

Architectural Survey of
African American
Civil Rights Resources
Muskegon County, Michigan



*Front page image:
Urban League of Greater Muskegon Records, 1943-1995, 1943-1922. Box 17. Image with no title,
May 1, 1964. Bentley Historical Library. University of Michigan. Ann Arbor.*

architectural survey of
**African American
Civil Rights Resources**
Muskegon County

Volume 2: Inventory Forms
Muskegon

Prepared for

Michigan State Historic Preservation Office

Prepared by

Cheri LaFlamme Szcodronski, M.A.
Founding Principal and Architectural Historian
Firefly Preservation Consulting, LLC

Katie Randall, M.A.
Scott Farver, Ph.D.



FIREFLY
PRESERVATION
CONSULTING

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Text and layout by Cheri LaFlamme Szcodronski

Images by Cheri LaFlamme Szcodronski
and Kathrine Kolokithas (unless otherwise noted)

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National Park Service
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Washington, DC 20240

CREDITS AND CREDENTIALS

Cheri LaFlamme Szcodronski, Founding Principal and Architectural Historian for Firefly Preservation Consulting, LLC, holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology-Applied Ecology from Clarion University of Pennsylvania and a Master of Arts in Public History-Historic Preservation from Middle Tennessee State University. Szcodronski founded Firefly Preservation Consulting, LLC, in 2011, and since that time has worked with individuals, non-profit organizations, real estate developers, municipalities, and historic sites and museums. She specializes in historic preservation and cultural landscapes, and her services include National Register of Historic Places nominations, architectural surveys, state and federal historic tax credit applications, local landmark designations, master planning, Section 106 assessments, and educational outreach programming. Szcodronski meets the Professional Qualifications Standards set by the Secretary of the Interior (36 CFR Part 61) for History and Architectural History and is listed as a qualified survey and National Register consultant with the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office.

Katie Randall, Architectural Historian and founder of Afore Preservation Consulting, holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and a Master of Arts in Public History-Historic Preservation from Middle Tennessee State University. Randall founded Afore Preservation Consulting in 2016, and is experienced with National Register of Historic Places nominations, architectural surveys, and historic resource assessment. Randall meets the Professional Qualifications Standards set by the Secretary of the Interior (36 CFR Part 61) for History and Architectural History.

Dr. Scott Farver completed his doctoral degree at Michigan State University in Curriculum, Instruction, and Teacher Education with a certificate in Urban Education and a specialization in Qualitative Research Methods. Dr. Farver teaches courses centered on equity and justice, as well as urban education, at the Michigan State University College of Education. He works extensively with teachers and students in schools and communities, with a focus on studying and disrupting racism within and across education spaces.

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Michigan SHPO Architectural Properties Identification Form



Property Overview and Location

Street Address	1150 Amity Avenue				
City/Township, State, Zip Code	Muskegon, MI 49440				
County	Muskegon				
Assessor's Parcel #	61-24-121-300-0086-00				
Latitude/Longitude (to the 6 th decimal point)	Lat: 43.236717	Long: -86.215700			
Ownership	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	Public-Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public-State <input type="checkbox"/>	Public-Federal <input type="checkbox"/>	Multiple <input type="checkbox"/>

Property Type

(Insert primary photograph below.)

Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> select sub-type below	Structure <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Object <input type="checkbox"/>
Residential <input type="checkbox"/>	
Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	
Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	



Southeast Elevation

Architectural Information

Construction Date	1959	
Architectural Style	Modernist	
Building Form	Square	
Roof Form	Flat	
Roof Materials	Unknown	
Exterior Wall Materials	Brick Veneer	
Foundation Materials	Poured Concrete	
Window Materials	Aluminum	
Window Type	Fixed, Awning	
Outbuildings	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Number/Type:		

Eligibility

Individually Eligible	Criterion A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Criterion B <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Criterion D <input type="checkbox"/>
Criteria Considerations:	a. <input type="checkbox"/> b. <input type="checkbox"/> c. <input type="checkbox"/> d. <input type="checkbox"/> e. <input type="checkbox"/> f. <input type="checkbox"/> g. <input type="checkbox"/>			
Component of a Historic District	Contributing to a district <input type="checkbox"/>	Non-contributing to a district <input type="checkbox"/>	Historic District Name:	
Not Eligible <input type="checkbox"/>				
Area(s) of Significance	Black Ethnic Heritage, Social History, Education, Architecture			
Period(s) of Significance	1959 to undetermined date			
Integrity – Does the property possess integrity in all or some of the 7 aspects?				
Location <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Design <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Materials <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Workmanship <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Setting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Feeling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Association <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
General Integrity:	Intact <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Date(s):
Historic Name	Steele Junior High School			
Current/Common Name	Muskegon Middle School			
Historic/Original Owner	Muskegon Public Schools			
Historic Building Use	Education – school			
Current Building Use	Education – school			
Architect/Engineer/Designer	Unknown			
Builder/Contractor	Unknown			

Narrative Architectural Description

Provide a detailed description of the property, including all character-defining features and any accessory resources. This is required for all properties.

This school is made up of one-story and two-story sections that together generally form a square around a central courtyard. A one-story classroom wing extends from the south elevation, east of the main entrance. The main entrance is generally centered on the south elevation and enclosed with large, aluminum-framed windows and doors. Additional

entrances on secondary elevations contain metal slab doors, often paired, and most entrances are sheltered by flat metal awnings supported by round metal posts. The school is constructed of brick veneer with large aluminum-framed windows with paneled transoms and spandrel panels. The building is characterized by the combination of varying roof heights and irregular placement of window bays.

The building faces south toward Amity Avenue with athletic facilities, including a football field and track, extending west. The athletic fields are enclosed with a high chain-link fence and a stone marker notes the track is named in honor of Thomas G. McShannock, a White teacher, coach, and athletic director at Muskegon High School.

History of the Resource

Provide information on previous owners, land use(s), and construction and alteration dates in a narrative format. This is required for all intensive level surveys, NRPQs, and nominations, and recommended for other identification efforts.

Located in the Jackson Hill neighborhood of Muskegon, Steele Junior High School originally served a predominantly African American student population in grades 6-8. The school was built in 1959, during a period of rapid growth in Muskegon following the influx of African American laborers who relocated from the Deep South seeking manufacturing jobs in the city's foundries during World War II. Following the war, many workers settled in the Jackson Hill neighborhood with their families, resulting in a rapid increase in the African American population in that area, resulting in a need for more schools in the mid-twentieth century. In addition, the growth of the African American population in the neighborhood resulted in a period of "White flight," causing the neighborhood demographics to shift from predominantly White to predominantly Black.

The school was merged with Bunker Middle School in 2012 and renamed Muskegon Middle School, serving grades 7-8, while Bunker was renamed Lakeside Elementary School, serving grades K-6.

Statement of Significance/Recommendation of Eligibility

Provide a detailed explanation of the property's eligibility for the National Register. Include an evaluation under at least one of the four National Register Criteria and one Area of Significance. Include a discussion of the seven aspects of integrity, and make a recommendation about eligibility. This is required for all properties.

The building appears to retain integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association. It is likely eligible for listing in the National Register at the local level under Criterion A for Black Ethnic Heritage, Social History, and Education as a school built in response to the growing Black population in Muskegon Heights and serving a predominantly Black student population. It is also likely eligible at the local level under Criterion C as an intact Modernist-style school building. The period of significance should likely begin in 1959 when the school was constructed. Additional research is needed to identify an appropriate end date. Interior access was not provided during this project.

References

List references used to research and evaluate the individual property. For NRPQ's include copies of key documents.

Frick, Melissa. "Why Officials Want Voters to Agree to Tear Down Muskegon Middle School." *MLive*. April 22, 2020. <https://www.mlive.com/news/muskegon/2020/04/why-officials-want-voters-to-agree-to-tear-down-muskegon-middle-school.html>.

Moore, Lynn. "Say Goodbye to Steele Middle School Lancers, Bunker Bulldogs." *MLive*. April 12, 2012. https://www.mlive.com/news/muskegon/2012/04/say_goodbye_to_steele_middle_s.html.

Personal communication with Melvin Burns, Jr., (local resident) by Cheri Szcodronski. November 30, 2022. Muskegon Heights Branch Library of Muskegon Area District Library.

Survey Date	2022-2023	Recorded By	Cheri Szcodronski	Agency Report #	
For SHPO Use Only	SHPO Concurrence?: Y / N		Date:		

Form date: 2/28/2020

Current Photographs



East Elevation



Southeast Elevation



South Elevation



South Elevation – Main Entrance Detail



South Elevation



West Elevation



Athletic Fields – Facing Northwest



Athletic Fields – Marker Detail



Athletic Fields – Facing Northwest



Athletic Fields – Facing Southeast

Michigan SHPO Architectural Properties Identification Form



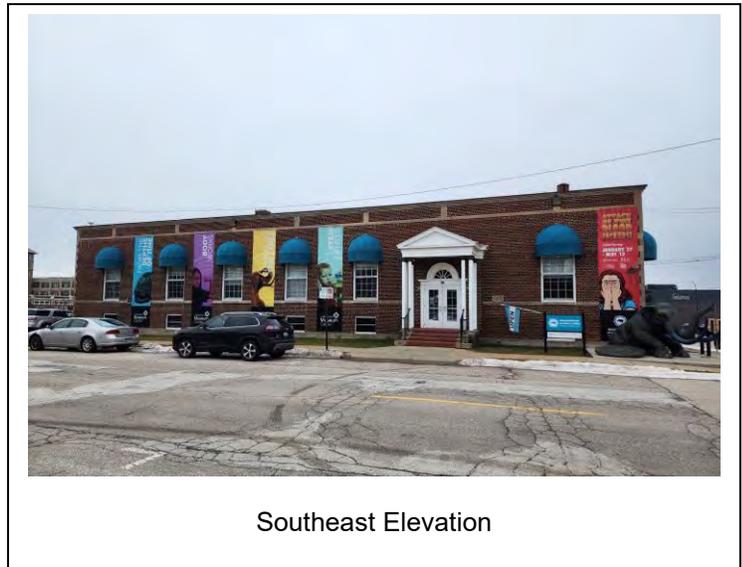
Property Overview and Location

Street Address	430 West Clay Avenue				
City/Township, State, Zip Code	Muskegon, MI 49442				
County	Muskegon				
Assessor's Parcel #	61-24-205-314-0011-00				
Latitude/Longitude (to the 6 th decimal point)	Lat: 43.233758	Long: -86.254233			
Ownership	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public-Local <input type="checkbox"/>	Public-State <input type="checkbox"/>	Public-Federal <input type="checkbox"/>	Multiple <input type="checkbox"/>

Property Type

(Insert primary photograph below.)

Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> select sub-type below	Structure <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Object <input type="checkbox"/>
Residential <input type="checkbox"/>	
Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	
Other <input type="checkbox"/>	



Southeast Elevation

Architectural Information

Construction Date	1952
Architectural Style	Colonial Revival
Building Form	Square
Roof Form	Flat
Roof Materials	Unknown
Exterior Wall Materials	Brick Veneer
Foundation Materials	Poured concrete
Window Materials	Wood
Window Type	12/12
Outbuildings	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Number/Type:	

Eligibility

Individually Eligible	Criterion A <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion B <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion C <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion D <input type="checkbox"/>		
Criteria Considerations:	a. <input type="checkbox"/> b. <input type="checkbox"/> c. <input type="checkbox"/> d. <input type="checkbox"/> e. <input type="checkbox"/> f. <input type="checkbox"/> g. <input type="checkbox"/>					
Component of a Historic District	Contributing to a district <input type="checkbox"/>	Non-contributing to a district <input type="checkbox"/>	Historic District Name:			
Not Eligible <input type="checkbox"/>						
Area(s) of Significance	Further research needed					
Period(s) of Significance	Further research needed					
Integrity – Does the property possess integrity in all or some of the 7 aspects?						
Location <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Design <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Materials <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Workmanship <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Setting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feeling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Association <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
General Integrity:	Intact <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Date(s):		
Historic Name	YWCA					
Current/Common Name	Lakeshore Museum					
Historic/Original Owner	YWCA					
Historic Building Use	Recreation and Culture – sports facility, auditorium					
Current Building Use	Recreation and Culture – museum					
Architect/Engineer/Designer	Unknown					
Builder/Contractor	Unknown					

Narrative Architectural Description

Provide a detailed description of the property, including all character-defining features and any accessory resources. This is required for all properties.

<p>Located at the northwest corner of West Clay Avenue and Fourth Street, this textured brick veneer, flat-roof, Colonial Revival-style building is constructed on a hill with a one-story-with-raised-basement façade (southeast elevation) facing West Clay Avenue and a two-story rear (northwest) elevation facing a parking lot. The entrance is located at the</p>
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northeast end of the façade and contains paired eight-light wood doors topped with a multi-light wood fanlight all within a molded wood surround. The entrance is sheltered by a small pedimented portico with dentil detailing supported by grouped Corinthian columns accessed by concrete and brick steps with wrought iron railings. A stone at the entrance is inscribed "1952." Windows at the first story are twelve-over-twelve wood windows with arched brick lintels with cast-stone keystones and springers, to which awnings have been added, while the lower level contains a combination of two-light and two-over-two horizontal-pane wood windows. The building features cast-stone detailing, including a sill course, cornice, and quoins on the front and side elevations. A wing at the west corner of the building lacks this detailing, but features brick buttresses with cast-stone caps and projects slightly from the southwest elevation. The rear elevation contains a large metal overhead door centered on the elevation and flanked by metal pedestrian doors. This wing also contains a tall, interior brick chimney with a cast-stone cap.

History of the Resource

Provide information on previous owners, land use(s), and construction and alteration dates in a narrative format. This is required for all intensive level surveys, NRPQs, and nominations, and recommended for other identification efforts.

Dr. Lucy Eames, one of the first female physicians in the Muskegon area and a pathologist at Muskegon's Hackley Hospital, began efforts to establish the first YWCA chapter in Muskegon in 1908, which was recognized by the national YWCA in 1911. The organization was first housed in a storefront on West Clay Avenue near First Street. In 1950, the YWCA purchased two lots comprising the present site at the corner of West Clay Avenue and Fourth Street, as well as a nearby lot for parking that was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Johnson. Construction began in 1951 and the new building was completed in 1952, including a gymnasium/auditorium, kitchen facilities, game rooms, club rooms, and recreational facilities. The Lakeshore Museum notes, "Throughout the twentieth century, the Muskegon YWCA provided young women and girls opportunities for character building, employment services, athletic and health programs, and for a safe place to stay the night."

The evening of March 31, 1964, the YWCA hosted DeHart Hubbard, minority housing specialist for the Federal Housing Administration, who spoke to an interracial audience of about sixty people about the importance of desegregated housing and successful efforts in other communities at an event sponsored by the Urban League of Greater Muskegon. He advocated cracking the housing barrier by encouraging "freedom of residence" through a "favorable community climate," and he called on churches to lead this community education through sermons, panels, and forums. Hubbard also encouraged getting cooperation from real estate brokers, finding out what housing was available for African Americans to buy, and finding willing African American buyers, noting, "[The buyer has] got to have the courage to move into a white neighborhood even though he knows the atmosphere will be hostile."

In 1972, the YWCA merged with the Muskegon YMCA and in 1979 the YWCA moved to 900 West Western Avenue. In 1982 the building was purchased by the Muskegon County Museum, now the Lakeshore Museum Center.

Statement of Significance/Recommendation of Eligibility

Provide a detailed explanation of the property's eligibility for the National Register. Include an evaluation under at least one of the four National Register Criteria and one Area of Significance. Include a discussion of the seven aspects of integrity, and make a recommendation about eligibility. This is required for all properties.

The building appears to retain integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association. The exterior of the building remains intact, however it is unclear if the interior floor plan remains representative of the building's use as the YWCA. The building appears to derive its primary significance as an important community institution in Muskegon and should be further evaluated to eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for Social History and Recreation. These contexts should include the property's association with Black Ethnic Heritage, Social History, and Civil Rights. The building also appears to be significant under Criterion C for Architecture as an intact Colonial Revival-style civic building. The interior was not documented during this project.

References

List references used to research and evaluate the individual property. For NRPQ's include copies of key documents.

"FHA Expert at Urban League Forum: Cites 5-Point Program to Crack Racial Housing Barriers." *The Muskegon Chronicle*. April 2, 1964. Hackley Public Library, Torrent House Local History and Genealogy Department, Muskegon.

LeMieux, Dave. "Lookback: Muskegon YWCA Changes with the Times." *MLive*.
https://www.mlive.com/news/muskegon/2014/06/post_307.html.

"Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA)" Collection. Lakeshore Museum Center Archives.

Survey Date	2022-2023	Recorded By	Cheri Szczodronski	Agency Report #	
For SHPO Use Only	SHPO Concurrence?: Y / N		Date:		

Form date: 2/28/2020

Historic Photographs



East Elevation, 1957
(courtesy of *MLive*)

Current Photographs



East Elevation



Entrance Detail (Southeast Elevation)



West Elevation



South Elevation

Michigan SHPO Architectural Properties Identification Form



Property Overview and Location

Street Address	1336 East Forest Avenue <i>(See also 575 Getty Street, Muskegon)</i>				
City/Township, State, Zip Code	Muskegon, MI 49442				
County	Muskegon				
Assessor's Parcel #	1-24-495-000-0008-00				
Latitude/Longitude (to the 6 th decimal point)	Lat: 43.223479	Long: -86.211156			
Ownership	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public-Local <input type="checkbox"/>	Public-State <input type="checkbox"/>	Public-Federal <input type="checkbox"/>	Multiple <input type="checkbox"/>

Property Type

(Insert primary photograph below.)

Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> select sub-type below	Structure <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Object <input type="checkbox"/>
Residential <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	
Other <input type="checkbox"/>	



South Elevation

Architectural Information

Construction Date	c.1961	
Architectural Style	Ranch	
Building Form	Rectangular	
Roof Form	Side gable	
Roof Materials	Asphalt	
Exterior Wall Materials	Wood shingles	
Foundation Materials	Poured concrete	
Window Materials	Wood	
Window Type	1/1, fixed	
Outbuildings	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Number/Type:		

Eligibility

Individually Eligible	Criterion A <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion B <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion C <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion D <input type="checkbox"/>		
Criteria Considerations:	a. <input type="checkbox"/> b. <input type="checkbox"/> c. <input type="checkbox"/> d. <input type="checkbox"/> e. <input type="checkbox"/> f. <input type="checkbox"/> g. <input type="checkbox"/>					
Component of a Historic District	Contributing to a district <input type="checkbox"/>	Non-contributing to a district <input type="checkbox"/>	Historic District Name:			
Not Eligible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Area(s) of Significance	N/A					
Period(s) of Significance	N/A					
Integrity – Does the property possess integrity in all or some of the 7 aspects?						
Location <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Design <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Materials <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Workmanship <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Setting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feeling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Association <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
General Integrity:		Intact <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Date(s):	
Historic Name	John E. and Carol J. Schuitema House					
Current/Common Name	Bethesda Baptist Church Parsonage					
Historic/Original Owner	John E. and Carol J. Schuitema					
Historic Building Use	Domestic – single dwelling					
Current Building Use	Domestic – single dwelling Religion – church-related residence					
Architect/Engineer/Designer	Unknown					
Builder/Contractor	Unknown					

Narrative Architectural Description

Provide a detailed description of the property, including all character-defining features and any accessory resources. This is required for all properties.

This one-story Ranch house has a side gable form and is clad in wood shingles. It features an inset porch on the east end of the front (south) elevation supported by square wood posts with an arched wood frieze and clad in vertical sheathing. The porch shelters a fixed picture window flanked by single-light sidelights. The remainder of the windows are one-over-one wood windows. The rear elevation features a large shed-roof dormer clad in vinyl siding, an enclosed shed-roof porch, and two exterior brick chimneys. A slightly set back garage is attached at the west end of the house and contains a metal rolling door and a six-light-over-three-panel wood door. The garage roof is slightly lower than the main block and has a small square cupola vent, and there is a small porch with square wood posts at the rear of the garage.

History of the Resource

Provide information on previous owners, land use(s), and construction and alteration dates in a narrative format. This is required for all intensive level surveys, NRPQs, and nominations, and recommended for other identification efforts.

The house is part of Joycelyn Fields development and was built around 1961. Deed records show the property was purchased in 1962 by John E. and Carol J. Schuitema. They paid \$11,500 for the property (equivalent to over \$100,000 today), suggesting the house was already built by that time, however it does not appear in the 1960 city directory. The property was purchased by Bethesda Baptist Church around 1990 to serve as a parsonage and also houses a community closet donation center.

Statement of Significance/Recommendation of Eligibility

Provide a detailed explanation of the property's eligibility for the National Register. Include an evaluation under at least one of the four National Register Criteria and one Area of Significance. Include a discussion of the seven aspects of integrity, and make a recommendation about eligibility. This is required for all properties.

The building appears to retain integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association. However, it does not appear to represent a significant aspect of history, culture, architecture, or archaeology. The building is likely not individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and is not located within a historic district. Interior access was not provided during this project.

References

List references used to research and evaluate the individual property. For NRPQ's include copies of key documents.

"The Bethesda Journey," *History of the African American Churches in Muskegon County* Exhibit, James Jackson Museum of African American History, Muskegon Heights.

Muskegon County Register of Deeds. <https://www.muskegonrecords.com/recorder/eagleweb/docSearch.jsp>.

Muskegon City Directory, 1960. www.ancestry.com.

Survey Date	2022-2023	Recorded By	Cheri Szcodronski	Agency Report #	
For SHPO Use Only	SHPO Concurrence?: Y / N		Date:		

Form date: 2/28/2020

Current Photographs



Southeast Elevation

Michigan SHPO Architectural Properties Identification Form



Property Overview and Location

Street Address	575 South Getty Street (See also 1336 East Forest Avenue, Muskegon)				
City/Township, State, Zip Code	Muskegon, MI 49442				
County	Muskegon				
Assessor's Parcel #	61-24-205-036-0001-00				
Latitude/Longitude (to the 6 th decimal point)	Lat: 43.241722	Long: -86.224466			
Ownership	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public-Local <input type="checkbox"/>	Public-State <input type="checkbox"/>	Public-Federal <input type="checkbox"/>	Multiple <input type="checkbox"/>

Property Type

(Insert primary photograph below.)

Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> select sub-type below	Structure <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Object <input type="checkbox"/>
Residential <input type="checkbox"/>	
Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	
Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	



East Elevation

Architectural Information

Construction Date	1969, 1988
Architectural Style	Modernist
Building Form	L-Shape
Roof Form	Flat
Roof Materials	Asphalt
Exterior Wall Materials	Brick
Foundation Materials	Poured Concrete
Window Materials	Metal
Window Type	Casement
Outbuildings	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Number/Type:	

Eligibility

Individually Eligible	Criterion A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Criterion B <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Criterion D <input type="checkbox"/>		
Criteria Considerations:	a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> b. <input type="checkbox"/> c. <input type="checkbox"/> d. <input type="checkbox"/> e. <input type="checkbox"/> f. <input type="checkbox"/> g. <input type="checkbox"/>					
Component of a Historic District	Contributing to a district <input type="checkbox"/>	Non-contributing to a district <input type="checkbox"/>	Historic District Name:			
Not Eligible <input type="checkbox"/>						
Area(s) of Significance	Black Ethnic Heritage, Social History, Architecture					
Period(s) of Significance	1969 to undetermined date					
Integrity – Does the property possess integrity in all or some of the 7 aspects?						
Location <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Design <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Materials <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Workmanship <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Setting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feeling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Association <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
General Integrity:	Intact <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Date(s):		
Historic Name	Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church					
Current/Common Name	Bethesda Baptist Church					
Historic/Original Owner	Bethesda Baptist Church					
Historic Building Use	Religion – religious facility					
Current Building Use	Religion – religious facility					
Architect/Engineer/Designer	Vander Meiden and Koteles					
Builder/Contractor	Alstrom Construction Company					

Narrative Architectural Description

Provide a detailed description of the property, including all character-defining features and any accessory resources. This is required for all properties.

The Bethesda Baptist Church is an L-shaped brick building with a 1969 sanctuary and a 1988 education wing. The flat roof features two projecting hexagonal vaults, one topped with a metal cross. The main entrance is centered on the
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east elevation, facing South Getty Street, and a polygonal overhang shelters a slightly recessed entrance containing a pair of aluminum-framed doors flanked by full height, multi-pane, aluminum-framed windows. The metal casement windows are paired on the sanctuary wing, feature metal spandrel panels, and are sheltered by slightly projecting polygonal lintels; those on the education wing are set singly with concrete sills. The rear entrance at the southwest corner matches the front entrance and features projecting bricks in a decorative pattern and concrete integrated planters on the west wall. Cornerstones at the northeast corner of the building read "Bethesda Baptist Church, Educational Wing, Dedicated June 26, 1988," and "Bethesda Baptist Church, Founded 1910, Erected 1969." An asphalt parking lot extends across the rear (west) of the building and is accessed to the north from Sumner Avenue and the south from Wesley Avenue.

History of the Resource

Provide information on previous owners, land use(s), and construction and alteration dates in a narrative format. This is required for all intensive level surveys, NRPQs, and nominations, and recommended for other identification efforts.

The following church history is paraphrased from "The Bethesda Journey," contributed by members of Bethesda Baptist Church and included in the History of the African American Churches in Muskegon County Exhibit at the James Jackson Museum of African American History:

The congregation was organized June 8, 1910, and a meeting was held with White Baptist congregations to recognize the new church on June 21, 1910, including First Baptist Church, Swedish Baptist Church, and Muskegon Heights Baptist Church. Reverend J.W. Crushon was elected the first pastor.

The congregation worshipped at 235 Pine Street for the first few months, until the rent was increased and the congregation could no longer afford it. The congregation next worshipped at a vacant church building at Washington and Fifth Streets, but White neighbors complained the church services were too loud and after two months the church moved again. The congregation next worshipped at a "junk shop" on Spring Street near Clay Avenue. After a few months, the congregation relocated to a building at Webster and Spring Streets, which they later agreed to purchase for \$2,500. They made a \$500 down payment but were unable to keep up with subsequent payments, and moved again. White Baptist churches helped the Bethesda congregation purchase a house on Ottawa Street to serve as a church and parsonage.

In 1920, Pastor Crushon resigned and was replaced by Reverend Milles Lloyd. In 1921, the church filed Articles of Incorporation with the State of Michigan and the following year joined the Wolverine State Baptist Convention. The congregation was too small to support a full-time pastor, so the church was led by a series of part-time pastors; Reverend Lloyd was succeeded by Reverend Bledsoe then Reverend J.W. Gaines. Reverend Matthew Toomey was selected in 1924 and organized the Bethesda Jubilee Chorus, which performed concerts throughout western Michigan, usually for White audiences, to support the church's building fund. The group raised over \$1,500 by 1926 and exchanged the Ottawa Street property for a property on Webster Avenue, south of Pine Street. A large basement was built and dedicated in 1927, and for the next fourteen years served as a sanctuary with kitchen, restrooms, furnace room, and coal bin.

The turnover of church leadership continued with the resignation of Pastor Toomey, who was followed by Reverend Fields. Reverend McAlford. Reverend J.C. Cole was elected in 1931 and began a building fund to construct a sanctuary on the basement, though he fell ill and passed away before it was completed. During Pastor Cole's illness, Reverend W.M. Thompson from the Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church in Grand Rapids served as interim pastor. Reverend J.D. Buckley had relocated to Muskegon from Fort Smith, Arkansas, and became interim pastor in 1936, followed by Pastor Buckley, who later left his job at a local factory and became the first full-time pastor of the church.

During the Great Migration of the 1940s, the influx of African American factory workers to Muskegon resulted in the growth of the Bethesda congregation during that time and Building, Finance, Pledge, and Rally Committees were appointed. Efforts to raise funds to build the sanctuary on the basement were renewed, and an African American contractor from Kalamazoo was hired. The workforce included a combination of skilled laborers and volunteers, and the building was completed in December 1941 and dedicated in 1943. Central heating was also added, replacing the earlier coal heating system.

In 1949, Pastor Buckley resigned and was replaced by congregation member Reverend Ferdinand Fritz who was ordained the following year. The congregation continued to grow, and the Sunday School soon had nearly two hundred students and seventeen teachers. Renovations and an addition completed in 1954 included additional classrooms, a

pastor's study, a council room, a women's lounge, enlarging the kitchen, a new basement floor, a new entrance, and new pews, carpets, furniture, and other fixtures.

Pastor Fritz resigned in 1962 and the congregation invited a number of guest preachers over the following year. In 1963, Reverend Charles W. Poole was selected as the new pastor. The congregation had hoped to renovate the church again in the 1960s, however the site was determined to be unsuitable for their expansion plans. Groundbreaking for the current church at 575 Getty Street took place in 1967, and the existing property was sold to the Shell Oil Company and the existing church demolished. The congregation met at Froebel School until the new building was completed in 1969. It was designed by Vander Meiden and Koteles of Grand Haven with Alstrom Construction Company serving as the general contractor, and its capacity is 450 people plus an additional 80 in the choir loft. During its dedication on May 17, 1969, the congregation processed from Froebel School to the new church before holding the dedication services. A house adjacent to the church was purchased for use as a classroom building.

By the 1980s, more space was needed and the congregation planned the construction of an educational wing. Groundbreaking took place in 1986, and White Lake Construction Company served as the contractor. The addition was completed in 1988.

In 1987, Pastor Poole resigned, and the church was without a full-time pastor until 1988 when Reverend R.L. Coleman was selected. Reverend John Allen, Reverend Clem Shearer, and Reverend Thomas Hayes also served as associate pastors, assisting in leading morning and evening services and occasionally delivering sermons. In the 1990s, the congregation purchased a house at 1336 Forest Street to serve as a parsonage. In 1992, Reverend Coleman was dismissed and replaced by Pastor Poole, who returned to lead the church in 1993.

Members of Bethesda went on to establish and lead other African American churches in the community. These included Reverend R.E. Gooch and New Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church at 2117 Baker Street; Reverend Fred Tucker and Friendship Baptist Church at 2428 Ray Street; Reverend W.R. Stewart and Queen Esther Baptist Church at 2220 Superior Street; and Reverend Eddie Larkin and New Jerusalem Baptist Church at 2200 Manz Street, all in Muskegon Heights. The church congregation also had relationships with several sister churches in Muskegon and Muskegon Heights. These included John Wesley AME Church at 886 Wood Street in Muskegon; Shiloh Baptist Church at 1964 Russell Road in Muskegon; Spring Street Baptist Church at 912 Spring Street in Muskegon; West Side Grace Church at 414 West Oakwood Avenue in Muskegon Heights; and Phillip Chapel AME Church at 2145 Dyson Street in Muskegon Heights.

Brief Biography of Reverend Charles W. Poole

Pastor Poole remains Senior Pastor at the church and has been an important figure in Muskegon's African American history. Raised in the Black Bottom area of Detroit, he was involved in early Civil Rights activities there. His grandfather was a Baptist minister and friends with Martin Luther King, Sr., so Pastor Poole and Dr. King, Jr., became close friends as teenagers. The Poole and King families were also close with the Franklin family, including Clarence LaVaughn "C.L." Franklin, a Baptist minister and leader in Detroit's Civil Rights Movement, and his daughter Aretha Franklin. Pastor Poole recalled that in the 1950s and early 1960s, they would "sit up half the night in C.L.'s house, talk about what could be, and how we'd try to get there... We talked about the way things were going in the City of Detroit at that time... Housing was a big deal, first-class jobs were a big deal... And we were concerned about health, because people lived in terrible neighborhoods. And when things went bad, they were just lost, absolutely." But change at that time was "slow... A lot of promises, but not very much reality," he recalled, so he participated in demonstrations and marches in Detroit with Dr. King and the Franklins.

In the 1950s, Pastor Poole relocated to Inkster to lead the New Mt. Sinai Baptist Church. He came to Muskegon to lead Bethesda Baptist Church in 1963. He felt that many African Americans who had come from Southern states for factory jobs in Muskegon, "thought it would be easier for them [economically]...people found when they came here that the picture was not really like the [employment] recruiter had painted it to be." He recalled that when he arrived in Muskegon, downtown "was not really a place to be... If you went into one store and stayed around one counter too long and they didn't like it, you could tell they didn't like it – someone would come up and ask you in a negative way 'What do you want? What are you looking for?... And that was just 50 or 60 years ago.' But when it came to the Civil Rights Movement, he recalled that some African Americans in the area "didn't want to be in the fight. The thought everything [equality] was going to come to them, but they didn't want to really fight for it."

In 1987, he relocated to Albuquerque, New Mexico, but returned to Muskegon and Bethesda in 1993. He has been active in the Muskegon community, serving on the City of Muskegon Board of Education – the first African American

elected to hold office in the City of Muskegon – as well as the Muskegon Housing Commission and the Urban League of Greater Muskegon.

