Michigan SHPO Architectural Properties Identification Form

Property Overview and Location

Street Address	20 North Main Street				
City/Township, State, Zip Code	Clarkston, Michigan 48346				
County	Oakland				
Assessor's Parcel #	14-08-20-402-036				
Latitude/Longitude (to the 6th decimal point)		Lat 42.736599		Long: -83.418709	
Ownership	Private ☒	Public-Local ☐	Public-State ☐	Public-Federal ☐	Multiple ☐

Property Type

(Insert primary photograph below.)

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



Architectural Information

Construction Date	c 1965	
Architectural Style	Ranch	
Building Form	Rectangle	
Roof Form	Entryway Off-Center Front Gable; Roof Side Gable	
Roof Materials	Asphalt Shingles	
Exterior Wall Materials	Brick/ Redwood Shakes	
Foundation Materials	Concrete Blocks	
Window Materials	Vinyl	
Window Type	Casement/Double Hung	
Outbuildings	Yes ☒	No ☐
Number/Type:	1/garage	

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; Property Historic Community and Commercial Connection
Period(s) of Significance	1832-970

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	None
Current/Common Name	Morris, Steven and Amy
Historic/Original Owner	Russell, Frank and Helene
Historic Building Use	Single Family
Current Building Use	Single Family
Architect/Engineer/Designer	Unknown
Builder/Contractor	Unknown

Survey Date	Mar 10, 2021	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 structure sits on the south side of the overflow from Clinton River Watershed Lower Mill Pond to Parke Lake. The house sits on a hillside that slants down to Parke Lake. The red brick ranch style home (facing west on the east side of Main Street) has a long low-pitch roofline with its horizontal orientation parallel to the street. An off-centered gable, just north of the center, provides an insert for the front door. The insert is lined with cedar shakes surrounding a wooden fifteen lites (three by five) front door with a five-lites side panel to the right side (south) of the front door. Next to the doorway on the north side is a small casement window.



(west elevation)



(west elevation – front entrance)

Also the east elevation (front) of the house there are two casement windows on the south end and one casement window on the north end – all with dark shutters.



(north elevation)

The north elevation overlooks the overflow stream from the Clinton River Watershed Lower Mill Pond. The north elevation has a dark stained wood deck extending from the first floor with a doorway and a pair of double hung windows (one over one) on the east end and a single one over one double hung window on the west end. On the ground level below the deck there is a single double hung one over one window directly below the pair on the first floor.


(southeast elevation)

The south elevation has two double hung windows (one over one) on the first floor, and it appears as if another window toward the west on the ground level and an entrance on the east end of the ground level. There is a deck extending from the east elevation first floor with a balustrade and stairs leading from the south end of the deck to the ground level.

On the south side of the house is a one-story brick garage with a low-pitched gable roof facing west. The garage has a casement window on the north elevation and a panel overlap on the brick on the south elevation.

To block the view of the street from the front of the house a fieldstone wall lines the sidewalk and encloses the semi-circular drive. There is a wooden stanchion at each end of the stone wall, each topped with an electric lamp. The garage is not attached and sits to the south of the house.



(west elevation fieldstone wall)

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.

The 1860 tax records indicate Jedediah Yager/Yeager & Van Winkle owned a portion of the property. The 1860 village map sites a footprint of a building labeled J. Yager. Yager/Yeager was one of Clarkston's first blacksmiths. Jedediah Yeager/Yager came to Michigan in 1854 and served in the Civil War in Battery D, First Michigan Light Artillery. By 1872 the shop was moved to West Washington Street. The 1872 Map of the Village has a footprint of a building labeled H. Lewis & Crosby, blacksmith. The village map of 1896 has a building site labeled Lewis & Bower, blacksmith.



(original structure that was demolished)

By 1914 Floyd Andrews had ownership of the property. Mr. Andrews was the Independence Township Supervisor for 24 years and the Clarkston Postmaster for 22 years. Tax Records indicate by 1950 ownership was now Harry Benjamin Yoh. He was a physician and surgeon and lived with his wife Isabel Florence at 21 East Washington which also served as his office.

Then in 1960 long after the blacksmiths ceased to exist a ranch-style house was constructed on this site for Frank and Helene Russell. Mr. Russell was president of Trico Associates Inc. of Clarkston and a consulting engineer for American Motors in Toledo. He died at the age of 62 in 1984 from an industrial accident.

The house changed hands twice and in 2002 Chris and Ruth Rush purchased the property. They transformed the tract-style house into the one today that sits in its wooded lakeside setting. They extended the chimney, renovated the front entrance, and removed the existing low-pitch roof and replaced it with a 6 ½ pitch roof. In 2013, the Rush family removed the rubber-style roofing on the garage and replaced it with asphalt shingles. The soffits and fascia were also replaced.

The current owners Amy and Steven Morris purchased the home from Gwendolyn Grunsnick in 2017.



(2017 west elevation photo from across the street)

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 house is an excellent example of an artistic ranch-style house. The property has historic community and commercial connections.

References

List references used to research and evaluate the individual property.

(1) Independence Township Tax Assessment book of 1871;
(2) 1872 map of Clarkston, *Atlas of Oakland County;*
(3) Research done using the grant funding obtained by Mollie Lynch, Library Director 1991 – 2005 and researched by Susan K. Basinger;
(4) 1860 map of Clarkston;
(5) *Home Tour Clarkston Scamp Celebrating 25 years Silver Anniversary Edition 1983-2007;*
(6) *The Clarkston News, November 7, 1984* obituary Frank T. Russell;
(7) Clarkston Historic District Certificate of Appropriateness dated July 4, 2004, for 20 North Main Street;
(8) Clarkston Historic District Certificate of Appropriateness dated November 1, 2013, for 20 North Main Street;
(9) Old phots from Cara Catallo and the Clarkston Community Historical Society.