

BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

Michigan History Division
Michigan Department of State
Lansing, Michigan 48918

For Office Use

Theme _____

IDENTIFICATION

NICHOLAS

1. Building name (Historic) Napoleon Bonaparte Smith House
2. County Oakland Town/City _____ Village Clarkston
3. Street Location 58 North Main Street
4. Ownership: a. Public b. Private
5. Present Owner Richard Degener Address same
6. Use: Original Residence Present Residence
7. Accessibility to Public: Exterior visible from public road: Yes No
Interior accessible: Explain No - Private residence

DESCRIPTION

8. Building Material a. clapboard b. stone c. brick d. board and batten
e. cobblestone f. shingles g. stucco h. other _____
9. Structural Material a. wood frame with interlocking joints b. wood frame with light members (balloon frame)
c. masonry load-bearing walls d. iron frame e. steel frame with curtain walls
f. reinforced concrete g. other _____
10. Condition a. excellent b. good c. fair d. deteriorated
11. Integrity a. original site b. moved if so, when? _____
- Notes on alterations and additions, with dates and architect.
Addition in 1870 to duplex, library addition in 1930 on north side of house. Renovated in 1967 with emphasis on restoration, addition of family room and only fireplace. Fire in 1974 damaged original rectangular domed wooden ceiling, and flat-board dining room ceiling.
12. Related Outbuildings and Property
a. barn b. carriage house c. garage d. privy e. shed
f. shop g. greenhouse h. landscape features i. other _____
13. Surroundings of the Building
a. open land b. woodland c. scattered outbuildings d. densely built-up
e. commercial f. industrial g. residential h. other _____
14. Photo
15. Map Site # 9

16. Interrelationship of Building and Surroundings

Located on Main Street of Village, flanked north and south by homes built within same 1850-1860 time period. Property in back of home contains old but not original garage, lawn sweeps to west shore of Parke Lake.

17. Other Notable Features of Building and Site

This nine-room frame house is a fine example of classic Greek Revival architecture. Original glass in windows on front of house, woodwork, bannister, and floor plan of interior. With exception of handrail on front porch, exterior retains original design.

18. Threats to Building

- a. none known b. zoning c. roads d. developers e. deterioration
f. other _____

SIGNIFICANCE (Indicate sources of information for all statements)

19. Architectural Significance

Date of Construction 1852 Architect _____
Builders, suppliers, etc. _____

Notes on original plan and specifications:

Originally six rooms, now has nine rooms. Original rectangular domed wooden ceiling in living room and flat-board dining room ceiling (damaged by fire) still are part of house, but have been plastered over.

20. Historical Significance:

Built by Nicholas B. Smith, local merchant and pharmacist.
Surveyed and recorded in 1936 - Historic American Buildings Survey
Cited in Greek Revival Architecture in America, by Talbot Hamlin

21. Sources (for primary and secondary sources, give complete facts of publication: author, title, place of publication, date):

Available at Wisner Home, Pontiac, Michigan:

Hamlin, Talbot, Greek Revival Architecture in America, Dover Co., 1944.

U.S. Department of the Interior, Historic American Building Survey, Washington, D.C., 1936.

Atlas of Oakland County, F.W. Beers & Co., New York, 1872.

Prepared by Mary W. Huttenlocher & Jennifer L. Radcliff Date April, 1973 & November, 1975

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Organization Clarkston Community Historical Society