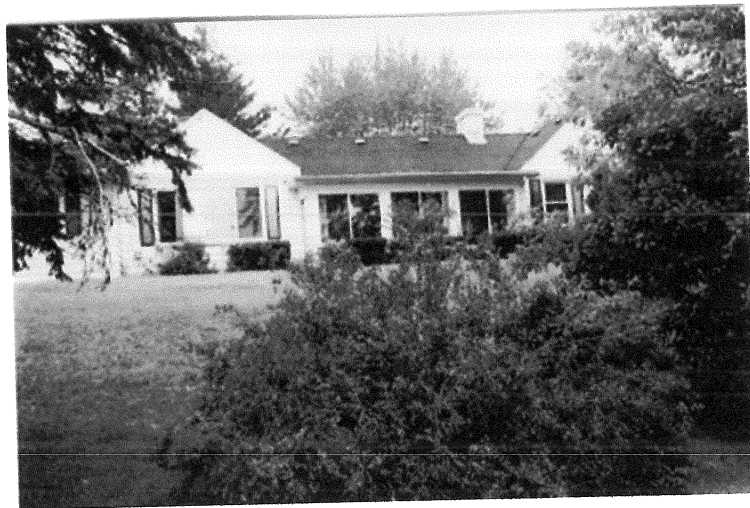
**Original Usage** Farmstead  
**Present Usage** Single-family residence

**Ownership** Theodore & Michele Ginn

**Photography**  
**Roll: Frame No.** 1:36, 2:1  
**View of Photo** W,SW  
**Date of Photo** 8/98

**Surveyor/Date** D. Dietrich-Smith/Aug 8-12, 1998  
**Recorder/Date** D. Dietrich-Smith/Aug 28, 1998

**Site No.** 05-04  
**Sidwell No.** 08-05-300-045



36. Residence

**Description** One-story house with two front gables. Also located on the property are two barns with gambrel roofs and concrete foundations.

**Date of Construction** house-1940; barns-unknown, probably ca. 1940  
**Condition** house-good; barns-good  
**Integrity** house-good; barns-good

