Michigan SHPO Architectural Properties Identification Form

Property Overview and Location

Street Address	81 North Main Street				
City/Township, State, Zip Code	Clarkston, Michigan 48346				
County	Oakland				
Assessor's Parcel #	14-08-20-328-010				
Latitude/Longitude (to the 6th decimal point)		Lat: 42.738340		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 1883	
Architectural Style	Gothic Revival	
Building Form	Irregular	
Roof Form	Cross Gable	
Roof Materials	Asphalt Shingles	
Exterior Wall Materials	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 ☒	Non-contributing to a district ☐	Historic District Name:	Clarkston Historic District
Not Eligible ☐				

Area(s) of Significance	Domestic Architecture					
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 ☐	Workmanship X	Setting X	Feeling X	Association X
General Integrity:	Intact X	Altered ☐	Moved ☐	Date(s):		
Historic Name	Walter House					
Current/Common Name	Cook, Robert and Mary Alice (both deceased – now in the Living Trust)					
Historic/Original Owner	Walter, Nelson and Josie Ainsworth					
Historic Building Use	Single Family					
Current Building Use	Single Family					
Architect/Engineer/Designer	Unknown					
Builder/Contractor	Unknown					

Survey Date	January 13, 2021	Recorded By	Nancy Moon	Agency Report #	

For SHPO Use Only	SHPO Concurrence?: Y / N	Date:

Narrative Architectural Description

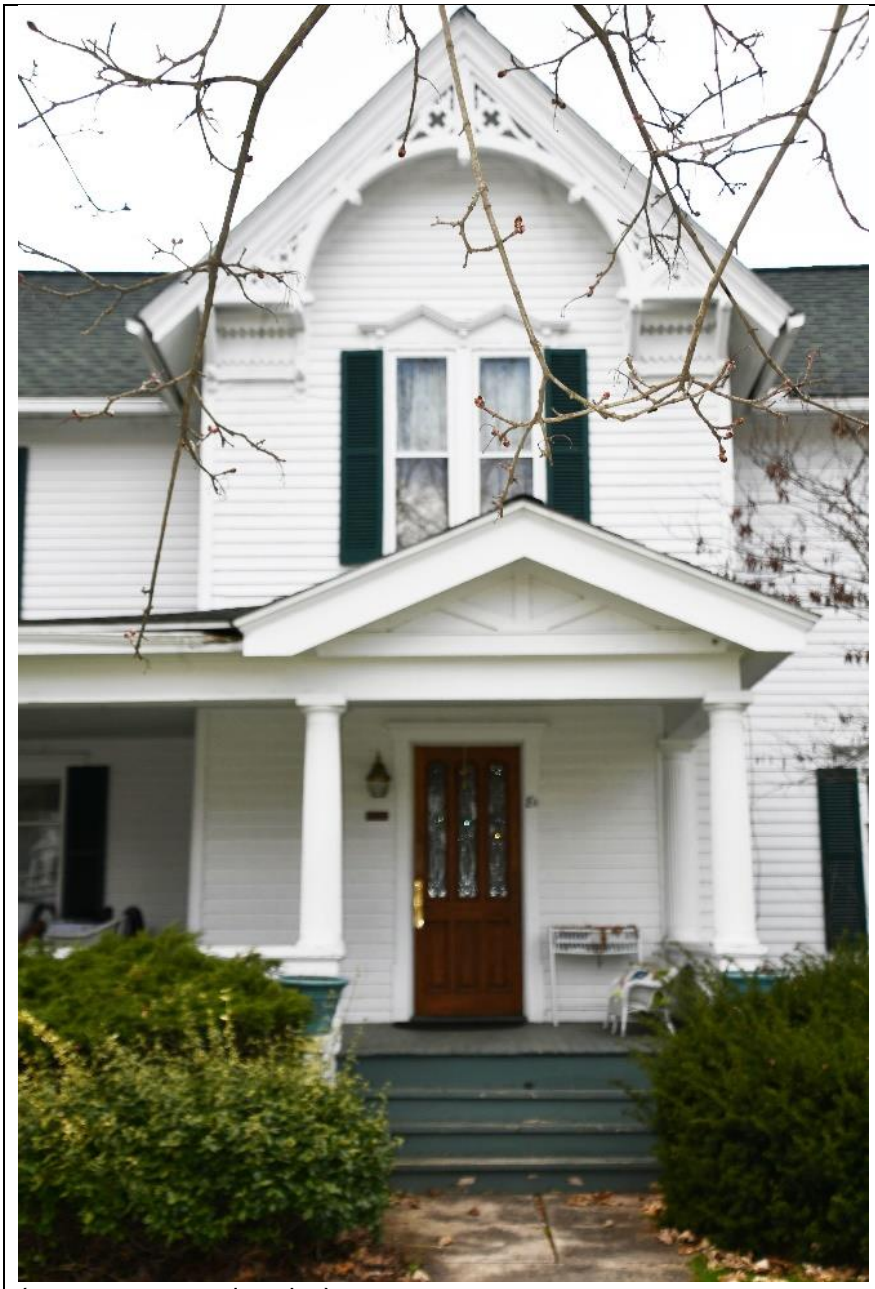
Provide a detailed description of the property, including all character defining features and any accessory resources.

