Michigan SHPO Architectural Properties Identification Form

Property Overview and Location

Street Address	52 North Main Street				
City/Township, State, Zip Code	Clarkston, MI 48346				
County	Oakland				
Assessor's Parcel #	14-08-20-402-025				
Latitude/Longitude (to the 6th decimal point)	Lat: 42.737350	Long: -83.418630			
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. 1884
Architectural Style	Stick
Building Form	Rectangular
Roof Form	Multiple Front Gables
Roof Materials	Asphalt Shingles
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 Community Support					
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	Edwin Clark House					
Current/Common Name	Prucher, Bryan and Joan (Nancy)					
Historic/Original Owner	Clark, Edwin and Helen					
Historic Building Use	Summer Home					
Current Building Use	Single Family					
Architect/Engineer/Designer	Unknown					
Builder/Contractor	Unknown					

Survey Date	March 28, 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 Stick style house has multiple front gables (facing west) on a steeply pitched roof with decorative trusses in all the gables and wide overhanging eaves. The northwest corner of the house has a semi-hexagonal two-story tower with one-over one double hung windows on all three sides on both levels. In addition to the truss work in the gable, there is a large louvered gable vent.



(west elevation)

There is an oriel canted bay on the second level west elevation under a gabled dormer toward the south end. The overhanging steep pitched pediment has decorative trusses in the gable. The oriel has three tall narrow windows, one on each face. The second floor has a second, larger gable behind and partially obscured by the tower gable.

The first-floor west elevation toward the south end has a one-story porch connected to the side of the tower with a shed roof. The porch has a solid short narrow kneewall across the front and side (south elevation) with narrow square columns connected to the roofline. Just below the roofline is a slender turned spindle decorative railing. There are four wooden steps with balustrade and handrail (beginning with a square post on each side) leading to the porch.



(west elevation)



(north elevation)

The north elevation is featureless, plain clapboard until at the east end there is a first floor partially enclosed porch with steps to an entry way.

The porch was a kneewall (connected to the foundation) with decorative diamond lattice attached to the roofline beam underneath the second floor. At the far end of the north elevation (east end) are two casement windows on the one-story addition with a slanting roofline.



(north elevation)



(south elevation – west end)

On the south elevation inside the main side gable (with decorative trusses) is a two-story tower with a smaller gable with decorative trusses and a louvered vent. There are one-over-one double hung windows on the east and west sides on the second level. The first level has a single casement window on the east and west. Just to the west of the first floor of the tower is another small window. The south facing façade of this tower is plain clapboard with no windows. This wood clapboard tower is connected eastward to brick tower that forms the southeast corner of the house, The connection is vis a clapboard second floor inset hyphen with a single, central casement window, forming an overhang for a further inset housing a brick patio and entryway. The brick tower is of similar height to the other south elevation tower and has a south facing side gable that is occupied by an apparent solid brick chimney. Any truss work in the gable is mostly obscured by the chimney. The other two facets of the brick tower (facing southwest and southeast), have a single pane window on each level, vertically aligned.

There is a two-level addition attached to the brick tower that extends eastward and faces south. The upper level is a sunroom with a wraparound balcony having three square posts on the south elevation supporting the roof and a fourth supporting an awning that faces east. There is a knee wall between the first three posts and a spindled balustrade between the last two under the awning. This balustrade wraps around the east elevation where there is another post on the northeast corner of the awning. Below the balcony is a two car garage with a man door at the southeast corner.



(south elevation – east end)

The east elevation beginning at the brick tower at the southeast corner shows three levels. The top level has three identical single casement windows. On the second level there is another of these windows and to the north, the intersection with the sunroom/garage addition. The first level contains an entryway door with a window occupying the top two-thirds. North of the addition on the east elevation of the original house has a large gable with decorative truss work like the large front gable, but with a large louvered gable vent. Beneath the gable is clapboard siding with a central pair of large, vertical casement windows. Beneath the windows is the intersection with the sunroom/garage addition roof and the east elevation of the north side porch.



(east elevation)

The house backs up onto 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 original section of the house was built for Edwin M. Clark, great grandson of Jeremiah Clark. Jeremiah Clark and his brother Nelson were prominent, influential members of the village and held in such high esteem that the community opted to name the community Clarkston. Edwin Clark along with his son, Lee, owned and operated Vulcan Art Metal

Works in the stone building they built in 1915 at 64 South Main Street. Previously Mr. Edwin Clark owned the Phoenix Ironworks in Detroit.



picture from a 1909 postcard

The original section of the house (one room wide) was reportedly intended to be only half of the house since it was used as a summer house situated on the west side of Parke Lake. The size of the house was doubled in 1969 with the south half added; the rear porch had been remodeled and twelve-foot-high groined arches added to the interior.

The current owners Bryan and Joan (Nancy) Prucher designed and commissioned John Peltier, artist/craftsman, to design and execute an extensive addition to the house in 1979. At the time of the renovation when removing the plaster, they discovered in bold black painted script “Edwin M Clark 1885.” It remains in the house today.



(1989 – west elevation)



Front view (west elevation) showing the 1979 addition.



1979 Front porch addition; the original balusters and newel posts were preserved.



Back view (east elevation) prior to the 1979 addition. The arrow indicates the back room, garage, and deck added to the original house – time frame unknown.



Rear view (east elevation) of the house after the 1979 addition. The rear addition is partly brick.

Bryan and Joan (Nancy) Prucher were members of the original Clarkston Historic District Study Committee (1976) resulting in state and national registration; plus, they were instigators in development of the Clarkston Community Historic Society.

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.

Jeremiah Clark and his family were pioneers from New York State and with his brother Nelson constructed a grist mill and dam that formed Mill Pond (harnessed waterpower to grind the area's wheat into flour) Jeremiah was the first supervisor and justice of Clarkston and was elected to the Michigan legislature.

Edwin, the great grandson, was a successful businessman. His company donated the metal gates to Lakeview Cemetery in Clarkston and his son Lee had a metal plate designed for the cemetery that reads "In memory of Pioneers of Clarkston – Jeremiah Clark, Nelson Clark, and Ebenezer Clark."

Overall, the house retains its historic architectural details and holds sufficient integrity to remain as a contributing resource to the Clarkston Historic District.

References

List references used to research and evaluate the individual property.

(1) Independence Township Tax Assessment books;
(2) 1896 map of Clarkston reports the ownership of the property as E. M. Clark;
(3) Research done using the grant funding obtained by Mollie Lynch, Library Director 1991 – 2005 and researched by Susan K. Basinger;
(4) Home Tour Clarkston Scamp Silver Anniversary Edition 1983-2007;

(5) *Clarkston News 1968 January 25* article “Another Day, Lee Clark-Pioneer descendent” written by Constance Lektzian;
(6) *Heritage,* Philadelphia: L.H. Everts & Co., 1877 Edited by Jennifer L. Radcliff;
(7) The current homeowners, Bryan and Nancy Prucher provided photos and detailed information about the property;
(8) BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM, Michigan History Division, completed November 14, 1975 by Betty Galligan;
(9) Old photos from Cara Catallo.