Michigan SHPO Architectural Properties Identification Form

Property Overview and Location

Street Address	177 North Main Street				
City/Township, State, Zip Code	Clarkston, Michigan 48346				
County	Oakland				
Assessor's Parcel #	14-08-20-179-019; 14-08-20-179-014				
Latitude/Longitude (to the 6th decimal point)	Lat: 42.741039	Long: -83.419746			
Ownership	Private ☒	Public-Local ☐	Public-State ☐	Public-Federal ☐	Multiple ☐

Property Type

Building ☒ select sub-type below Commercial ☐ Residential ☒ Industrial ☐ Other ☐	Structure ☐ Object ☐

(Insert primary photograph below.)



Architectural Information

Construction Date	c 1905
Architectural Style	Queen Anne
Building Form	Front Gable
Roof Form	Hipped
Roof Materials	Asphalt Shingles
Exterior Wall Materials	Clapboard
Foundation Materials	Fieldstone
Window Materials	Wood
Window Type	Double Hung
Outbuildings	Yes ☒ No ☐
Number/Type:	1/Barn

Eligibility

Individually Eligible	Criterion A ☐	Criterion B ☐	Criterion C ☐	Criterion D ☐
Criteria Considerations:	a. ☐ b. ☐ c. ☐ d. ☐ e. ☐ f. ☐ g. ☐			
Component of a Historic District	Contributing to a district ☒	Non-contributing to a district ☐	Historic District Name:	Clarkston Historic District
Not Eligible ☐				

Area(s) of Significance	Domestic Architecture					
Period(s) of Significance	1832-1970					
Integrity – Does the property possess integrity in all or some of the 7 aspects?						
Location ☒	Design ☒	Materials ☒	Workmanship ☒	Setting ☒	Feeling ☐	Association ☐
General Integrity:	Intact ☒	Altered ☐	Moved ☐	Date(s):		
Historic Name	The Stewart House					
Current/Common Name	McLean, Steven T., and Leah S.					
Historic/Original Owner	Travis, Henry					
Historic Building Use	Single Family					
Current Building Use	Single Family					
Architect/Engineer/Designer	Unknown					
Builder/Contractor	Unknown					

Survey Date	October 30, 2022	Recorded By	Nancy Moon	Agency Report #	

For SHPO Use Only	SHPO Concurrence?: Y / N	Date:

Narrative Architectural Description

Provide a detailed description of the property, including all character defining features and any accessory resources.

This two and one-half floor Queen Anne structure sits on the northern most west property of the district on the northwest corner of North Main Street and Miller Road. It has a steeply pitched hipped roof with several cross gables and two towers – one on the south elevation and the other on the east elevation.

The east elevation tower is at the northeast corner with a gable covered by fish scale shingles and an eyelid overhang with distinctive exposed rafters and a spider web gable vent. The first and second levels of the tower have three double hung windows – one over one but the middle window is wider with a larger lower pane. The southern portion of the east elevation has one double hung one over one window on the second level and a similar but larger double hung window on the lower level with a larger lower pane.



(east elevation)


(tower gable – east elevation)

The south elevation (on the west end) has an almost identical tower. A one-story wraparound porch connects the two towers on the first level. Four steps lead to the front entrance (angled between the south and east elevations) with a wooden decorative door with a single glass panel. The porch has a decorative frieze suspended from the porch ceiling with eight turned spindle columns (four on each side of the steps) connected to the frieze via arched brackets. The porch has a simple turned spindle balustrade and a similar balustrade with handrail along both sides of the steps ending in a turned newel post on the first step on each side. Square lattice covers the underneath portion of the porch and porch steps.



(first floor entrance – southeast corner elevation)



(south elevation)



(south elevation)



(south elevation dormer)

Above the original wraparound porch on the second floor is another double hung one over one window (lower pane larger). The roofline hipped dormer encloses a small window with decorative hexagonal and crisscross wood trim.


(south elevation)

The west elevation has two additions. The first addition (two floors) with a steep gabled roof connects to the tower on the south creating a second entrance into the tower at the connection of the addition and the west side of the tower on the first floor. A small corner porch exists with similar decorative detailing as the wraparound porch above this entrance. A double hung window is just outside of the edge of this porch to the west on the first floor on the south elevation. The second floor has a ten pane (two by five) wood door with a rectangular transom on the west elevation.

The second one-story addition was double hung one over one windows on three sides – three on the south and north elevations, and six on the west elevation. The addition has a flat roof.