This house sits on the west side of North Main Street and backs up onto the Clinton River Watershed Lower Mill Pond.



(east elevation)

The original portion of the house is Gothic Revival style. The steeply pitched front gable and side gables have vergeboards (decorative gable trim). The front gable arch projects from the house with a pair tall narrow one-over-one windows (with shutters) with arched hood molding across the front and a similar window and shutters on each side on both levels directly under the front gable. On either side of the projection on the second level is another tall narrow one-over-one window with dark shutters. In the middle of the lower level is the entrance to the house via a solid wood door (which was once a Victorian style box bay) with three vertical rectangular glass panels.


(entrance – east elevation)

The front doorway is inside the one-story front porch that has a gabled roof with a decorative segment insert under the gable. The porch on the east (front) elevation of the house wraps to south. There is a clapboard kneewall that extends to the ground. Seven classical doric columns support the porch roof. To the north of the porch on the first floor is a large double hung window (one-over-one, one third over two-third) with dark shutters. On the south side of the front door is another large double hung window (one-over-one, one third over two-third) with dark shutters inside the front porch.



(south elevation – east end of the house)

As the porch extends to the south elevation it is extremely difficult to view the house – due to the very large/tall evergreen tree and bushes next to the house. It appears as if on both floors of the east end of the south elevation is a pair of tall narrow one-over-one windows (with dark shutters) with arched hood molding giving a pointed arch effect across the front. There is a similar steeply pitched gable with vergeboards and decorative trim with cross bracing on the front and side of the gable. Continuing west on the south elevation is another doorway. Next to the doorway on the east side is a small window (two-over-two double hung). The doorway is under a small gabled porch with two classic doric pillars. Three fieldstone steps from the sidewalk lead to the landing; a square post on the east side at the bottom of the steps and a rod connecting to the doric column from the post creates a handrail. The door has the top half glass and the bottom half wood with an outside storm door.


(north elevation)

The north elevation of the house a pair of tall narrow one-over-one windows (with shutters) with arched hood molding giving a pointed arch effect across the top on the second level and a double hung, one over one, one-third over two-third window directly below on the first floor. Then toward the west end of the north elevation a single double hung, one over one, one, third over two-third, window with a similar hood mold is present on each floor.

One the west elevation (looking onto the Clinton River Lower Mill Pond) an addition was added with a cathedral ceiling and a steep pitched roof. In the middle of the first floor are two glass panel doors (one opens) each flanked by a glass panel. There are three fixed single pane windows on the upper level with the middle window slightly larger with a decorative pediment. The remaining west elevation of the original house has four one-over-one double hung windows on the second level and two double hung one-over-one windows on the first floor. The windows vary in size.