**Ownership**  
**History** See Appendix B

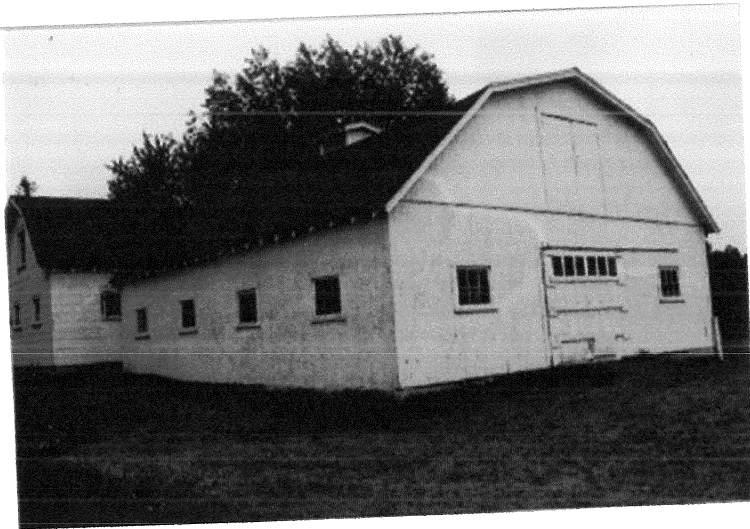
**Significance** Undetermined

**Bibliographic**  
**Reference** See Appendix A

## INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP INVENTORY

Address 6780 Rattalee Lake Rd  
Page 2

Site No. 05-04  
Sidwell No. 08-05-300-045



1. Barns



## INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP INVENTORY

**Address** 8066 Reese Rd

**Governmental Unit** Independence Township  
**County** Oakland

**USGS Map Title** Ortonville  
**Area Map** Independence Fire Department  
Street Address Map - 2/14/96

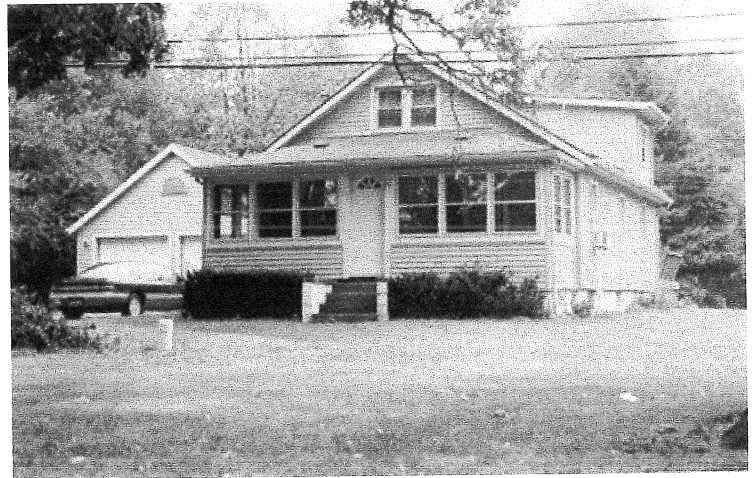
**Original Usage** Single-family residence  
**Present Usage** Single-family residence

**Ownership** Barbara Malew

**Photography**  
**Roll: Frame No.** 1:31  
**View of Photo** NW  
**Date of Photo** 8/98

**Surveyor/Date** D. Dietrich-Smith/Aug 8-12, 1998  
**Recorder/Date** D. Dietrich-Smith/Aug 26, 1998

**Site No.** 18-03  
**Sidwell No.** 08-18-200-004



**Description** One-story bungalow with a concrete block foundation and an enclosed front porch. Also located on the property is a detached two-car garage. Anachronistic siding covers the exterior of the house.

**Date of Construction** house-1938; garage-unknown  
**Condition** house-good; garage-good  
**Integrity** house-good; garage-good

**Ownership**  
**History** See Appendix B

**Significance** Undetermined

**Bibliographic**  
**Reference** See Appendix A

# INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP INVENTORY

**Address** (no address) Reese Rd

**Governmental Unit** Independence Township  
**County** Oakland

**USGS Map Title** Ortonville  
**Area Map** Independence Fire Department  
Street Address Map - 2/14/96

**Original Usage** Farmstead  
**Present Usage** vacant

**Ownership** unknown

**Photography**  
**Roll: Frame No.** 12:18  
**View of Photo** W  
**Date of Photo** 2/91

**Surveyor/Date** D. Dietrich-Smith/Aug 8-12, 1998  
**Recorder/Date** D. Dietrich-Smith/Sept 10, 1998

**Site No.** 07-04  
**Sidwell No.** unknown



**Description** All that visibly remains on this property are the ruins of the rubble stone half walls of a barn, an adjacent concrete silo and mature evergreens which once surrounded the facade of the large house located on the property. According to Richard Powe (a neighbor), this house was once a stop on the underground railroad. He stated that he had heard this in the 1950s from a former owner of this property, who was in his seventies at the time. According to the former owner a subterranean stone-lined room with benches was located somewhere on the property, used to hide escaped slaves heading towards Canada. This room may still be buried somewhere on the property.

**Date of Construction** barn-1899; silo-probably after 1939, did not appear on the WPA Rural Properties Inventory.  
**Condition** barn-ruins; silo-fair (cap missing)  
**Integrity** barn-poor, silo-fair

**Ownership History** See Appendix B

**Significance** This site is significant as the farmstead of Joseph and David Reese. Their parents, John and Alice Reese originated from Wales and settled in section 7 in 1851. When Joseph was an adult, he purchased the family farm, going into considerable debt. By 1891, the farm consisted of two hundred and forty acres, and the improvements upon it reported as the best in the township, having cost over fifteen thousand dollars. In 1908, the property was identified on the township plat map as the "Pinehurst Farm."

This property is also potentially significance as an underground railroad site.

**Bibliographic Reference** Everts, L. H. and Company, *History of Oakland County, Michigan*. Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott and Company. 1877.

Chapman Bros., *Portrait and Biographical Album of Oakland County, Michigan*. Chicago: 1891.

