Michigan SHPO Architectural Properties Identification Form

Property Overview and Location

Street Address	8 East Washington Street				
City/Township, State, Zip Code	Clarkston, Michigan 48346				
County	Oakland				
Assessor's Parcel #	14-08-20-451-008				
Latitude/Longitude (to the 6th decimal point)	Lat: 42.735770	Long: -83.418500			
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 1848
Architectural Style	Greek Revival
Building Form	Irregular
Roof Form	Side Gable
Roof Materials	Asphalt Shingles
Exterior Wall Materials	Clapboard
Foundation Materials	Fieldstone
Window Materials	Wood
Window Type	Double Hung
Outbuildings	Yes ☒ No ☐
Number/Type:	3/ Garage, Shed, Gazebo

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	Architecture Significance and Community Support of Owners						
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 Foy House						
Current/Common Name	Basinger, William						
Historic/Original Owner	Foy, Phillip and Sarah						
Historic Building Use	Single Family						
Current Building Use	Single Family						
Architect/Engineer/Designer	Unknown						
Builder/Contractor	Unknown						

Survey Date	December 8, 2021	Recorded By	Cara Cattalo; 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 one and one-half story Greek Revival structure sits on the south side of East Washington Street separated from the businesses on South Main Street by an alley. The north elevation overlooks the street with a wide band of trim below the roofline and steps leading from a brick pathway to a landing outside the wooden front door. There is a balustrade along the landing and railing along the steps from both sides of the landing. There, the landing and house front entry are approachable from both the east and west .



(northwest elevation)



(north elevation)

The wood door on the north elevation has a Greek Revival Style decorative wide wooden trim entablature and pilasters. On each side of the door is a six over six double hung window, with dark colored shutters.



(north elevation)


(north end of west elevation)

The side gable on the north end of the west elevation has a wide frieze board discontinuous across the gable. Inside the gable is a six over six double hung window. Directly below is a five-sided canted bay with a low-pitched roof and decorative brackets. On each side of the bay next to the house there is a narrow one over one double hung window. Continuing around the bay on each side is a four over four double hung window. Across the middle of the bay is a pair of four over four double hung windows. The bay has a decorative base that connects to the foundation of the house. Then there is a single-story room (short-side of an L-shaped addition on the west elevation) with a low-pitched roof and a pair of two, eight over eight windows (16 panes each).



(west elevation – canted bay)



(south end of west elevation)

The long side of the L-shaped addition on the north elevation has a solid east facing wooden door entrance at the intersection of the two sides of the L. Multilayers of brick steps/walkway lead from the driveway to the brick landing at the entrance. Just west of the entrance on the north elevation of the L-shaped addition is an east facing six over six double hung window. The L-shaped addition has a low-pitched roof with a wide frieze board and gable on the west elevation with a six over six double hung window.


(west end of the south elevation)

The L-shaped addition on the south elevation has a four over four double hung window directly below the roofline. Toward the middle of the south elevation is an enclosed porch with a low-pitched gabled roof with a three by three window on the west face and an entrance facing south. There is a doorway plus a window on each side of the entrance. There is fieldstone siding on the porch up to the bottom of the window on the west elevation and a two layer landing of fieldstone to the entrance.


(east elevation)

The east elevation of the original one and one-half story portion of the house has a wide frieze inside the side gable with a four over four double hung window. On the first floor of the east elevation are two six over six double hung windows. A single story addition extends to the east from the southeast corner of the original east elevation of the house. This addition with a low-pitched roof has no windows on the north elevation and one six over six double hung window on the east elevation.