Statement of Significance/Recommendation of Eligibility

Provide a detailed explanation of the property's eligibility for the National Register. Include an evaluation under at least one of the four National Register Criteria and one Area of Significance. Include a discussion of the seven aspects of integrity, and make a recommendation about eligibility. This is required for all properties.

The building appears to retain integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association. It is likely eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion A for Black Ethnic Heritage and Social History as the home of the oldest Black congregation in Muskegon and a center of the Black community throughout its history. It is also likely eligible at the local level under Criterion C for Architecture as an intact Modernist-style church building. The period of significance should likely begin in 1969 when the building was completed. Further research is needed to identify an appropriate end date. The property meets Criteria Consideration A for Religious Properties as it derives its primary significance in the areas of Black Ethnic Heritage, Social History, and Architecture. Interior access was not provided during this project.

References

List references used to research and evaluate the individual property. For NRPQ's include copies of key documents.

"The Bethesda Journey." *History of the African American Churches in Muskegon County* Exhibit, James Jackson Museum of African American History, Muskegon Heights.

Moore, Lynn. "An exciting time': Muskegon's Charles Poole recalls times spend with Martin Luther King Jr." *MLive*. August 28, 2018. https://www.mlive.com/news/muskegon/2013/08/an_exciting_time_muskegons_cha.html.

Moore, Lynn. "Rev. Charles Poole ends historical run as Muskegon's first elected Black official." *MLive*. November 16, 2011. https://www.mlive.com/news/muskegon/2013/08/an_exciting_time_muskegons_cha.html.

Personal Communication with Reverend Charles W. Poole by Cheri Szcodronski, April 20, 2022, at Bethesda Baptist Church, Muskegon.

Survey Date	2022-2023	Recorded By	Cheri Szcodronski	Agency Report #	
For SHPO Use Only	SHPO Concurrence?: Y / N		Date:		

Form date: 2/28/2020

Current Photographs



East Elevation – Entrance Detail



East Elevation – Cornerstone Detail



Northeast Elevation



Northwest Elevation



Southwest Elevation



South Elevation



Southeast Elevation

Michigan SHPO Architectural Properties Identification Form



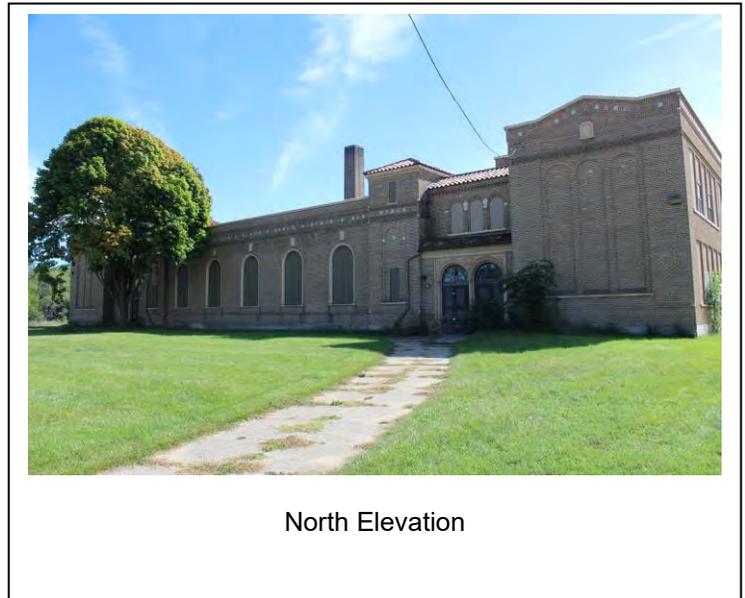
Property Overview and Location

Street Address	417 Jackson Avenue (See also Jackson Hill Neighborhood, Muskegon)				
City/Township, State, Zip Code	Muskegon, MI 49442				
County	Muskegon				
Assessor's Parcel #	61-24-205-024-0001-00				
Latitude/Longitude (to the 6 th decimal point)	Lat: 43.243264	Long: -86.233150			
Ownership	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	Public-Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public-State <input type="checkbox"/>	Public-Federal <input type="checkbox"/>	Multiple <input type="checkbox"/>

Property Type

(Insert primary photograph below.)

Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> select sub-type below	Structure <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Object <input type="checkbox"/>
Residential <input type="checkbox"/>	
Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	
Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	



Architectural Information

Construction Date	1930, 1971
Architectural Style	Spanish Colonial Revival
Building Form	Square
Roof Form	Flat, Hip
Roof Materials	Terra Cotta, Unknown
Exterior Wall Materials	Brick, Terra Cotta, Stone
Foundation Materials	Stone
Window Materials	Unknown
Window Type	Unknown
Outbuildings	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Number/Type:	Recreation Fields – c.1930 Boiler Building – c.1980

Eligibility

Individually Eligible	Criterion A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Criterion B <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Criterion D <input type="checkbox"/>
Criteria Considerations:	a. <input type="checkbox"/> b. <input type="checkbox"/> c. <input type="checkbox"/> d. <input type="checkbox"/> e. <input type="checkbox"/> f. <input type="checkbox"/> g. <input type="checkbox"/>			
Component of a Historic District	Contributing to a district <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Non-contributing to a district <input type="checkbox"/>	Historic District Name:	Jackson Hill Neighborhood
Not Eligible <input type="checkbox"/>				
Area(s) of Significance	Education, European Ethnic Heritage, Black Ethnic Heritage, Architecture			
Period(s) of Significance	1930 to undetermined date			
Integrity – Does the property possess integrity in all or some of the 7 aspects?				
Location <input type="checkbox"/>	Design <input type="checkbox"/>	Materials <input type="checkbox"/>	Workmanship <input type="checkbox"/>	Setting <input type="checkbox"/> Feeling <input type="checkbox"/> Association <input type="checkbox"/>
General Integrity:	Intact <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Date(s):
Historic Name	Froebel School			
Current/Common Name	Froebel School			
Historic/Original Owner	Muskegon Public Schools			
Historic Building Use	Education – School			
Current Building Use	Vacant			
Architect/Engineer/Designer	Frank S. Forster			
Builder/Contractor	Unknown			

Narrative Architectural Description

Provide a detailed description of the property, including all character-defining features and any accessory resources. This is required for all properties.

This two-story brick school was completed in 1930 and features detailing characteristic to the Spanish Colonial Revival style. The school is constructed of brick veneer with a stone foundation, rowlock water course, dog-tooth course, and multi-colored terra cotta cornice, stone coping, and a combination of low hip and shed roofs with round terra cotta tiles. Window openings are a combination of arched and rectangular, set within brick or stone surrounds with stone sills. The windows have been boarded though the original wood windows remain intact. The entrances are arched openings with multi-light transoms and feature elaborate carved stone surrounds. The building was originally constructed in an M-shape with classroom wings flanking a central auditorium and gymnasium. West of the gymnasium there remains a small courtyard, while a boiler room and coal room were constructed west of the gymnasium at least by 1950, if not when the school was built. The school retains two tall, interior brick chimneys. A new gymnasium, kitchen, and office wing was constructed in 1971 at the south end of the school, fully enclosing the west courtyard.

The school campus encompasses a full block bounded by Jackson Avenue to the north, Wood Street to the west, Sumner Avenue to the south, and Marshall Street to the east. The school faces north toward Jackson Avenue with concrete sidewalks leading to entrances at each end of the façade. A secondary entrance on the west elevation, facing Wood Street, is also accessed from the street by a concrete sidewalk. A large parking lot is located south of the school, accessed from Wood Street. A boiler building is located at the southeast corner of the school and according to aerial imagery was constructed between 1973 and 1990. Recreation fields extend along Sumner Avenue and Marshall Street, forming an L-shape around the south and east sides of the school.

The façade (north elevation) of the school, facing Jackson Avenue, is irregularly shaped though symmetrical. The center of this elevation is the one-story, flat-roof auditorium, which is five bays wide with large, arched windows set in stone surrounds with stone sills and carved stone panels above the crown of each window. This center section is flanked by slightly projecting two-story square towers with narrow rectangular windows set in arched brick panels with stone springers, terra cotta tiles, and stone sills; a narrow window at the upper story, and low hip roofs with round terra cotta tiles. These sections are flanked by slightly lower, two-story entrance bays with a slightly recessed second story. Each entrance contains two sets of metal-framed doors with wide, two-light sidelights topped with arched, multi-light wood transoms. The doors are set within elaborate stone surrounds with foliate carved arches on Corinthian pilasters with foliate spandrel panels all set within spiral pilasters with foliate cornerblocks. The first story also features a carved stone cornice with foliate and dentil detailing under a shed roof with round terra cotta tiles. The second story is side-gabled with a group of three arched windows with soldier-course surrounds with stone springers and sills, a corbelled cornice, and a hip roof with round terra cotta tiles. The east and west ends of the façade are taller two-story, projecting bays with three arched brick panels in rowlock surrounds with geometric stone detailing, a corbelled cornice, and a carved stone panel in the peaked roof.

The two-story west elevation, facing Wood Street, is 32 bays wide and nearly symmetrical. The entrance is centered on the elevation and contains a metal door with a boarded sidelight and transom set within a corbeled arched surround. A cornice of arched brick with stone detailing sits below a narrow shed roof with round terra cotta tiles, above which there is a slightly recessed pair of arched windows in carved stone surrounds. The entrance bay projects slightly from this elevation, which is emphasized by spiral carved stone columns on each side. The entrance bay is further emphasized by a low stone peak at the roofline. The entrance bay is flanked by groups of five rectangular windows with stone sills that are slightly recessed from the central entrance bay with spiral carved stone columns at the corners. The north end of this elevation contains two groups of three windows and one group of five windows, while the south end contains two groups of five windows, with each end set back slightly from the rest of the elevation.

The south elevation originally was irregularly shaped due to the arrangement of the various wings of the roughly M-shaped building, but now is partially obscured by the 1971 addition construction in the middle of this elevation. The east and west ends of this elevation project from the main block of the school and retain groups of three arched brick panels. Slightly recessed bays to the interior of the end bays are partially obscured by the 1971 addition, with the second story retaining single windows. The 1971 brick-veneer, flat-roof addition is symmetrical with one-story entrance bays on each end containing metal-framed doors and sheltered by wide overhangs, and a two-story blind center section with wide overhangs at each end sheltering secondary entrances into each one-story wing. A six-row soldier course wraps the addition at the cornice of the one-story wings and between the first and second stories of the center section.

The two-story east elevation is similar to the west elevation in arrangement and detailing. It is 30 bays wide at the first story with (from south to north) a group of five windows, an entrance bay flanked by single windows, a group of five

windows, a single window, a six-window polygonal bay window flanked by single wider windows, an entrance bay flanked by single windows, and a group of five windows. The second story is 31 bays wide, largely matching the first floor but with groups of five windows above the first-story entrance bays and a group of four windows above the first-story bay window. The entrance bays project slightly with gabled, round terra cotta tile roofs, pointed and arched corbeled brick surrounds, and recessed metal doors with arched transoms that have been boarded. The windows on this elevation are rectangular with stone sills.

Boiler Building – c.1980

A one-story boiler building constructed between 1973 and 1990 is located at the southeast corner of the school building. The brick-veneer building has a poured concrete foundation, three-row soldier-course cornice, and flat roof with metal coping. A metal door is set in a full-height rectangular brick panel on the west and north elevations. Additional openings on the north elevation are boarded.

Recreation Fields – c.1930

The doors on the east elevation lead to the recreation area, including a concrete pad, likely once a playground area, and athletic fields that retain chain-link baseball/softball backstops.

History of the Resource

Provide information on previous owners, land use(s), and construction and alteration dates in a narrative format. This is required for all intensive level surveys, NRPQs, and nominations, and recommended for other identification efforts.

The Froebel School is located in the Jackson Hill neighborhood, also known as the First Ward, an area of northeastern Muskegon that was settled largely by European immigrants. This school replaced an earlier school completed in 1888 north of the present school, where Aamodt Park is today. The school was named in honor of German educator Friedrich Froebel, known for his nineteenth-century educational reforms, including the establishment of kindergarten education. After the present building was completed in 1930, this earlier building was used for teacher training for a few years until it was abandoned and demolished. There was also a Froebel Kindergarten, but the details of the location, date of construction, or years in use are not clear. (Trygg, 20-22)

The building served grades K-6 and included classrooms, study rooms, recitation rooms, an auditorium, a gymnasium, and restrooms. There was a specialized kindergarten room for as many as sixty children to attend half-day school. The room included a fireplace, tiled aquarium, miniature stage, circular window seat, and restrooms. The gymnasium included shower and locker rooms, as well as an adjacent kitchen for community events. The local branch of the public library, first established in Jackson Hill at the Aamodt Building, was moved to the Froebel School when it opened. It was utilized by school children during the day and by public in the evenings, and it was the only branch library in Muskegon to serve adult patrons at that time. (*The Muskegon Chronicle*)

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the neighborhood was predominantly European immigrants, many of Scandinavian descent. By the mid-twentieth century, the Jackson Hill Neighborhood was almost entirely comprised of African American residents. A series of race-related conflicts took place at the Froebel School in the 1960s and 1970s. Froebel School was one of two nearly all-Black student populations among the seventeen schools in the Muskegon school district. In 1967, the local branch of the NAACP picketed the school, demanding that it be closed due to the de facto segregation taking place there. At the start of the 1969-1970 school year, efforts to move fifth and sixth grade students to a nearby school were picketed and protested by parents, citing safety concerns, until the school district returned all K-6 students to Froebel School. When the south addition was constructed in the spring of 1971, further picketing occurred due to the hiring practices of the selected contractor, who assigned only one African American employee to the project. (Trygg, 20-22; *The Muskegon Chronicle*)

The school district received a \$200,000 grant for the 1969-1970 school year to invest in the Froebel neighborhood specifically, with spending restricted to hiring additional teachers, teacher in-service training, and program evaluation. The initial plan to use these funds was to move fifth and sixth grade students from Froebel School to the vacant Vanderlaan School, located three blocks south of Froebel School on Wood Street. Parents resisted this plan, voicing concerns over student safety while walking on Wood Street, one of the city's busiest thoroughfares. In addition, an education program for pregnant teenagers was housed at Vanderlaan School, and parents were concerned about their young girls attending the same school. Parents formed picket lines at Froebel School carrying signs with slogans including "Does School Board Love Black Children?" and "Froebel Students Belong at Froebel School." After the first week under the new plan, during which only about sixty percent of fifth and sixth graders attended school at

Vanderlaan, and after the Muskegon City Council rejected a proposal to close Wood Street three times a day for student safety, the plan was abandoned. By the fall of 1969, about half of the grant had been used to hire additional teachers to work with small groups of students at Froebel School, with class sizes of 18-25 students per class. The Board of Education claimed that the remainder of the grant could not be used without the additional space at the Vanderlaan School, though it is not clear if the funds were used or returned. (*The Muskegon Chronicle*)

In the fall of 1969, a group of concerned parents addressed the Board of Education about threats from teachers that low-income students from the Jackson Hill neighborhood would be removed from classrooms or not receive report cards if unable to afford the necessary books or supplies. Jane Wilson, the Assistant Principal, responded that all students would be provided for as long as financial needs were known. There appears to have been no further conflict on this issue. (*The Muskegon Chronicle*)

Additional racial strife took place during the 1970-1971 school year. In the spring of 1971, Alstrom Construction Company was contracted to construct an addition to the Froebel School containing a new gymnasium, kitchen, and offices with funding from a \$550,000 bond issue. About sixty parents and neighborhood residents formed the Froebel Concerned Parents Group and began picketing the school, concerned that only one African American worker was hired for the construction project. Henry Ashley, spokesman for the Froebel Concerned Parents Group, told *The Muskegon Chronicle* that, "We want to see some of our people earning of this money that's being given out in this community." He went on to assert that, "All people, including contractors, stores, bakeries, and trucking companies, who do not have black [sic] people, will either hire black [sic] people or they will not operate in this county... We no longer will accept crumbs from the white power structure's table. We, as black [sic] people, want some jobs." (*The Muskegon Chronicle*)

Tommy Jones was hired as the principal starting with the 1971-1972 school year, the first African American to serve in the position at Froebel School even though the school was one of two schools with the highest African American student population of the seventeen Muskegon district schools. (*The Muskegon Chronicle*)

By the 1979-1980 school year, the school enrolled 200 elementary students and 125 General Education Diploma and Adult Education students, and the building continued to house the branch library. (*The Muskegon Chronicle*)

The Muskegon School District implemented a reorganization plan following the 1985-1986 school year that resulted in the reassignment of the K-6th grade students from Froebel School to Marquette School. Alternative education and a teenage parent education program were also moved from the Vanderlaan School to Froebel School at that time, and Vanderlaan School was closed. The school was ultimately a casualty of urban renewal when a Department of Housing and Urban Development grant funded the demolition of 225 houses in the Jackson Hill neighborhood from 1971 to 1976. Very few homes were rebuilt, in turn causing enrollment at Froebel School to drop from over 650 students and staff in the mid-1960s to less than 100 students and staff by 1986. James Blackmon, who taught fifth and sixth grade at Froebel School, told *The Muskegon Chronicle* that, "Anytime you change, it is traumatic, but this is a sad time for me because they're taking the school away from the immediate neighborhood." Principal Louise Humphreys noted, "We've tried to make this easy on the kids by staying positive. We've taken the approach that this is a transition, not the end. This is just moving day. We're all moving into a new house." However, the transition fractured the school community. Sixth-grader Martha Sartor commented that "Sixth graders, when they went to Steele (Junior High School), used to come back here [to Froebel School] and talk to their teachers. Now I don't know where they're going to be." And her prediction was accurate; *The Muskegon Chronicle* noted that teachers would be moved to McLaughlin School and Marsh School while their students would be attending Marquette. (*The Muskegon Chronicle*)

The school later served as Muskegon's Froebel Alternative School, with about 125 students who struggled in a typical classroom setting, either due to disability or behavior problems. When the district began using the school for this use is not clear, but newspaper clippings indicate it was in operation by 1999 and closed in 2003. (*The Muskegon Chronicle*)

Statement of Significance/Recommendation of Eligibility

Provide a detailed explanation of the property's eligibility for the National Register. Include an evaluation under at least one of the four National Register Criteria and one Area of Significance. Include a discussion of the seven aspects of integrity, and make a recommendation about eligibility. This is required for all properties.

The building appears to retain integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association, though interior integrity and the condition of the windows, transoms, and other boarded features must be confirmed. The building is likely eligible at the local level under Criterion A for Education and European Ethnic Heritage as a school established for the children of immigrants who settled the Jackson Hill area to receive an American education. The building is also likely eligible at the local level under Criterion A for Education and Black Ethnic Heritage for its history of

race-related conflict, including picketing and demonstrations during the 1960s and early 1970s. The building is likely eligible at the local level under Criterion C for Architecture as an intact example of a Spanish Colonial Revival-style school building. The period of significance should likely begin in 1930 when the building was completed. The school closed in 1986, however further research is needed to determine an appropriate end date.

References

List references used to research and evaluate the individual property. For NRPQ's include copies of key documents.

- "Abandon Vanderlaan Classes: Schools Yield to Pickets in Ending Froebel Plan." *The Muskegon Chronicle*. Hackley Public Library, Torrent House Local History and Genealogy Department, Muskegon.
- "Blacks Picket School Project." *The Muskegon Chronicle*. March 8, 1971. Hackley Public Library, Torrent House Local History and Genealogy Department, Muskegon.
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- Walling, Sue. "Board Clarified Concerns Of Parents at Froebel." *The Muskegon Chronicle*. October 22, 1969. Hackley Public Library, Torrent House Local History and Genealogy Department, Muskegon.
- Walling, Sue. "Parents Resisting New School Plan." *The Muskegon Chronicle*. August 20, 1969. Hackley Public Library, Torrent House Local History and Genealogy Department, Muskegon.
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"Wood Street Closing Asked: Safety Key Objective in Froebel Picketing." *The Muskegon Chronicle*. September 3, 1969. Hackley Public Library, Torrent House Local History and Genealogy Department, Muskegon.

Yates, C.H. "Know Muskegon." *The Muskegon Chronicle*. November 17, 1951. Hackley Public Library, Torrent House Local History and Genealogy Department, Muskegon.

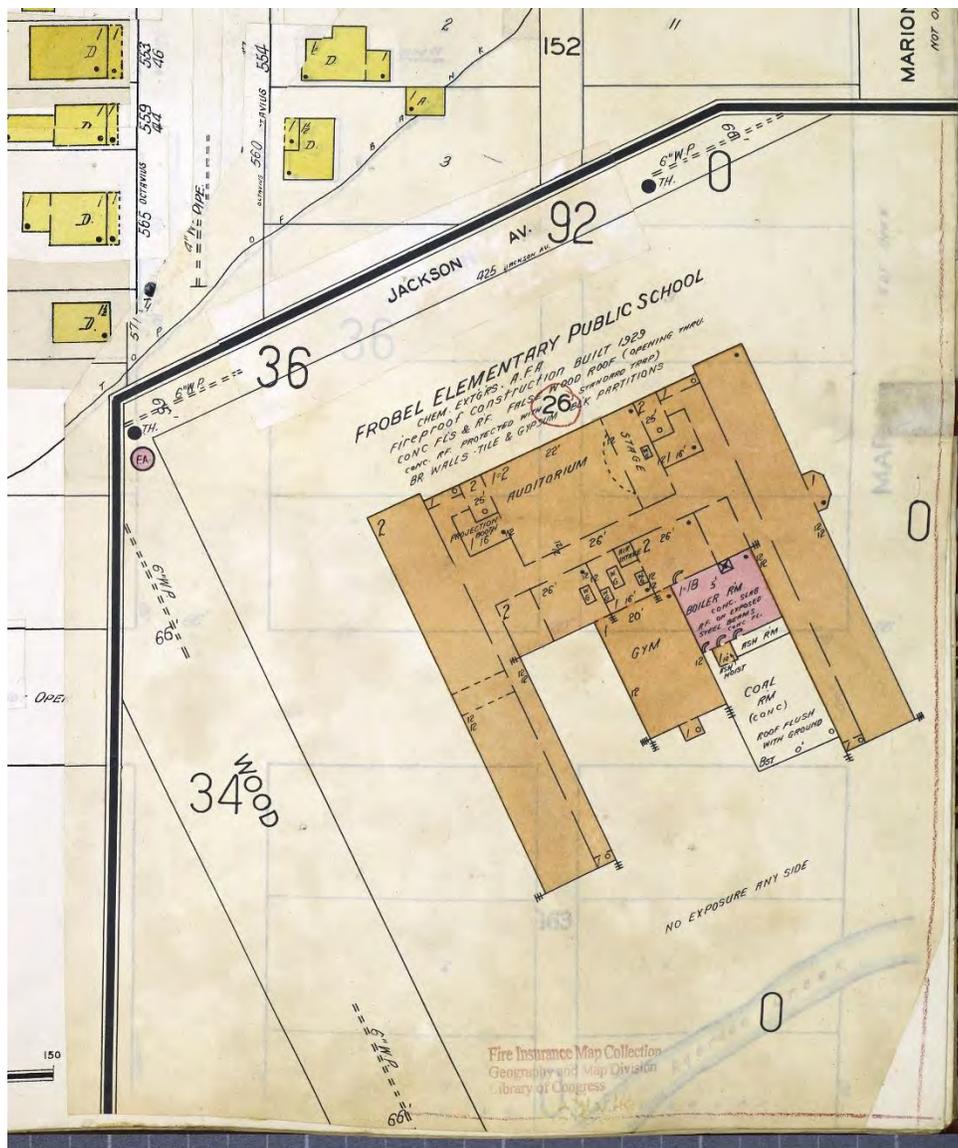
Survey Date	2022-2023	Recorded By	Cheri Szczodronski	Agency Report #	
For SHPO Use Only	SHPO Concurrence?: Y / N		Date:		

Form date: 2/28/2020

Historic Photographs and Maps



1930 Rendering
(courtesy of MLive)



Excerpt of 1950 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
(courtesy of University of Michigan Libraries)



Excerpt of 1961 Aerial Image
(courtesy of City of Muskegon Planning Department)



Excerpt of 1973 Aerial Image
(courtesy of City of Muskegon Planning Department)



Excerpt of 1990 Aerial Image
(courtesy of City of Muskegon Planning Department)

Current Photographs



Northeast Elevation



North Elevation – Entrance Detail



North Elevation



North Elevation – Entrance Detail



Northwest Elevation



West Elevation



West Elevation – Entrance Detail



West Elevation – Window and Cornice Detail



West Elevation – Window Detail



Southwest Elevation



1971 Addition – Southwest Elevation



1971 Addition – Southeast Elevation



South Elevation



East Elevation



East Elevation



Boiler Building – West Elevation



Boiler Building – North Elevation



Recreation Fields – Facing East



Recreation Fields – Facing South



Recreation Fields – Facing Southeast



Recreation Fields – Facing East

Michigan SHPO Architectural Properties Identification Form



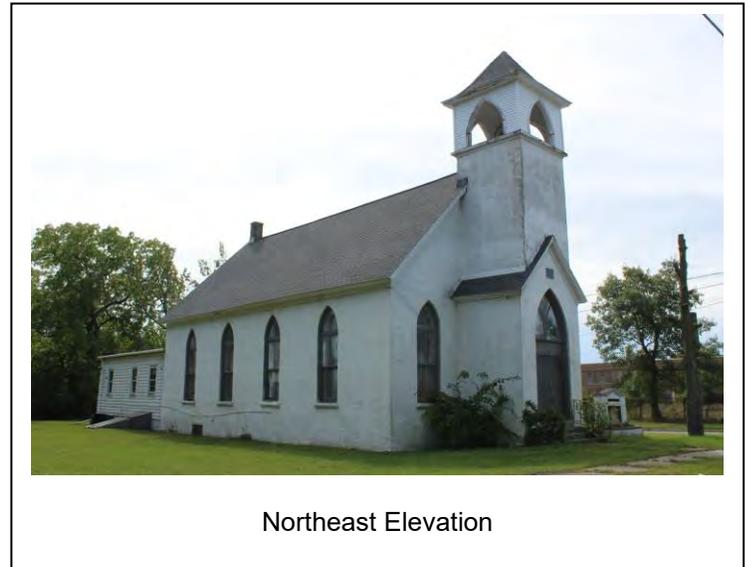
Property Overview and Location

Street Address	521 Jackson Avenue <i>(See also Jackson Hill Neighborhood, Muskegon)</i>				
City/Township, State, Zip Code	Muskegon, MI 49442				
County	Muskegon				
Assessor's Parcel #	61-24-205-023-0003-00				
Latitude/Longitude (to the 6 th decimal point)	Lat: 43.243563	Long: -86.231265			
Ownership	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public-Local <input type="checkbox"/>	Public-State <input type="checkbox"/>	Public-Federal <input type="checkbox"/>	Multiple <input type="checkbox"/>

Property Type

(Insert primary photograph below.)

Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> select sub-type below	Structure <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Object <input type="checkbox"/>
Residential <input type="checkbox"/>	
Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	
Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	



Northeast Elevation

Architectural Information

Construction Date	1889
Architectural Style	Gothic Revival
Building Form	Rectangular
Roof Form	Front Gable
Roof Materials	Asphalt
Exterior Wall Materials	Brick
Foundation Materials	Brick
Window Materials	Wood
Window Type	2/2
Outbuildings	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Number/Type:	

Eligibility

Individually Eligible	Criterion A <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion B <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Criterion D <input type="checkbox"/>
Criteria Considerations:	a. <input type="checkbox"/> b. <input type="checkbox"/> c. <input type="checkbox"/> d. <input type="checkbox"/> e. <input type="checkbox"/> f. <input type="checkbox"/> g. <input type="checkbox"/>			
Component of a Historic District	Contributing to a district <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Non-contributing to a district <input type="checkbox"/>	Historic District Name:	Jackson Hill Neighborhood
Not Eligible <input type="checkbox"/>				
Area(s) of Significance	Architecture			
Period(s) of Significance	1888 to undetermined date			
Integrity – Does the property possess integrity in all or some of the 7 aspects?				
Location <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Design <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Materials <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Workmanship <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Setting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Feeling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Association <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
General Integrity:	Intact <input type="checkbox"/>	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Date(s):
Historic Name	Jackson Avenue Congregational Church			
Current/Common Name				
Historic/Original Owner	Jackson Avenue Congregational Church			
Historic Building Use	Religion – religious facility			
Current Building Use	Vacant			
Architect/Engineer/Designer	Unknown			
Builder/Contractor	Unknown			

Narrative Architectural Description

Provide a detailed description of the property, including all character-defining features and any accessory resources. This is required for all properties.

Located at the southeast corner of Jackson Avenue and Marshall Street, this Gothic Revival-style church is constructed of brick, which has been painted white, and is a front gabled building with a central square tower rising from a gabled entrance bay. The entrance bay retains the original pair of five-panel wood doors with a pointed arch wood transom with tracery. A stone plaque above the entrance is engraved "Jackson Ave Congregational Church 1889." The tower above the entrance bay is topped with a hip-roof belfry clad in vinyl siding with pointed arch openings on each side and beadboard on the interior walls. Tall, narrow, two-over-two wood windows with pointed arch transoms with tracery and cast-stone sills flank the entrance bay on the façade. The east and west elevations are four bays wide and contain windows matching the façade. There is an interior brick chimney at the south end of the building. A small, one-story, flat-roof addition was constructed sometime before 1961 and has an entrance facing west toward Marshall Street and sheltered by a gabled hood, vinyl siding and windows, and a concrete block foundation.

Realty photos from around 2022 show the interior of the church retains the original finishes, including narrow wood floors, plain wood baseboards, a vertical sheathing wainscot topped with a wood chair rail, a combination of horizontal and vertical sheathing on the walls, and an elliptical barrel vault ceiling with small, square wood panels.

History of the Resource

Provide information on previous owners, land use(s), and construction and alteration dates in a narrative format. This is required for all intensive level surveys, NRPQs, and nominations, and recommended for other identification efforts.

The Jackson Avenue Congregational Church had its beginnings in a Sunday School for local children. In the late nineteenth century, children gathered to learn Bible stories at the home of William Trafford, a Jackson Hill resident. The group quickly outgrew Trafford's home, and sought the aid of his downtown church, the First Congregational Church of Muskegon, to build the Jackson Avenue Congregation Church and establish a Sunday School.

The congregation built a new church at 2175 Marquette Avenue in 1963 and was renamed Orchard View Congregational Church. In the late 1970s, the congregation included about one hundred families, but appears to have been dissolved since that time. The Mt. Zion Church of God in Christ worshipped at the Jackson Avenue location from 1964 until 1982, when they relocated to their current downtown location at 188 West Muskegon Avenue. The Jackson Avenue building remains vacant and the Marquette Avenue building is now used as the Marquette Campus for congregational care and Bible studies by the Olivet Evangelical Free Church in Muskegon.

Statement of Significance/Recommendation of Eligibility

Provide a detailed explanation of the property's eligibility for the National Register. Include an evaluation under at least one of the four National Register Criteria and one Area of Significance. Include a discussion of the seven aspects of integrity, and make a recommendation about eligibility. This is required for all properties.

The building appears to retain integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association. It is likely eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as an intact example of Gothic Revival-style religious architecture. The church would also likely be a contributing building within a Jackson Hill historic district. The period of significance should likely begin in 1888 with the building's construction, though further research is needed to identify an appropriate end date. The property meets Criteria Consideration A for Religious Properties as it derives its primary significance in the area of Architecture. Interior access was not provided during this project.

References

List references used to research and evaluate the individual property. For NRPQ's include copies of key documents.

Trygg Lodge No. 536, Vasa Order of America, ed. "Jackson Hill Area: A Historical Sketch." City of Muskegon Planning Department.

Survey Date	2022-2023	Recorded By	Cheri Szcodronski	Agency Report #	
For SHPO Use Only	SHPO Concurrence?: Y / N		Date:		

Form date: 2/28/2020

Current Photographs



North Elevation



North Elevation – Gable Detail



Northwest Elevation



West Elevation



Interior c.2022 – Facing Northwest
(courtesy of Coldwell Banker Realty)

Michigan SHPO Architectural District/Complex Identification Form



District Overview and Location

District/Complex Historic Name	Jackson Hill Neighborhood		
Current/Common Name	Jackson Hill Neighborhood		
Roughly bounded by streets	Leonard Avenue to north, White Avenue to south, Getty Street to east, Yuba Street to west		
City, State, Zip Code(s)	Muskegon, MI 49442		
County	Muskegon		
Total Acres in the District	Approximately 115 acres		
Ownership	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public-Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public-State <input type="checkbox"/> Public-Federal <input type="checkbox"/>

District/Complex Type

(Insert map or aerial photo with boundaries below.)

Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Rural/Farm Complex <input type="checkbox"/>
Residential <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	



District/Complex Information

Total Number of Resources	Not Evaluated
Contributing Resources	Not Evaluated
Non-Contributing Resources	Not Evaluated
Significant Dates	Not Evaluated

For complexes provide a list of resources: N/A

National Register Eligibility

Is the district listed in the National Register?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	If yes, provide:	Date Listed:	NRIS #:
<i>If not already listed, complete the information below:</i>					
Eligible Under:	Criterion A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Criterion B <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Criterion D <input type="checkbox"/>	
Criteria Considerations:	a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	b. <input type="checkbox"/>	c. <input type="checkbox"/>	d. <input type="checkbox"/>	e. <input type="checkbox"/> f. <input type="checkbox"/> g. <input type="checkbox"/>
Not Eligible <input type="checkbox"/>					
Area(s) of Significance	Social History, European Ethnic Heritage, Black Ethnic Heritage, Architecture				
Period(s) Significance	c.1920 – c.1970				
Integrity – Does the district/complex possess integrity in all or some of the 7 aspects?					
General Integrity:	Intact <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Date(s):	
Location <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Design <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Materials <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Workmanship <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Setting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feeling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Association <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Condition of District?	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Poor <input type="checkbox"/>		
Threats to Resource?	None Known				

Narrative District/Complex Description

Provide a detailed description of the district/complex, including general character of the district/complex, types of buildings and structures including outbuildings and bridges, and the qualities distinguishing the district/complex from its surroundings. This is required for all districts/complexes.

The Jackson Hill Neighborhood is generally bounded by Ryerson Creek to the south, Getty Street to the east, the Muskegon River to the north, and Lake Michigan to the west, however a smaller area of the neighborhood is recommended for evaluation as a historic district.

The homes on Marquette and Leonard Avenues are generally intact examples of early twentieth century architecture, predominantly vernacular and Craftsman-style buildings, reflecting growth of the neighborhood during that time. Two community parks are also located in this area of the neighborhood. Aamodt Park at 390 Marquette Avenue, the original site of the Froebel School, is named for Martin E.A. Aamodt, who served on the Board of Education from 1925 until his death in 1934. Baha'i Peace Park is also located on Marquette Avenue, established in the 1980s as a meditation and gathering space for members of the Baha'i faith and their neighbors in the community.

Jackson Avenue should also be evaluated for inclusion in a historic district. This area of the neighborhood, just south of Marquette Avenue, includes the former Freddie Townsend Neighborhood Center in the Aamodt Building at 313 Jackson Avenue, which now serves as a homeless shelter. The 1930 Froebel School, an intact example of Spanish Colonial Revival-style architecture and the center of race-related demonstrations in the 1960s and early 1970s, is located at 417 Jackson Avenue. And at 521 Jackson Avenue, the Jackson Avenue Congregational Church had its beginnings in an informal Sunday School in the late nineteenth century, with the present building, completed in 1889, a highly intact example of Gothic Revival-style religious architecture. This area includes more vacant lots than Marquette and Leonard Avenues, which reflects the disinvestment following expressway construction and urban renewal practices in the neighborhood in the 1960s and 1970s.

Smith-Ryerson Park and Green Acres Park, on the east and west sides of Wood Street, respectively, south of Sumner Avenue, should also be evaluated for inclusion within a historic district. Green Acres Park was established around 1950 after the removal of a temporary housing camp on the site for African American laborers coming to Muskegon for World War II-related manufacturing jobs. Smith-Ryerson Park, originally known as C.W. Smith Playfield, followed in the mid-1960s. This park retains the 1950s Sims Ray Community Building and a c.1967 maintenance building, as well as more recent restrooms, playground, picnic shelter, trails, and athletic facilities.

Adjacent to Green Acres Park is the New Hope Baptist Church at 564 Yuba Street, one of Muskegon's most prominent Black congregations. Though highly altered, the church has been, and remains, a central Black institution in the Jackson Hill neighborhood, and therefore warrants evaluation for inclusion in a historic district.

History of the District/Complex

Provide information on previous owners, land use, construction and alteration dates in a narrative format. This is required for all intensive level surveys and recommended for other identification efforts.

The Jackson Hill Neighborhood, originally known as the First Ward, is generally bounded by Ryerson Creek to the south, Getty Street to the east, the Muskegon River to the north, and Lake Michigan to the west. The valuable waterways made this area attractive for Indigenous peoples, including the Ottawa. The earliest European settlers arrived in the 1830s and established fur trading posts, shipyards, and sawmills. Lumbering provided the economic base of this area for much of the nineteenth century, until the railroads arrived in 1870. (Trygg, 1-4) Railway repair shops were established on the Muskegon River at the north end of the Jackson Hill neighborhood in the late 1870s and employed as many as two hundred people, most from the local community, by the early 1900s. (Trygg, 16-18) The neighborhood grew quickly in the late nineteenth century, in part due to the railway repair shops, and in part due to the establishment of streetcars in 1882 and the construction of a bridge over Ryerson Creek in 1883, both resulting in improved connection to downtown Muskegon. (Trygg, 5-6) Ottawa Street on the west end of the neighborhood developed as the commercial core of Jackson Hill, with boarding houses, hotels, saloons, general stores, grocery stores, barber shops, and other retail and services. (Trygg, 6-7)

The neighborhood also offered public services to its growing population. The first fire department in the city's history was established in the 1880s with a water tower located at Jackson Avenue and Wood Street and a fire department building on Jackson Avenue at Yuba Street (both no longer extant). (Trygg, 5) The Froebel School opened in the 300

block of Marquette Avenue in 1888, named in honor of German educator Friedrich Froebel, known for his nineteenth-century educational reforms, including the establishment of kindergarten education. There was also a Froebel Kindergarten, but the details of the location, date of construction, or years in use are not clear. A branch library, first established in Jackson Hill at the Aamodt Building at 313 Jackson Avenue, was moved to the Froebel School when it opened. It was utilized by school children during the day and by all ages in the evenings, and it was the only branch library in Muskegon to serve adult patrons at that time. (Trygg, 20-22) The Jackson Avenue Congregational Church, which had grown out of an informal Sunday School, was completed in 1889. (Trygg, 15)

By the early twentieth century, the neighborhood was predominantly home to European immigrants, in particular those of Scandinavian descent. (Trygg, 16) Parents petitioned the Board of Education for a school in the Jackson Hill Neighborhood so their children, some American-born and some also immigrants, could learn English and receive an American education. The present Froebel School was completed in 1930, and the branch library moved into the new school building, while the old school building was used for teacher training for a short time before being closed and demolished. By the 1940s, the site had been designated a city park in honor of Martin E.A. Aamodt, an immigrant remembered by the community for attending night school to learn English, then working his way up the socioeconomic ladder, starting as a sawmill laborer and later owning his own grocery store, and who also was a member of the school board from 1925 until 1934. The park served as “a fitting memorial to Mr. Aamodt and at the same time, a memorial to hundreds of others, whose obscure but good lives contributed to the building up of Jackson Hill and the First Ward.” (Trygg, 9, 25)

African Americans began moving into the neighborhood with the influx of African American laborers coming to the city to work in World War II-related manufacturing jobs. Many residents in this neighborhood, sometimes known as “the bottoms,” were Black laborers from Lakey Foundry in downtown Muskegon. (Up From the Bottoms) The local housing market was unable to keep pace with the influx of new residents, so the Federal Housing Administration established temporary housing in multiple locations throughout Muskegon. One of these was located in the Jackson Hill Neighborhood: the Green Acres trailer camp on the west side of Wood Street, specifically designated for single African American men. By 1948, the availability of housing had begun to catch up the population growth and the temporary camps were no longer needed. The Green Acres trailers were sold to the public and removed from the site in 1949. Soon after, the property was purchased for use as a public park. (*The Muskegon Chronicle*)

A second public park was established in the 1960s across Wood Street from Green Acres Park and immediately south of the Froebel School. Local industrialist C.W. Smith provided funding for the city to purchase the 25-acre parcel for use as a public park and maintenance headquarters. An existing building on the site was converted for use as a maintenance shed and later community center, and a new maintenance shed was built around 1967. (*The Muskegon Chronicle*)

By the mid-twentieth century, the Jackson Hill Neighborhood was almost entirely comprised of African American residents. A series of race-related conflicts took place at the Froebel School in the 1960s and 1970s. Froebel School was one of two nearly all-Black student populations among the seventeen schools in the Muskegon school district. In 1967, the local branch of the NAACP picketed the school, demanding that it be closed due to the de facto segregation taking place there. At the start of the 1969-1970 school year, efforts to move fifth and sixth grade students to a nearby school were picketed and protested by parents, citing safety concerns, until the school district returned all K-6 students to Froebel School. When the south addition was constructed in the spring of 1971, further picketing occurred due to the hiring practices of the selected contractor, who assigned only one African American employee to the project. (Trygg, 20-22; *The Muskegon Chronicle*)

The neighborhood was severely impacted by urban renewal efforts in the 1960s and 1970s. In the early 1960s, all buildings on Prospect Street were condemned and taken by eminent domain, while the street itself and its cross streets were removed to make way for the construction of the Business US 31 Expressway. Ottawa Street, on the west side of the expressway, was cut off from the rest of the neighborhood to the east. (Trygg, 26) This area had been the primary Black business district in Muskegon, “the liveliest street in town” according to resident Spencer Norman, with retail stores and a bustling night life. (Up From the Bottoms)

Many of the businesses that made up the neighborhood’s commercial core went under as a result of the separation of Ottawa Street from the rest of the neighborhood, including Tourre’s Grocery, Sepia Café, and the Moroccan Club. (Trygg, 26) Black churches were especially affected by the construction of Business US 31 and later Shoreline and Seaway Drives. The Deacon Lewis Hinton Home at 439 Ottawa Street, the first location of the Mt. Zion Church of God in Christ; a house at 567 Ottawa Street used as the Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church and Parsonage; New Hope Baptist Church at 341 Ottawa Street; and the John Wesley AME Zion Church at 23 East Webster Avenue were all demolished for road construction projects. This was particularly devastating to the Jackson Hill neighborhood due to the

great importance of churches as the center of Black communities, though New Hope Baptist and John Wesley AME Zion remained in the neighborhood after relocating.

By 1979, approximately \$4 million had been spent in the neighborhood by the Muskegon Office of Urban Development, about 75% of which included federal grants. Though these funds were utilized to build the playground at Smith-Ryerson Park at 650 Wood Street (extant), make a number of infrastructure improvements, and refurbish about 175-200 homes, it also resulted in the demolition of 250 buildings, mostly homes, while only fifteen new single-family homes were constructed in their place. These vacant lots further fractured the neighborhood's landscape and caused a steep decline in the neighborhood's population, ultimately leading to the closure of the Froebel School and other community institutions in the late twentieth century. (Trygg, 26) Jerry Lottie, chair of the NAACP Housing Committee and Director of the Muskegon Housing Commission, recalled "They didn't always give us the opportunity to rebuild. They didn't teach us how to rebuild our neighborhood." (Jerry Lottie)

Statement of Significance/Recommendation of Eligibility

Provide a detailed explanation of the district/complex's eligibility for the National Register, including an evaluation under the four criteria, discussion of the seven aspects of integrity, and recommendations about eligibility. This is required for all districts/complexes.

Though extant buildings are generally in fair condition and there are a number of vacant lots, the Jackson Hill Neighborhood appears to retain integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association.

The neighborhood is likely eligible as a National Register Historic District with significance at the local level under Criterion A for Social History, Black Ethnic Heritage, and Education as a neighborhood of primarily European immigrants in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, shifting to a predominantly African American neighborhood in the mid-twentieth century. The proposed district retains important community institutions, and community members were involved in the local Civil Rights Movement, with demonstrations taking place within the proposed district boundary.

The Jackson Hill Neighborhood is also likely significant at the local level under Criterion C for architecture with buildings reflecting the late nineteenth century establishment of the community and early twentieth century growth. Buildings include a Gothic Revival-style religious building, a Spanish Colonial Revival-style educational building, vernacular and Craftsman-style residential buildings, and mid-twentieth-century recreational buildings.

The recommended historic district meets Criteria Consideration A for Religious Buildings as the churches included within the recommended boundary derive their primary significance in the areas of Social History, Black Ethnic Heritage, and Architecture.

References

List references used to research and evaluate the district/complex.

"Asks Removal of Green Acres Trailer Housing." *The Muskegon Chronicle*. September 29, 1948. Hackley Public Library, Torrent House Local History and Genealogy Department, Muskegon.

"Abandon Vanderlaan Classes: Schools Yield to Pickets in Ending Froebel Plan." *The Muskegon Chronicle*. Hackley Public Library, Torrent House Local History and Genealogy Department, Muskegon.

Alexander, Dave. "City of Muskegon Rededicates Smith-Ryerson Park, Pavilion in Pastor's Memory." *MLive*. May 21, 2011. https://www.mlive.com/news/muskegon/2011/05/city_of_muskegon_rededicates_s.html.

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"Hire Negro as Froebel Principal." *The Muskegon Chronicle*. June 16, 1971. Hackley Public Library, Torrent House Local History and Genealogy Department, Muskegon.

"Industrialist Adds \$10,000 to Develop Ryerson Playfield." *The Muskegon Chronicle*. December 14, 1965. Hackley Public Library, Torrent House Local History and Genealogy Department, Muskegon.

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"Rejects Schools' Plea: Wood Street Closing Denied." *The Muskegon Chronicle*. September 9, 1969. Hackley Public Library, Torrent House Local History and Genealogy Department, Muskegon.

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"See City Gaining 25-Acre Park in C.W. Smith Gift." *The Muskegon Chronicle*. November 26, 1963. Hackley Public Library, Torrent House Local History and Genealogy Department, Muskegon.

Solis, Ben. "City of Muskegon Hangs Onto Hope Historic Froebel School Can Be Redeveloped." *MLive*. April 11, 2019. <https://www.mlive.com/news/muskegon/2019/04/city-of-muskegon-hangs-onto-hope-historic-froebel-school-can-be-redeveloped.html>.

"To Buy Former Trailer Camp for Recreation." *The Muskegon Chronicle*. March 18, 1949. Hackley Public Library, Torrent House Local History and Genealogy Department, Muskegon.

"To Sell Federal Housing Trailers." *The Muskegon Chronicle*. December 9, 1948. Hackley Public Library, Torrent House Local History and Genealogy Department, Muskegon.

Trygg Lodge No. 536, Vasa Order of America, ed. "Jackson Hill Area: A Historical Sketch." City of Muskegon Planning Department.

US Department of Agriculture Aerial Images. 1961, 1973, 1990. Via City of Muskegon Planning Department.

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"Wood Street Closing Asked: Safety Key Objective in Froebel Picketing." *The Muskegon Chronicle*. September 3, 1969. Hackley Public Library, Torrent House Local History and Genealogy Department, Muskegon.

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District Inventory

Complete this form for the district as well as individual Michigan SHPO Architectural Resource Identification Form for each individual address.

The district was not comprehensively surveyed during this project. However, a reconnaissance assessment of the 400-700 blocks of Leonard Avenue, 300-600 blocks of Marquette Avenue, Freddie Townsend Neighborhood Center at 313 Jackson Avenue, Froebel School at 417 Jackson Avenue, Jackson Avenue Congregational Church at 521 Jackson Avenue, Smith-Ryerson Center and Green Acres Park on Wood Street, and New Hope Baptist Church at 564 Yuba Street suggests further study to assess eligibility, potential boundaries, and areas of significance is warranted.

STREET ADDRESS	CITY/TOWNSHIP	COUNTY	YEAR BUILT	CONTRIBUTING? (YES OR NO)

*Use additional sheets as necessary

Survey Date	2022-2023	Recorded By	Cheri Szczodronski
For SHPO Use Only	SHPO Concurrence?: Y / N	Date:	

Form date: 6/25/2019

Current Photographs



400 Block Leonard Avenue



500 Block Leonard Avenue



600 Block Leonard Street



Aamodt Park – 390 Marquette Avenue



Aamodt Park – 390 Marquette Avenue



400 Block Marquette Avenue



Baha'i Peace Park – 584 Marquette Avenue



500 Block Marquette Avenue



600 Block Marquette Avenue



Froebel School – 417 Jackson Avenue



Jackson Avenue Congregational Church – 521 Jackson Avenue



Smith-Ryerson Park – 650 Wood Street

Michigan SHPO Architectural Properties Identification Form



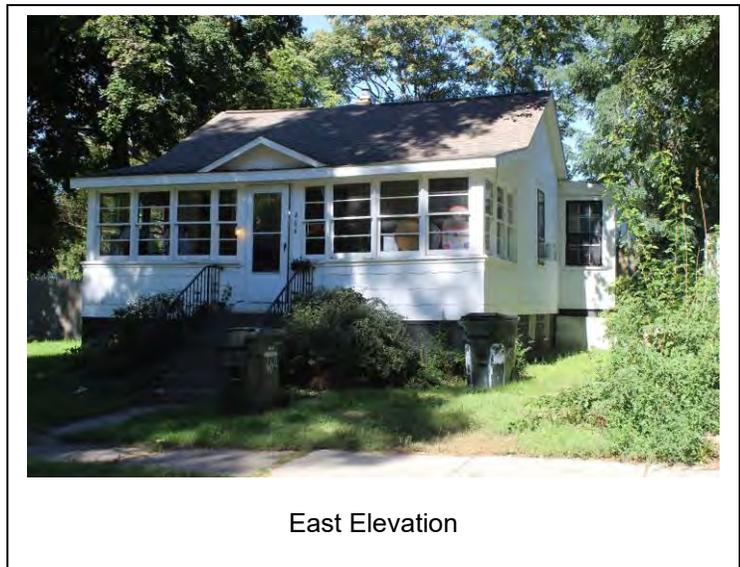
Property Overview and Location

Street Address	464 Monroe Avenue				
City/Township, State, Zip Code	Muskegon, MI 49441				
County	Muskegon				
Assessor's Parcel #	61-24-205-371-0010-00				
Latitude/Longitude (to the 6 th decimal point)	Lat: 43.228112	Long: -86.255049			
Ownership	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public-Local <input type="checkbox"/>	Public-State <input type="checkbox"/>	Public-Federal <input type="checkbox"/>	Multiple <input type="checkbox"/>

Property Type

(Insert primary photograph below.)

Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> select sub-type below	Structure <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Object <input type="checkbox"/>
Residential <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	
Other <input type="checkbox"/>	



East Elevation

Architectural Information

Construction Date	c.1911, c.1955
Architectural Style	Vernacular
Building Form	Rectangular
Roof Form	Side Gable
Roof Materials	Asphalt
Exterior Wall Materials	Asbestos
Foundation Materials	Concrete Block
Window Materials	Wood
Window Type	6/6
Outbuildings	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Number/Type:	

Eligibility

Individually Eligible	Criterion A <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion B <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion C <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion D <input type="checkbox"/>
Criteria Considerations:	a. <input type="checkbox"/> b. <input type="checkbox"/> c. <input type="checkbox"/> d. <input type="checkbox"/> e. <input type="checkbox"/> f. <input type="checkbox"/> g. <input type="checkbox"/>			
Component of a Historic District	Contributing to a district <input type="checkbox"/>	Non-contributing to a district <input type="checkbox"/>	Historic District Name:	
Not Eligible <input type="checkbox"/>				
Area(s) of Significance	Further research needed			
Period(s) of Significance	Further research needed			
Integrity – Does the property possess integrity in all or some of the 7 aspects?				
Location <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Design <input type="checkbox"/>	Materials <input type="checkbox"/>	Workmanship <input type="checkbox"/>	Setting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Feeling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Association <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
General Integrity:	Intact <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Date(s):
Historic Name	Ruby Brown House			
Current/Common Name				
Historic/Original Owner	Pedro G. Bradley (c.1911-c.1934), Ruby and Glennetta Brown (c.1936-after 1960)			
Historic Building Use	Domestic – single dwelling			
Current Building Use	Domestic – single dwelling			
Architect/Engineer/Designer	Unknown			
Builder/Contractor	Unknown			

Narrative Architectural Description

Provide a detailed description of the property, including all character-defining features and any accessory resources. This is required for all properties.

This one-story vernacular house is side gabled with a full-width, enclosed front porch and a large, gabled rear wing. The shed-roof porch was likely constructed in the 1950s is enclosed with two-over-two horizontal-pane wood windows and has a central storm door on the façade emphasized by a small pedimented gable. The porch is accessed by a

short concrete sidewalk and concrete steps with wrought iron railings. The windows on the side (east and west) elevations of the main block are six-over-six wood windows. The rear wing is obscured from the street by foliage and a wood slat fence. The house is clad in asbestos siding, retains an interior brick chimney, and sits on a rusticated concrete block foundation. The house appears on the 1911 Sanborn Map but Monroe Avenue is not listed in the 1911 city directory, suggesting both the road and the house were built that year.

History of the Resource

Provide information on previous owners, land use(s), and construction and alteration dates in a narrative format. This is required for all intensive level surveys, NRPQs, and nominations, and recommended for other identification efforts.

According to city directories, the house was built for Pedro G. Bradley, who worked as a janitor. Bradley retained ownership until around 1934 when the house was purchased by laborer Clarence A. Morse and his wife, Minnie Morse. They sold the house around 1936 to Ruby Brown and Glennetta Brightwell Brown.

Census records show Ruby Brown was born in Missouri in 1909 to Albert and Birdie Brown and was the youngest of ten children. In 1922, the family moved to Jarman Street in Muskegon Heights and Albert Brown took a job as a core maker in one of the foundries. He was the first African American student to attend Muskegon Heights High School, where he graduated in 1929, and the first African American student athlete at the school, playing on the football team.

In 1935, Ruby Brown married Glennetta Brightwell Brown. She was born in Pennsylvania in 1908 to Thurman and Birdie Brightwell, who had nine children. By 1920, the Brightwells were living in Whitehall, Michigan, where Thurman Brightwell worked as a taxi driver.

Ruby Brown was also an important African American businessman in Muskegon and Muskegon Heights. He operated several apartment complexes, ran the Pine Street Tavern with Henry Perlas, established the Sepia Café, a popular jazz club where Glennetta Brown also worked, and operated the Central Garage at 234 West Clay Street.

Statement of Significance/Recommendation of Eligibility

Provide a detailed explanation of the property's eligibility for the National Register. Include an evaluation under at least one of the four National Register Criteria and one Area of Significance. Include a discussion of the seven aspects of integrity, and make a recommendation about eligibility. This is required for all properties.

The property appears to retain integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association, but has been altered with the construction of a later porch and application of replacement materials and therefore does not appear to retain integrity of design, materials, or workmanship. Interior access was not provided during this project. Though the house is likely not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for Architecture, it may be eligible at the local level under Criterion A for Black Ethnic Heritage and Social History and at the local level under Criterion B for its association with Ruby Brown. Further research and comparison to other extant properties associated with Ruby Brown is needed to fully evaluate eligibility. Interior access was not provided during this project.

References

List references used to research and evaluate the individual property. For NRPQ's include copies of key documents.

Polk's Muskegon (Michigan) City Directory. 1911. US City Directories, 1822-1995. Ancestry.com.

Polk's Muskegon (Michigan) City Directory. 1915. US City Directories, 1822-1995. Ancestry.com.

Polk's Muskegon (Michigan) City Directory. 1921. US City Directories, 1822-1995. Ancestry.com.

Polk's Muskegon (Michigan) City Directory. 1926. US City Directories, 1822-1995. Ancestry.com.

Polk's Muskegon (Michigan) City Directory. 1928. US City Directories, 1822-1995. Ancestry.com.

Polk's Muskegon (Michigan) City Directory. 1930. US City Directories, 1822-1995. Ancestry.com.

Polk's Muskegon (Michigan) City Directory. 1934. US City Directories, 1822-1995. Ancestry.com.

Polk's Muskegon (Michigan) City Directory. 1936. US City Directories, 1822-1995. Ancestry.com.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. "Muskegon, Michigan, Vol. 1." 1911. Historical Information Gatherers, Fire Insurance Maps Online. Via University of Michigan Libraries.

United States Census Bureau. *1910 United States Federal Census*. Ancestry.com.

United States Census Bureau. *1920 United States Federal Census*. Ancestry.com.

United States Census Bureau. *1930 United States Federal Census*. Ancestry.com.

United States Census Bureau. *1940 United States Federal Census*. Ancestry.com.

United States Census Bureau. *1950 United States Federal Census*. Ancestry.com.

Survey Date	2022-2023	Recorded By	Cheri Szcodronski	Agency Report #	
For SHPO Use Only	SHPO Concurrence?: Y / N		Date:		

Form date: 2/28/2020

Current Photographs



Southeast Elevation



South Elevation

Michigan SHPO Architectural Properties Identification Form



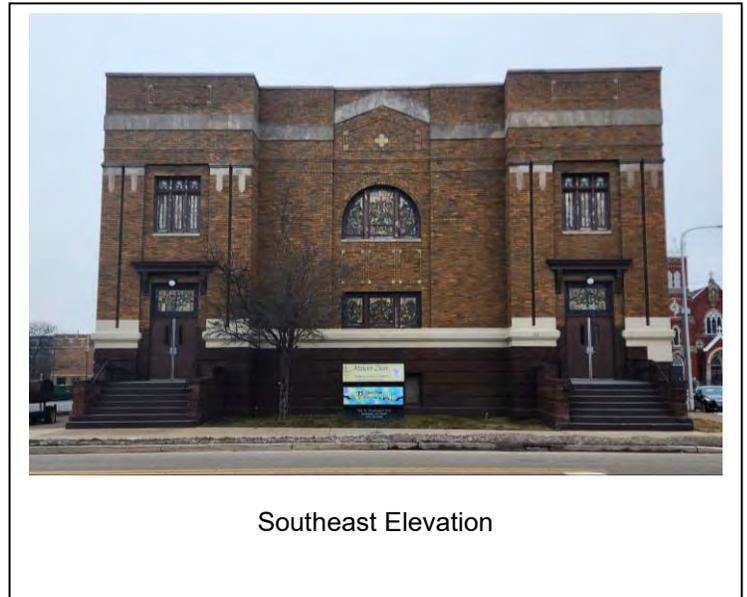
Property Overview and Location

Street Address	188 West Muskegon Avenue				
City/Township, State, Zip Code	Muskegon, MI 49440				
County	Muskegon				
Assessor's Parcel #	61-24-205-333-0010-00				
Latitude/Longitude (to the 6 th decimal point)	Lat: 43.234621	Long: -86.248517			
Ownership	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public-Local <input type="checkbox"/>	Public-State <input type="checkbox"/>	Public-Federal <input type="checkbox"/>	Multiple <input type="checkbox"/>

Property Type

(Insert primary photograph below.)

Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> select sub-type below	Structure <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Object <input type="checkbox"/>
Residential <input type="checkbox"/>	
Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	
Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	



Architectural Information

Construction Date	1929, c.1960	
Architectural Style	Classical Revival Modernist	
Building Form	Rectangular	
Roof Form	Flat	
Roof Materials	Unknown	
Exterior Wall Materials	Brick, Stone	
Foundation Materials	Poured Concrete	
Window Materials	Wood	
Window Type	Stained Glass	
Outbuildings	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Number/Type:		

Eligibility

Individually Eligible	Criterion A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Criterion B <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Criterion D <input type="checkbox"/>
Criteria Considerations:	a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	b. <input type="checkbox"/>	c. <input type="checkbox"/>	d. <input type="checkbox"/> e. <input type="checkbox"/> f. <input type="checkbox"/> g. <input type="checkbox"/>
Component of a Historic District	Contributing to a district <input type="checkbox"/>	Non-contributing to a district <input type="checkbox"/>	Historic District Name:	
Not Eligible <input type="checkbox"/>				
Area(s) of Significance	Social History, Swedish Ethnic Heritage, Black Ethnic Heritage, Architecture			
Period(s) of Significance	1929 to undetermined date			
Integrity – Does the property possess integrity in all or some of the 7 aspects?				
Location <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Design <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Materials <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Workmanship <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Setting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Feeling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Association <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
General Integrity:	Intact <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Date(s):
Historic Name	Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church			
Current/Common Name	Mt. Zion Church of God in Christ			
Historic/Original Owner	Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church			
Historic Building Use	Religion – religious facility			
Current Building Use	Religion – religious facility			
Architect/Engineer/Designer	Unknown			
Builder/Contractor	Unknown			

Narrative Architectural Description

Provide a detailed description of the property, including all character-defining features and any accessory resources. This is required for all properties.

This two-story, brick Classical Revival-style church is located at the northwest corner of West Muskegon Avenue and First Street. The façade faces southeast toward West Muskegon Avenue and features a slightly projecting stone belt course at the first story, and corbeled and stone cornices above the second-story windows. Slightly projecting entrance bays on each end of the façade are slightly recessed at the center and contain paired, one-light metal doors with a large, rectangular stained-glass transom under a metal cornice with dentil detailing and decorative brackets. Each entrance is accessed by concrete steps with metal railing attached to brick cheek walls. Above each entrance there is a tripartite wood stained-glass window with a tripartite transom. Paired brick pilasters with cast-stone capitals extend from a stone belt course to the top of the second-story windows. There is a rectangular brick sign panel with stone cornerblocks above the cornices on each end bay. The center section is slightly recessed at the center, the full height of the building. This bay contains a tripartite wood stained-glass window at the first story, brick spandrel panels with stone cornerblocks, and a tripartite, arched stained-glass window within an arched three-row rowlock surround at the second story. A peaked, brick sign panel with stone cornerblocks and a decorative center tile is located between the corbeled cornice and the stone cornice, which is peaked to align with the sign panel. Below the stone belt course, the brick is laid with an inset row to each five rows and there is a tripartite wood window at the basement level in the center bay. A cornerstone at the east end of the façade is inscribed "1929."

The northeast and southwest elevations are nearly identical to the façade. In place of the entrances on the façade, the side elevations instead feature tripartite stained-glass windows at the first story and tripartite wood windows at the basement level. In addition, the north bay of the southwest elevation is blind.

A Modernist-style addition was constructed on the northwest (rear) elevation, likely around 1960 as it does not appear on the 1950 Sanborn Map. The addition is a two-story, brick veneer, rectangular wing with a flat roof that faces northeast toward First Street. The addition projects slightly from the main church building on the northeast elevation, with an entrance into the addition on the southeast wall and sheltered by a flat roof extending along the northeast elevation of the main church and supported by square stone columns. The southeast bay of this elevation is clad in stone veneer and contains a full-height, aluminum-framed, multi-light window wall. Remaining windows on the northeast and northwest elevations are two-light aluminum awning windows at the first story and four-light aluminum awning windows at the second story, some with plain spandrel panels. The southwest elevation is blind. A small, one-story bay on the northwest elevation contains a rear entrance in to the addition.

History of the Resource

Provide information on previous owners, land use(s), and construction and alteration dates in a narrative format. This is required for all intensive level surveys, NRPQs, and nominations, and recommended for other identification efforts.

In the late nineteenth century, the Episcopal Diocese of West Michigan and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sweden worked together to bring Swedish immigrants to Grand Rapids, Muskegon, and other cities in western Michigan. According to the cornerstone and city directories, the building was constructed in 1929 for the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church, serving Swedish immigrants in the city and holding services in their native language. City directories show that by 1940, the church was the Swedish Mission Church, and the 1950 Sanborn map shows it was known as the Mission Covenant Church at that time. The congregation built the addition to the church around 1960. Though the history of the congregation and its departure from this location is not known, it is possible the church merged with the nearby Samuel Lutheran Church, which also was founded by Swedish immigrants.

In 1982, the church building was purchased by the Mt. Zion Church of God in Christ. The congregation formed in 1945 in the home of the Hintons, who served as leaders in the church, at 439 Ottawa Street (no longer extant). In 1947, the congregation had outgrown the Hinton home and instead purchased a church building at 9 East Muskegon Avenue (no longer extant). The church again moved in 1964, holding services in the Jackson Avenue Congregational Church at 521 Jackson Avenue until purchasing the former Evangelical Church of Sweden at 188 West Muskegon Avenue. The success and rapid growth of the church reflects the increasing African American population in Muskegon as southern laborers moved to the city for jobs in wartime manufacturing.

Statement of Significance/Recommendation of Eligibility

Provide a detailed explanation of the property's eligibility for the National Register. Include an evaluation under at least one of the four National Register Criteria and one Area of Significance. Include a discussion of the seven aspects of integrity, and make a recommendation about eligibility. This is required for all properties.

The building appears to retain integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, association. The church is likely eligible for listing in the National Register at the local level under Criterion A for Social History and Black Ethnic Heritage as the home of a post-World War II African American congregation that illustrates the rapidly increasing Black population in the city at that time. The building is likely also eligible at the local level under Criterion A for Social History and Swedish Ethnic Heritage as a haven and community center for Swedish immigrants in Muskegon in the early twentieth century. The building is likely eligible at the local level under Criterion C for Architecture as an intact example of an early-twentieth-century Classical Revival-style religious building with a Modernist-style addition that illustrates its continued growth, use, and relevance to the surrounding community through the mid- and late twentieth century. Interior access was not provided during this project. The property meets Criteria Consideration A for Religious Properties as it derives its primary significance in the areas of Social History, Ethnic Heritage, and Architecture. The period of significance should likely begin with the building's construction in 1929. Additional research is needed to identify an appropriate end date. Interior access was not provided during this project.

