

# Early Settlements in Superior Township

Hamlet of Panama, Ford Road at Gotfredson Road

Hamlet of Superior, Superior Road at First Street

Traces of the early settlements of Dixboro and Frains Lake in Superior Township still exist today, but other sites of early Superior Township population clusters have left little evidence of their early existence. Settlers of the 1820s and 1830s for some time called Panama and Superior home. Information about these settlements has been taken from a 1994 Superior Township Historic Resources Inventory compiled by Ina V. Hanel.



The hamlet of Panama was located at the intersection of Gotfredson and Ford Roads. The hamlet was established in 1825, when a number of settlers arrived from New York and settled in the eastern portion of the township. At its peak, the hamlet included a school, church, mill, blacksmith shop and several homes. The non-denominational Free Church was built in 1855 and removed during the 1930s. The Free Church Cemetery and a few of the houses are all that remain today.

The hamlet of Superior was located in the southwest quarter of Superior Township's Section 32, along the Huron River. It was first established as the town of Lowell in the 1830s. The town laid out its first street, built several houses, and was the home of a short-lived Superior Bank in the 1830s. An 1874 plat map indicates the town area consisted of a paper mill and a boarding house. The Township's first industry, the Ypsilanti Paper Mill, was located there during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The only ties to Superior that remain are a few 19<sup>th</sup> century houses and the name "First Street."



To get to the Panama site from Superior Township Hall (3040 N. Prospect Rd.):

Turn RIGHT (north) onto Prospect Rd. (.9 miles)

Turn RIGHT (east) on Ford Rd. (2 miles)

The old Panama area is at the intersection of Ford and Gotfredson Roads.

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

Turn LEFT (south) onto Prospect Rd. (2.1 miles)

Turn RIGHT (west) onto Geddes Rd. (1.7 miles)

At the roundabout, take the 2<sup>nd</sup> exit onto Superior Rd. (.9 miles)

The Superior hamlet site is at the intersection of Superior Rd. and First St.