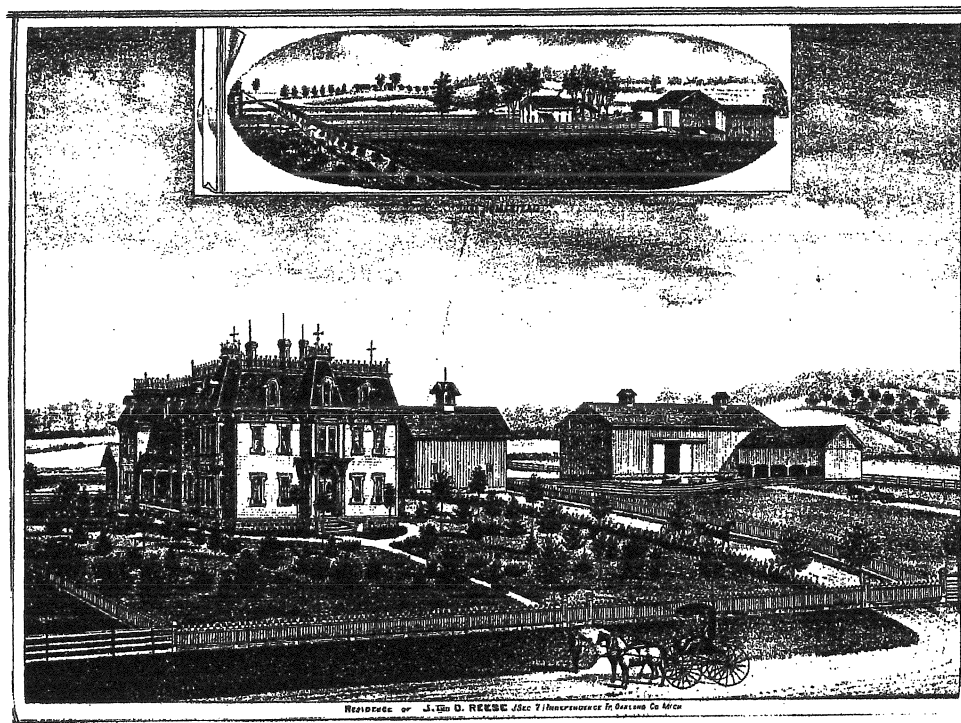
Powe, Richard (neighbor). Personal communication. September, 1998.

Additional references: see Appendix A

## INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP INVENTORY

Address (no address) Reese Rd  
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Site No. 07-04  
Sidwell No. unknown



Line drawing of J & D Reese farmstead, ca. 1877.

## INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP INVENTORY

**Address** 8220 Reese Rd

**Governmental Unit** Independence Township  
**County** Oakland

**USGS Map Title** Ortonville  
**Area Map** Independence Fire Department  
Street Address Map - 2/14/96

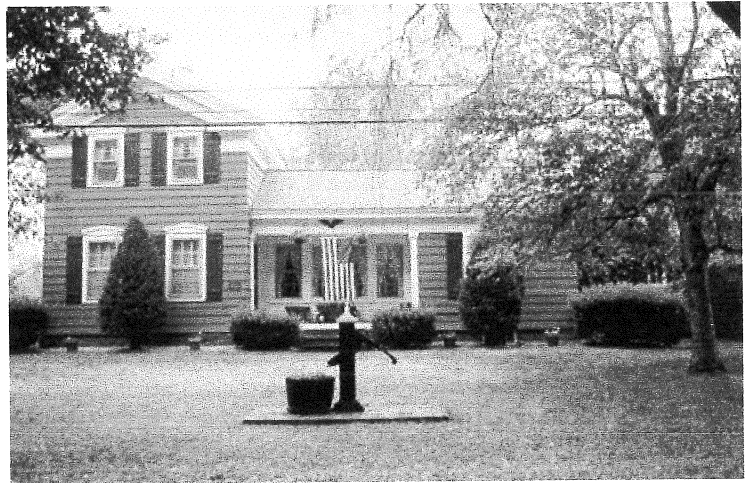
**Original Usage** Farmstead  
**Present Usage** Single-family residence

**Ownership** Ronald M. Maierle

**Photography**  
**Roll: Frame No.** 1:30  
**View of Photo** E  
**Date of Photo** 8/98

**Surveyor/ Date** D. Dietrich-Smith/Aug 8-12, 1998  
**Recorder/Date** D. Dietrich-Smith/Aug 27, 1998

**Site No.** 18-02  
**Sidwell No.** 08-18-200-002



**Description** Gable-front-and-wing Greek Revival house with a rubble stone foundation and a small recessed front porch. Anachronistic features include decorative shutters and aluminum siding.