References

List references used to research and evaluate the individual property. For NRPQ's include copies of key documents.

"History of Mt. Zion Church of God in Christ." *History of the African American Churches in Muskegon County* Exhibit, James Jackson Museum of African American History, Muskegon Heights.

Polk's Muskegon (Michigan) City Directory. 1928. US City Directories, 1822-1995. Ancestry.com.

Polk's Muskegon (Michigan) City Directory. 1930. US City Directories, 1822-1995. Ancestry.com.

Polk's Muskegon (Michigan) City Directory. 1940. US City Directories, 1822-1995. Ancestry.com.

Polk's Muskegon (Michigan) City Directory. 1955. US City Directories, 1822-1995. Ancestry.com.

Polk's Muskegon (Michigan) City Directory. 1960. US City Directories, 1822-1995. Ancestry.com.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. "Muskegon, Michigan, Vol. 1." 1911, Revised 1950. Historical Information Gatherers, Fire Insurance Maps Online. Via University of Michigan Libraries.

Survey Date	2022-2023	Recorded By	Cheri Szcodronski	Agency Report #	
For SHPO Use Only	SHPO Concurrence?: Y / N		Date:		

Form date: 2/28/2020

Current Photographs



Southeast Elevation – Entrance Detail



East Elevation



Northeast Elevation



Northeast Elevation



North Elevation



West Elevation



Southwest Elevation

Michigan SHPO Architectural Properties Identification Form



Property Overview and Location

Street Address	149 Ottawa Street				
City/Township, State, Zip Code	Muskegon, MI 49442				
County	Muskegon				
Assessor's Parcel #	61-24-205-124-0001-00				
Latitude/Longitude (to the 6 th decimal point)	Lat: 43.249876	Long: -86.236502			
Ownership	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public-Local <input type="checkbox"/>	Public-State <input type="checkbox"/>	Public-Federal <input type="checkbox"/>	Multiple <input type="checkbox"/>

Property Type

(Insert primary photograph below.)

Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> select sub-type below	Structure <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Object <input type="checkbox"/>
Residential <input type="checkbox"/>	
Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	
Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	



East Elevation

Architectural Information

Construction Date	c.1937
Architectural Style	Vernacular
Building Form	L-shape
Roof Form	Flat, Pent
Roof Materials	Asphalt
Exterior Wall Materials	Vinyl
Foundation Materials	Poured Concrete
Window Materials	Wood
Window Type	Fixed
Outbuildings	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Number/Type:	

Eligibility

Individually Eligible	Criterion A <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion B <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion C <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion D <input type="checkbox"/>
Criteria Considerations:	a. <input type="checkbox"/> b. <input type="checkbox"/> c. <input type="checkbox"/> d. <input type="checkbox"/> e. <input type="checkbox"/> f. <input type="checkbox"/> g. <input type="checkbox"/>			
Component of a Historic District	Contributing to a district <input type="checkbox"/>	Non-contributing to a district <input type="checkbox"/>	Historic District Name:	
Not Eligible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Area(s) of Significance	N/A			
Period(s) of Significance	N/A			
Integrity – Does the property possess integrity in all or some of the 7 aspects?				
Location <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Design <input type="checkbox"/>	Materials <input type="checkbox"/>	Workmanship <input type="checkbox"/>	Setting <input type="checkbox"/> Feeling <input type="checkbox"/> Association <input type="checkbox"/>
General Integrity:	Intact <input type="checkbox"/>	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Date(s):
Historic Name	Dynamite Bar			
Current/Common Name	Elks Charity Lodge #1397			
Historic/Original Owner	Unknown			
Historic Building Use	Commerce/Trade – restaurant			
Current Building Use	Social – meeting hall			
Architect/Engineer/Designer	Unknown			
Builder/Contractor	Unknown			

Narrative Architectural Description

Provide a detailed description of the property, including all character-defining features and any accessory resources. This is required for all properties.

This one-story, flat-roof building was constructed around 1937 to house a restaurant and bar and likely originally had a storefront that is now obscured by a pent-roof addition on the façade. The addition contains the main entrance, and there is a single-light fixed window on the façade north of the entrance. The north elevation is blind. Most of the west

elevation is obscured by a rear wing at northwest end of the building. A small wing extends from the middle of the west elevation and contains a vinyl door, and the south end of this elevation also contains a vinyl door. The south elevation contains a vinyl door near the front of the building. The rear wing has a parapet roof and entrances containing vinyl doors sheltered by shed roofs on the north and west elevations. The building retains an interior brick chimney, is clad in vinyl siding, and sits on a concrete block foundation.

History of the Resource

Provide information on previous owners, land use(s), and construction and alteration dates in a narrative format. This is required for all intensive level surveys, NRPQs, and nominations, and recommended for other identification efforts.

According to city directories, the building was constructed around 1937 and first housed the Dynamite Bar, then Yankee Doodle by 1951, and the Black Angus Restaurant by 1960. This building is located on Ottawa Street in what was once the commercial core of the Jackson Hill neighborhood. It is probable that the Black Angus Restaurant closed once this part of the neighborhood was separated from the rest of the neighborhood by the construction of the Business US 31 expressway in the late 1960s and the neighborhood was further fractured urban renewal projects resulting in the demolition of 225 houses in the Jackson Hill neighborhood from 1971 to 1976.

Elks Lodge #1397 moved to this location in 1987 when the original lodge at 545 West Western Avenue was destroyed by fire. The lodge appears to have dissolved around 2013 and the building remains vacant.

Statement of Significance/Recommendation of Eligibility

Provide a detailed explanation of the property's eligibility for the National Register. Include an evaluation under at least one of the four National Register Criteria and one Area of Significance. Include a discussion of the seven aspects of integrity, and make a recommendation about eligibility. This is required for all properties.

The building appears to retain integrity of location, however it does not appear to retain integrity of design, materials or workmanship due to alterations to the form and application of replacement materials, and it does not appear to retain integrity of setting, feeling, or association due to the disinvestment in what was once the commercial core of this neighborhood. The building does not appear to represent a significant aspect of history, culture, architecture, or archaeology. It is likely not individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and is not located within a historic district. Interior access was not provided during this project.

References

List references used to research and evaluate the individual property. For NRPQ's include copies of key documents.

Alexander, Dave. "Muskegon Revokes Charity Lodge #1397's Business License in Wake of Triple Homicide." *MLive*. October 15, 2013. https://www.mlive.com/news/muskegon/2013/10/city_of_muskegon_revokes_chari.html.

Medendorp, Lisa. "Fire Destroys Downtown Elks Lodge, Adjacent Bar." *The Muskegon Chronicle*. December 14, 1987. Hackley Public Library, Torrent House Local History and Genealogy Department, Muskegon.

Polk's Muskegon (Michigan) City Directory. 1936. US City Directories, 1822-1995. Ancestry.com.

Polk's Muskegon (Michigan) City Directory. 1938. US City Directories, 1822-1995. Ancestry.com.

Polk's Muskegon (Michigan) City Directory. 1951. US City Directories, 1822-1995. Ancestry.com.

Polk's Muskegon (Michigan) City Directory. 1960. US City Directories, 1822-1995. Ancestry.com.

Survey Date	2022-2023	Recorded By	Cheri Szcodronski	Agency Report #	
For SHPO Use Only	SHPO Concurrence?: Y / N		Date:		

Form date: 2/28/2020

Current Photographs



Southeast (front) Elevation



Northeast Elevation



North Elevation



Northwest Elevation



West Elevation



Southwest Elevation



South Elevation

Historic and Current Photographs of Original Location



Original Elks Lodge Location at 535 West Western Avenue, date unknown
(courtesy of City of Muskegon Planning Department)



Original Elks Lodge Location at 535 West Western Avenue, date unknown
(courtesy of City of Muskegon Planning Department)



Original Elks Lodge Location at 545 West Western Avenue, now Heritage Memorial Garden

Michigan SHPO Cultural Landscape Identification Form



Landscape Overview and Location

Landscape Historic Name (if applicable)	Marsh Field		
Current/Common Name (if applicable)	Marsh Field		
Boundary Description	1800 Peck Street		
City, State, Zip Code(s)	Muskegon, MI 49441		
County	Muskegon		
Total Acres in the Landscape	8.25 acres		
Parent Cultural Landscape	N/A		
Ownership	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	Public-Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public-State <input type="checkbox"/> Public-Federal <input type="checkbox"/>

Landscape Classification and Type

Historic Designed Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Historic Vernacular Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Ethnographic Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Historic Site <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--	--	---	--	---

(Insert aerial photo with boundaries below.)

Historic Use	Recreation
Current Use	Recreation
Landscape Type (Select one or more of the following)	Garden (private) <input type="checkbox"/>
	Park (public) <input type="checkbox"/>
	Green/Common/Plaza <input type="checkbox"/>
	Boulevard/Parkway/Trail <input type="checkbox"/>
	Other Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>
	Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>
	Exhibition/Fairgrounds <input type="checkbox"/>
	Mine/Quarry <input type="checkbox"/>
	Other Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>
	Campus <input type="checkbox"/>
	Sports/Recreation <input type="checkbox"/>
Cemetery <input type="checkbox"/>	
Commemorative/Memorial <input type="checkbox"/>	
Natural Landform or other Geological Formation <input type="checkbox"/>	
Other, Please Specify: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Athletic Field



National Register Eligibility

Is the landscape listed in the National Register?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	If yes, provide:	Date Listed:	NRIS #:
<i>If not already listed, complete the information below:</i>					
Eligible Under:	Criterion A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Criterion B <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion C <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion D <input type="checkbox"/>	
Criteria Considerations:	a. <input type="checkbox"/>	b. <input type="checkbox"/>	c. <input type="checkbox"/>	d. <input type="checkbox"/>	e. <input type="checkbox"/> f. <input type="checkbox"/> g. <input type="checkbox"/>
Not Eligible <input type="checkbox"/>					
Area(s) of Significance	Entertainment/Recreation, Social History				

Period(s) Significance	1916 – 1951					
Integrity – Does the landscape possess integrity in all or some of the 7 aspects?						
General Integrity:	Intact <input type="checkbox"/>	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Date(s):		
Location <input type="checkbox"/>	Design <input type="checkbox"/>	Materials <input type="checkbox"/>	Workmanship <input type="checkbox"/>	Setting <input type="checkbox"/>	Feeling <input type="checkbox"/>	Association <input type="checkbox"/>
Condition of District?	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Poor <input type="checkbox"/>			
Threats to Resource?	None known					

Landscape Description

Provide a description of the landscape, including general character of the landscape, specific information regarding the landscape characteristics, and the qualities distinguishing the landscape from its surroundings. This is required for all landscapes.

Natural Features	
Topography	Flat
Vegetation	Grass, some mature trees
Water	None
Geology	Unknown
Ecology	Unknown
Climate	Unknown
Designed/Cultural Features	
Land use patterns	Baseball Field, playground
Planting patterns	N/A
Boundary demarcations	Bounded by Peck Street, East Laketon Avenue, Jiroch Street, and East Holbrook Avenue
Spatial organization/layout	Baseball field encompasses most of the block with a parking lot on the west side and playground on the north side
Circulation Networks	Concrete sidewalks encircle the block and the park, and provide access to the park and playground areas
Views and vistas	N/A
Water features	N/A
Buildings, structures, and objects*	Grandstands, press box, restrooms, concessions, and maintenance building constructed in 1982
Small-scale elements (markers, statuary, site furnishings)	Playground has modern equipment and picnic area with picnic tables and grills, property enclosed by chain link fence
Other (including ephemeral qualities – sounds, activities, wildlife, smells, etc.)	N/A

**list and briefly describe each and attach an Architectural Resource Inventory Form for each major resource*

History of the Cultural Landscape

Provide a general history that includes the people, trends, and time periods that shaped the landscape over time. This could include information on previous owners, land use, construction and alteration dates in a narrative format. This is required for all intensive level surveys and recommended for other identification efforts.

<p>Marsh Field was constructed in 1916, an effort led by Charles W. Marsh, a local industrialist and baseball fan for whom the park is named. Marsh and a group of investors purchased a group of lots at the southeast corner of Peck Street and East Laketon Avenue, which they cleared of homes and trees to construct the ballpark. Harry Boyle and Company of Evansville, Indiana, served as the architect, and Nelson and Mayson were contracted to build the grandstand. The property also included a playground and picnic area. (Okkonen, 19) The grandstand was not completed for the home opener that May, but local historian Marc Okkonen noted, “the new diamond was playable and bleachers were available to provide some seating. The majority of patrons were expected to stand and did so goodheartedly.” (Okkonen, 21) Opening Day was anticipated with excitement through the Muskegon area, and was celebrated with a parade and the early closure of many schools, factories, and stores. A newspaper contest determined the team name, the Muskegon Reds, and the team was part of the semi-professional Central League, which included eight teams from the Midwest and West Virginia. (Okkonen, 19-21)</p>

Marsh donated the park to the City of Muskegon in 1919, and for the next decade, though there was continuous baseball in Muskegon, the leagues and teams changed frequently, plagued by financial and administrative problems. Administrative changes and the onset of World War I resulted in the dissolution of the Central League, and the Muskegon Reds were replaced by an amateur league of eight local factory teams, known as the Factory League, that played weekend games at Marsh Field. In 1920, the Muskegon Reds reformed and joined a four-team resurrection of the Central League, which expanded to six teams the following year, all of which were located in Michigan. Muskegon left the Central League in 1923 to join the Michigan-Ontario League, an eight-team league known as the Mint League, but financial struggles caused semi-professional baseball in Muskegon to end temporarily after the 1924 season. (Okkonen, 23-25) With no franchise team during the 1925 season, Marsh Field instead hosted a number of traveling semi-professional and amateur teams, as well as local tournaments. In 1926, eight surviving Michigan teams in the Central and Mint leagues, including Muskegon, formed the State League, and though Muskegon benefitted from the excitement of local exhibition games with the Chicago White Sox, the State League also failed after just one year. (Okkonen, 29-31) The Muskegon Reds continued to play as an independent team over the next few years, and Marsh Field also continued to host the Factory League and visiting semi-professional teams and tournaments. (Okkonen, 32)

In 1926, the Muskegon Colored Athletics, an all-Black amateur team, was formed by Robert E. Glover. Little is known about Glover, except that he was a White ballplayer who appears to have arrived in Muskegon in 1925 or 1926 and left again by 1928. (1924, 1926, 1928 City Directories; Okkonen, 32) There is also little known about the team, but a small number of newspaper clippings in the *Lansing State Journal* covered a double-header between the Athletics and Lansing Dairy, one of the Lansing Baseball League amateur teams, as part of a three-day Fourth of July Celebration at Lansing's Pine Lake Park. The newspaper advertised, "The Muskegon team is one of the best aggregations around Muskegon. Its lineup includes many former stars from the National Colored baseball league and the visitors should be able to give the Lansing Dairy boys a busy day." Lansing won the first game, while Muskegon took the second. (*Lansing State Journal*)

In 1930, night baseball was introduced to Muskegon courtesy of the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro League. That April, the Monarchs and the Benton Harbor House of David Baseball Team made baseball history when they played what is believed to be the first night game under electric lights – five years before the first night game in the major leagues. The Monarchs later loaned this portable lighting system to other semi-professional teams, including the Grand Rapids Ramonas for their July 9, 1930, game against the Muskegon Reds at Marsh Field, which was won by Muskegon. (Dragseth, 90-91; Okkonen, 33)

The Reds continued to play as an independent team until 1940 when the State League was reformed with six teams. The Muskegon Reds was the farm team for the Detroit Tigers, who came to play exhibition games at Marsh Field in 1941. Unfortunately, the United States' entrance into World War II resulted in a hiatus in for the State League, which never did return to play. Instead, John "Jake" Outwin, a local factory worker and baseball player, organized the Outwin Zephyrs, a group of local players who formed an semi-professional team. The Zephyrs drew exciting exhibition competition, including the Detroit Tigers, the Great Lakes Navy team, and several Negro League teams, including the Kansas City Monarchs and the Pittsburgh Crawfords. (Okkonen, 37, 43-44, 48)

Marsh Field was also home to the Muskegon Lassies of the All-American Girls Baseball League (AAGBL) from 1946 to 1950. Okkonen notes, "The war-weary industrial town of Muskegon looked forward to the new and refreshing form of the national game for the first post-war summer of 1946." (Okkonen, 47) Marsh Field was modified to be adaptable to the standard baseball dimensions as well as the shorter baselines of the AAGBL. The team initially performed well, but by 1950 had lost popularity and was moved to Kalamazoo. An attempt to revive the AAGBL in Muskegon came in 1953 with the Muskegon Belles, however the team finished dead last and was disbanded at the end of the season. (Okkonen, 47, 58, 64)

In 1948, Outwin was involved in organizing the Muskegon Clippers, a part of the new six-team Central League and the farm team for the Chicago White Sox. However, by 1949, White Sox leadership became frustrated with the Clippers' lack of production, so the team instead became a farm team for the New York Yankees organization. The outbreak of the Korean Conflict, the success of the Detroit Tigers, and the prevalence of baseball on television all played a part in the end of semi-professional baseball in Muskegon in the early 1950s. (Okkonen, 50-51, 57, 59) The last season of semi-professional baseball was played in Muskegon in 1951, at the end of which the Central League disbanded again, this time permanently. Okkonen observed, "The whole structure of the minor leagues was on the brink of a sharp and lasting decline that erased many, many small towns like Muskegon from the map of organized baseball." (Okkonen, 62) After semi-professional baseball ended at Marsh Field, it remained the home of the Factory Leagues, served as the home field for Muskegon High School, and hosted a summertime collegiate wooden bat team. (Okkonen 64)

The grandstand was demolished in 1957, and the city considered demolition of the ballpark to make way for new city offices. However, Marsh's deed to the city was clear that "if the property were to be used for any purpose not including a baseball diamond, the property would be automatically deeded back to the Marsh estate." (Okkonen, 64) The park was therefore maintained for use by Muskegon High School and local amateur teams, with minor improvements made in the late twentieth century, including a new lighting system. (Okkonen, 64) Okkonen recalled, "To those of us who remember Marsh Field in its heyday, a visit to the old grounds can be a melancholy experience [in 1993]. The makeshift bleachers with a mere handful of spectators is a sad imitation of the old roofed grandstand. The rusting chain link fence seems lifeless compared to the colorful billboards that stretched from both foul poles out toward the center field flagpole." (Okkonen, 64) In the 1980s, the ballpark was renovated with the present grandstand, press boxes, restrooms, concessions, and other facilities. The field remains in its original configuration, still with a playground and picnic area as Marsh envisioned, and still in use by local recreation teams. Marsh Field remains the oldest minor league baseball park in the state of Michigan.

Statement of Significance/Recommendation of Eligibility

Provide a detailed explanation of the landscape's eligibility for the National Register, including an evaluation under the four criteria, discussion of the seven aspects of integrity, and recommendations about eligibility. This is required for all cultural landscapes.

Though the grandstands have been rebuilt, the playing field appears to retain integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association. It is likely individually eligible to the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion A for Recreation and Social History for its association with minor league baseball, Negro League baseball, and women's baseball in the early twentieth century. The period of significance should likely begin with the construction of the playing field in 1916 and end in 1951, the last year semi-professional baseball was played at Marsh Field.

GIS/Locational Information

Lat: 43.218796 Long: -86.243129

References

List references used to research and evaluate landscape.

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<https://www.mlive.com/galleries/FRCDUKLQ7NDSBBQRMTGZ2WE2TY/>.

Survey Date	2022-2023	Recorded By	Cheri Szcodronski
For SHPO Use Only	SHPO Concurrence?: Y / N	Date:	

Detailed Site Plan/Map

Provide a full page site plan or map with important features identified.



Historic Photographs



Muskegon Reds, 1917
(courtesy of Muskegon County Museum in Okkonen, 23)



White Sox vs Muskegon Reds Exhibition Game, 1926
(courtesy of Gordon Lydeksen in Okkonen, 31)



Aerial View, 1938
(courtesy of *The Muskegon Chronicle* in Okkonen, 35)



Muskegon Lassies, 1947
(in Okkonen, 50)



Muskegon Clippers, 1950
(courtesy of Dan White in Okkonen, 60)



Demolition of the Grandstands, 1957
(courtesy of MLive)



Original Entrance Gates, 1957
(courtesy of *The Muskegon Chronicle* in Okkonen, 64)

Current Photographs



Grandstands – Facing Northeast



Landscape – Facing Southeast



Restroom Building – Plaque Detail



Restroom Building – Plaque Detail



Landscape – Facing East



Playground and Picnic Area – Facing Northeast



Field and Scoreboard – Facing Southwest



Field and Grandstands – Facing West



Field and Grandstands – Facing Northwest



Bullpen – Facing North



Garage – Southeast Elevation



Garage – North Elevation

Michigan SHPO Architectural Properties Identification Form



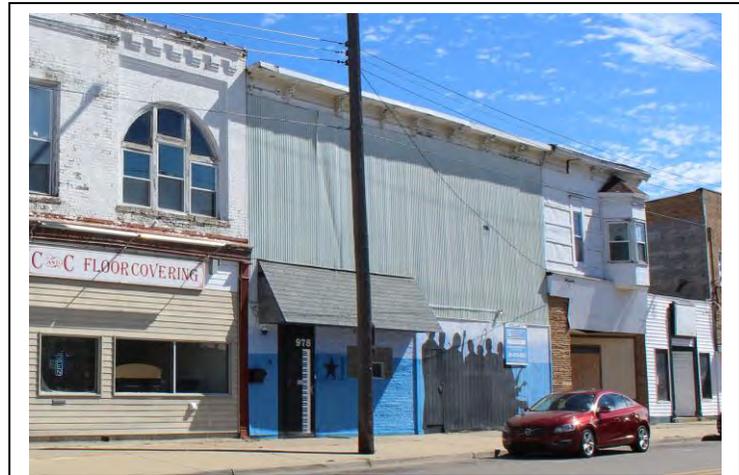
Property Overview and Location

Street Address	978 Pine Street				
City/Township, State, Zip Code	Muskegon, MI 49442				
County	Muskegon				
Assessor's Parcel #	61-24-205-216-0003-00				
Latitude/Longitude (to the 6 th decimal point)	Lat: 43.234722	Long: -86.242446			
Ownership	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public-Local <input type="checkbox"/>	Public-State <input type="checkbox"/>	Public-Federal <input type="checkbox"/>	Multiple <input type="checkbox"/>

Property Type

(Insert primary photograph below.)

Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> select sub-type below	Structure <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Object <input type="checkbox"/>
Residential <input type="checkbox"/>	
Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	
Other <input type="checkbox"/>	



Southwest Elevation

Architectural Information

Construction Date	c.1900
Architectural Style	No Style
Building Form	Rectangular
Roof Form	Flat
Roof Materials	Unknown
Exterior Wall Materials	Brick, Metal Sheathing
Foundation Materials	Unknown
Window Materials	Unknown
Window Type	Unknown
Outbuildings	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Number/Type:	

Eligibility

Individually Eligible	Criterion A <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion B <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion C <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion D <input type="checkbox"/>
Criteria Considerations:	a. <input type="checkbox"/>	b. <input type="checkbox"/>	c. <input type="checkbox"/>	d. <input type="checkbox"/> e. <input type="checkbox"/> f. <input type="checkbox"/> g. <input type="checkbox"/>
Component of a Historic District	Contributing to a district <input type="checkbox"/>	Non-contributing to a district <input type="checkbox"/>	Historic District Name:	
Not Eligible <input type="checkbox"/>				
Area(s) of Significance	Further research needed			
Period(s) of Significance	Further research needed			
Integrity – Does the property possess integrity in all or some of the 7 aspects?				
Location <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Design <input type="checkbox"/>	Materials <input type="checkbox"/>	Workmanship <input type="checkbox"/>	Setting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Feeling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Association <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
General Integrity:	Intact <input type="checkbox"/>	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Date(s):
Historic Name	Pine Street Tavern			
Current/Common Name				
Historic/Original Owner	Unknown			
Historic Building Use	Commerce/Trade – restaurant			
Current Building Use	Commerce/Trade – specialty store			
Architect/Engineer/Designer	Unknown			
Builder/Contractor	Unknown			

Narrative Architectural Description

Provide a detailed description of the property, including all character-defining features and any accessory resources. This is required for all properties.

<p>The fenestration and materials of this two-story commercial building have been substantially altered. The storefront has been partially infilled with brick and partially covered with vertical sheathing leaving a replacement door and glass block window. The entrance is sheltered by a pent roof covered with asphalt shingles.</p>

The upper story has been covered in metal sheathing, though the original cornice and brackets remain visible at the roofline.

History of the Resource

Provide information on previous owners, land use(s), and construction and alteration dates in a narrative format. This is required for all intensive level surveys, NRPQs, and nominations, and recommended for other identification efforts.

The Pine Street Tavern is located in an area of Pine Street that was once the primary commercial district in Muskegon, until many of the businesses and buildings were destroyed by a devastating fire in 1891. The fire destroyed about 250 buildings between Clay and Iona Avenues and Terrace and Spring Streets – seventeen city blocks. The tavern is located on one of the blocks that was eventually rebuilt after the fire, and is in the middle of the block between other similar commercial buildings.

The building appears on the 1911 Sanborn map and was likely rebuilt in the years following the 1891 fire. It is not known who owned the building or what businesses it housed until Gilbert Vanderberg operated a fish market at this location in the mid-1920s. By 1930, the building was used by masseur Lyal D. Calvin. The Pine Street Tavern, an African American bar and restaurant, opened at this location (first named the Pine Tavern Restaurant) by 1934. It was operated by partners Ruby Brown and Henry Perlas until at least 1944 when Brown established the Sepia Café. The Pine Street Tavern remained in operation until at least 1970.

Statement of Significance/Recommendation of Eligibility

Provide a detailed explanation of the property's eligibility for the National Register. Include an evaluation under at least one of the four National Register Criteria and one Area of Significance. Include a discussion of the seven aspects of integrity, and make a recommendation about eligibility. This is required for all properties.

The building appears to retain integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association, but does not appear to retain integrity of design, materials, or workmanship due to alterations to the building's form, fenestration, and materials. The building is likely not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for Architecture, but it may be eligible at the local level under Criterion A for Black Ethnic Heritage and Social History as an early Black-owned business and entertainment venue in Muskegon. It may also be eligible at the local level under Criterion B for its association with Black business owner Ruby Brown. Further research and comparison to other extant properties associated with Ruby Brown is needed to fully evaluate eligibility. Interior access was not provided during this project.

References

List references used to research and evaluate the individual property. For NRPQ's include copies of key documents.

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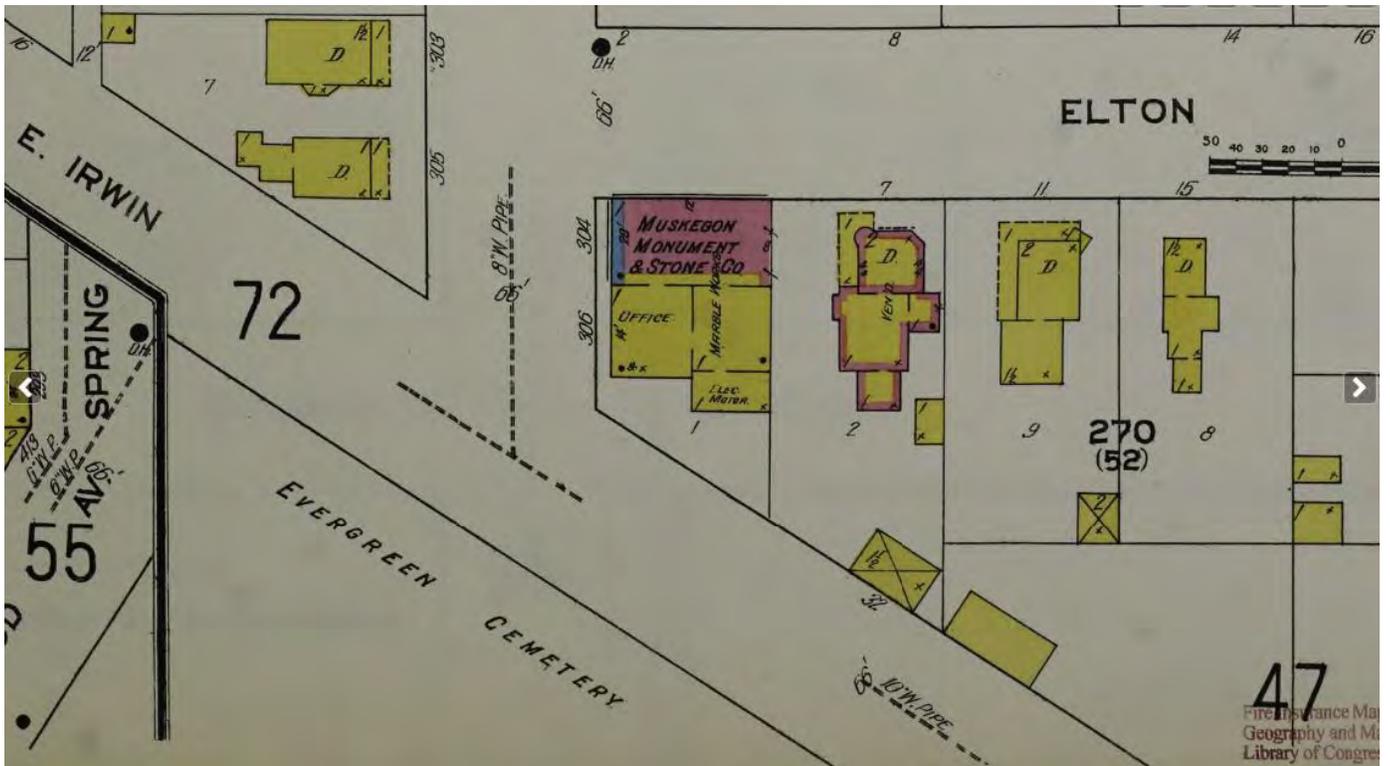
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US Census Bureau. *1950 United States Federal Census*. Ancestry.com.

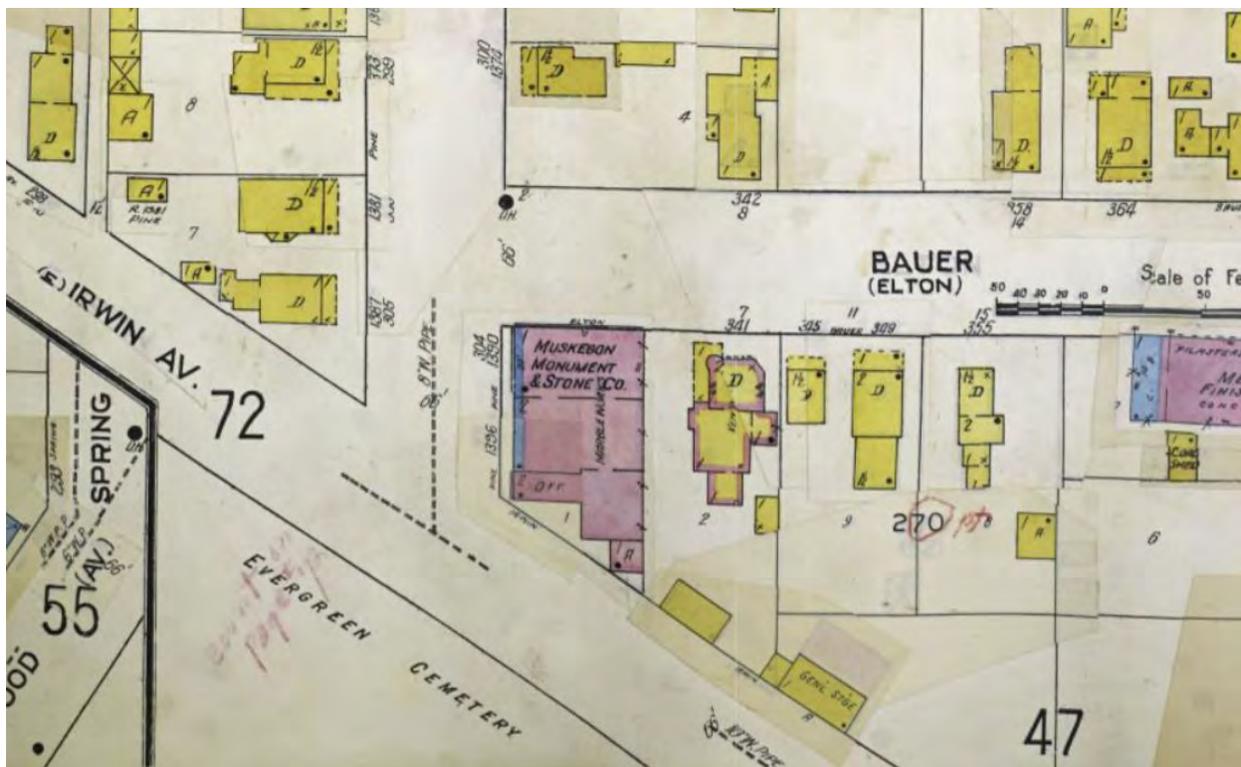
Survey Date	2022-2023	Recorded By	Cheri Szcodronski	Agency Report #	
For SHPO Use Only	SHPO Concurrence?: Y / N		Date:		

Form date: 2/28/2020

Historic Maps



Excerpt of 1911 Sanborn Map
(courtesy of University of Michigan Libraries)



Excerpt of 1950 Sanborn Map
(courtesy of University of Michigan Libraries)

Michigan SHPO Architectural Properties Identification Form



Property Overview and Location

Street Address	1085 West Sherman Boulevard <i>(See also 500 West Broadway Avenue, Muskegon Heights)</i>				
City/Township, State, Zip Code	Muskegon, MI 49441				
County	Muskegon				
Assessor's Parcel #	61-25-001-200-0001-00				
Latitude/Longitude (to the 6 th decimal point)	Lat: 43.203255	Long: -86.269304			
Ownership	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public-Local <input type="checkbox"/>	Public-State <input type="checkbox"/>	Public-Federal <input type="checkbox"/>	Multiple <input type="checkbox"/>

Property Type

(Insert primary photograph below.)

Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> select sub-type below	Structure <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Object <input type="checkbox"/>
Residential <input type="checkbox"/>	
Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Other <input type="checkbox"/>	



Facing Southeast – Warehouse 2 and Plant No 5

Architectural Information

Construction Date	c.1945
Architectural Style	No Style
Building Form	Square
Roof Form	Flat
Roof Materials	Unknown
Exterior Wall Materials	Brick Veneer, Aluminum Sheathing
Foundation Materials	Poured Concrete
Window Materials	Aluminum
Window Type	Fixed
Outbuildings	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Number/Type:	Administration Building – c.1990 Guard House – c.1990 Warehouse 1 – c.1950, c.1962 Warehouse 2 – c.1962

Eligibility

Individually Eligible	Criterion A <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion B <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion C <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion D <input type="checkbox"/>
Criteria Considerations:	a. <input type="checkbox"/> b. <input type="checkbox"/> c. <input type="checkbox"/> d. <input type="checkbox"/> e. <input type="checkbox"/> f. <input type="checkbox"/> g. <input type="checkbox"/>			
Component of a Historic District	Contributing to a district <input type="checkbox"/>	Non-contributing to a district <input type="checkbox"/>	Historic District Name:	
Not Eligible <input type="checkbox"/>				
Area(s) of Significance	Further research needed			
Period(s) of Significance	Further research needed			
Integrity – Does the property possess integrity in all or some of the 7 aspects?				
Location <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Design <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Materials <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Workmanship <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Setting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Feeling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Association <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
General Integrity:	Intact <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Date(s):
Historic Name	Campbell, Wyant, and Cannon Foundry Company Plant No 5			
Current/Common Name	CWC Textron			
Historic/Original Owner	Campbell, Wyant, and Cannon Foundry Company			
Historic Building Use	Industry/Processing/Extraction – manufacturing facility			
Current Building Use	Industry/Processing/Extraction – manufacturing facility			
Architect/Engineer/Designer	Unknown			
Builder/Contractor	Unknown			

Narrative Architectural Description

Provide a detailed description of the property, including all character-defining features and any accessory resources. This is required for all properties.

Plant No 5 – c.1945

Plant No 5 is a complex, irregularly-shaped industrial building with multiple roof forms, a variety of exterior materials, and few windows.

Aerial imagery shows three additional sheds on the east and south boundaries of the property, however these buildings were not visible from public access areas. There are also a number of small, prefabricated sheds throughout the property.

Administration Building – c.1990

The Administration Building is a one-story, relatively square, flat-roof building at the north end of the property facing West Sherman Boulevard. The building features a continuous band of aluminum-framed fixed windows on each elevation with brick veneer below and vertical metal sheathing above. The front entrance on the north elevation of the building is centered and projects slightly, containing a pair of aluminum-framed glass doors topped with a single-light transom and flanked by full-height aluminum-framed windows. Entrances at each end of the south elevation are aluminum-framed glass doors facing a large asphalt parking lot. Aerial imagery shows the building was constructed between 1986 and 1997.

Guard House – c.1990

A small, flat-roof guard house is located at the east end of the parking lot providing access to the property, which is fully enclosed by a chain link fence and gates. The guard house is a frame building with paired fixed windows throughout and a metal door on the east elevation. Aerial imagery shows the guard house was built between 1986 and 1997.

Warehouse 1 – c.1950, c.1962

A large warehouse at the east end of the parking lot is a tall one-story building with an irregular roofline combining flat, shed, and gable roofs with metal vents. The walls are partially concrete block with vertical metal sheathing above. An entrance bay extends from the west elevation near the parking lot and is clad in brick veneer and vertical metal sheathing. This bay contains a one-light metal door and a group of three fixed windows. Additional entrances on the north, east, and south elevations are metal slab doors or metal overhead doors. Aerial imagery shows the east end of the building was completed prior to 1955 with an addition constructed between 1955 and 1969.

Warehouse 2 – c.1962

A warehouse at the south end of the parking lot is a tall one-story, gabled building with partial concrete block walls with vertical metal sheathing above, paired fixed aluminum windows, and vents along the crest of the roofline. Metal doors provide pedestrian access on the north and south elevations, and the south elevation (facing Plant No 5) also contains large metal overhead doors. Aerial imagery shows the warehouse was built between 1955 and 1969.

History of the Resource

Provide information on previous owners, land use(s), and construction and alteration dates in a narrative format. This is required for all intensive level surveys, NRPQs, and nominations, and recommended for other identification efforts.

Campbell, Wyant, and Cannon Foundry Company (CWC) was founded in 1908 by foundrymen and partners Donald J. Campbell, Ira A. Wyant, and George W Cannon. (George, 5) The company first operated out of a rented facility on the downtown Muskegon lakeshore that was owned by the Racine Boat Works. Racine Boat Works had built the foundry in 1906 but had difficulty employing workers to operate it. Instead, the company rented the foundry to CWC, who in turn manufactured boat engine parts. (George, 21-26; 1911 Sanborn Map) After the first year, the company had twenty-two employees. (George, 43)

Continental Motors soon hired CWC to produce engine castings, and the growing company attracted workers from Grand Rapids; Racine, OH; Chicago, IL; Milwaukee, WI; and other Midwestern industrial cities. (George, 32-34, 39) By

the end of the second year in operation, the company employed about one hundred workers and continued to operate from the Racine Boat Works foundry, which became known as the Hercules Plant. (George, 47; Heethuis) CWC continued to rent the building until 1911, though it was demolished by 1950. (George, 51; 1950 Sanborn Map)

When the Sheffield Car Company became the third major CWC client, the company outgrew the available capacity of the Hercules Plant. (George, 47) In 1910, the company acquired the former foundry of Enterprise Iron Works, which had recently gone out of business. The facility was located at the southwest corner of present-day West Broadway Avenue and Sanford Street in Muskegon Heights, and, as the first facility purchased by CWC, it was named Plant No 1. (1911 Sanborn Map; George, 49-50) In 1911, International Harvester and Reo Motors were added to CWC's list of clients, requiring substantial additions to Plant No 1 in 1911 and 1912. (George, 52-54, 56-57) It is no longer extant.

In 1914, CWC had outgrown Plant No 1 and acquired the Pyle Pattern and Manufacturing Company located across Sanford Street from the foundry. Known as Plant No 2, the facility was expanded and renovated for the production of engine castings. (George, 58; 1911 Sanborn Map) During World War I, the company employed 1,500 workers at Plants 1 and 2 manufacturing cylinder blocks and other parts for military truck and plane engines, castings for tractors, tanks, and submarines, and other parts for Navy ships. Wartime production increased so dramatically, a temporary facility was constructed on Hackley Place (now East Center Street) in 1918, then demolished when the war ended. (George, 68, 70-71)

Anticipating post-World War I growth in the automotive industry, and with opportunities for their own growth, the CWC partners planning for expansion in 1917 with the purchase of two hundred acres on the west side of Henry Street for a new facility. (George, 70) After touring a number of large automotive foundries in 1919, they sketched plans for the new plant and hired Mills, Rhines, Bellman, and Nordhoff, a Toledo architectural firm, to design and construct the plant. Chicago foundry engineer A.A. Wickland was hired in 1920 to oversee the installation of equipment and machinery. The new facility, Plant No 3, encompassed four acres and opened in 1922. Employment at the three CWC plants increased to 3,000 workers. (George, 72-74, 78)

The company continued to grow and adjust operations at the three plants throughout the 1920s. By 1923, Plant No 3 produced cylinder blocks, cylinder brads, manifolds, alloyed iron gears, and sleeves, Plant No 2 was converted from a foundry to storage and office space, and Plant No 1 continued to produce engine castings. Additions were built onto Plant No 3 in 1926 and 1929. An administration building was built on the east side of Henry Street, across from Plant No 3, in 1929, and offices were relocated from Plant No 2 to the new building. (George, 83-84; 1950 Sanborn Map)

The company also acquired land adjacent to Plant No 3 in 1926 to establish a residential subdivision, known as Roosevelt Park, for CWC employees and their families. A 160-acre tract was laid out with five lots per acre, concrete streets and sidewalks, and sites for parks and schools. Though intended to be affordable homes for working class employees, there was great interest from CWC management, local business people, and other middle class buyers. About sixty homes were built from 1926 through 1930, and Roosevelt Park remains an incorporated community encompassing about one square mile today. (George, 90) The company also built Hearthstone Lodge in 1927, a fishing lodge on Muskegon Lake for executives and clients, followed by a dining hall and company hospital for employees in the 1930s. (George, 90-91, 123-124)

The Great Depression had a dramatic impact on the company. Plant No 1 was closed for three years, resulting in about 900 employees being laid off. Plant No 3 continued to operate, but employed only about 550 workers. In addition to layoffs, work schedules were cut to two days a week by 1932, and salaries had dropped 40% by that time as well. (George, 99, 112) As the automotive industry recovered, so did the foundry, with Plant No 1 eventually reopening. In 1941, CWC employees elected union representation by the United Auto Workers union. (George, 126)

Like most of Muskegon's industries, CWC participated in war-related manufacturing during World War II. In 1941, the company began producing steel treads, or track links, for British tanks, with production demands requiring the institution of two ten-hour shifts each day. (George, 127-130) Plant No 1 produced engine blocks for the US Navy, and Wally E. George noted in his history of the company, "Every small landing craft that hit the [Normandy] beach that day was powered by an engine from cylinder blocks that had been cast at the plant on Sanford Street." (George, 130)

To meet the increased wartime demand, CWC opened Plant No 4 in 1941 in a vacant foundry on the north side of West Broadway Street between Seaway Drive and Temple Street. (George, 131-132; 1950 Sanborn Map; Heethuis) The building was previously a foundry owned by Shaw-Bos Crane Works, which had gone out of business leaving the building vacant since 1900. (George, 131-132; 1923 Sanborn Map) The facility was renovated and expanded to produce crankshafts for US Navy submarine engines. (George, 131-132)

Under the supervision and control of the federal War Manpower Commission, CWC and other local foundries began sending recruiters to Tennessee, Kentucky, North Carolina, Mississippi, Georgia, and even New Mexico, enticing Black laborers to come north for jobs. (Swartley) CWC recruiting coordinator Harold Workman recalled, "We needed some more help. The draft board was taking our people, and so we had to go out recruiting." (Workman)

Most CWC employees in the business office took on recruiting duties under Workman's supervision, including Workman himself. His children recall that he traveled by train throughout Alabama, usually utilizing federal employment offices to interview candidates, but on occasion visiting the local tavern to recruit and interview candidates. (Workman) "I'd have photos of the plant and the area and I would emphasize the fact that they were helping the war effort," Workman recalled. (Swartley) Those who accepted the positions offered received a train ticket and \$2.00 for a meal during the journey. (Swartley) Esple Sargent recalled that in 1942 the draft board in his hometown of Magnolia, Arkansas, gave him the option of working in a war defense plant or being drafted into the military. He chose to leave his job at a Magnolia sawmill and relocate to Muskegon – a city he had never even heard of – where he was immediately hired by CWC. After the war, he and his wife, Ruby, decided to stay in Muskegon, and he continued to work at the foundry until his retirement in 1963. (Randle)

There was some controversy over the recruiting of Southern Black laborers, with recruiters sometimes run out of town and branded "man catchers." (Jordan & Hardiman) Still an agricultural-based economy, Southern landowners "didn't want their people taken away because then they couldn't get enough farm hands," explained CWC recruiter Dan Connell. "They thought we were stealing their best help and, in reality, we were." (Swartley)

CWC continued to grow during the postwar years, expanding the facilities on Henry Street. Plant No 5 was constructed around 1945 just west of Plant No 3 on West Sherman Boulevard for the manufacture of camshafts. (Heethuis) Plant No 6 was built just west of Plant No 5 to house the centrifugal sleeve division of the company in 1945. (George, 145) Plant No 7 was built just west of Plant No 6 in the 1960s for the production of clutch and brake housings. (Heethuis)

In 1956, CWC was acquired by Textron, Inc. (George, 158)

Following the deregulation of the trucking industry and the increase in global competition, both of which contributed to a decrease in the demand for truck parts, CWC-Textron began to downsize. Plant No 3 closed in the mid-1980s when it was consolidated with the CWC facility in Columbus, Indiana, and Plant No 6 and Plant No 7 closed in the 1990s. It is not clear when Plant No 1, Plant No 4, or the administration building were closed. CWC made efforts to assist employees through the transition, offering skills development programs and an outplacement service. (Heethuis)

Of these facilities, only Plant No 4 and Plant No 5 remain extant, with all other facilities demolished prior to 2001 (Muskegon County GIS). Plant No 4 is no longer a part of the CWC-Textron Company and now houses a boat storage and repair facility. Plant No 5 remains in operation as CWC-Textron, employing about 325 people in the manufacture of camshafts. (Heethuis)

Statement of Significance/Recommendation of Eligibility

Provide a detailed explanation of the property's eligibility for the National Register. Include an evaluation under at least one of the four National Register Criteria and one Area of Significance. Include a discussion of the seven aspects of integrity, and make a recommendation about eligibility. This is required for all properties.

The property appears to retain integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association. The property appears to derive its primary significance from its importance to the industrial history of Muskegon County and should be further evaluated for eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for Industry. The Industry context should also include the property's association with Black Ethnic Heritage, Social History, and Civil Rights. Interior access was not provided during this project.

References

List references used to research and evaluate the individual property. For NRPQ's include copies of key documents.

George, Wally E. *That First Casting Must Be Good: George W. Cannon's Story of the Partnership and the Foundries of Campbell, Wyant, and Cannon*. Muskegon, MI: George W. Cannon Company, 1964. Library of Michigan, Lansing.

NetrOnline. *Historic Aerials*. <https://www.historicaerials.com/viewer/450827>.

Personal Communication with Jim Heethuis (former General Manager) by Cheri Szcodronski. April 7, 2023. CWC-
Textron, Muskegon.

Personal Communication with John Workman (foundry employee and son of foundry recruiter) and Marti Workman
(daughter of foundry recruiter) by Cheri Szcodronski. May 10, 2023. Eagle Alloy Administrative Offices, Muskegon.

Randle, Wilma. "Crossing Paths Lead to Muskegon." *The Muskegon Chronicle*. Date unknown. *African Americans in
Muskegon* Exhibit, James Jackson Museum of African American History, Muskegon Heights.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. "Muskegon, Michigan, Vol. 1." 1911. ProQuest Digital Sanborn Maps, 1867-1970, Via
University of Michigan Libraries.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. "Muskegon, Michigan, Vol 2." 1923. ProQuest Digital Sanborn Maps, 1867-1970, Via
University of Michigan Libraries.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. "Muskegon, Michigan, Vol. 1." 1911, Revised 1950. ProQuest Digital Sanborn Maps,
1867-1970, Via University of Michigan Libraries.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. "Muskegon, Michigan, Vol. 2." 1923, Revised 1950. ProQuest Digital Sanborn Maps,
1867-1970, Via University of Michigan Libraries.

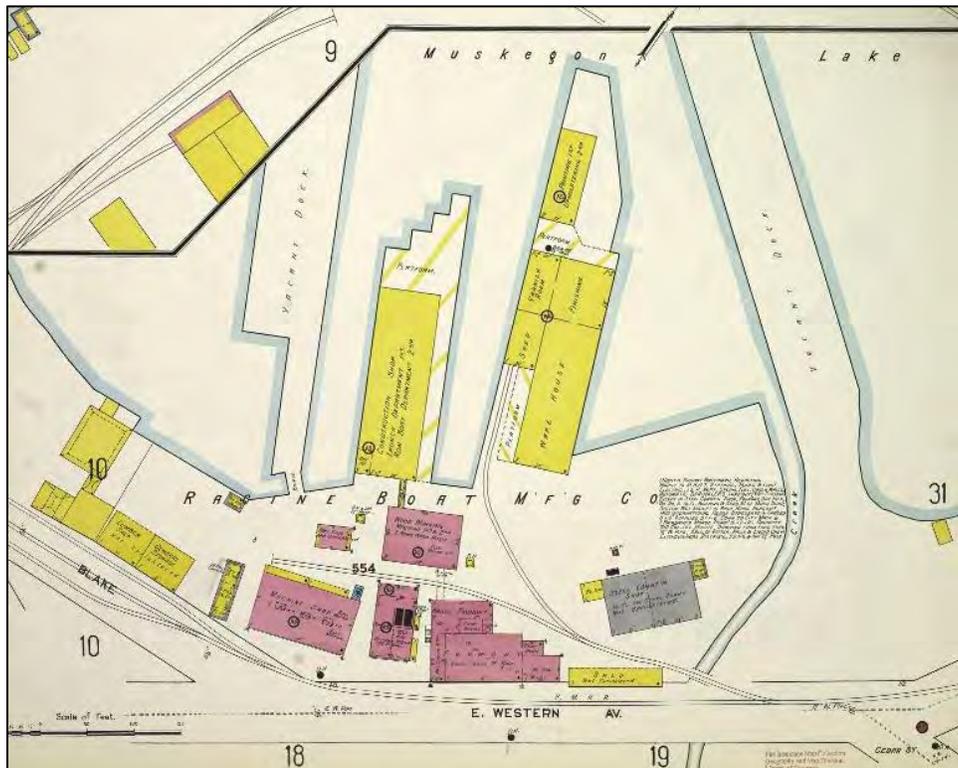
Swartley, John. "Recruiting: Southern Blacks Answer 'Vital Need.'" *The Muskegon Chronicle*. Date unknown.
Lakeshore Museum Center, Muskegon.

Jordan, Kim, and Clayton Hardiman. "Blacks rode rails, roads north to join in Muskegon's war boom." *The Muskegon
Chronicle*. Date unknown. *African Americans in Muskegon* Exhibit, James Jackson Museum of African American
History, Muskegon Heights.

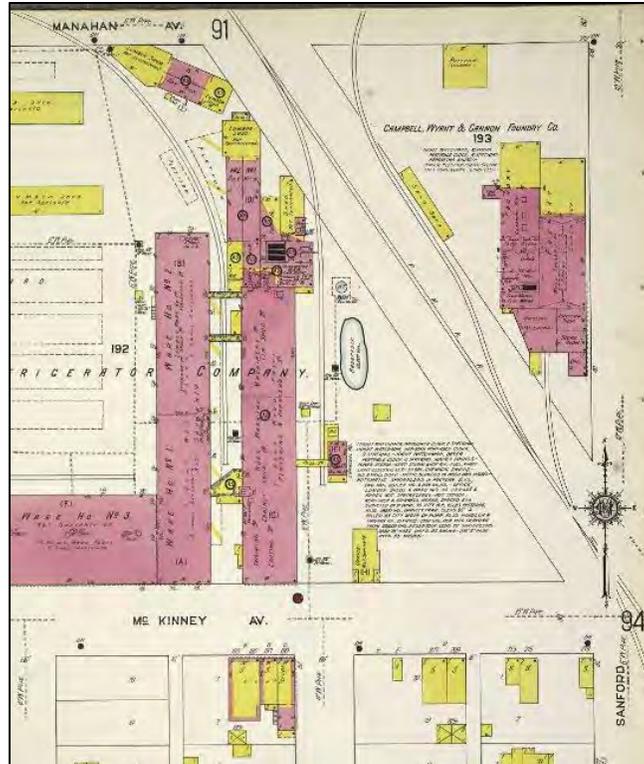
Survey Date	2022-2023	Recorded By	Cheri Szcodronski	Agency Report #	
For SHPO Use Only	SHPO Concurrence?: Y / N		Date:		

Form date: 2/28/2020

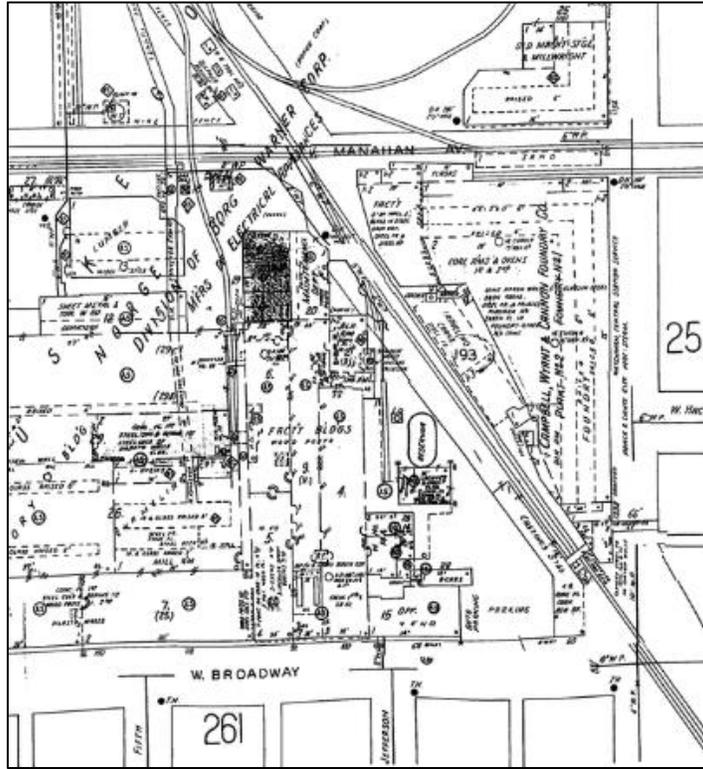
Historic Photographs and Maps



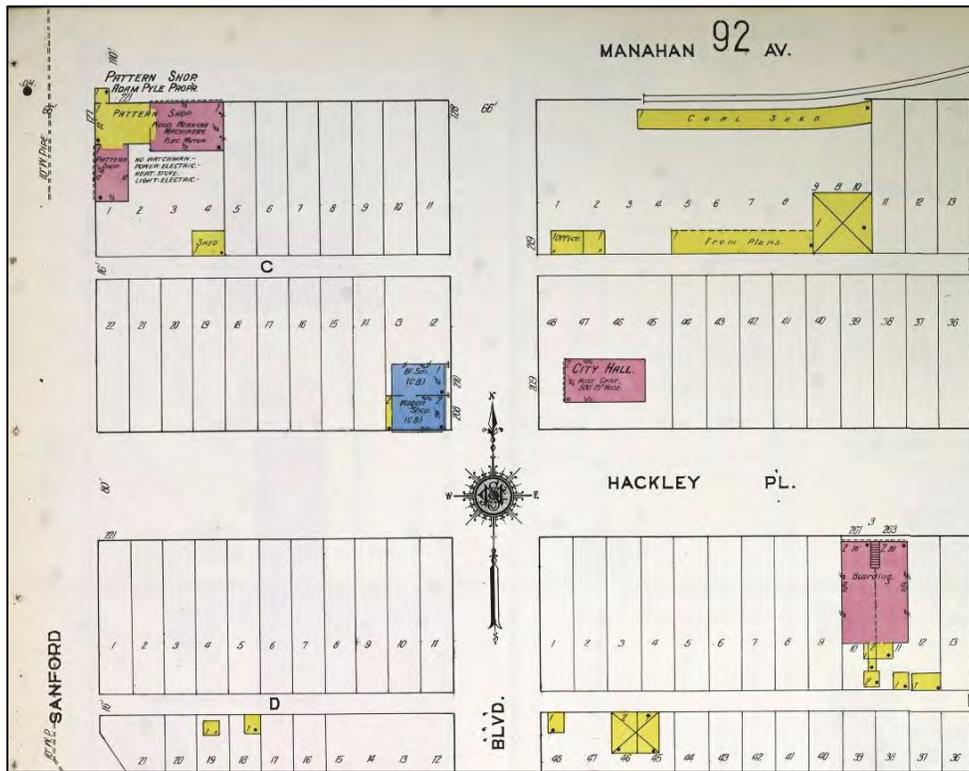
Excerpt of 1911 Sanborn Map, CWC Hercules Plant at Racine Boat Manufacturing Company
(courtesy of University of Michigan Libraries)



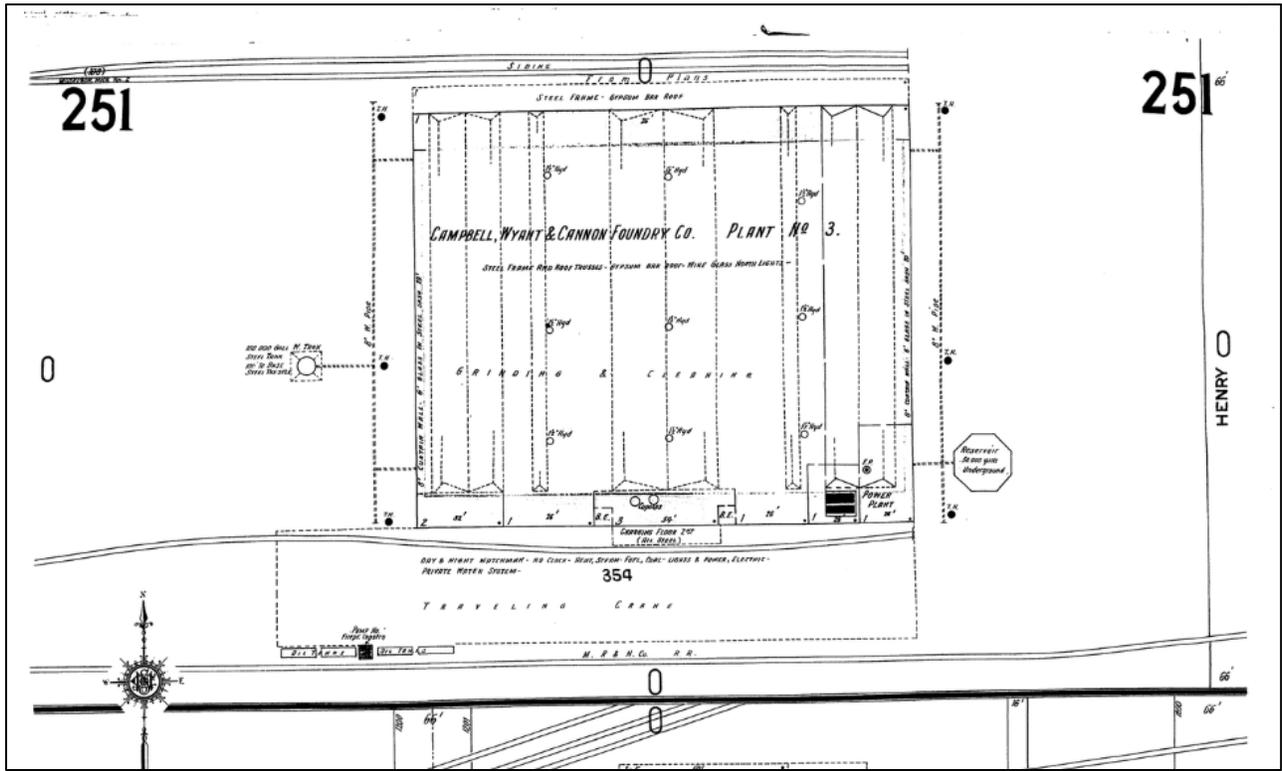
Excerpt of 1911 Sanborn Map, CWC Plant No 1
(courtesy of University of Michigan Libraries)



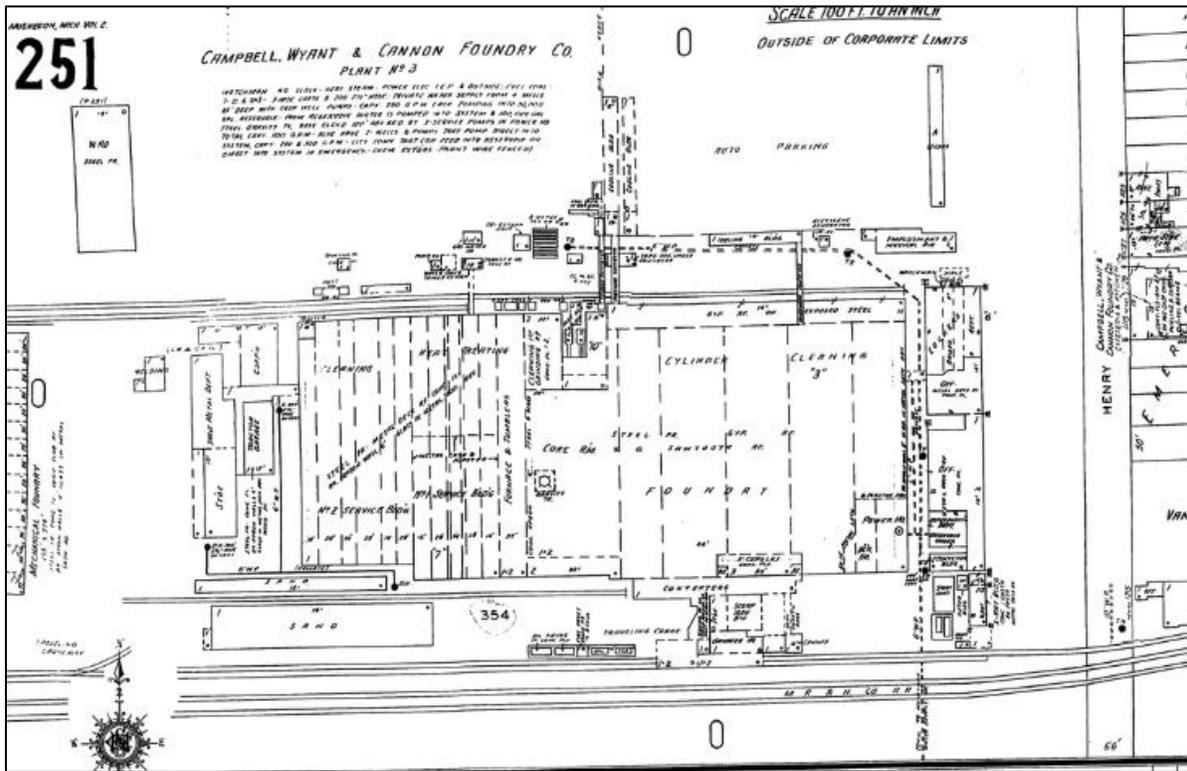
Excerpt of 1950 Sanborn Map, Plant No 1
 (courtesy of University of Michigan Libraries)



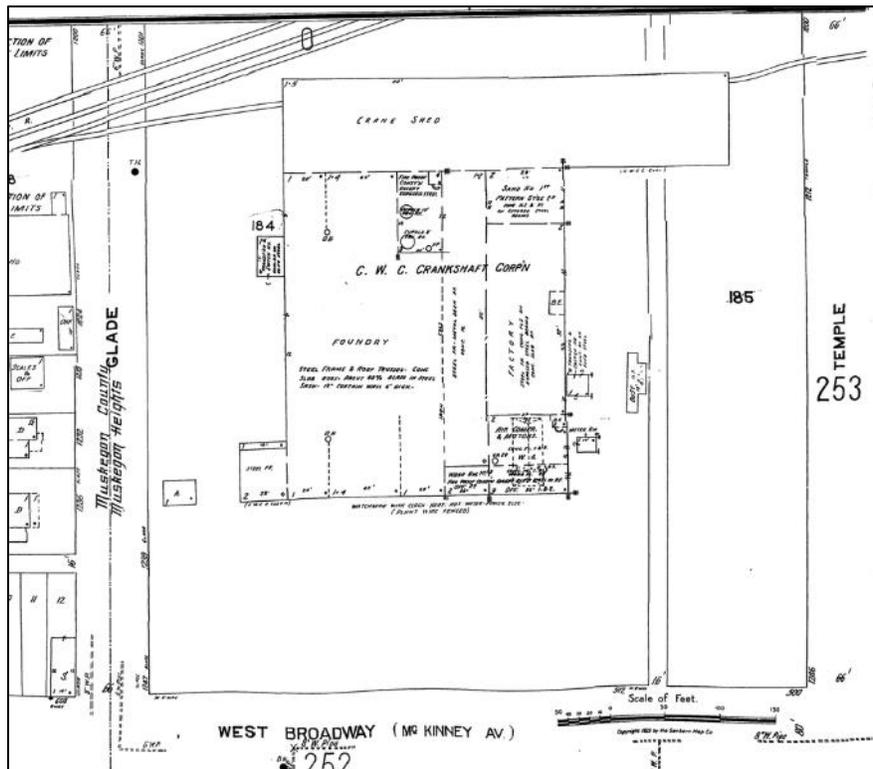
Excerpt of 1911 Sanborn Map, Pyle Pattern Shop/CWC Plant No 2
 (courtesy of University of Michigan Libraries)



