Michigan SHPO Architectural Properties Identification Form

Property Overview and Location

Street Address	71 North Main Street				
City/Township, State, Zip Code	Clarkston, Michigan 48346				
County	Oakland				
Assessor's Parcel #	14-08-20-328-011				
Latitude/Longitude (to the 6th decimal point)	Lat: 42.738000	Long: -83.419930			
Ownership: Private X	Public-Local ☐	Public-State ☐	Public-Federal ☐	Multiple ☐	

Property Type

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

(Insert primary photograph below.)



Architectural Information

Construction Date	c 1855
Architectural Style	Greek Revival
Building Form	Irregular
Roof Form	Front-gable
Roof Materials	Asphalt Singles
Exterior Wall Materials	Wood siding/clapboard
Foundation Materials	Fieldstone
Window Materials	Wood
Window Type	Double Hung
Outbuildings	Yes X / 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 X	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 X / Design X / Materials X / Workmanship X / Setting X / Feeling X / Association X	
General Integrity:	Intact X / Altered ☐ / Moved ☐ / Date(s):
Historic Name	Clark House
Current/Common Name	Luginski, Joe and Melissa
Historic/Original Owner	Clark, Nelson Washington
Historic Building Use	Single Family/Multiple Family
Current Building Use	Single Family
Architect/Engineer/Designer	Unknown
Builder/Contractor	Unknown

Survey Date	October 14, 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 Greek Revival structure sits on the west side of North Main Street. The front-gabled Greek Revival house has heavily molded entablature of the pediment of the two-story portion of the house with fluted Ionic columns supporting the pediment. All corners of the original house have massive pilasters in scale with the size of the pediment and columns.



(east elevation)

There is a dominant front porch (east elevation) the full width and height of the façade on the south end of the east elevation. The classical pediment roof is held by four fluted ionic columns each with a volute capital attached to a fieldstone kneewall. The solid front door situated on the north end of the porch (with its raised panels) is flanked on both sides by side lites; the door and glass panes are encased in the larger decorative wood enframement. The door and glass are recessed behind the front wall. The fluted Ionic columns that support the front porch are duplicated in the embellished enframement of the front door. There are two side lites on each side of the columns with leaded glass. Beneath each is a decorative wood panel. Each side lite is flanked by a wood pilaster. To the left of the door are two six over six double hung windows with a wide, grooved trim.



(east elevation – column details)



(east elevation – front entrance on the south)



(east elevation – second floor)

On the east elevation the black wrought iron balustrade at the bottom of the windows on the second floor added at the turn of the century is still visible. Behind the balustrade are three tall narrow six over six double hung windows enclosed in a wide, grooved wood trim. The one to the north end is directly above the door; the other two, directly above the first-floor windows.