(west elevation – south end)



(west elevation – middle)


(west elevation – north end)

There appears to be a small bump out on the north side of the westerly addition at the intersection with the original house. This has a shed roof and solid wood door facing west. Just west of this is a double hung, one over one window in all details to those on the front (east) elevation that faces north.

The driveway is along the south elevation leading to a garage.

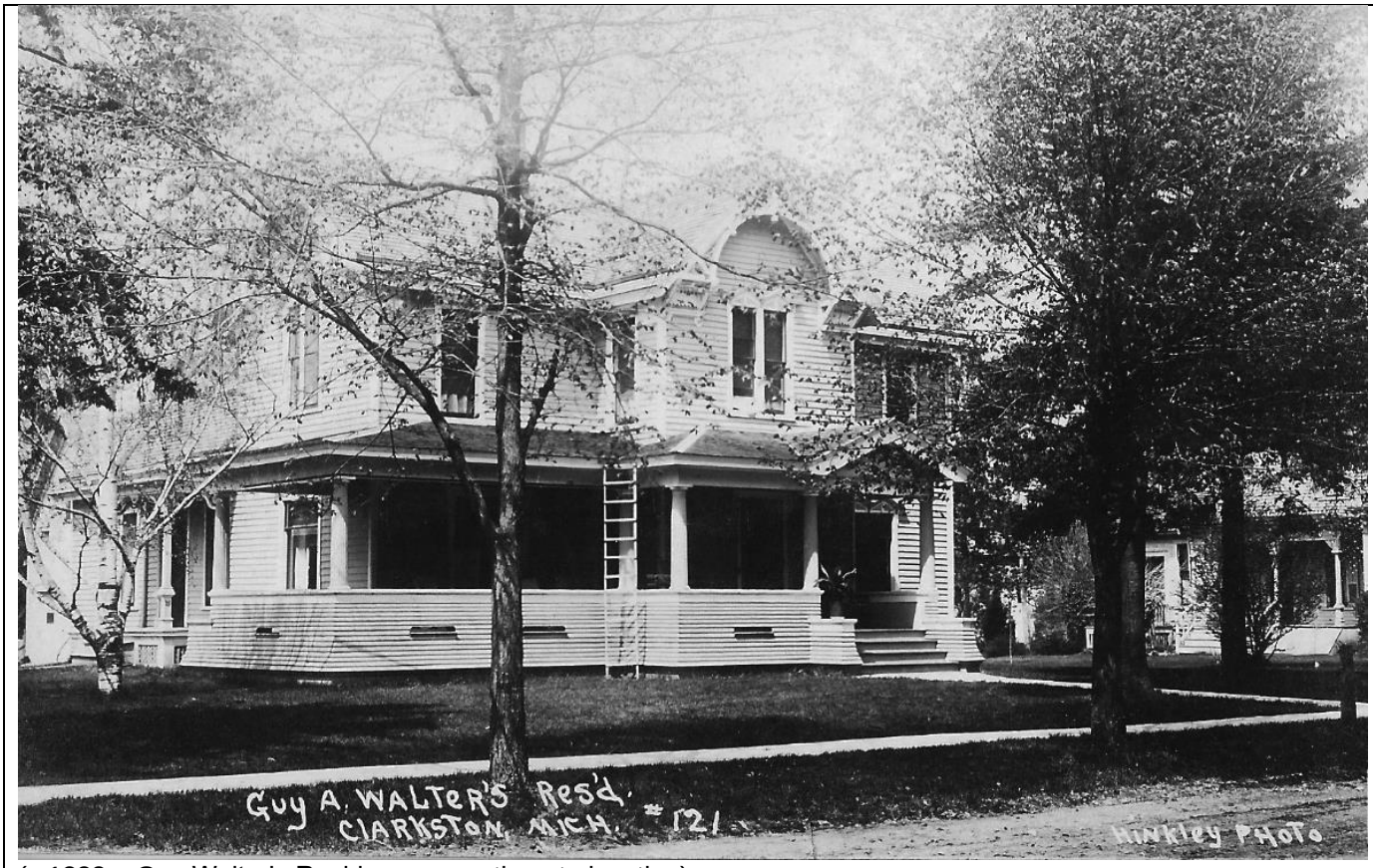
History of the Resource

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 1872 Map of the Village has no building footprint on this site with the property owner Nelson Washington Clark. The tax documents indicate a significant increase in value from 1883 to 1884 with property owner Nelson Walter. Nelson Walter was the son of Jacob and Sarah (Clark) Walter. Nelson and his son, Guy Ainsworth Walter (Mother Josie Ainsworth born 1874), had a general store (Walter & Walter) located at 9 South Main Street until 1915. Later the Guy Walter and Co. moved across the street to the Maccabee Temple Building (10 South Main Street) with the second floor operating as an "Opera Hall." Guy among others in the community organized programs such as dances, musicals, etc. to be held in the Opera Hall. Mr. Walter was a progressive businessman in the community: (1) drug and grocery business, Guy A. Walter & Co; (2) stockholder in the Jossman State Bank of Clarkston chartered in November 1913 by local businessmen which become the Clarkston State Bank (he was president for a time).



(date unknown)



(c 1883 – Guy Walter's Residence – southeast elevation)



(c 1913 southeast elevation)



(date unknown – west side of North Main Street looking north)

In 1905 Mrs. Nelson Walter had a new porch built on the house. Guy Walter remembered the front door being relocated to the middle of the house. A 1910 addition enlarged the home to the west toward the Mill Pond. The house was originally heated with wood-burning stoves with a woodshed at the back of the house. Modifications were made between the kitchen and the woodshed to create space for a pantry with windows offering a view of Mill Pond. The house remained in the Walter family until the late 1970's. During the Walters' residence in the house, they replaced the large barn (housed six horses) with a garage.