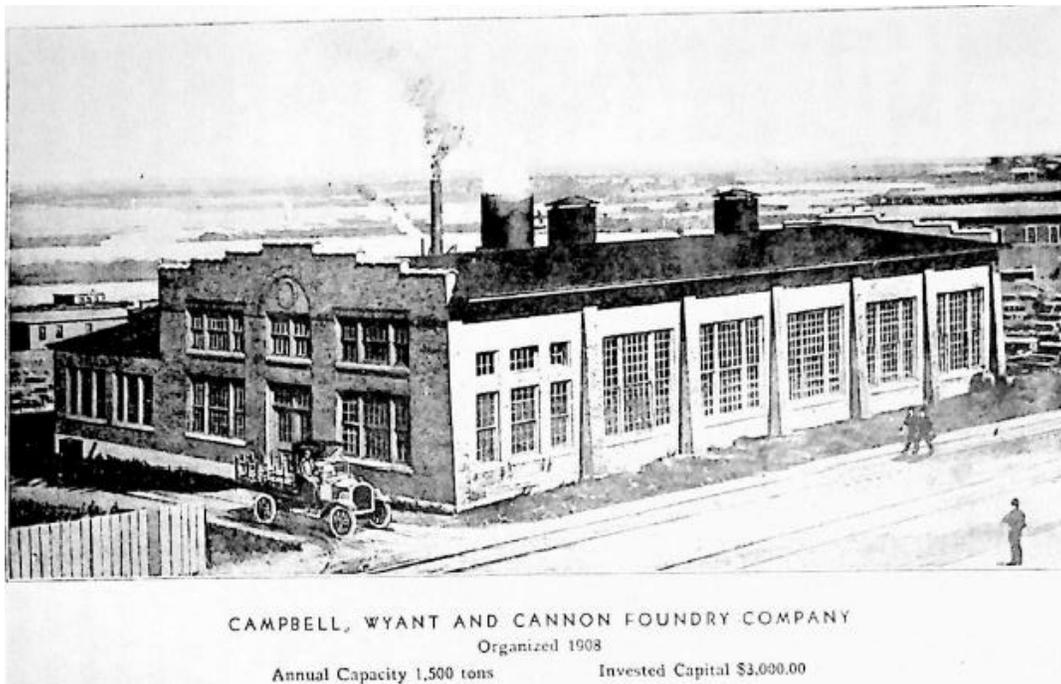
Excerpt of 1923 Sanborn Map, Plant No 3
(courtesy of University of Michigan Libraries)



Excerpt of 1950 Sanborn Map, Plant No 3
(courtesy of University of Michigan Libraries)



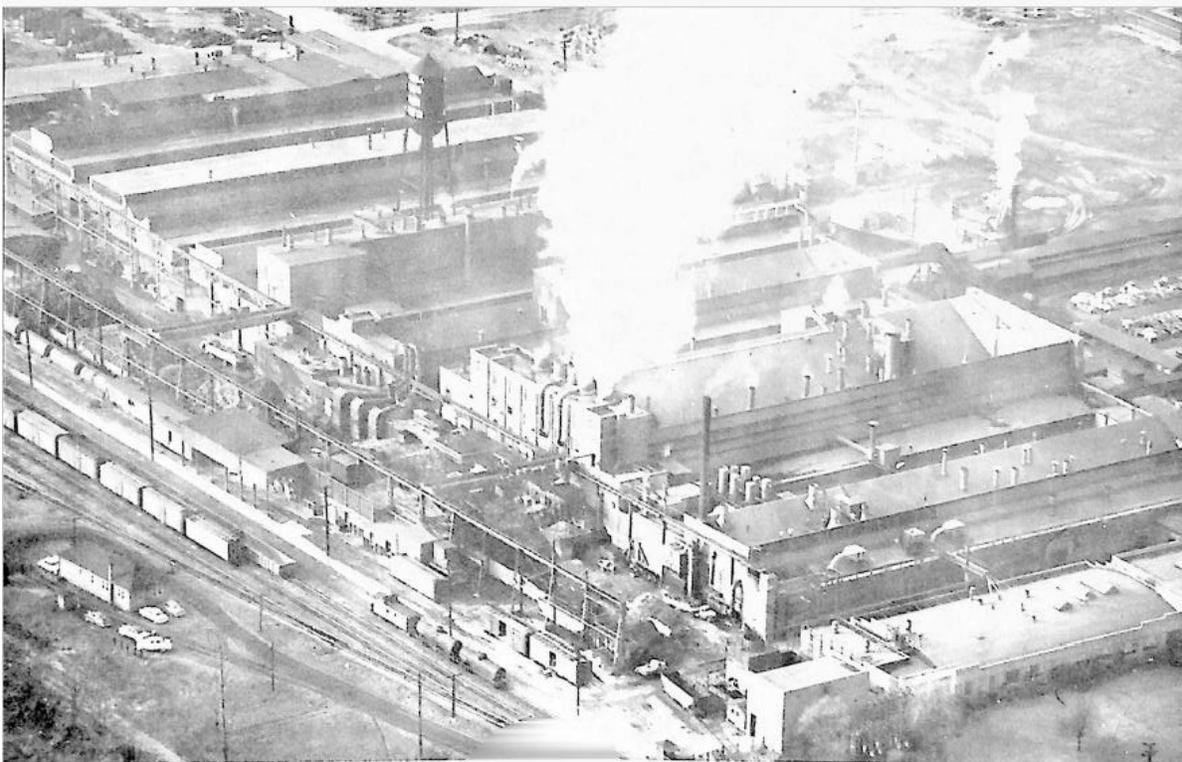
Excerpt of 1950 Sanborn Map, Plant No 4
 (courtesy of University of Michigan Libraries)



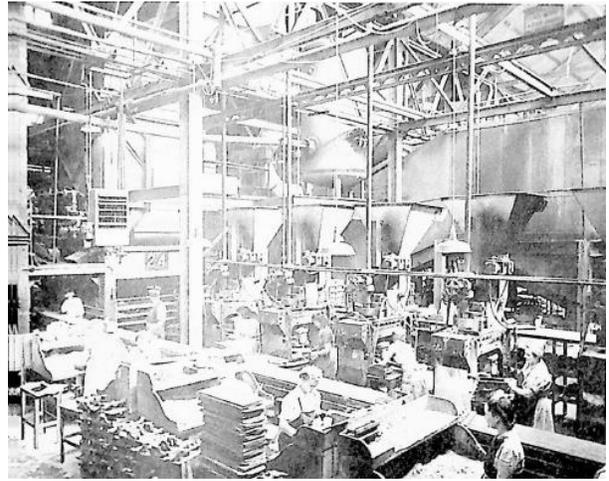
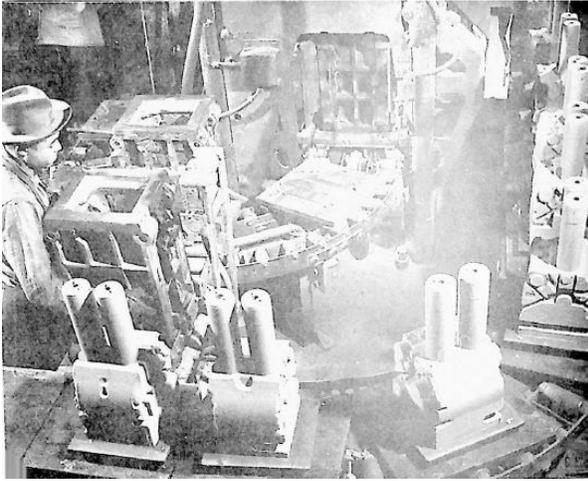
Hercules Plant at the Racine Boat Manufacturing Company
 (courtesy of *That First Casting Must Be Good*)



Aerial Image of Plant No 1 and Plant No 2, date unknown
(courtesy of Hackley Public Library)



Plant No 3, 1922
(courtesy of *That First Casting Must Be Good*)



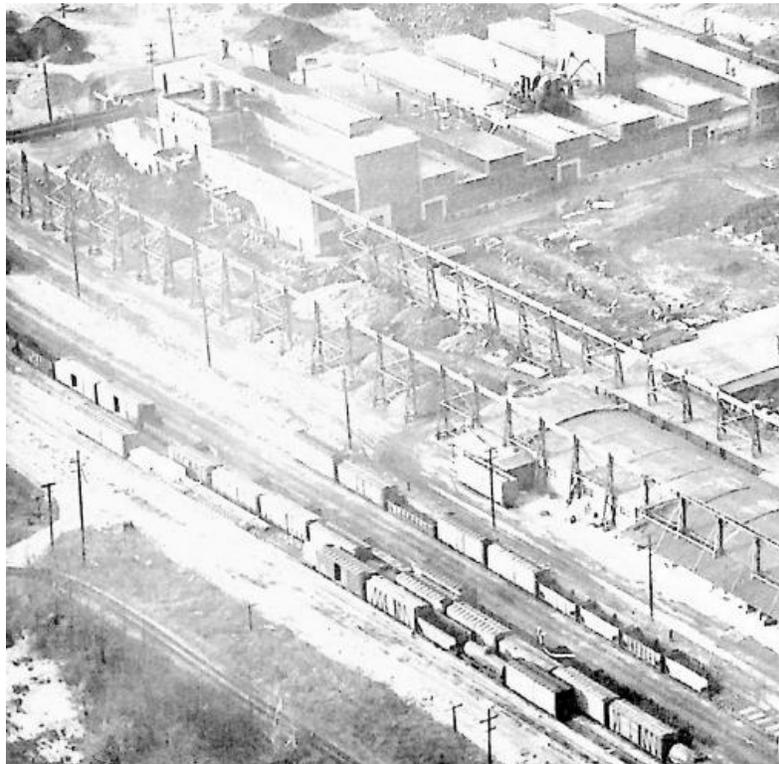
Core Room at Plant No 3, c.1935
(courtesy of *That First Casting Must Be Good*)



Steel Tank Treads at Plant No 3, c.1943
(courtesy of *That First Casting Must Be Good*)



Plant No 4, c.1940s
(courtesy of *That First Casting Must Be Good*)



Plant No 6, c.1945
(courtesy of *That First Casting Must Be Good*)

Current Photographs



Administration Building – North Elevation



Administration Building – Northeast Elevation



Administration Building - Southeast Elevation



Administration Building – Southwest Elevation



Administration Building - Northwest Elevation



Facing South – Warehouse 2 and Plant No 5



Facing Southeast – Warehouse 1 and Warehouse 2



Warehouse 2 – Northeast Elevation



Warehouse 2 – South Elevation



Facing Southeast – Guard House and Warehouse 1



Warehouse 1 – West Elevation Entrance Bay Detail



Facing East – Warehouse 1



Warehouse 1 – Southwest Elevation



Warehouse 1 – Northeast Elevation



Plant No 5 – North Elevation



Plant No 5 – North Elevation



Plant No 5 - North Elevation



Plant No 5 – South Elevation



Facing Northeast – Plant No 5 and Railroad Tracks

Michigan SHPO Architectural Properties Identification Form



Property Overview and Location

Street Address	1788 Terrace Street				
City/Township, State, Zip Code	Muskegon, MI 19442				
County	Muskegon				
Assessor's Parcel #	61-24-205-306-0005-00				
Latitude/Longitude (to the 6 th decimal point)	Lat: 43.220006	Long: -86.237421			
Ownership	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public-Local <input type="checkbox"/>	Public-State <input type="checkbox"/>	Public-Federal <input type="checkbox"/>	Multiple <input type="checkbox"/>

Property Type

(Insert primary photograph below.)

Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> select sub-type below	Structure <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Object <input type="checkbox"/>
Residential <input type="checkbox"/>	
Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	
Other <input type="checkbox"/>	



West Elevation

Architectural Information

Construction Date	c.1920
Architectural Style	Vernacular Commercial
Building Form	Rectangular
Roof Form	Parapet
Roof Materials	Unknown
Exterior Wall Materials	Brick
Foundation Materials	Poured Concrete
Window Materials	Metal, Wood
Window Type	Fixed, 1/1
Outbuildings	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Number/Type:	

Eligibility

Individually Eligible	Criterion A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Criterion B <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion C <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion D <input type="checkbox"/>
Criteria Considerations:	a. <input type="checkbox"/> b. <input type="checkbox"/> c. <input type="checkbox"/> d. <input type="checkbox"/> e. <input type="checkbox"/> f. <input type="checkbox"/> g. <input type="checkbox"/>			
Component of a Historic District	Contributing to a district <input type="checkbox"/>	Non-contributing to a district <input type="checkbox"/>	Historic District Name:	
Not Eligible <input type="checkbox"/>				
Area(s) of Significance	Black Ethnic Heritage, Civil Rights			
Period(s) of Significance	1961			
Integrity – Does the property possess integrity in all or some of the 7 aspects?				
Location <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Design <input type="checkbox"/>	Materials <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Workmanship <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Setting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Feeling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Association <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
General Integrity:	Intact <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Date(s):
Historic Name	Sanitary Dairy Company			
Current/Common Name	Ryke's Bakery & Café			
Historic/Original Owner	Sanitary Dairy Company			
Historic Building Use	Commerce/Trade – specialty store			
Current Building Use	Commerce/Trade – specialty store			
Architect/Engineer/Designer	Unknown			
Builder/Contractor	Unknown			

Narrative Architectural Description

Provide a detailed description of the property, including all character-defining features and any accessory resources. This is required for all properties.

Located at the corner of Terrace Street and East Laketon Avenue, the Sanitary Dairy Company is a two-story blond brick building with a one-story blond brick north wing and a one-story brick and vinyl rear (east) wing. The building's storefront, facing east toward Terrace Street, has been infilled with blond brick and a metal slab door. The building

retains decorative brickwork above the storefront and a stone belt course that serves as the sill for the second-floor windows, which are one-over-one wood, set in pairs, with brick and stone lintels. There are square columns with decorative stonework on the ends of the building, and the parapet roof has stone coping and retains a stone sign panel with "Sanitary Dairy Company" engraved on it. The south elevation, facing East Laketon Avenue, is clad in vertical vinyl sheathing with glass block windows. Tax records show the building was constructed in 1920.

The one-story north wing retains an aluminum-framed door with a one-light transom and aluminum display windows with board-and-batten aprons. The storefront is sheltered by a pent roof. This wing has tall, narrow fixed windows with brick and stone lintels and board-and-batten aprons. There is a slightly projecting column on the north end of this wing, which also has stone coping.

The rear wing is constructed of brick that is partially covered with vertical vinyl sheathing and contains large glass block windows. This wing has a concrete block foundation and a loading dock with large truck bays.

Two additional storefronts north of this building appear to have been constructed later and are not known to be associated with the Sanitary Dairy Company.

History of the Resource

Provide information on previous owners, land use(s), and construction and alteration dates in a narrative format. This is required for all intensive level surveys, NRPQs, and nominations, and recommended for other identification efforts.

The Civil Rights Movement began in Muskegon in 1961 with a boycott of Sanitary Dairy Company at 1788 Terrace Street (extant). Though the company sold products to Black-owned retailers and ran rural delivery routes to Black customers, employment at the company was not open to Black workers. Reverend Henry G. Reynolds and his wife, Bessie, who owned and operated the Reynolds Funeral Home at 2211 Jarman Street (extant), hosted planning meetings for the boycott, for which they received "many anonymous intimidations" from White antagonists. (*The Grand Rapids Times*) The boycott began in early March 1961 with Black businesses and rural delivery customers refusing to purchase Sanitary Dairy Company products. They also placed signs in the windows of stores and homes announcing the boycott. The first organized Civil Rights demonstration in Muskegon County, the boycott was led by Alfred P. Williams and the Muskegon Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Williams was born and raised in Chicago, coming to southern Michigan to work as a traveling insurance salesman before settling in the predominantly African American Jackson Hill neighborhood of Muskegon, where he became a leader in the local Civil Rights Movement. (*The Holland Evening Sentinel*; Williams obituary)

After about a week of the boycott, local and regional newspapers began to pick up the story. The *Holland Evening Sentinel* reported on March 9, 1961, "The company hasn't been picketed, but its Negro [sic] customers on route delivery service have stopped taking the milk from Sanitary and Negroes [sic] aren't buying Sanitary milk at retailers." J.B. Gillette, the president of Sanitary Dairy Company, told the newspaper that the company "has never discriminated in its hiring practice," however, the newspaper also reported "the dairy has never employed a Negro [sic]." (*The Holland Evening Sentinel*)

By March 10, 1961, the boycott had extended to Tourre's Grocery at 354 Ottawa Street (no longer extant) in the predominantly African American Jackson Hill neighborhood. The grocery was owned and operated by Josephine Tourre, an Italian immigrant who had been actively supportive of her African American neighbors but continued to sell Sanitary Dairy milk and refused to hang an NAACP sign about the boycott in the store window. NAACP members picketed the store each day starting around 5:00 pm, though Tourre told them, "Your fight is with the dairy, not with me!" ("Mama Tourre) When an NAACP committee went to Tourre's store to request a recently vacated position be filled by an African American employee, Tourre told them to get out of her store. (*The Grand Rapids Times*)

On March 19, 1961, a mass meeting of about five hundred people was held at Greater Harvest Baptist Church to discuss the boycott of Sanitary Dairy Company, the picketing at Tourre's Grocery Store, and other civil rights issues in the community. Reverend Reynolds was the first speaker, describing the threats he and his wife had received for their involvement in the boycott and reasserting his willingness to fight for what he believed to be right. Bessie Reynolds also spoke and encouraged the crowd's participation in the boycott, saying "if men, women and children in Georgia, Mississippi, and Alabama, can stand up for their rights, we can do it here." Williams reported that Gillette "would do nothing at present for fear that his white customers would refuse to buy any more milk in reprisal for the hiring of Negro [sic] drivers." The group unanimously agreed they would no longer picket, however, they would continue the boycott by refusing to purchase Sanitary Dairy products. (*The Grand Rapids Times*)

Ultimately, the Sanitary Dairy Company boycott was successful, ending with the hiring of an African American employee as a delivery driver to run routes to African American customers. Robert Dowson, an NAACP member who participated in the boycott, explained its success: "You keep your dollar, and your dollar will speak."

Statement of Significance/Recommendation of Eligibility

Provide a detailed explanation of the property's eligibility for the National Register. Include an evaluation under at least one of the four National Register Criteria and one Area of Significance. Include a discussion of the seven aspects of integrity, and make a recommendation about eligibility. This is required for all properties.

The building appears to retain integrity of location, workmanship, setting, feeling, association, though the design has been altered with the infill of the storefront and there are some replacement materials. The building is likely eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A at the local level for Black Ethnic Heritage and Civil Rights as the subject of a successful Civil Rights boycott in 1961, which should likely be the period of significance. Interior access was not provided during this project.

References

List references used to research and evaluate the individual property. For NRPQ's include copies of key documents.

Alfred Perry Williams Obituary, Stark Funeral Homes, June 20, 2012, <https://www.starkfuneral.com/obituary/6270889>.

"Mama Tourre Finds Herself Caught in Boycott Crossfire," *The Muskegon Chronicle*, March 14, 1961, Hackley Public Library, Hackley Public Library, Torrent House Local History and Genealogy Department, Muskegon.

"Muskegon Negroes Boycott Big Dairy," *The Holland [MI] Evening Sentinel*, March 9, 1961, www.newspapers.com.

"Negroes Open Dairy Boycott," *The Holland [MI] Evening Sentinel*, March 10, 1961, www.newspapers.com.

Personal Community with Melvin Burns, Jr., and Robert Dowson (Civil Rights Activists) by Cheri Szcodronski, March 1, 2023, at Dowson Home, Muskegon Heights.

"Sanitary Boycott Continues." *The Grand Rapids Times*. March 25, 1961. Urban League of Greater Muskegon Records, Box 13. Folder 390: Printed Material, 1961. Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Survey Date	2022-2023	Recorded By	Cheri Szcodronski	Agency Report #	
For SHPO Use Only	SHPO Concurrence?: Y / N		Date:		

Form date: 2/28/2020

Historic Photographs



Sanitary Dairy Company Delivery in 1929 on Thayer Street (now Walker Arena)
(Lakeshore Museum Center)



Sanitary Dairy Company Interior, c.1944
(Lakeshore Museum Center)



Sanitary Dairy Company Delivery Truck, date unknown
(Lakeshore Museum Center)



Mass Meeting at Greater Harvest Baptist Church About Sanitary Dairy Boycott, 1961
(*The Grand Rapids Times*)

Current Photographs



West Elevation – Parapet Sign Panel Detail



West Elevation



Southwest Elevation



South Elevation



East Elevation



Adjacent Building – West Elevation

Michigan SHPO Cultural Landscape Identification Form



Landscape Overview and Location

Landscape Historic Name (if applicable)	Hackley Park		
Current/Common Name (if applicable)	Hackley Park		
Boundary Description	350 West Webster Avenue		
City, State, Zip Code(s)	Muskegon, MI 49443		
County	Muskegon		
Total Acres in the Landscape	2.69 acres		
Parent Cultural Landscape	N/A		
Ownership	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	Public-Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public-State <input type="checkbox"/> Public-Federal <input type="checkbox"/>

Landscape Classification and Type

Historic Designed Landscape <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Historic Vernacular Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Ethnographic Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Historic Site <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
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(Insert aerial photo with boundaries below.)

Historic Use	Recreation
Current Use	Recreation
Landscape Type (Select one or more of the following)	Garden (private) <input type="checkbox"/>
	Park (public) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Green/Common/Plaza <input type="checkbox"/>
	Boulevard/Parkway/Trail <input type="checkbox"/>
	Other Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>
	Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>
	Exhibition/Fairgrounds <input type="checkbox"/>
	Mine/Quarry <input type="checkbox"/>
	Other Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>
	Campus <input type="checkbox"/>
	Sports/Recreation <input type="checkbox"/>
Cemetery <input type="checkbox"/>	
Commemorative/Memorial <input type="checkbox"/>	
Natural Landform or other Geological Formation <input type="checkbox"/>	
Other, Please Specify: <input type="checkbox"/>	



National Register Eligibility

Is the landscape listed in the National Register?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	If yes, provide:	Date Listed:	NRIS #:
<i>If not already listed, complete the information below:</i>					
Eligible Under:	Criterion A <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion B <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion C <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion D <input type="checkbox"/>	
Criteria Considerations:	a. <input type="checkbox"/>	b. <input type="checkbox"/>	c. <input type="checkbox"/>	d. <input type="checkbox"/>	e. <input type="checkbox"/> f. <input type="checkbox"/> g. <input type="checkbox"/>
Not Eligible <input type="checkbox"/>					
Area(s) of Significance	Further research needed				

Period(s) Significance	Further research needed					
Integrity – Does the landscape possess integrity in all or some of the 7 aspects?						
General Integrity:	Intact <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Date(s):		
Location <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Design <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Materials <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Workmanship <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Setting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feeling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Association <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Condition of District?	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Poor <input type="checkbox"/>			
Threats to Resource?	None Known					

Landscape Description

Provide a description of the landscape, including general character of the landscape, specific information regarding the landscape characteristics, and the qualities distinguishing the landscape from its surroundings. This is required for all landscapes.

Natural Features	
Topography	Flat
Vegetation	Grassy with mature trees and decorative plantings
Water	None
Geology	Unknown
Ecology	Unknown
Climate	Unknown
Designed/Cultural Features	
Land use patterns	Public park
Planting patterns	Decorative flower beds
Boundary demarcations	Bounded by West Webster Street, Fourth Street, West Clay Avenue, and Third Street
Spatial organization/layout	There is a central obelisk, stage at the northeast end, and memorial statues at each corner
Circulation Networks	A weblike network of concrete sidewalks encircle the park, extending from the central obelisk to each side and each corner of the park.
Views and vistas	None
Water features	None
Buildings, structures, and objects*	A central obelisk is a memorial statue to Civil War soldiers
Small-scale elements (markers, statuary, site furnishings)	Statues of Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant, David Farragut, and William Tecumseh Sherman at each corner, benches, stage at the northeast end of the park
Other (including ephemeral qualities – sounds, activities, wildlife, smells, etc.)	

**list and briefly describe each and attach an Architectural Resource Inventory Form for each major resource*

History of the Cultural Landscape

Provide a general history that includes the people, trends, and time periods that shaped the landscape over time. This could include information on previous owners, land use, construction and alteration dates in a narrative format. This is required for all intensive level surveys and recommended for other identification efforts.

<p>Hackley Park is a 2.3-acre park in the heart of downtown Muskegon situated on land donated by local industrialist and philanthropist Charles Hackley. The park was established in 1890 to honor Civil War soldiers. Throughout its history, the park has served not only as green space in the downtown, but also as a public gathering space for festivals, holiday events, ceremonies, performances, and demonstrations.</p> <p>Following the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1963, demonstrations took place in Muskegon as both protest and memorial to the four African American girls killed in the bombing. On August 9, 1964, three hundred protestors marched along Western Avenue through downtown Muskegon to Hackley Park, where about 1,000 people gathered to hear local and guest speakers. Retired Reverend Albert A. Kehren called on the crowd to “remove the madness and insaneness of the segregationists. These men have lost all touch with reality. They need our prayers.” Reverend Father John Sheehy observed, “If we do not struggle for the forces of good, the forces of evil will take over. Not enough people are doing something.” Local Civil Rights leader Dr. Frank Howell stated, “What we</p>

want is a policy of integration in Muskegon, not non-discrimination.” And the main speaker at the event, Reverend Kenneth Anderson of Saginaw, told the crowd, “We cannot wait for a massive change of heart. We must take other measures.” (*The Muskegon Chronicle*)

Statement of Significance/Recommendation of Eligibility

Provide a detailed explanation of the landscape’s eligibility for the National Register, including an evaluation under the four criteria, discussion of the seven aspects of integrity, and recommendations about eligibility. This is required for all cultural landscapes.

The property appears to retain integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association. The property appears to derive its primary significance as a planned landscape characterized by prominent commemorative statues and should be further evaluated for eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for Landscape Architecture and under Criteria Consideration F for Commemorative Properties. These contexts should also include the property’s association with Black Ethnic Heritage, Social History, and Civil Rights.

GIS/Locational Information

Please provide the SHPO with GIS shapefiles when available.

Lat: 43.233758 Long: -86.252602

References

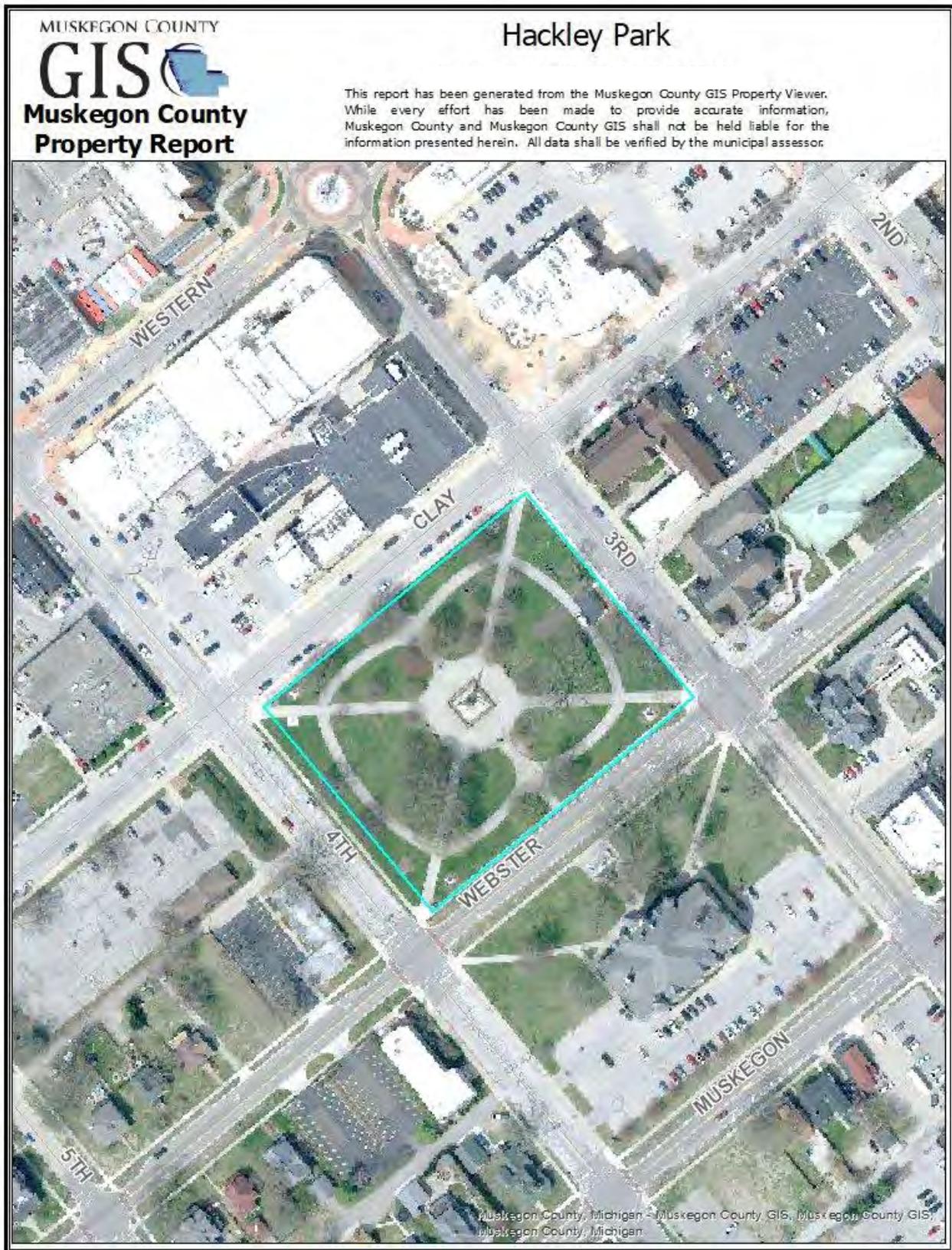
List references used to research and evaluate landscape.

Soltess, Jess. “Only 300 March But Close to 1,000 Hear Civil Rights Backers Call for Greater Support, Unity in Campaign.” *The Muskegon Chronicle*. August 10, 1964. Hackley Public Library, Torrent House Local History and Genealogy Department, Muskegon.

Survey Date	2022-2023	Recorded By	Cheri Szcodronski
For SHPO Use Only	SHPO Concurrence?: Y / N		Date:

Detailed Site Plan/Map

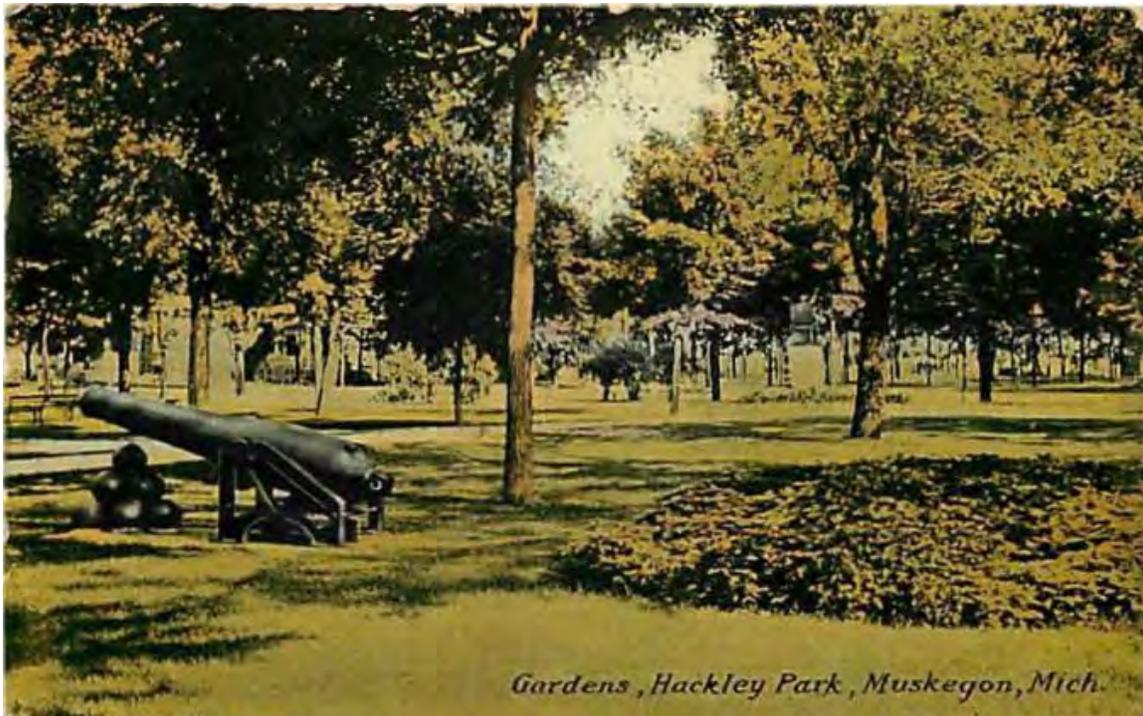
Provide a full page site plan or map with important features identified.