**Date of Construction** 1840 (plaque on house)  
**Condition** good  
**Integrity** good

**Ownership History** See Appendix B

**Significance** This house is architecturally significant as a good example of the gable-front-and-wing Greek Revival houses that were typically built throughout the township.

**Bibliographic Reference** See Appendix A

## INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP INVENTORY

**Address** 8815 Reese Rd  
**Governmental Unit** Independence Township  
**County** Oakland  
**USGS Map Title** Ortonville  
**Area Map** Independence Fire Department  
 Street Address Map - 2/14/96  
**Original Usage** Farmstead  
**Present Usage** Single-family residence  
**Ownership** Richard Powe  
**Photography**  
**Roll: Frame No.** 7:21 1:29  
**View of Photo** W SW  
**Date of Photo** 9/98 8/98  
**Surveyor/Date** D. Dietrich-Smith/Aug 8-12, 1998  
**Recorder/Date** D. Dietrich-Smith/Aug 27, 1998

Site No. 07-05  
 Sidwell No. 08-07-300-012



8. Residence

**Description** Gable-front-and-wing Greek Revival house with a rubble stone foundation. Several major renovations to the house were made ca. 1930s. These included the enclosure of the original open front porch that spanned the entire length of the wing, and the addition of two dormers on the roof line of the wing. Around the same time, a one-story wing was added to the rear of the home. Unchanged Greek Revival features include the square pilasters on the front gable and the wide trim band which emphasizes the cornice lines of the home. The current owner is in the process of replacing what appears to be the original cedar siding with replacement cedar siding and removing some of the original pine interior trim, replacing it with oak trim. The owner also suspects that a small, rectangular subterranean space located directly below the original covered porch (that does not connect with the structure's basement) might have been used to hide run-away slaves. Also located on the property is a silo, constructed with wood and parged concrete.

**Date of Construction** home-ca. 1840; silo-ca. 1885.  
**Condition** home-good; silo-fair (cap missing)  
**Integrity** home-good; silo-fair

**Ownership**  
**History** See Appendix B

**Significance** This site is significant as the home of Judge Jeremiah Clark, one of the earliest settlers in Independence Township. Clark originated in New York, arriving in Oakland County in 1831. Several years later he settled in Independence Township, purchasing land in section 7. Jeremiah and his brother Nelson were responsible for platting the original section of land in the Village of Clarkston, which bore their family name. In addition, Jeremiah owned and operated a grist mill in Clarkston with his brother Nelson, served as the first supervisor of the township and also as justice of the peace for a number of terms. In 1839 and 1841, Clark was appointed to the Michigan legislature. After this service, Clark was appointed as a judge. Jeremiah Clark is also noted as the first to plant apple trees in the township, receiving one hundred trees from Buffalo New York in 1833.

The site is also significant because, despite the changes to the exterior of the residence, it retains a high degree of Greek Revival defining features. The silo is significant, as the oldest silo found during the survey. The property is also potentially significant as the site of a stop on the Underground Railroad.

**Bibliographic Reference** Everts, L. H. and Company, *History of Oakland County, Michigan*. Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott and Company. 1877  
 Powe, Richard. Personal communication. September, 1998.  
 Additional references - see Appendix A