(south elevation – date unknown)



(southeast elevation – date unknown)

Bob and Mary Alice Cook purchased the home in 1980 from the estate of Viola Alger Walter, the second wife (and widow) of Guy Walter. The kitchen on the southwest corner was remodeled in 1980 and the front door was replaced in 1996. In 2000 a brick deck was added to the back of the house. Bob and Mary Alice were both active in Clarkston SCAMP ("A Special Camp for Special Kids").


(c 1980)

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>.

This structure is an example of a Gothic Revival home built in the mid-1880s. Overall the house retains its historic architectural details and holds sufficient integrity in most aspects, especially design, location, workmanship, and association to remain as a contributing resource to the Clarkston Historic District. The original owners, the Walter family, were significant business owners and community supporters in Clarkston as were the most recent homeowners, the Cooks. Only two different families owned this house from 1883 to 2020.

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) Clarkston A Michigan Legacy Preserved Clarkston Community Historical Society, Inc. 1981;
(5) Clarkston News 1967, July 6 article "The Nelson Walter home" by Constance Lektzian;
(6) *Oakland County Post 1905, April 6* article "Mrs. Nelson Walter;"
(7) *Clarkston News 1984, September 12* article "Architecture Archives Roof Shapes" by Susan Basinger;
(8) *Images of America Clarkston* written by Cara Catallo for the Clarkston Community Historical Society;
(9) *Home Tour Clarkston Scamp Celebrating Silver Anniversary Edition 1983-2007;*
(10) BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM, Michigan History Division, completed January 2, 1975 by

Betty Galligan;
(11) Old photos from neighbor Melissa Luginski, Clarkston Community Historical Society and Cara Catalo;
(12) Photo from the Clarkston Community Historical Society;
(13) Clarkston Historic District Certificate of Appropriateness dated April 1, 1999 for 81 North Main Street.