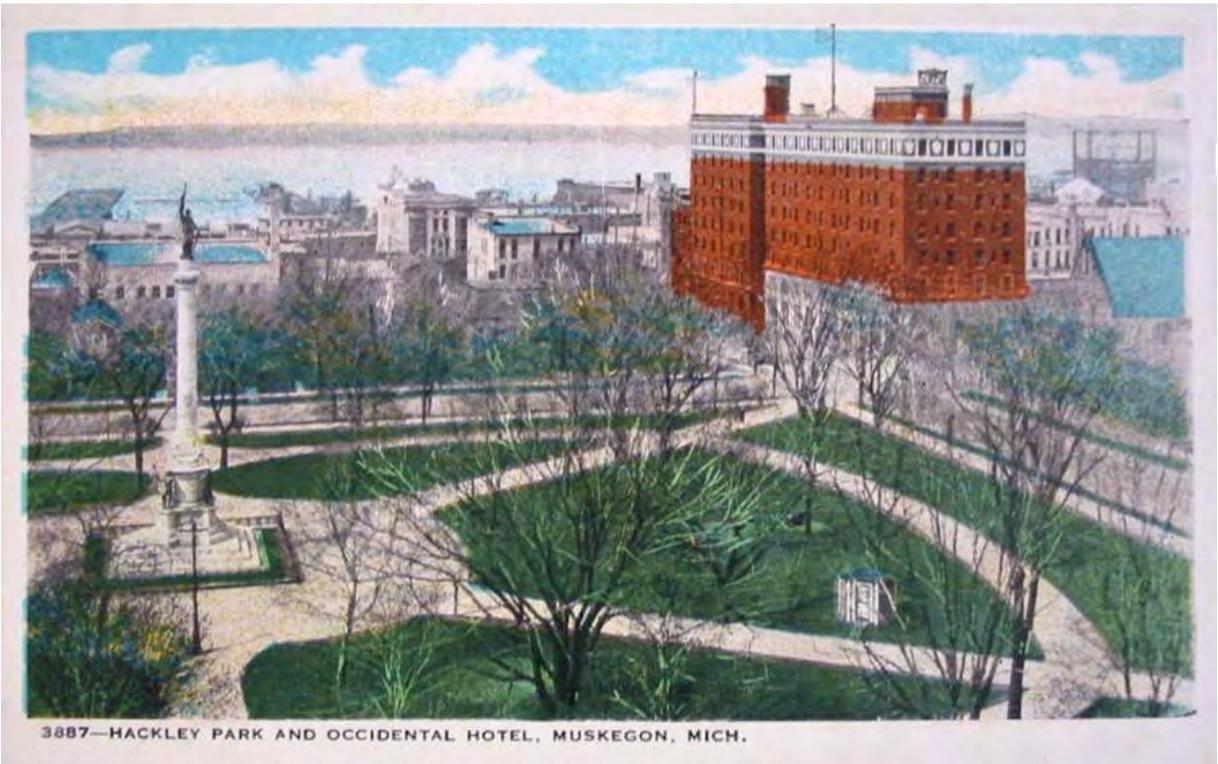
Historic Photographs



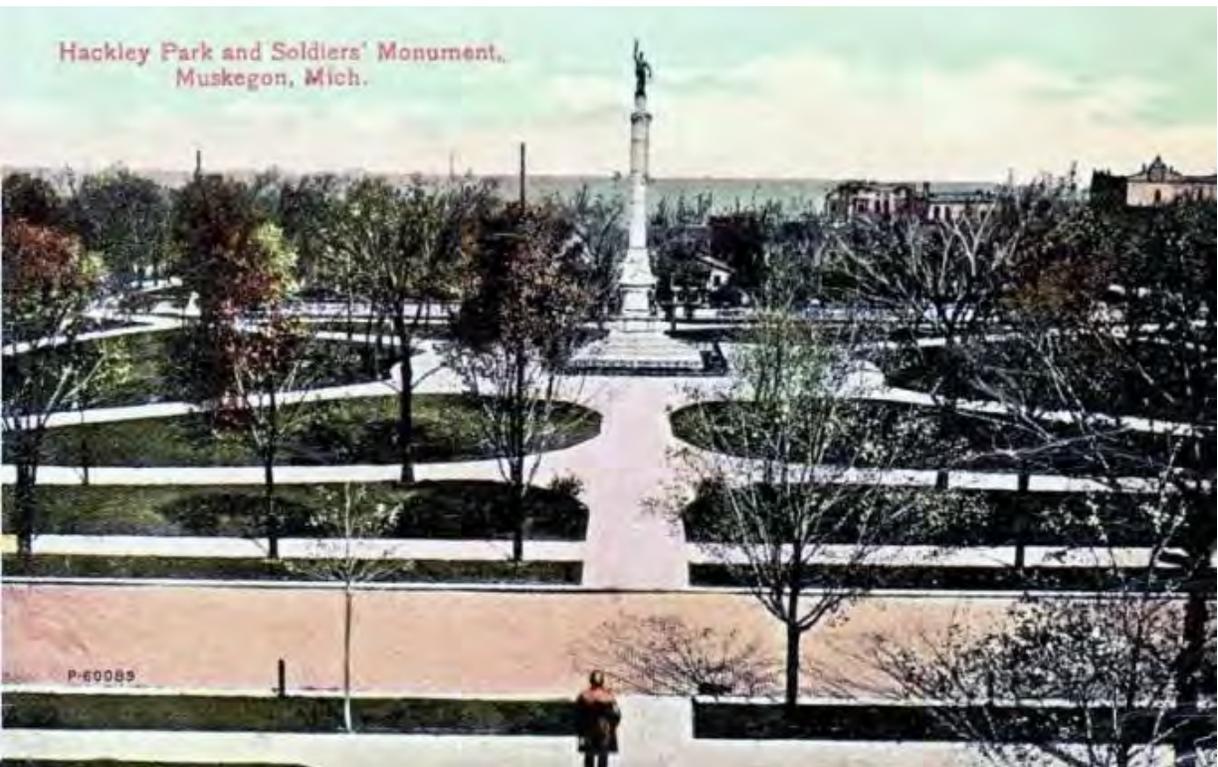
Early View of Hackley Park, date unknown
(courtesy of Hackley Public Library)



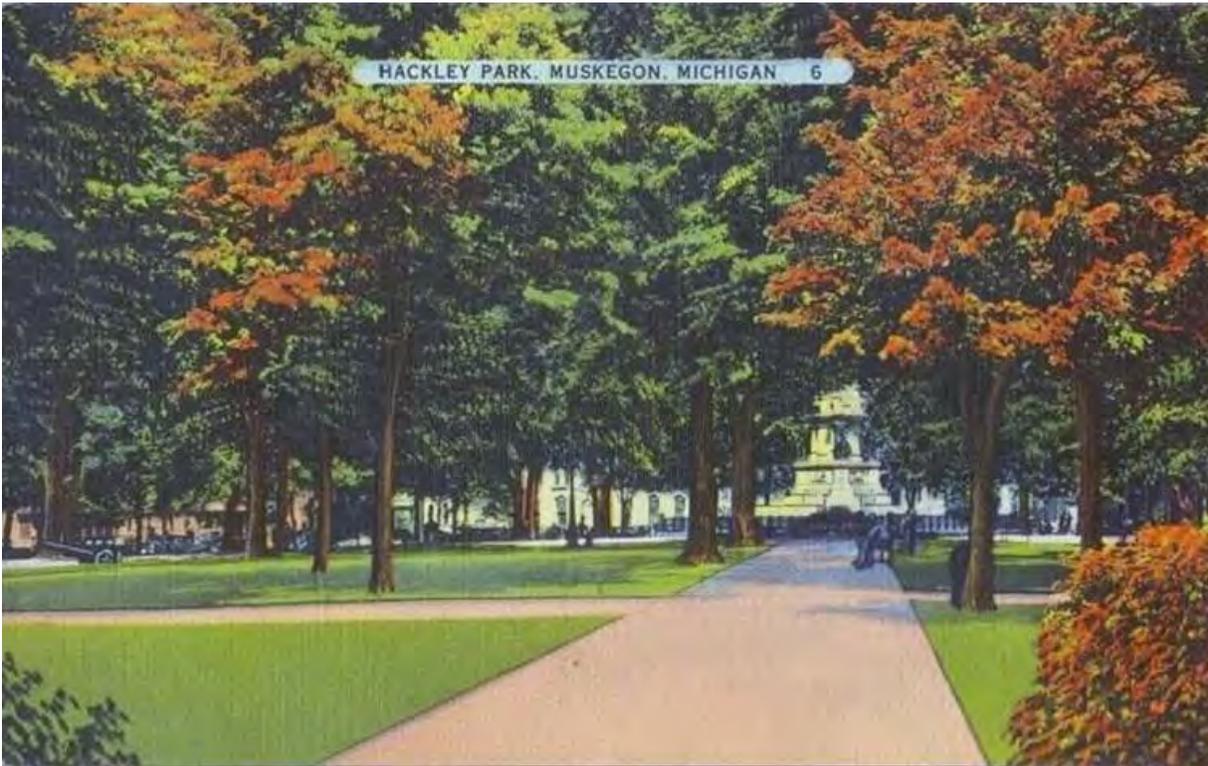
Hackley Park Gardens, 1911
(courtesy of Ron Pesch)



Hackley Park Looking North from Webster Avenue, date unknown
(courtesy of Ron Pesch)



Hackley Park and Soldiers' Monument, date unknown
(courtesy of Ron Pesch)



Hackley Park Postcard, date unknown
(courtesy of Ron Pesch)



Hackley Park from Fourth Street, date unknown
(courtesy of Ron Pesch)



Hackley Park Site, date unknown
(courtesy of Hackley Public Library)



Photos of March and Demonstrations at Hackley Park
(*The Muskegon Chronicle*, August 9, 1964)

Current Photographs



Landscape – Facing West



Landscape – Facing West



Landscape – Facing Northwest



President Abraham Lincoln Statue – Facing West



Lincoln Statue Detail



Lincoln Statue Detail



Lincoln Statue Detail



Landscape – Facing Southwest



Lamp Post Detail



Lamp Post Detail



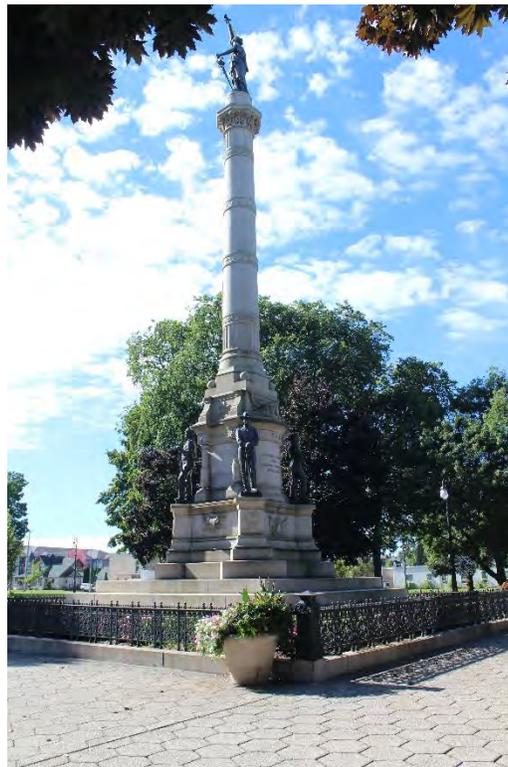
Plaque Detail



Landscape – Facing Northwest



Facing Northwest



Central Obelisk – Facing South



Obelisk Base Detail



Obelisk Base Detail



Obelisk Base Detail



Obelisk Base Detail



Obelisk Detail



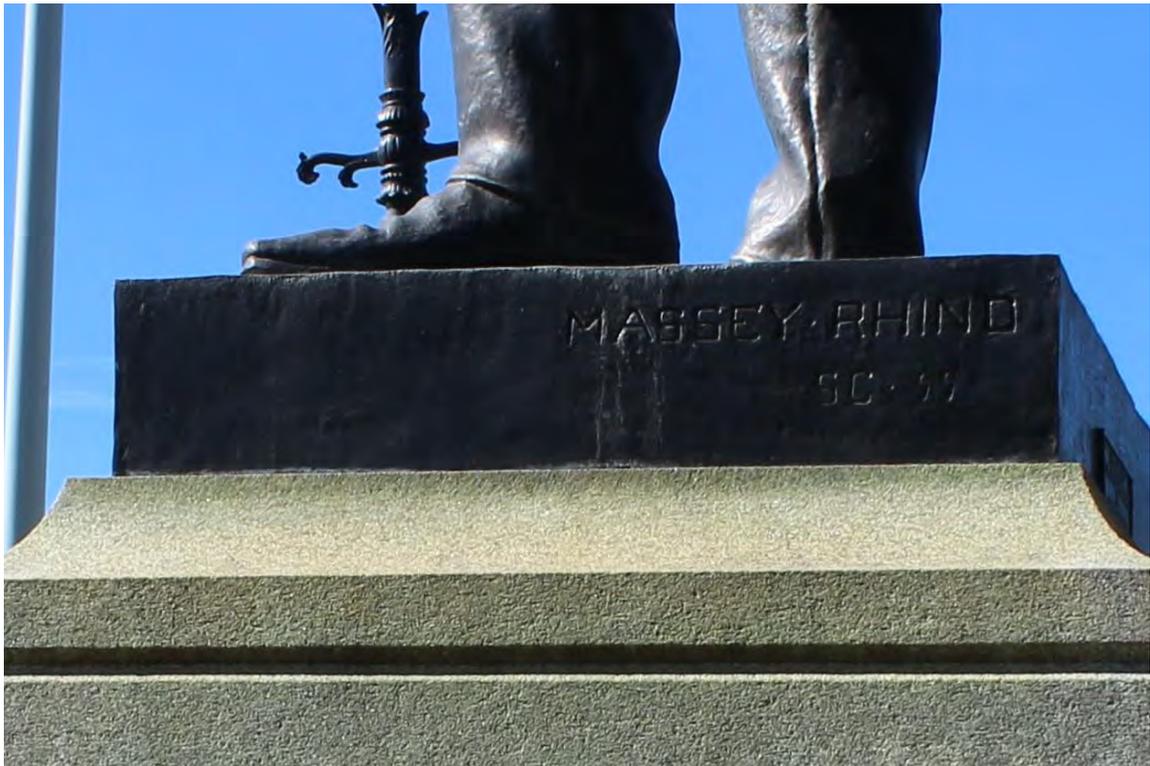
Landscape – Facing North



General Ulysses S. Grant Statue – Facing Northwest



Grant Statue Detail



Grant Statue Detail



Grant Statue Detail



Landscape – Facing East



Admiral David Farragut Statue – Facing East



Farragut Statue Detail



Farragut Statue Detail



Landscape – Facing South



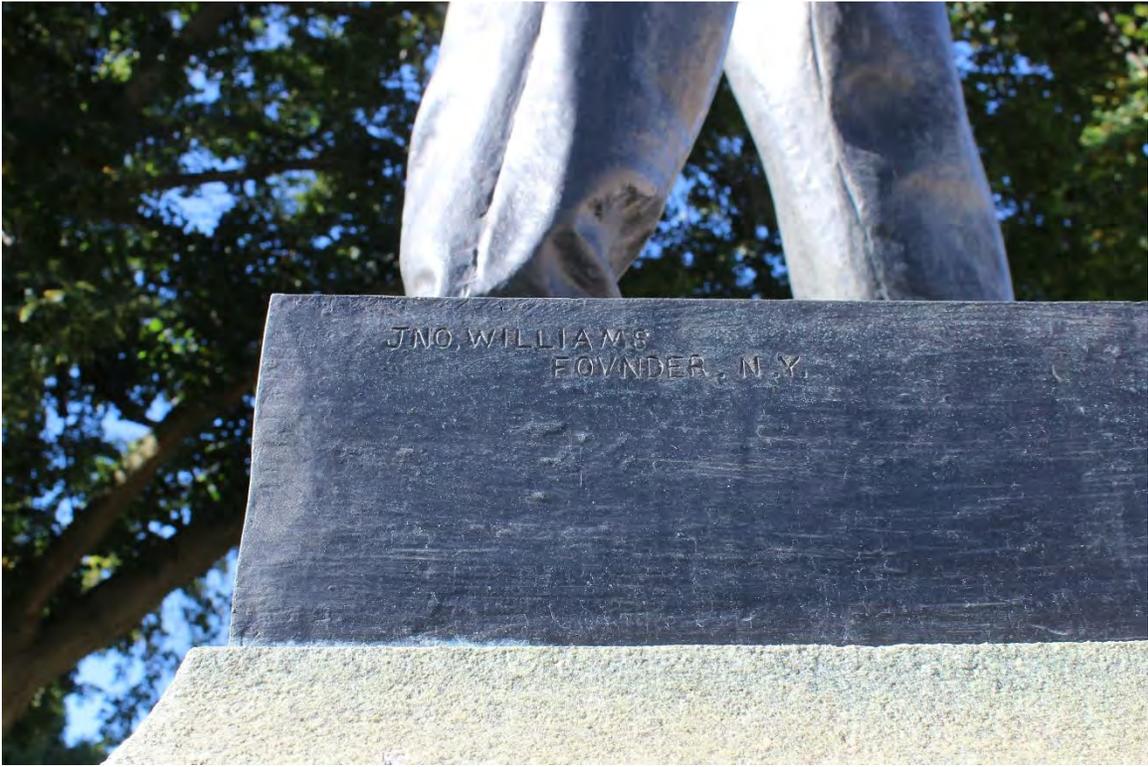
General William Tecumseh Sherman Statue – Facing South



Sherman Statue Detail



Sherman Statue Detail



Sherman Statue Detail



Landscape – Facing Southeast



Stage – Facing Southeast



Stage Plaque Detail



Landscaping Detail

Michigan SHPO Architectural District/Complex Identification Form



District Overview and Location

District/Complex Historic Name	West Western Avenue		
Current/Common Name	West Western Avenue		
Roughly bounded by streets	200-400 Blocks West Western Avenue		
City, State, Zip Code(s)	Muskegon, MI 49440		
County	Muskegon		
Total Acres in the District	Approximately 13 acres		
Ownership	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public-Local <input type="checkbox"/>	Public-State <input type="checkbox"/> Public-Federal <input type="checkbox"/>

District/Complex Type

(Insert map or aerial photo with boundaries below.)

Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rural/Farm Complex <input type="checkbox"/>
Residential <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	



District/Complex Information

Total Number of Resources	Not Evaluated
Contributing Resources	Not Evaluated
Non-Contributing Resources	Not Evaluated
Significant Dates	Not Evaluated

For complexes provide a list of resources: N/A

National Register Eligibility

Is the district listed in the National Register?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	If yes, provide:	Date Listed:	NRIS #:
<i>If not already listed, complete the information below:</i>					
Eligible Under:	Criterion A <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion B <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion C <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion D <input type="checkbox"/>	
Criteria Considerations:	a. <input type="checkbox"/>	b. <input type="checkbox"/>	c. <input type="checkbox"/>	d. <input type="checkbox"/>	e. <input type="checkbox"/> f. <input type="checkbox"/> g. <input type="checkbox"/>
Not Eligible <input type="checkbox"/>					
Area(s) of Significance	Further research needed				
Period(s) Significance	Further research needed				
Integrity – Does the district/complex possess integrity in all or some of the 7 aspects?					
General Integrity:	Intact <input type="checkbox"/>	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Date(s):	
Location <input type="checkbox"/>	Design <input type="checkbox"/>	Materials <input type="checkbox"/>	Workmanship <input type="checkbox"/>	Setting <input type="checkbox"/>	Feeling <input type="checkbox"/> Association <input type="checkbox"/>
Condition of District?	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Poor <input type="checkbox"/>		
Threats to Resource?	None known				

Narrative District/Complex Description

Provide a detailed description of the district/complex, including general character of the district/complex, types of buildings and structures including outbuildings and bridges, and the qualities distinguishing the district/complex from its surroundings. This is required for all districts/complexes.

Portions of the 200-400 blocks of West Western Avenue represent a three-block area of what was once the commercial core of downtown Muskegon. The 400 block remains relatively intact, with primarily historic storefronts. The 350-380 block is a mix of intact historic storefronts and new construction. The 295-333 was entirely demolished in the early

1970s for construction of a mall, which was also demolished 2003, leaving behind a block of sandy vacant lots where historic storefronts once were. Rather than a cohesive commercial district, the area is fragmented with buildings of varying ages, materials, heights, and setbacks.

History of the District/Complex

Provide information on previous owners, land use, construction and alteration dates in a narrative format. This is required for all intensive level surveys and recommended for other identification efforts.

Equal Employment Action

The success of the Sanitary Dairy Company boycott in 1961 and the growing momentum of the Civil Rights Movement nationwide likely led to the next substantial demonstrations to change the status quo in Muskegon. In June 1963, Dr. Frank Howell, president of the Urban League; Dr. James Jackson, physician and NAACP member; local businessman James Tate; Reverend Father John Sheehy; and Reverend Robert Cunningham formed the biracial Council on Equal Opportunity (COEO). The group contacted thirty-six businesses to demand they hire at least one African American employee within thirty days. Though most businesses agreed to do so, and indeed followed through, five business refused, complaining the committee was “pushing too hard.” The COEO did not organize protest demonstrations, that responsibility fell to the NAACP, and Dr. Jackson recommended the NAACP consider a boycott of those who refused to end discriminatory hiring practices. (*Muskegon Chronicle*, “Merchant”) The Square Clothing Company at 325 West Western Avenue, Friend’s Friendly Clothiers at 349 West Western Avenue, and Vandervelde’s Furniture Company at 139 W Broadway Avenue in Muskegon Heights (all no longer extant) were among the five businesses who refused. (*Muskegon Chronicle*, “Won’t Yield”)

Within weeks the boycott came to fruition as The Square Clothing Company continued to refuse open hiring practices. The NAACP organized the boycott, which included picketing in front of the store and distribution of a pamphlet stating, “businesses readily accept the Negro [sic] dollar without discrimination. They must also accept Negro [sic] job applicants without discrimination.” The pamphlet went on to say that The Square was the only business of those contacted that “has no Negro [sic] employee and will not hire a Negro [sic]. Vague promises or a do-nothing attitude is not acceptable. This store has refused to negotiate this critical problem with the C.E.O. Therefore we are now taking over the task of ending its discriminatory employment practices.” Picketers’ signs carried statements including “don’t buy here if you can’t work here” and “this store is not fair to qualified Negro [sic] workers.” (*Muskegon Chronicle*, “Open”)

Benjamin Loeb, the store president and head of the Muskegon Chamber of Commerce, responded to the picketing saying that the store was not in a position to hire additional employees and he was not willing to lay off a White employee in order to hire an African American in their place, stating, “if and when the Square Clothing Co. needs additional help, in either its office or on the sales floor, applicants will be judged for hiring strictly on the basis of their qualifications; not on their race or color.” (*Muskegon Chronicle*, “Won’t Yield”) “We all want it (Negro [sic] employment) but we want it to come about in a free and voluntary way,” he said, going on to report that “public reaction has been very positive... very much in our favor.” (*Muskegon Chronicle*, “Picketing”)

The picketing ended on July 31, 1963, with the NAACP voluntarily withdrawing the picket line. NAACP President Charles Waugh explained that the board “felt the main purposes for which we were picketing have been accomplished.” (*Muskegon Chronicle*, “Pickets”)

On May 1, 1964, picketing began at Beneficial Finance Company at 350 West Western Avenue (extant) led by COEO members Reverend Father John Sheehy, Dr. Howell, and Dr. Jackson, along with NAACP youth group state president Dural Nesbary. (*Muskegon Chronicle*, “Demonstrators”) Picketing continued that June at Grossman’s Department Store at 203-211 West Western Avenue (no longer extant). The store had been one of the first downtown retailers to hire African Americans, opening employment to all races in 1951 and employing six or seven African American workers by the mid-1960s. However, the local NAACP chapter felt that the store had failed to follow through on 1963 negotiations; the company had agreed to hire on a merit basis but had re-hired White employees who had been laid off, as required by union contracts. Picketing ended after ten days when an agreement was reached for the company to hire new personnel on a merit basis with all new employees conforming to the existing union contract. (*Muskegon Chronicle*, “Picketing Accents,” “Grossman”)

On Saturday, May 20, 1967, a group of about seventy-five NAACP members went to Ar-Jer’s Clothing at 296 West Western Avenue (no longer extant) where they “employed harassment techniques, removing garments from racks and shelves on both floors of the building. They unfolded them, tried them on and piled clothes on counters, then repeated

the procedure with fresh garments.” The purpose of the demonstration was to protest discriminatory employment practices at the store, though the owners denied those charges, referring to the employment of two African American workers. The next day, NAACP members staged a sit-in at the Walgreens Drug Company at 293 West Western Avenue (no longer extant) where groups occupied booths and seats at the lunch counter for an extended period of time by ordering food then swapping seats with other groups to order again. This demonstration was also in protest over hiring discrimination, though the store owner reported the staff was twenty-eight percent African American workers at that time. (*Muskegon Chronicle*, “NAACP Gangs”)

White opposition to the weekend's demonstrations was clear; Monday's headline read “NAACP Gangs Harass Stores.” (*Muskegon Chronicle*, “NAACP Gangs”) A few days later, leaflets were scattered on utility poles, mailboxes, automobile windshields, and doors of local businesses in Muskegon and Muskegon Heights that read, “Traitors Beware! Even now the cross-hairs are on the backs of your necks!” The leaflets went on to specifically target Dr. Jackson, head of the regional Michigan Civil Rights Commission office Joseph Adler, and a Black Muslim organization in Muskegon Heights. The leaflets were signed “KKK,” though local police insisted there were no active Ku Klux Klan groups in Michigan at that time. (*Muskegon Chronicle*, “KKK”)

Civil Rights Marches

Following the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1963, demonstrations took place in Muskegon as both protest and memorial to the four African American girls killed in the bombing. On August 9, 1964, three hundred protestors marched along Western Avenue through downtown Muskegon to Hackley Park, where about 1,000 people gathered to hear local and guest speakers. (Mills, 346-347; various newspaper clippings)

Public Accommodation

Several Black professionals had offices in the Michigan Theater/Frauenthal Center building at 425 West Western Avenue. Clarence Wilkins owned a real estate brokerage and bail bonding business, which was in this building in the 1960s. It appears Wilkins shared an office suite with attorney Charles M. Waugh, whose law offices were also in the building in the 1960s. (city directories)

Home Equity, Inc., also had offices in the building. In January 1964, Dr. Jackson joined with COEO members Dr. Howell, Reverend Father John Sheehy, Reverend Robert W. Cunningham, and Reverend Stewart; African American real estate broker Henry Jordan; and attorneys James J. Kobza and Thomas J. O'Toole to form Home Equity, Inc. The new nonprofit focused specifically on integrating neighborhoods in Muskegon and Muskegon Heights by recruiting White homeowners willing to sell to African American buyers and African American buyers willing to move into all-White neighborhoods. (city directories)

Urban Renewal and Community Development/Planning

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, downtown business owners, faced with a dramatic decline in the downtown economy, began seeking downtown redevelopment options. In response, city leaders began plans for an urban renewal project that would convert eight blocks of the historic storefronts on West Western Avenue east of Second Street and portions of the cross streets into a downtown mall. Modeled after similar projects in Kalamazoo, Jackson, and other Michigan cities, the goal of the project was to attract shoppers back to downtown. By 1972, much of the needed acreage had been acquired and a portion of it had been cleared in preparation for building the mall, but the city was struggling to secure anchor businesses due to the severely depressed economy in Muskegon at that time. (*Benton Harbor News-Palladium*) Soon city leaders attracted Sears, Roebuck & Co., and Paul Steketee & Sons to open large department stores on each end of the mall; construction on the Muskegon Mall began in 1974 and it was opened in 1976.

During the groundbreaking ceremonies in 1974, Marvin Lovett from the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Detroit Office compared the mall to a “heart transplant operation,” saying “the project will revitalize the economy of the Muskegon area.” Initially, this optimistic prediction appeared to come to fruition. In 1989, the Muskegon Mall was the top retail destination in Muskegon County. However, in 2001, The Lakes Mall opened, located in Fruitport Township south of the city and easily accessed by both I-96 and US Highway 31. Sears and Steketee left the downtown Muskegon Mall and relocated to The Lakes, followed by a number of other smaller stores. As a result, the

Muskegon Mall closed in 2001 and was demolished in 2003. West Western Avenue was rebuilt through the former mall site in 2006, and redevelopment of the area continues. (MLive)

Statement of Significance/Recommendation of Eligibility

Provide a detailed explanation of the district/complex's eligibility for the National Register, including an evaluation under the four criteria, discussion of the seven aspects of integrity, and recommendations about eligibility. This is required for all districts/complexes.

With regard to Black Ethnic Heritage and Civil Rights, the district has been highly altered and does not appear to retain integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, or association. The proposed district appears to derive its primary significance as the city's commercial core and as the subject of a substantial downtown revitalization project resulting in the demolition of historic storefronts to construct a modern mall in the 1970s. It should be further evaluated for eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for Commerce and Community Development/Planning. The Commerce context should also include the proposed district's association with Black Ethnic Heritage, Social History, and Civil Rights.

References

List references used to research and evaluate the district/complex.

"Albion March of Mourning for Bombing Victims Held Sunday." *Battle Creek Enquirer and News*. September 30, 1963. www.newspapers.com.

"Bombing Victims Mourned." *Detroit Free Press*. September 23, 1963. www.newspapers.com.

"Demonstrators." *The Muskegon Chronicle*. May 1, 1964. Hackley Public Library, Torrent House Local History and Genealogy Department, Muskegon.

Franklyn, Mary. "Looking Back: Muskegon Mall transformed downtown." *The Muskegon Chronicle* via *MLive*. November 2, 2009. https://www.mlive.com/news/muskegon/2009/11/looking_back_muskegon_mall_tra.html.

"Grossman Dispute Settled." *The Muskegon Chronicle*. June 18, 1965. Hackley Public Library, Torrent House Local History and Genealogy Department, Muskegon.

Kenyon, Duane. "State's Downtown Areas at Crossroads." *The News-Palladium [Benton Harbor]*. June 29, 1972. Newspapers.com.

"'KKK' Leaflets in Racial Attack." *The Muskegon Chronicle*. May 27, 1967. Hackley Public Library, Torrent House Local History and Genealogy Department, Muskegon.

"Marchers to Mourn Bomb Victims, NAACP Memorial Parade Set Sunday." *The Muskegon Chronicle*. September 20, 1963. Hackley Public Library, Torrent House Local History and Genealogy Department, Muskegon.

"Memorials Held for 4 Victims." *The Hillsdale Daily News*. September 23, 1963. www.newspapers.com.

"Merchant Responding to Demand." *The Muskegon Chronicle*. June 18, 1963. Hackley Public Library, Torrent House Local History and Genealogy Department, Muskegon.

"NAACP Defend Picketing; Denied Federation Charge." *The Muskegon Chronicle*. June 10, 1965. Hackley Public Library, Torrent House Local History and Genealogy Department, Muskegon.

"NAACP Gangs Harass Stores." *The Muskegon Chronicle*. May 22, 1967. Hackley Public Library, Torrent House Local History and Genealogy Department, Muskegon.

"Open Negro Boycott at Store Here." *The Muskegon Chronicle*. July 24, 1963. Hackley Public Library, Torrent House Local History and Genealogy Department, Muskegon.

"Picketing Accents Rights Split." *The Muskegon Chronicle*. June 8, 1965. Hackley Public Library, Torrent House Local History and Genealogy Department, Muskegon.

"Picketing Continues at Store." *The Muskegon Chronicle*. July 26, 1963. Hackley Public Library, Torrent House Local History and Genealogy Department, Muskegon.

"Pickets Withdrawn by NAACP; Appeal Prosecutor's Move." *The Muskegon Chronicle*. August 1, 1963. Hackley Public Library, Torrent House Local History and Genealogy Department, Muskegon.

Polk's Muskegon (Michigan) City Directory. 1960. US City Directories, 1822-1995. Ancestry.com.

Polk's Muskegon (Michigan) City Directory. 1965. Hackley Public Library, Torrent House Local History and Genealogy Department, Muskegon.

"Silent Marches are Held in G.R., Muskegon Heights." *The Ludington Daily News*. September 23, 1963. www.newspapers.com.

Solemn Group Prays Here for Church Bombing Victims." *The Battle Creek Enquirer and News*. September 23, 1963. www.newspapers.com.