(gazebo in the gardens on the east side of the house)

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 1 and 1/2 story section of this circa 1848 house was one of the earliest village buildings constructed as a very simple Greek Revival style structure. This house and the one across the street, 7 East Washington were owned by some of Clarkston's earliest craftsmen/residents. This was apparently the home of Phillip and Sarah Foy by 1848. Phillip Foy with partner, Clarkston's first blacksmith, Albert Birdsell built a shop, to the west of this house on the southeast corner of South Main and East Washington Streets, reportedly in 1840, to manufacture fanning mills. Foy sold the house in 1856 and it changed hands several times until 1904 when it became the home of blacksmith, Frank Yeager/Yager, son of another early Clarkston blacksmith Jedediah Yeager/Yager. The ancestors of Frank and wife 'Smithie' Yeager continued to own the home until 1963. (See 2/21/1974 Clarkston News article by Constance Lektizian re: Frank Yeager)

"Frank had a blacksmith shop with his father, then, on his own, on the southeast corner of South Main and East Church Streets. He also did work in a barn which stood on the southeast corner of the residential property. This barn was at the end of a "road" which led south from Washington Street between 8 and 24 East Washington. This barn was on the property as early as 1845 when harness maker, Horatio Foster, Jr. (who had property to the south of Foy's) shared road rights to the barn. (Several others after Foster enjoyed these road rights.) The results of early craftsmen's labors, horseshoes, bits, handmade nails are still found on the property.

"Mr. Yeager stands on the left of the house in this circa 1900 photo.



(1900 north west elevation)



(c 1900 north elevation)

“At the time there were two front doors next to one another barely visible under the late Victorian front porch. One of the front doors opened into the family parlor, while the other was to be used by guests who entered the ‘Sunday parlor’. The front porch was added to the simple Greek Revival house to update it. Such porches were added to many earlier houses in the style of the popular, picturesque Queen Anne style porches. (The front porch and the easternmost front door were removed at some time prior to the 1960s.) The bay window and the wing on the west were also probably added at the same time as the front porch. The windows of the bay and the addition have later Victorian proportions (tall, slender) while the windows in the original portion of the house have Greek Revival proportions. On the interior there is a plastered domed ceiling in the dining room, one of several domed ceilings in village houses, probably added about the turn of the century.

“The house was vacant for about three years until it was purchased in 1963 by Lysle and Ruth Basinger and renovation began slowly. In 1976 as addition was constructed to the east facade. While the front door is old the surround is a replication of those typical of other Greek Revival style houses. The original trim had been removed, probably at the same time the porch was removed. All of the outbuildings were constructed by the current owner.”

These words, and image, come directly from clarkstonhistory.info, in part because they are the words of the late Susan Basinger, who was the homeowner of this structure until her death in 2002. Susan was an active member with the local historic district commission and chairman from 1986-1998. Susan and her husband Bill created the website where historical information about the Village of Clarkston is available through the Clarkston Independence District Library website first published in 2000. From 1983 through 1986 Ms. Basinger wrote a collection of articles for the Clarkston News entitled “Architecture Archives.”

Bill and Susan designed an English garden by the gazebo (built in 1978 which stands near the original site of Frank

Yeager's barn) with plants of herbs and perennials such as lilies and hollyhocks. Bill Basinger was the first attorney general for admissions for the Department of the Attorney General in Lansing. He still lives in the house. He was a participant in the Zoning Board of Appeals for many years.



(1989 northeast elevation)



(1989 northwest elevation)



(1989 west 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.

Additions have been made to this original Greek Revival structure; but the house still retains its architectural design and workmanship as a contributing resource to the Clarkston Historic District.

References

List references used to research and evaluate the individual property.

(1) 1872 map of Clarkston, *Atlas of Oakland County*;
(2) Images of America Clarkston Cara Catallo for the Clarkston Community Historical Society 2015;
(3) Heritage, Philadelphia: L.H. Everts & Co., 1877 Edited by Jennifer L. Radcliff;
(4) Old photos from the Clarkston Community Historical Society and Cara Catallo;
(5) Research done using the grant funding obtained by Mollie Lynch, Library Director 1991-2005 and researched by Susan K. Basinger;
(6) BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM, Michigan History Division, completed June 30, 1976 by Susan Basinger;
(7) *Home Tour Clarkston Scamp Silver Anniversary Edition 1983-2007;*
(8) *Clarkston News 1989 April 19* article "Herbs and more prosper here";

(9) *Clarkston News 1936 September 18* article “Old Resident Expires Tuesday”;
(10) *Clarkston News 1974 February 21* article “The village smithy” by Constance Lektzian;
(11) *Clarkston News 2002 September 4* article “Basinger’s contributions to Clarkston widespread” by Jeff Patrus.