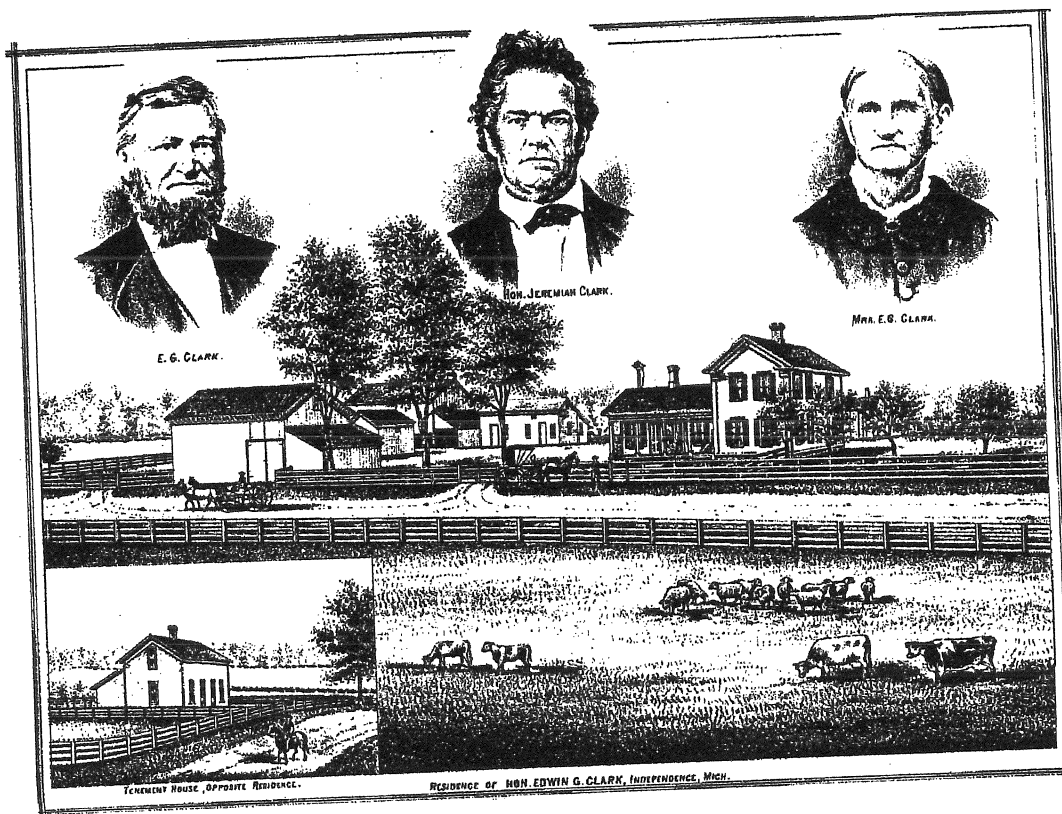
## INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP INVENTORY

Address 8815 Reese Rd  
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Site No. 07-05  
Sidwell No. 08-07-300-012



29. Parged wood and concrete silo



Line drawing of Clark farmstead, ca. 1877



# INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP INVENTORY

**Address** 10250 Reese Rd

**Governmental Unit** Independence Township  
**County** Oakland

**USGS Map Title** Ortonville  
**Area Map** Independence Fire Department  
Street Address Map - 2/14/96

**Original Usage** Farmstead  
**Present Usage** Single-family residence

**Ownership** Ronald E Smith & Martha M. Ponce

**Photography**  
**Roll: Frame No.** 12:24 1:25  
**View of Photo** E SE  
**Date of Photo** 2/91 8/98

**Surveyor/Date** D. Dietrich-Smith/Aug 8-12, 1998  
**Recorder/Date** D. Dietrich-Smith/Aug 27, 1998

**Site No.** 06-02  
**Sidwell No.** 08-06-200-007



24. Residence

**Description** Two-story T-plan Gothic Revival house a with rubble stone foundation. Anachronistic elements include the brick exterior (added 40-50 years ago), and the modern sun room on the north side of the house. Other changes include the loss of several original features including: the decorative window crowns, the covered front porch and ornamental metal trim along the roof ridge line. Despite these changes, the home is still an impressive historic structure.

Additional structures on the property include a barn with a gambrel roof, a small outhouse and the foundation of a small outbuilding (no photo). The property includes mature plantings, including a sugar maple estimated at over 150 years old. The owner raises lamas.

**Date of Construction** house-1875, barn-1875 (rebuilt ca. 1984), outhouse-unknown (probably era of residence)  
**Condition** house-good; barn-good; outhouse-good  
**Integrity** house-fair; barn (rebuilt); outhouse-good

**Ownership**  
**History** See Appendix A

**Significance** This property is significant as the site of the A.H. Cross farmstead. A.H. Cross was the son of Moses Cross, one of the first settlers in the northern section of the township. (The Moses Cross farmstead was located about a mile east of A.H. Cross' property. ) In 1877, the A.H. Cross farmstead was considered one of the finest in the township.

It is also significant as one of the few properties identified during the survey which best reflects the rural agricultural past of Independence Township.

**Bibliographic Reference** Smith, Ronald. Personal communication. August 5, 1998.  
Everts, L. H. and Company, *History of Oakland County, Michigan*. Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott and Company. 1877.