(north elevation)

On the north elevation, the original portion of the house has a hipped roof dormer with a single pane window. The second floor has a double hung one over one window on the east end and a smaller window toward the west. The first floor has a large double hung one over one window directly below the dormer and another square, single pane window toward the west. The first addition on the west elevation has a double hung one over one window to the east of an entrance single glass pane and wood door. A small landing with a spindle balustrade connects to multiple steps to the ground with a balustrade and handrail along the steps.

History of the Resource

Provide information on previous owners, land use, construction and alteration dates in a narrative format. This is required for all intensive level surveys and designation and recommended for other identification efforts.

This late Queen Anne style house was built for Henry Travis in 1905. The fish scale shingles and webbed gable vents in the gables along with the diagonal front door and wraparound front porch are original to the house. This house is the northern most house in the district on the west side of Main Street. There was a tremendous jump in property value of this William Holcomb property lot between 1905 and 1906. The Clarkston Village map of 1908 shows a house labeled H. L. Travis.

There was no electricity in the village until 1918. Henry Travis sold the house to the Stewart family in 1919. Members of the Stewart family lived in the house for over 50 years. Members of the Stewart family served on the Clarkston Village City Council.

The barn was converted to a garage and the back porch was added c 1927.

By the 1970s the home was owned by Floyd and Delreta Tower. Mr. and Mrs. Tower had a distinguished presence in the community. Floyd spent time on the Clarkston Village Council and Planning Commission as well as Supervisor of Independence Township. While supervisor he purchased Clintonwood Park for the community. He was active in the American Legion Post #63 and served as a finance officer and post commander. Mrs. Tower, Delreta, was a long-time election poll worker, Girl Scout Leader, and a member and officer of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 63. They were members of the Clarkston United Methodist Church.



(1999 - barn along Miller Road)

In 2001, Floyd Tower did a major renovation to the barn due to a deteriorating roof impacting the structural integrity of the barn.

Most likely the second addition on the west elevation was added while the Tower's owned the house.



(1984- southwest elevation)



(1984 – east elevation)

Steven and Leah McLean purchased the home from the Delreta Dawn Tower Trust in 2017. Steven is a DO in emergency medicine and Leah is a nurse. In 2017 they added an exterior door on the north side, changed the location and size of the north facing window to work with interior modifications; removed rear door and stairway on south side and replaced a door with a window that matches existing windows. In 2021, they renovated the wood newel posts and handrails for the front and side porch steps having new ones cut to exactly match the old deteriorated ones.



(2018 - east elevation)


(2018 - north elevation)

In 2022, Steve and Leah agreed to landscaping along the fence on Main Street and the fence between the house and the barn on Miller Road.

Statement of Significance/Recommendation of Eligibility

Provide a detailed explanation of the property's eligibility for the National Register, including an evaluation under at least one of the four criteria, discussion of the seven aspects of integrity, and recommendations about eligibility. <u>This is required for all properties</u>.

The property was originally part of the tract registered by Butler Holcomb with the federal government in 1831. Butler Holcomb built the second house in Clarkston and the first sawmill in the village for sawing lumber using the waterpower from Mill Pond.

Overall, the house retains its historic architectural details and holds sufficient integrity in at least five aspects to remain as a resource to the Clarkston Historic District.

References

List references used to research and evaluate the individual property.

(1) 1908 map of the Village of Clarkston;
(2) Research done using the grant funding obtained by Mollie Lynch, Library Director 1991 – 2005 and researched by Susan K. Basinger;
(3) Clarkston A Michigan Legacy Preserved Clarkston Community Historical Society, Inc. 1981;
(4) Clarkston News 1955 August 11 article "Regular Meeting Of Clarkston Village Council held June 20, 1955";
(5) Handwritten notes by Nancy Keyes – SURVEY OF MICHIGAN HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES;

(6) Heritage, Philadelphia: L.H. Everts & Co., 1877 Edited by Jennifer L. Radcliff;
(7) Clarkston News 2005 August 31 article “Obituaries”;
(8) Clarkston News 2020 March 2 article “Delreta-Dawn-Tower” by Phil Custodio;;
(9) Old photos supplied by Clarkston Community Historical Society, Cara Catallo and Cory Johnston;
(10) Clarkston Historic District Certificate of Appropriateness dated Nover 27, 2017 for 177 North Main Street;
(11) Clarkston Historic District Certificate of Appropriateness dated October 10, 2017 for 177 North Main Street;
(12) Clarkston Historic District Certificate of Appropriateness dated July 12, 2021 for 177 North Main Street;
(13) Notice to Proceed dated April 25, 2022 for 177 North Main Street;
(14) Clarkston Historic District Certificate of Appropriateness dated November 2, 2001 for 177 North Main Street.