Michigan SHPO Architectural Properties Identification Form

Property Overview and Location

Street Address	43 East Washington Street				
City/Township, State, Zip Code	Clarkston, Michigan 48346				
County	Oakland				
Assessor's Parcel #	14-08-20-403-003				
Latitude/Longitude (to the 6th decimal point)	Lat: 42.736410	Long: -83.416970			
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 1900	
Architectural Style	Queen Anne	
Building Form	Irregular	
Roof Form	Gambrel	
Roof Materials	Cedar Shakes	
Exterior Wall Materials	Clapboard	
Foundation Materials	Fieldstone	
Window Materials	Wood	
Window Type	Double Hung	
Outbuildings	Yes ☐	No ☒
Number/Type:		

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 and Historic Community Connection					
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	None					
Current/Common Name	Hoffman, Joel L. and Miller, Shelly K.					
Historic/Original Owner	Tiffany, Bertha					
Historic Building Use	Single Family					
Current Building Use	Single Family					
Architect/Engineer/Designer	Unknown					
Builder/Contractor	Unknown					

Survey Date	May 5, 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 Queen Anne style structure sits on the north side of East Washington Street. The two-story section on the west is the original portion of the house. The gambrel roof front gables on the house and garage both facing south are faced with scalloped shingles. There is a spandrel connecting the east and west upper portion of the house gable. The house has a single diamond shaped window under the gable peak and two one-over one double hung windows on the second level directly below the spandrel. The garage has one double hung one over one window in the gable.



(south elevation)

The south elevation of the house has a single-story wrap-around porch to the east connecting to the box bay on the east elevation. To the west of the porch is a single large double hung one over one window. The porch has seven square columns, each resting on a pedestal that is the height of the previous spindle work balustrade. A decorative frieze suspended from the porch ceiling connects the decorative brackets to the tops of the columns. The porch has a slightly pitched cedar shake hipped roof. There are two wood porch doors – the first on the south elevation with a one over one double hung window directly east of the doorway. As the porch wraps around to the east, there is a double hung one over one window (facing east) then a second wood door entryway facing south right before the box bay.



(south elevation – west portion)

Directly above the bay on the second floor of the east elevation are two gabled dormers each with a wondow.

The box bay has a one over one double hung window on both the south and east elevations. The bay then connects to the one-story addition between the house and the garage.

This connecting addition has a porch with roof with two columns similar to those on the wrap-around porch but no frieze. There are two one over one double hung windows.



(south elevation – east section)

The garage has two sets of large carriage house style doors with four rectangular glass windows across the top of each door (i.e., 16 total)



(west elevation)

The west elevation has a gabled dormer with a small one over one double hung window. The first floor has a small single pane window toward the north and a single double hung one over one window toward the south.



(east elevation of garage)

The east elevation of the garage has two one over one double hung windows at the north end with a fieldstone chimney. The north elevation connects to a deck overlooking Parke Lake.

History of the Resource

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

The property was historically part of the John Davis holdings (1859) who had an iron foundry (today site of house at 29 East Washington) on the south shore of Parke Lake. The 1872 village map shows an empty lot. Tax records indicate in 1896 Bertha Tiffany (1865 – 1926) owned the property. Family History records indicate Bertha inherited $10,000 from her uncle Hiram Walker, distiller (died in 1899). She used the monies to purchase the property and build the original house.

Bertha Carrie Williams Tiffany was the granddaughter of Major Oliver Williams and the grandniece of Alpheus Williams who was identified as the first land purchaser in Independence Township. By the mid-1940s, Edna McCracken owned the property. Edna's daughter Gladys Ellen McCracken Skarritt (1900 – 1952) and her husband John K. Skarritt (1899 – 1980) owned the property for many years. Gladys was a member of the Joseph C. Bird Chapter, O. E. S., and the Clarkston Baptist Church.

Ronald Addis Walter (1906 – 1973) and his wife Virginia LeForge Walter (1913-2015) lived in the house for many years. Ronald had a law office at 73 North Main Street. At times Ronald served as legal counsel for the Village of Clarkston, Clarkston Community Schools, Clarkston United Methodist Church, and Independence Township. Virginia was an active community philanthropist. She was a high school history and English teacher and became the girls' basketball coach at the Clarkston Community Schools. She served on the village planning commission for many years and was town treasurer. Virginia was extremely proud of her years of involvement with the Clarkston Area Youth Assistance.

By 1986 Cindy and Mel Berg owned the property. They transformed one entire wall of the kitchen into a full-length window opening to an expansive deck overlooking Parke Lake. In addition, the Berg family added a 2,000 square foot addition to the east elevation adding a single story and attached garage. The old English style "B" was probablyadded to the second level diamond shaped window at this period.

By 1992 Joel Hoffman and Shelley Miller (both lawyers) owned the property. They enclosed a portion of the deck and added a fieldstone chimney to the east elevation of the garage. The decorative balustrade of the wraparound porch on the south elevation was removed after July 2005. In 2010 Joel and Shelly replaced the garage doors with wood doors and painted said doors to match the structure.



(c 1900 east elevation looking west)



(c 1981 – south elevation)



(photo from Clarkston Community Historical Society – southeast elevation)



(date unknown – southeast elevation)



(1989 - southwest elevation)



(1989 – southeast elevation)



(photo July 2005)

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. This is required for all properties.

The west elevation two-story section of the house is the original section and is an unusual Queen Anne style. It still retains its unique architecture as a contributing resource to the district. The house was built by a niece of Hiram Walker, prominent distiller. This structure was home for many years to two prominent supporters of the community, Ronald and Virginia Walter.

References

List references used to research and evaluate the individual property.

(1) 1872 map of Clarkston, *Atlas of Oakland County;*
(2) Research done using the grant funding obtained by Mollie Lynch, Library Director 1991 – 2005 and researched by Susan K. Basinger;
(3) Old photos from the Clarkston Community Historical Society and Cara Cattalo;
(4) Home Tour Clarkston Scamp Silver Anniversary Edition 1983-2007;
(5) *Clarkston News 1944 July 14 advertisement* "Ronald A. Walter Attorney At Law 73 N Main Street Clarkston";
(6) *Clarkston News 1973 January 4* article "obituaries Ronald A. Walter";
(7) *Clarkston News 2015 September 9* article "Virginia L. Walter, 101";
(8) Clarkston Historic District Certificate of Appropriateness dated May 6, 2010 for 43 East Washington Street.