

Frains Lake Settlement in Superior Township

Plymouth Road at Prospect Road, Superior Township, MI 48170



Although the small community of Frains Lake never achieved the lasting status of Dixboro Village, it is nonetheless an iconic landmark in Superior Township. Road signs spell the community's name as "Frains Lake," but it is sometimes seen as "Frain's Lake" or "Frain Lake."

The settlement dates to 1835, when Michael Frain, who came to Michigan from New York, purchased land in Superior Township. He died in 1854, and is buried in the Pray Cemetery further east on Plymouth Road. A Superior Township Post Office operated at Curtis Road near Frains Lake in the early 1850s. The Frains Lake schoolhouse, built in 1872 and now privately owned, bears witness to the community that once thrived here.



In the 1920s and 1930s, there were three gas stations, two restaurants and a general store in the area. Now private homesites surround the lake and are noticeable along the north shore. There is no public access to the lake, which was once connected to nearby Murray's Lake by a narrow outlet; the two were jointly referred to as Hourglass Lake in an early survey.

To get here from the Superior Township Hall (3040 N. Prospect Rd.):

Turn RIGHT (north) on Prospect Rd., following the curve after crossing Ford Rd., until Prospect Rd. terminates at Plymouth Rd. (2.1 miles)

The community of Frains Lake continues to the east and to the west of Prospect Rd. along both sides of Plymouth Rd.