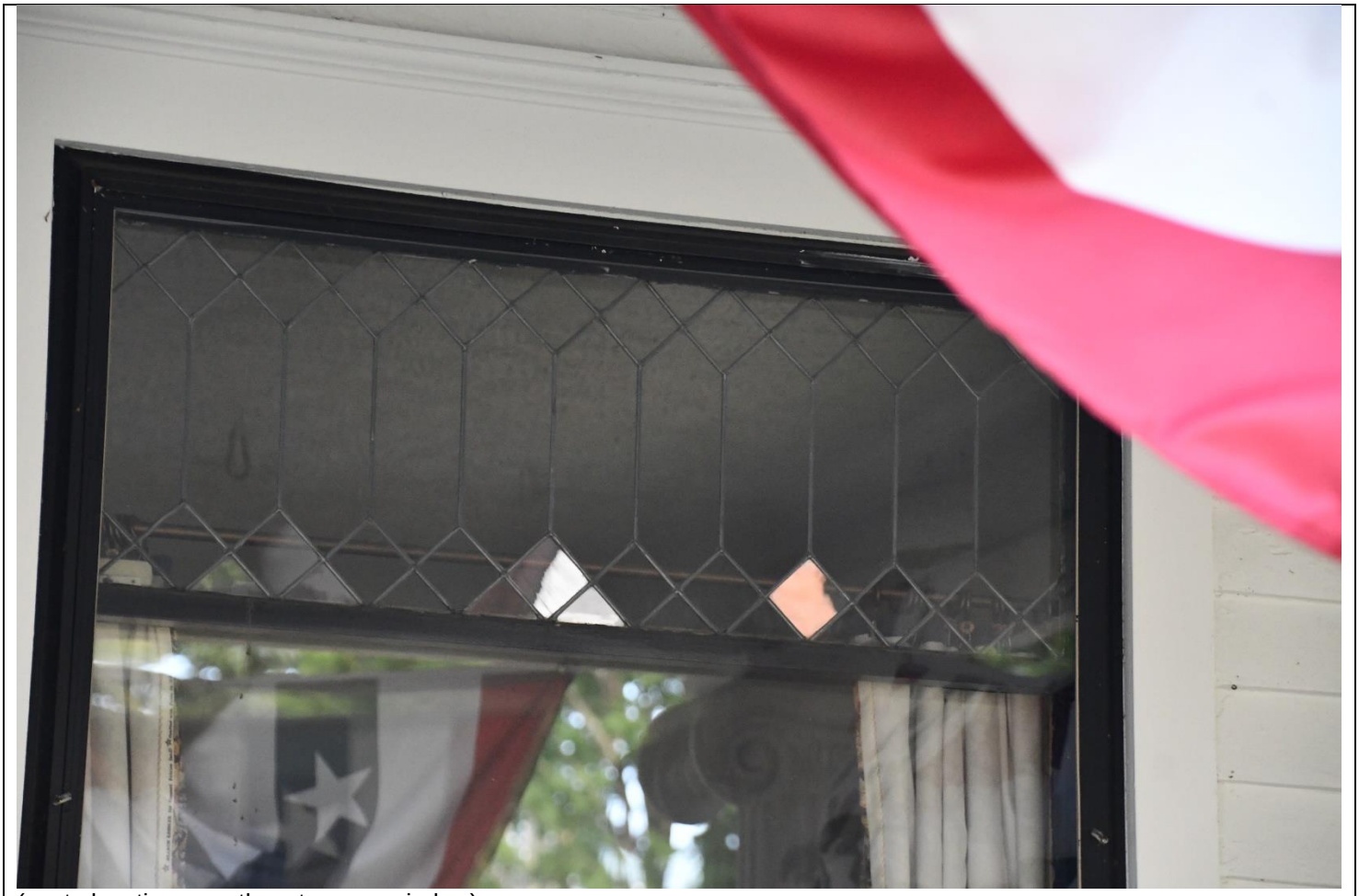


(north end of the east elevation)

The two-story addition to the north side of the house has a side gable, low pitched roof and one-story front porch covering the north two-thirds of the two-thirds of the wing.


(east elevation – north wing first floor)

Between the original porch and this addition porch, there is a group of three windows on the first floor. The middle window is larger, twelve by one and is flanked by a six by one on each side. On the second floor there are two more trios of windows, one just above and to the north of the first floor set and the other toward the northeast corner. All of these windows are six by one. The porch is supported by four fluted ionic columns, each with a volute capital and standing on a fieldstone knee wall. Four stone steps flanked by fieldstone walls approach the porch landing. The steps go directly to a front door occupied mainly by nine divided lites with a central glass pane covering the majority of the door. To the north is a second, nearly identical, door. Near the northeast corner is a large, vertically rectangular picture window with the top one-fourth being leaded glass with numerous divided lites.



(east elevation – northeast corner window)

Two chimneys are visible, one near the northwest and one toward the southwest of the addition (north wing).



(east elevation – north addition – entryway)



(north elevation)

The north elevation shows the side gable with a louvered gable vent near the peak. On the second floor there is a pair of six over one double hung windows at each end (east and west), partially in the gable. On the first level near the northeast corner is a group of three windows, the largest in the middle (twelve by one) is flanked by two smaller windows (six by one). At the west end (near the northwest corner) is a small six over one double hung window (difficult to see through the storm window). All these windows have simple hood molds.



(west elevation – overlooking Clinton River Watershed Lower Mill Pond)

The west elevation with a large sloping yard overlooks the Clinton River Watershed Lower Mill Pond. The south end of the west elevation has a prominent chimney arising from a sunroom on the first floor with a shed roof. There are two double hung windows (six over six) to the north of the chimney on the second story. The enclosed sunroom has four one over one double hung windows on the south, three windows on the west (a large picture window flanked by a one over one double hung window on each side), and on the north three one over one double hung windows (two on the east side of the door and on the west side of the door). The door has two by four lites. On both sides (north and south) of this sunroom at the ground level is a bulkhead door, confirming there are two basements under this structure connected with a passageway.



(west elevation – sunroom – west end)



(west elevation – sunroom – north end)



(west elevation – north end)

The north end of the west elevation has a “one story- enclosed porch” with a pair of six over six windows on the two sides and a door with multiple divided lites and a shed roof. The north end of the porch has a pair of six over six double hung windows. Six brick steps lead from the brick walkway parallel to the house to the door. Between the north and south sections of the west elevation is an apparent bump out with a pair of double hung windows, eight over one, with a striped awning and a shed roof. Above the bump out is a small horizontal sliding window under the eaves. To the north on the second floor above the porch are two double hung windows (three over six).


(south elevation)

The south elevation first and second floors each have three six over six double hung windows vertically aligned between the floors. One set is near the southeast corner, the others toward the southwest. A chimney is seen rising from this south end of the orignal house.

This original fireplaces in the living room (with its 14-foot ceilings and tall windows) and library are made of imported Italian marble. The original chandelier still hangs in the dining room having been modified to handle electricity. The wide pine plank flooring still has a distinctive creak. A long-spindled stairway leads up to a spacious hallway and bedrooms.