Additional references: see Appendix A

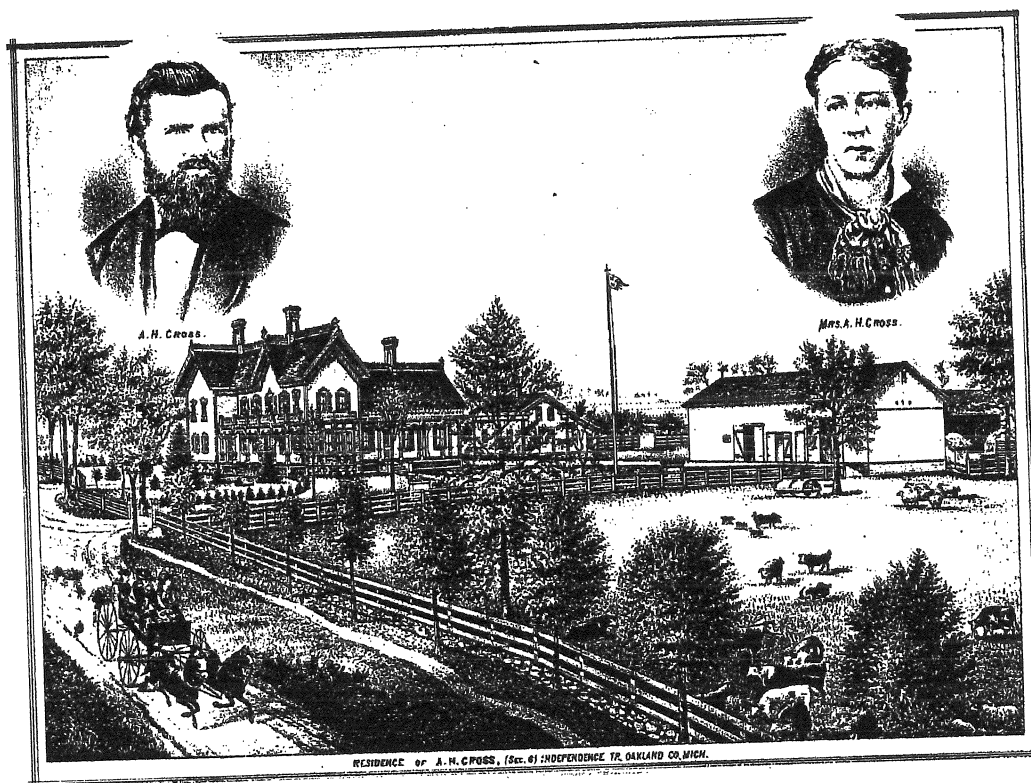
## INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP INVENTORY

Address 10250 Reese Rd  
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Site No. 06-02  
Sidwell No. 08-06-200-007



25. Barn (rebuilt 1984) and outhouse



Line drawing of the A.H. Cross farmstead, ca. 1877.

## INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP INVENTORY

**Address** 10465 Reese Rd  
**Governmental Unit** Independence Township  
**County** Oakland  
**USGS Map Title** Ortonville  
**Area Map** Independence Fire Department  
 Street Address Map - 2/14/96  
**Original Usage** Farmstead  
**Present Usage** Single-family residence  
**Ownership** Michael J. Dean  
**Photography**  
**Roll: Frame No.** 1:26,27,28  
**View of Photo** W, N, SW  
**Date of Photo** 8/98  
**Surveyor/Date** D. Dietrich-Smith/Aug 8-12, 1998  
**Recorder/Date** D. Dietrich-Smith/Aug 27, 1998

**Site No.** 06-03  
**Sidwell No.** 08-06-100-010



26. Residence

**Description** Gable-front-and-wing Greek Revival house with a small recessed (enclosed) porch and a rubble stone foundation. The house has several typical Greek Revival embellishments that are often lacking in other same style homes found within the township. These include the wide trim band which emphasizes the cornice lines of the home, the square pilasters on front gable and the fan light located within the pediment of the gable facade. An addition was built on the east side of the house in 1989. Ranch style additions, connecting to the Greek Revival wing have also been made. An additional anachronistic change to the structure includes the covered porch which extends along the entire facade of the structure.

Several farm buildings are located on the property including two large barns-one with a gambrel roof (foundation not visible) and one with a gable roof and concrete foundation.

