## INFORMATION ON HOW TO READ LEGAL LAND DESCRIPTIONS

Issued as a courtesy under Authority of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources


A township is normally a quadrangle approximately 6 miles on a side which contains thirty-six (36) sections. As shown below in some townships corrections for the earth's curvature will show up on it's northern and western boundary lines. Also, note the way in which sections are numbered within a township.


Sections are typically divided into quarters (ex: NW 1/4) and sometimes halves (ex: W1/2), which are then divided again into quarter-quarters (ex: NW1/4 of NW1/4) and so on. It is best to remember to read a land description backwards.


Typical example showing distances, acreages and land descriptions within a section.
1 Mile $=5280$ Feet $=320$ Rods $=80$ Chains


Typical example of a section containing Government Lots (fractional part of a section designated on the township plat).