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 Greek Revival home was built for the Nelson Washington Clark family after purchasing the property from Butler Holcomb in the 1840's. The property value more than tripled in 1855 indicating a structure had been built on the property. The Clark brothers (Nelson and Jeremiah) purchased the Clarkston Mill in 1838; within two years the Clark brothers platted the village, and the community was named Clarkston. Nelson Clark moved in 1873 to pursue his fish hatchery business. In 1883 a nephew, E. G. Clark a Michigan State representative, purchased the home and moved from his farm in Independence Township to live in the village until he died in 1908.

The original structure was two stories with a front porch that stretched the entire width of the two-story façade. Photos from the early 1900s show the front steps stretching the entire length of the porch. The Ionic columns supported an entablature with a wide trim gabled roof. The single-story wing to the north had a separate front entrance and Ionic columns supporting the porch roof. This porch had at one time been enclosed to provide additional interior living space.

A wrought iron balustrade was added along the bottom of the windows on the second floor of the main structure at the turn of the 20th century. Edwin Clark (descendant of Nelson W. Clark) retired in the house between 1883 and 1908. Edwin Clark and his son Lee owned a metal works business that moved from Detroit to 66 South Main in Clarkston in 1915.

In 1917 Washington Irish purchased the property and replaced the deteriorated column bases on the front porch with a stone wall and installed front steps in the front of the door at the north end of the original two-story house. There are two separate basements under the house with a passageway between them.



(date unknown Home of Edwin Clark family)

During World War II the house became a two-family residence. Then in the 1950's the house reverted to a single-family house. Mae and Nell Barry (sisters) resided in the house as they managed Deer Lake Inn and the Caribou Inn in Clarkston. In the 1970s the Clifford and Vondell Gardner family was living in the house; then in 1985 Jeffrey and Kathy Lynn purchased the home.

Joe and Melissa Luginski purchased the home in 2009. Melissa is a descendant of the Clark family. Joe has served as mayor and a member of the City Council for many years, active in the Parking Committee and Financial Committee for the Village of Clarkston. Melissa has been a commissioner for both the Clarkston Historic District Commission and the Oakland County Historical Commission; she also serves on the Board of the Clarkston Community Historical Society. In 2020, a skilled craftsman dismantled the deteriorating front steps and restored the steps using the original stones. In 2021, the Luginski family repaired the porch on the east elevation. Individual boards were replaced, and masonry work was completed.



(c. 1899 east elevation)



(date unknown east elevation)



(c 1910 southeast elevation)


(1978 northeast elevation)



(c 1989 southeast elevation)

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.

Nelson Clark and his family were pioneers in the 1830's from New York State and constructed a grist mill and dam that formed Mill Pond (harnessed waterpower to grind the area's wheat into flour), built a school, and the first fish hatchery in Michigan (1866). The Clark house occupied Clark property between Mill Pond and Main Street and aided in the establishment of "Clarkston." Nelson Clark served as the village postmaster. Washington Irish was well-known in the village as the assessor and later supervisor.

During the anniversary of the Federal Government's Historic Building Survey in September 1983 the house was presented with a brass "Historic Site" plaque.

This house, the home of the titular founder of Clarkston, by association alone is worthy of inclusion. However, the house possesses integrity in all seven aspects and should remain a major contributing resource to the Clarkston Historic District.

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) *History of Oakland County, 1817-1877;* Philadelphia: L.H. Everts & Co., 1877;
(4) Clarkston A Michigan Legacy Preserved Clarkston Community Historical Society, Inc. 1981;
(5) Images of America Clarkston Cara Catallo for the Clarkston Community Historical Society 2015;
(6) Heritage, Philadelphia: L.H. Everts & Co., 1877 Edited by Jennifer L. Radcliff;
(7) Home Tour Clarkston Scamp Silver Anniversary Edition 1983-2007;
(8) The Villager article Historically Speaking 1983 September;
(9) Clarkston News 1967 November 2 article "Another Day" by Constance Lektzian;
(10) Clarkston News 1984 September 12 article "Architecture Archives Roof Shapes" by Susan Basinger;
(11) Clarkston News 1984 April 25 article "Architecture Archives Doors unravel mysteries" by Susan Basinger;
(12) *Pontiac Press 1963 August 10* article "Here's A Group of Beautiful Homes in Oakland County" by Reba Heintzelman;
(13) Old photos and files were supplied by current owners Melissa and Joe Luginski;
(14) BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM, Michigan History Division, completed October 8, 1975 by Betty Galligan;
(15) Research done using the grant funding obtained by Mollie Lynch, Library Director 1991 – 2005 and researched by Susan K. Basinger;
(16) Old photos from Clarkston Historical Community Society and Cara Catallo;
(17) Clarkston Historic District Certificate of Appropriateness dated January 20, 2020 for 71 North Main Street;
(18) Clarkston Historic District Certificate of Appropriateness dated July 12, 2021 for 71 North Main Street.