

## INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP INVENTORY

**Address** 7341 Deer Lake Rd  
**Governmental Unit** Independence Township  
**County** Oakland  
**USGS Map Title** Clarkston  
**Area Map** Independence Fire Department  
Street Address Map - 2/14/96  
**Original Usage** Farmstead  
**Present Usage** Single-family residence  
**Ownership** Mrs. Frank A. Crowley  
**Photography**  
**Roll: Frame No.** 5:9  
**View of Photo** S  
**Date of Photo** 8/98  
**Surveyor/Date** D. Dietrich-Smith/Aug 8-12, 1998  
**Recorder/Date** D. Dietrich-Smith/Aug 28, 1998

**Site No.** 30-01  
**Sidwell No.** 08-30-251-005



**Description** So many changes have been made to this house that its original character has been obscured. The house has three main sections which form an 'L'. The one and one-half story corner section of the 'L' has a dormer window at the facade. The house has anachronistic windows and siding. In addition to demolishing a front porch, the current owners also built a small addition on the west side of the house.

There is a brick lined subterranean room on the property, discovered by the gas company, that the owner suspects was used as a part of the Underground Railroad to hide fugitive slaves.

Also located on the property is a small stucco barn, which was built in 1934 and now serves as a garage.

**Date of Construction** house- ca. 1836 (1991 survey- reference unknown), 1880 (WPA Rural Properties Inventory, possibly a remodel date)

**Condition** house-good; barn/garage-good  
**Integrity** house-poor; barn/garage-poor

**Ownership History** See Appendix B

**Significance** The property is potentially significant as a stop on the Underground Railroad.

**Bibliographic Reference** Crowley, Frank. Personal communication. 1/8/91  
Additional references: see Appendix A