**Date of Construction** house-1860; barn with gable roof-1889, remodeled 1938; barn with gambrel roof- this may be the tool house, 40x30x24', described in the 1939 WPA Rural Properties Inventory, with a replacement roof; small concrete outbuilding-unknown.

**Condition** house - good; barns-good  
**Integrity** house-fair (Removal of the anachronistic front porch would improve the integrity of the structure.)  
 barns-good

**Ownership**  
**History** See Appendix B

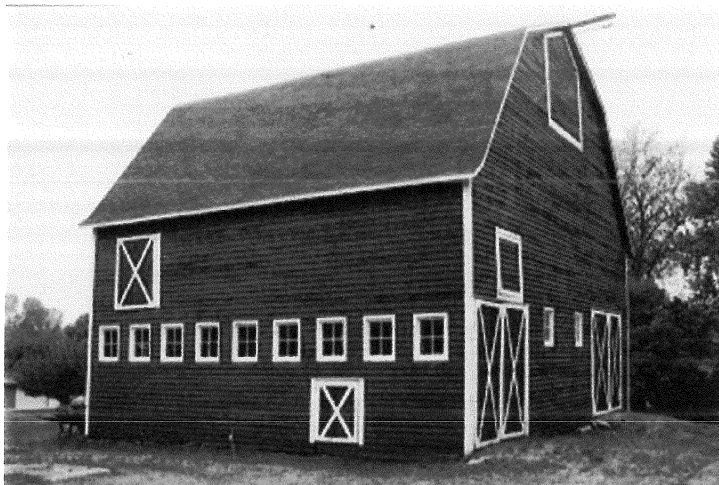
**Significance** The home is significant as a good example Greek Revival architecture. The site is also significant because it is one of the few properties in the township which has an historic farmhouse as well as several farm buildings.

**Bibliographic**  
**Reference** See Appendix A

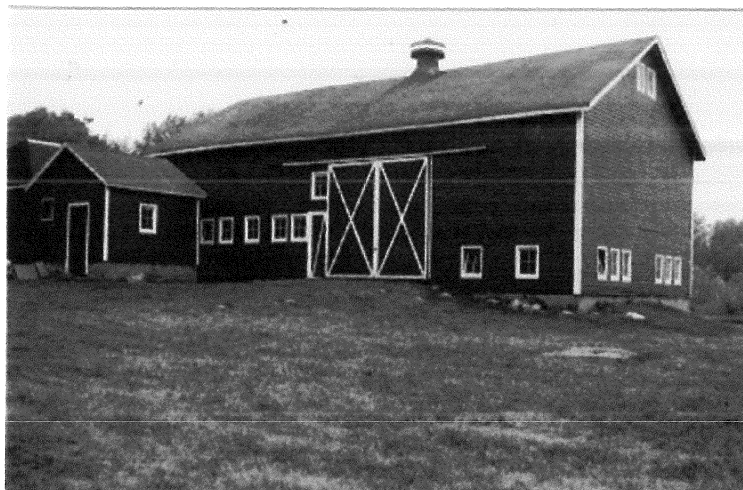
## INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP INVENTORY

Address 10465 Reese Rd  
Page 2

Site No. 06-03  
Sidwell No. 08-06-100-010



27. Barn (gambrel roof)



28. Barn (gable roof) and small outbuilding

## INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP INVENTORY

**Address** 4406 Rohr Rd

**Governmental Unit** Independence Township  
**County** Oakland

**USGS Map Title** Pontiac North  
**Area Map** Independence Fire Department  
Street Address Map - 2/14/96

**Original Usage** Farmstead  
**Present Usage** Single-family residence

**Ownership** Brian M. White

**Photography**  
**Roll: Frame No.** 7:5  
**View of Photo** NW  
**Date of Photo** 9/98

**Surveyor/Date** D. Dietrich-Smith/Aug 8-12, 1998  
**Recorder/Date** D. Dietrich-Smith/Aug 26, 1998

**Site No.** 36-03  
**Sidwell No.** 08-36-276-001



**Description** Two-story house with a hip roof, a concrete foundation, anachronistic decorative shutters and a covered front porch.

**Date of Construction** unknown  
**Condition** good  
**Integrity** undetermined

**Ownership**  
**History** See Appendix B

**Significance** Undetermined

**Bibliographic**  
**Reference** See Appendix A