Soltess, Jess. "Only 300 March But Close to 1,000 Hear Civil Rights Backers Call for Greater Support, Unity in Campaign." *The Muskegon Chronicle*. August 10, 1964. Torrent House, Muskegon Area District Library.

Thornton, J. Mills. *Dividing Lines: Municipal Politics and the Struggle for Civil Rights in Montgomery, Birmingham, and Selma*. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2002.

"Won't Yield to Pickets, Store President Says." *The Muskegon Chronicle*. July 25, 1963. Hackley Public Library, Torrent House Local History and Genealogy Department, Muskegon.

Xu, Zhumin, and Brandon Bartoszek. "Western Avenue: Past, Present, and Future." *City of Muskegon*. <https://www.muskegon-mi.gov/cresources/downtown-history/downtown-history.pdf>.

District Inventory

Complete this form for the district as well as individual Michigan SHPO Architectural Resource Identification Form for each individual address.

The district was not comprehensively surveyed during this project. However, a reconnaissance assessment of the 200-400 blocks suggests further study to assess eligibility, potential boundaries, and areas of significance is warranted.

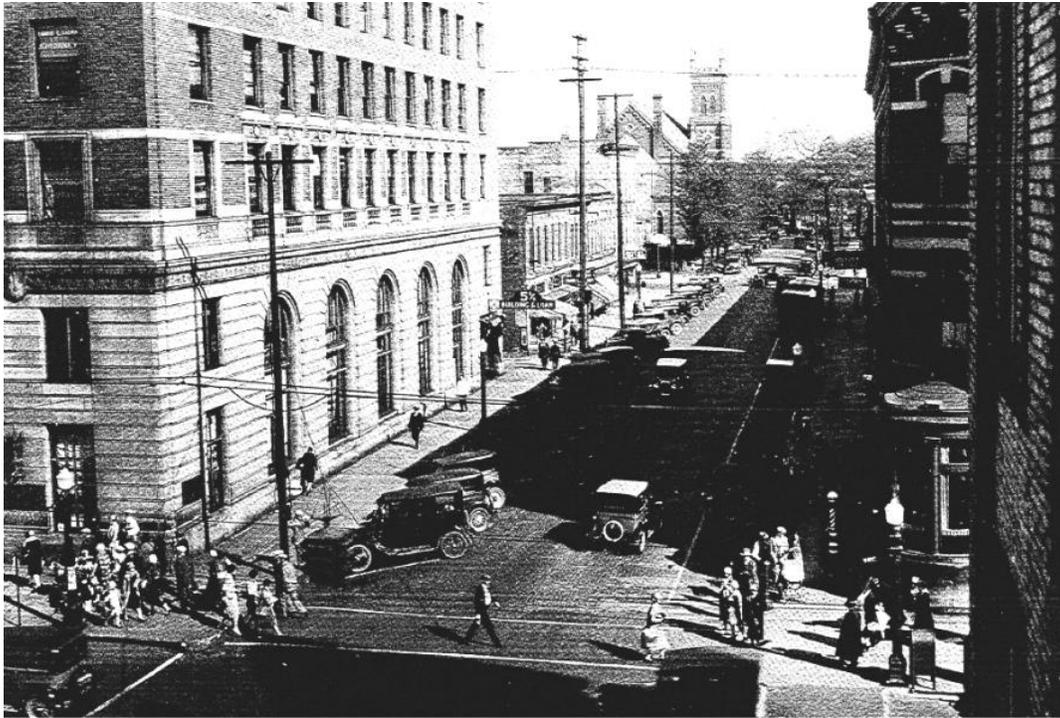
STREET ADDRESS	CITY/TOWNSHIP	COUNTY	YEAR BUILT	CONTRIBUTING? (YES OR NO)

*Use additional sheets as necessary

Survey Date	2022-2023	Recorded By	Cheri Szczodronski
For SHPO Use Only	SHPO Concurrence?: Y / N	Date:	

Form date: 6/25/2019

Historic Photographs



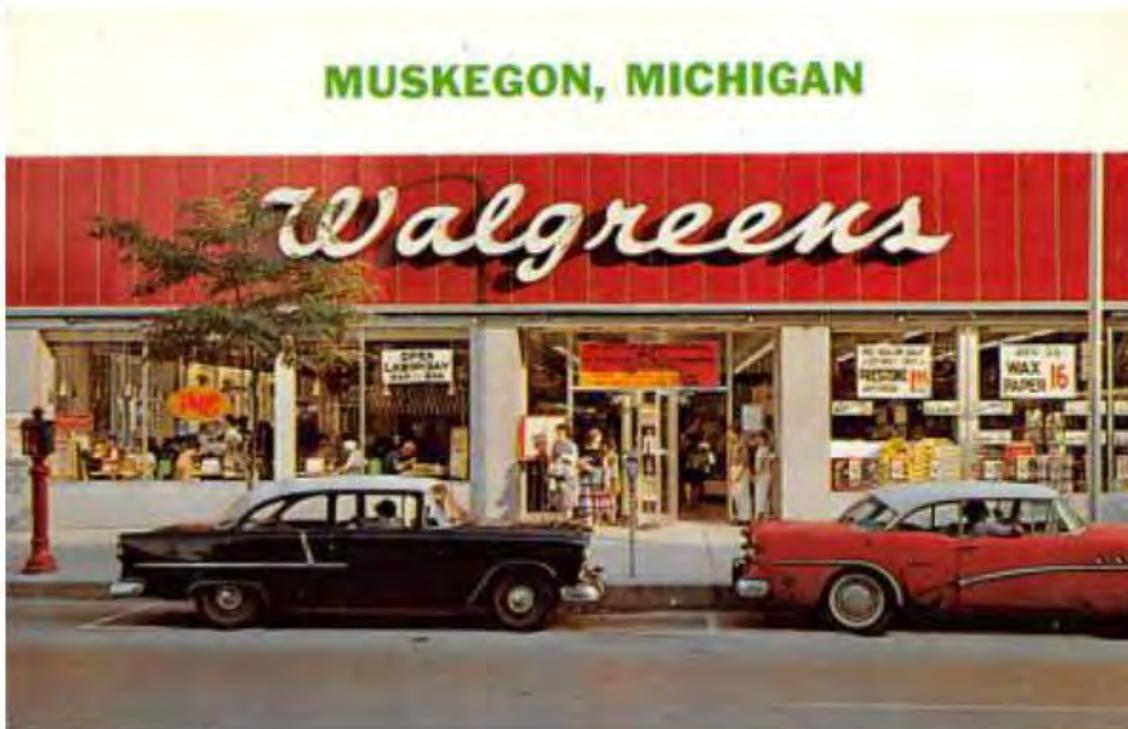
West Western Avenue at First Street, 1927
(courtesy of City of Muskegon)



The Square Clothing Company, 1939
(Lakeshore Museum Center)



West Western Avenue at Second Street, c.1950
(courtesy of City of Muskegon)



Walgreens on West Western Avenue, c.1955
(courtesy of oldpostcards.com)



West Western Avenue at First Street, including The Square Clothing Company, c.1965
(courtesy of City of Muskegon)



West Western Avenue, including Grossman's Department Store, date unknown
(courtesy of City of Muskegon)

Current Photographs



300 Block West Western Avenue – Facing Southwest from First Street



300 Block West Western Avenue – Facing Southwest from Second Street



300 Block West Western Avenue – Facing Northeast from Third Street



West Western Avenue at Third Street – Facing Southwest



Plaque Detail



380 West Western Avenue – Facing North



939 Third Street – Facing West



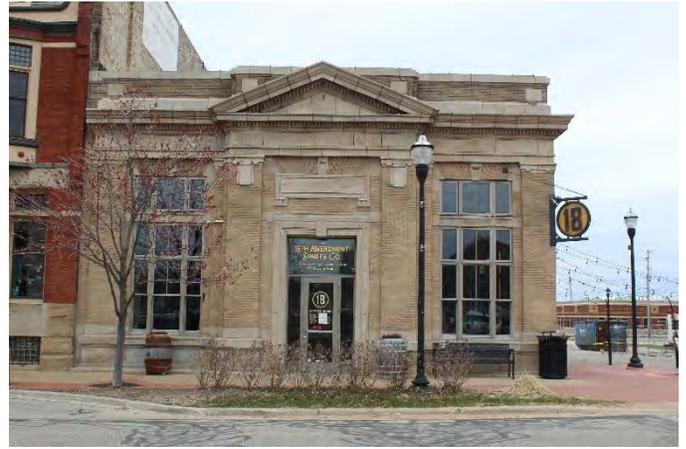
400 Block West Western Avenue – Facing Northeast



292 West Western Avenue – Facing West



350-376 West Western Avenue – Facing West



350 West Western Avenue West (left) and Southwest (right) Elevations



356 West Western Avenue – Southwest Elevation



360 West Western Avenue – Southwest (right) and North (left) Elevations



360 West Western Avenue – Mural Detail



380 West Western Avenue – West (right) and North (left) Elevations



300 Block West Western Avenue – Facing Southwest (left) and Facing Northeast (right)



307 West Western Avenue – Facing Southeast (left) and Facing North (right)



333 West Western Avenue – West (left) and Northwest Elevations (right)



333 West Western Avenue – Mural Detail



351 West Western Avenue – North Elevation and Plaque Detail



379 West Western Avenue – Southeast (right) and East (left) Elevations



939 Third Street – East (left) and West (right) Elevations



939 Third Street – Mural Detail



401 West Western Avenue – South Elevation



401 West Western Avenue – South Elevation Detail



401 West Western Avenue – Northwest Elevation



Plaque Detail at West Western Avenue and Third Street

Michigan SHPO Architectural Properties Identification Form



Property Overview and Location

Street Address	350 West Western Avenue <i>(See also West Western Avenue, Muskegon)</i>				
City/Township, State, Zip Code	Muskegon, MI 49440				
County	Muskegon				
Assessor's Parcel #	61-24-233-000-0006-00				
Latitude/Longitude (to the 6 th decimal point)	Lat: 43.236188	Long: -86.252184			
Ownership	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public-Local <input type="checkbox"/>	Public-State <input type="checkbox"/>	Public-Federal <input type="checkbox"/>	Multiple <input type="checkbox"/>

Property Type

(Insert primary photograph below.)

Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> select sub-type below	Structure <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Object <input type="checkbox"/>
Residential <input type="checkbox"/>	
Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	
Other <input type="checkbox"/>	



South Elevation

Architectural Information

Construction Date	c.1898, c.1960
Architectural Style	Classical Revival
Building Form	Rectangular
Roof Form	Flat
Roof Materials	Unknown
Exterior Wall Materials	Brick, Stone
Foundation Materials	Stone
Window Materials	Wood
Window Type	Fixed
Outbuildings	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Number/Type:	

Eligibility

Individually Eligible	Criterion A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Criterion B <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Criterion D <input type="checkbox"/>
Criteria Considerations:	a. <input type="checkbox"/> b. <input type="checkbox"/> c. <input type="checkbox"/>	d. <input type="checkbox"/> e. <input type="checkbox"/> f. <input type="checkbox"/> g. <input type="checkbox"/>		
Component of a Historic District	Contributing to a district <input type="checkbox"/>	Non-contributing to a district <input type="checkbox"/>	Historic District Name:	
Not Eligible <input type="checkbox"/>				
Area(s) of Significance	Black Ethnic Heritage, Social History, Architecture			
Period(s) of Significance	c.1898 – 1964			
Integrity – Does the property possess integrity in all or some of the 7 aspects?				
Location <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Design <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Materials <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Workmanship <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Setting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Feeling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Association <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
General Integrity:	Intact <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Date(s):
Historic Name	Muskegon Savings Bank, Beneficial Finance Company			
Current/Common Name				
Historic/Original Owner	Muskegon Savings Bank			
Historic Building Use	Commerce/Trade – financial institution			
Current Building Use	Commerce/Trade – restaurant			
Architect/Engineer/Designer	Unknown			
Builder/Contractor	Unknown			

Narrative Architectural Description

Provide a detailed description of the property, including all character-defining features and any accessory resources. This is required for all properties.

Located at the northwest corner of West Western Avenue and Second Street, this one-story, Classical Revival bank building is oriented facing southeast toward West Western Avenue. The building is highly symmetrical and built of blond brick with limestone detailing including a limestone foundation, projecting limestone cornices with dentil detailing, and limestone coping. The entrance is located within a slightly projecting, pedimented central bay, containing an aluminum framed glass door with single-light sidelights and a large rectangular transom. The entrance is set within a limestone surround with a keystone and floral motifs under a limestone lintel with a recessed panel. A rectangular limestone sign panel above the entrance is inscribed "FOUNDED A.D. 1887" under a brick lintel with a limestone keystone and cornerblocks. The limestone cornice is inscribed "THE SAVINGS BANK" and features dentil detailing. Full-height brick pilasters flanking the entrance and at the corners of the building feature limestone bases and capitals and serve to emphasize the verticality and monumental aesthetic of the bank building. Multi-light windows flanking the entrance feature limestone mullions and a narrow limestone spandrel panel with a recessed panel separates the window from a four-light transom. The window bays are slightly recessed and topped with brick lintels with limestone keystones and cornerblocks. The northeast elevation, facing Second Street, is six bays wide and contains windows matching those on a façade, though the transoms have been infilled with brick. A two-story, blond brick addition the same height as the original building was added to the rear of the building around 1960, as it does not appear on the 1950 Sanborn Map. A recessed bay at the north corner contains an aluminum-framed glass door with sidelights on the northeast elevation and a one-light metal door on the northwest elevation. The entrance bay features marble veneer that wraps the corner of the building and extends along the northeast elevation to a rectangular fixed window and along the northwest elevations to a glass block window. The northwest elevation also contains three one-over-one aluminum windows at the first story and four one-over-one aluminum windows at the second story. The southwest elevation of the building is a shared wall with the adjacent building.

History of the Resource

Provide information on previous owners, land use(s), and construction and alteration dates in a narrative format. This is required for all intensive level surveys, NRPQs, and nominations, and recommended for other identification efforts.

The Muskegon Savings Bank was established in 1887, the fourth bank to open in downtown Muskegon, and originally was located on the east side of Jefferson Street near the intersection of Jefferson Street and West Western Avenue. By 1889, the bank had \$50,000 in capital, and J.W. Moon served as the bank's president, J.A. Miller the vice-president, and F.E. Hammond the cashier. City directories show the bank relocated to a new building at the northeast corner of West Western Avenue and Second Street constructed between 1897 and 1899, replacing an earlier building on the site that housed a printing and shirt factory and a laundry.

In the early 1950s, the building housed the Muskegon Bank and Muskegon Bank and Trust Company by 1960, though it is not clear if these are new organizations or just new names for the Muskegon Savings Bank.

By 1964, Beneficial Finance Company was operating a bank at this location, which came under the scrutiny of a local civil rights group known as the Council on Equal Opportunity. On May 1, 1964, Dural Nesbary, the state president of the youth group of the NAACP, Reverend Father John Sheehy of the Muskegon Catholic Information Center, and local civil rights leaders Dr. Frank Howell and Dr. James Jackson led a picket protesting hiring practices at the bank. Demonstrators carried signs with slogans such as "Beneficial Loans to Negroes... why not HIRE one?" The company had never employed an African American worker, and the manager, H.L. Mann claimed the company did not discriminate, but that there had never been a Black applicant. The demonstrations ended a week later when an African American woman was hired to work as a secretary. (Urban League; *Muskegon Chronicle*, "Demonstrators")

Statement of Significance/Recommendation of Eligibility

Provide a detailed explanation of the property's eligibility for the National Register. Include an evaluation under at least one of the four National Register Criteria and one Area of Significance. Include a discussion of the seven aspects of integrity, and make a recommendation about eligibility. This is required for all properties.

The building appears to retain integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association. The building is likely eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion A for

Black Ethnic Heritage and Civil Rights as the subject of a successful picketing demonstration in protest of discriminatory hiring practices in 1964. The building is also likely eligible to the National Register at the local level under Criterion C for architecture as an intact example of a Classical Revival-style bank building. The period of significance should likely begin in 1898 when the building was constructed, and end in 1964 to encompass significant Civil Rights demonstrations. Interior access was not provided during this project.

References

List references used to research and evaluate the individual property. For NRPQ's include copies of key documents.

"Demonstrators." *The Muskegon Chronicle*. May 1, 1964. Hackley Public Library, Torrent House Local History and Genealogy Department, Muskegon.

"Halt Picketing As Loan Firm Hires Negro." *The Muskegon Chronicle*. May 8, 1964.

"Muskegon Historic Pictures: From the Archives of HPL." Hackley Public Library, Muskegon Area District Library. <https://www.flickr.com/photos/hackleypubliclibrary/albums/72157635492438587>.

Pesch, Ron. "Postcards and Images of the Muskegon Area." *Actor's Colony at Bluffton 1908-1938*. <http://www.actorscolony.com/postcards.htm>.

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Polk's Muskegon (Michigan) City Directory. 1952. US City Directories, 1822-1995. Ancestry.com.

Polk's Muskegon (Michigan) City Directory. 1955. US City Directories, 1822-1995. Ancestry.com.

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Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. "Muskegon, Michigan, and Suburbs." 1891. Historical Information Gatherers, Fire Insurance Maps Online. Via University of Michigan Libraries.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. "Muskegon, Michigan, Vol. 1." 1911. Historical Information Gatherers, Fire Insurance Maps Online. Via University of Michigan Libraries.

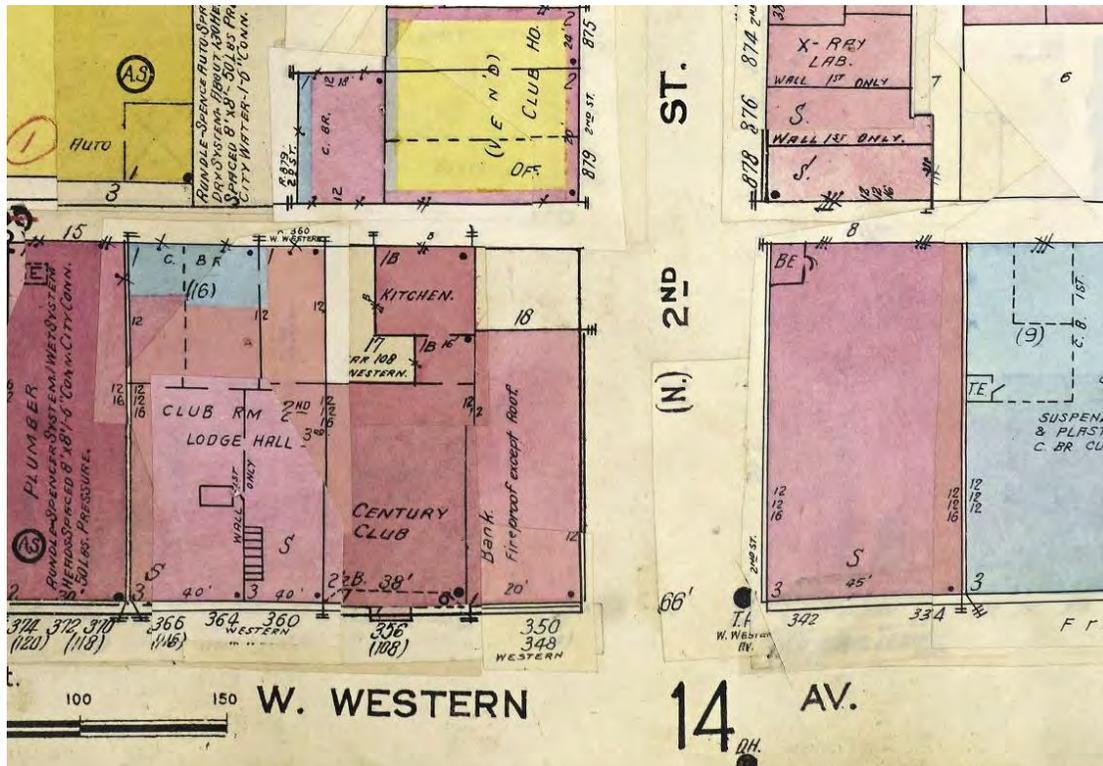
Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. "Muskegon, Michigan, Vol. 1." 1911, Revised 1950. Historical Information Gatherers, Fire Insurance Maps Online. Via University of Michigan Libraries.

Urban League of Greater Muskegon Records, 1943-1995, 1943-1922. Box 17. Image with no title depicting pickets at Beneficial Finance Company, May 1, 1964. Bentley Historical Library. University of Michigan. Ann Arbor.

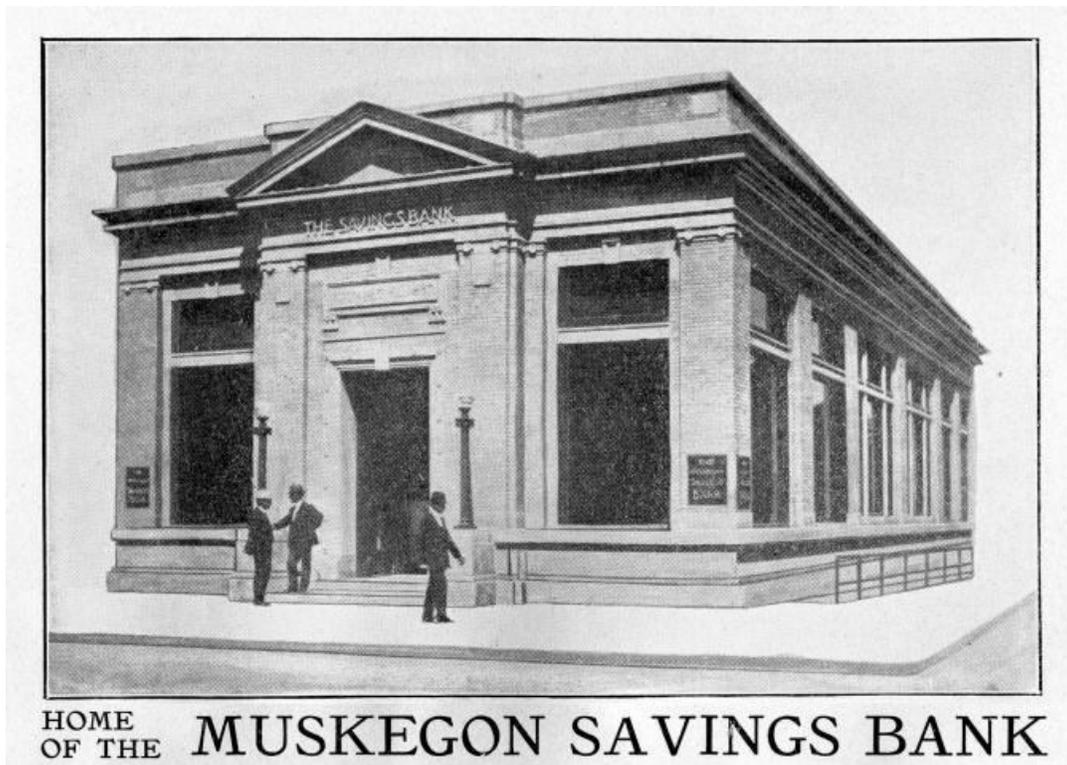
Survey Date	2022-2023	Recorded By	Cheri Szcodronski	Agency Report #	
For SHPO Use Only	SHPO Concurrence?: Y / N		Date:		

Form date: 2/28/2020

Historic Photographs and Maps



Excerpt of 1950 Sanborn Map
(courtesy of University of Michigan Libraries)



Muskegon Savings Bank, date unknown
(courtesy of Ron Pesch)



Muskegon Savings Bank, date unknown
(courtesy of Hackley Public Library)

Current Photographs



East Elevation



North Elevation

Michigan SHPO Architectural Properties Identification Form



Property Overview and Location

Street Address	486 West Western Avenue				
City/Township, State, Zip Code	Muskegon, MI 49440				
County	Muskegon				
Assessor's Parcel #	61-24-205-567-0001-20				
Latitude/Longitude (to the 6 th decimal point)	Lat: 43.234203	Long: -86.255599			
Ownership	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public-Local <input type="checkbox"/>	Public-State <input type="checkbox"/>	Public-Federal <input type="checkbox"/>	Multiple <input type="checkbox"/>

Property Type

(Insert primary photograph below.)

Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> select sub-type below	Structure <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Object <input type="checkbox"/>
Residential <input type="checkbox"/>	
Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	
Other <input type="checkbox"/>	



East Elevation

Architectural Information

Construction Date	c.1925
Architectural Style	Vernacular
Building Form	Rectangular
Roof Form	Parapet
Roof Materials	Unknown
Exterior Wall Materials	Brick
Foundation Materials	Poured Concrete
Window Materials	Aluminum
Window Type	Fixed
Outbuildings	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Number/Type:	

Eligibility

Individually Eligible	Criterion A <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion B <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion C <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion D <input type="checkbox"/>
Criteria Considerations:	a. <input type="checkbox"/>	b. <input type="checkbox"/>	c. <input type="checkbox"/>	d. <input type="checkbox"/> e. <input type="checkbox"/> f. <input type="checkbox"/> g. <input type="checkbox"/>
Component of a Historic District	Contributing to a district <input type="checkbox"/>	Non-contributing to a district <input type="checkbox"/>	Historic District Name:	
Not Eligible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Area(s) of Significance	N/A			
Period(s) of Significance	N/A			
Integrity – Does the property possess integrity in all or some of the 7 aspects?				
Location <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Design <input type="checkbox"/>	Materials <input type="checkbox"/>	Workmanship <input type="checkbox"/>	Setting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Feeling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Association <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
General Integrity:	Intact <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Date(s):
Historic Name	Port City CIO Building			
Current/Common Name	Port City CIO Building			
Historic/Original Owner	Busard-Reddy Motor Sales, Inc.			
Historic Building Use	Commerce/Trade – specialty store Social – meeting hall			
Current Building Use	Social – meeting hall			
Architect/Engineer/Designer	Unknown			
Builder/Contractor	Unknown			

Narrative Architectural Description

Provide a detailed description of the property, including all character-defining features and any accessory resources. This is required for all properties.

Located at the northeast corner of West Western Avenue and Fifth Street, this vernacular commercial building has a two-story east wing and a one-story west wing, both constructed of brick with stone detailing, stone veneer that spans the base of the façade, and distinctive parapet roofs with stone coping. Built as an automotive repair shop, the one-story wing retains large openings with multi-light overhead doors. The façade is five bays wide with brick pilasters separating the end two bays from the center three bays. The entrance is centered in the façade and contains a pair of aluminum-framed glass doors with a single-light aluminum transom. A stone-framed sign panel in the center of the parapet contains decorative brick detailing and the words “Noble Building.” The parapets of the end bays each feature a decorative brick arch with square stone springers. The two-story wing once also contained large openings to interior automobile bays, however they have been infilled. A narrow bay set off-center contains an aluminum-framed glass door with single-light sidelights. This bay is flanked by wider bays containing mid-twentieth-century aluminum-framed display windows. These three bays have been shortened with the addition of pebble-dash transom panels. A stone-framed sign panel above these three bays contains decorative brick detailing. The fourth bay, on the east end of the façade, has been partially bricked in and contains a pair of metal doors. A brick arch on square stone springers above the doors matches those on the one-story wing. A stone sill course divides the first and second stories, with paired replacement windows at the second story set in brick surrounds with square stone cornerblocks.

The east elevation appears to have been a partially shared wall with an adjacent building that is no longer extant, as there are only windows at the rear of this elevation at both the first and second stories. The west elevation extends on a descending grade to the north along Fifth Street. The upper level contains tall multi-light casement windows with multi-light transoms and stone sills. Windows at the lower level increase in size as the grade descends and are set into the concrete foundation with stone sills. These windows have been boarded and painted to look like multi-light casement windows. There are several types of window openings on the rear of the building, including multi-light casement windows with multi-light transoms, partially infilled openings containing fixed windows or glass block, openings infilled with concrete block, and boarded openings. Upper-level entrances are accessed by wood stairs and decks.

History of the Resource

Provide information on previous owners, land use(s), and construction and alteration dates in a narrative format. This is required for all intensive level surveys, NRPQs, and nominations, and recommended for other identification efforts.

City directories show the building was constructed as an automobile sales and repair shop between 1924 and 1926. The building first housed Busard Reddy Motor Sales, followed by Motor Rebuilding and Parts Company in the early 1930s. The building was then vacant during the late 1930s and early 1940s. By 1946, the building had become the American Federation of Labor – Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) Headquarters, housing eight local unions. By 1960, the building contained the AFL-CIO headquarters, community services, and building association, as well as twenty-four local unions.

The building also housed a gym facility utilized by notable local African American boxers as a training facility, including Melvin Burns, Sr., head of the local United Auto Workers union and Phil Baldwin, who represented the United States at the 1960 Summer Olympics in Rome. At the Olympics, Baldwin competed with Muhammad Ali, and they became close friends and training partners. Baldwin was a master electrician and general contractor and a member of the I.F. & A.M. Masons.

Statement of Significance/Recommendation of Eligibility

Provide a detailed explanation of the property's eligibility for the National Register. Include an evaluation under at least one of the four National Register Criteria and one Area of Significance. Include a discussion of the seven aspects of integrity, and make a recommendation about eligibility. This is required for all properties.

The building appears to retain integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association, however due to alterations to the windows and doors, does not appear to retain integrity of design, materials, or workmanship. It does not appear to represent a significant aspect of history, culture, architecture, or archaeology. The building is likely not individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and is not located within a historic district. Interior access was not provided during this project.

References

List references used to research and evaluate the individual property. For NRPQ's include copies of key documents.

Arthur Phillip Baldwin Obituary. November 19, 2017. *MLive*. <https://obits.mlive.com/us/obituaries/muskegon/name/a-baldwin-obituary?id=11364988>.

Personal communication with Melvin Burns, Jr., (local resident) by Cheri Szcodronski, November 30, 2022, Muskegon Heights Branch Library.

Polk's Muskegon (Michigan) City Directory. 1924. US City Directories, 1822-1995. Ancestry.com.

Polk's Muskegon (Michigan) City Directory. 1926. US City Directories, 1822-1995. Ancestry.com.

Polk's Muskegon (Michigan) City Directory. 1930. US City Directories, 1822-1995. Ancestry.com.

Polk's Muskegon (Michigan) City Directory. 1934. US City Directories, 1822-1995. Ancestry.com.

Polk's Muskegon (Michigan) City Directory. 1936. US City Directories, 1822-1995. Ancestry.com.

Polk's Muskegon (Michigan) City Directory. 1940. US City Directories, 1822-1995. Ancestry.com.

Polk's Muskegon (Michigan) City Directory. 1946. US City Directories, 1822-1995. Ancestry.com.

Polk's Muskegon (Michigan) City Directory. 1960. US City Directories, 1822-1995. Ancestry.com.

Survey Date	2022-2023	Recorded By	Cheri Szcodronski	Agency Report #	
For SHPO Use Only	SHPO Concurrence?: Y / N		Date:		

Form date: 2/28/2020

Current Photographs



East Elevation



South Elevation



West Elevation

Michigan SHPO Cultural Landscape Identification Form



Landscape Overview and Location

Landscape Historic Name (if applicable)	Smith-Ryerson Park <i>(See also Jackson Hill Neighborhood, Muskegon)</i>		
Current/Common Name (if applicable)	Smith-Ryerson Park		
Boundary Description	650 Wood Street		
City, State, Zip Code(s)	Muskegon, MI 49443		
County	Muskegon		
Total Acres in the Landscape	24.39 acres		
Parent Cultural Landscape	N/A		
Ownership	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	Public-Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public-State <input type="checkbox"/> Public-Federal <input type="checkbox"/>

Landscape Classification and Type

Historic Designed Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Historic Vernacular Landscape <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ethnographic Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Historic Site <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
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(Insert aerial photo with boundaries below.)

Historic Use	Recreation
Current Use	Recreation
Landscape Type (Select one or more of the following)	Garden (private) <input type="checkbox"/>
	Park (public) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Green/Common/Plaza <input type="checkbox"/>
	Boulevard/Parkway/Trail <input type="checkbox"/>
	Other Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>
	Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>
	Exhibition/Fairgrounds <input type="checkbox"/>
	Mine/Quarry <input type="checkbox"/>
	Other Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>
	Campus <input type="checkbox"/>
	Sports/Recreation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cemetery <input type="checkbox"/>	
Commemorative/Memorial <input type="checkbox"/>	
Natural Landform or other Geological Formation <input type="checkbox"/>	
Other, Please Specify: <input type="checkbox"/>	



National Register Eligibility

Is the landscape listed in the National Register?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	If yes, provide:	Date Listed:	NRIS #:
<i>If not already listed, complete the information below:</i>					
Eligible Under:	Criterion A <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion B <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion C <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion D <input type="checkbox"/>	
Criteria Considerations:	a. <input type="checkbox"/>	b. <input type="checkbox"/>	c. <input type="checkbox"/>	d. <input type="checkbox"/>	e. <input type="checkbox"/> f. <input type="checkbox"/> g. <input type="checkbox"/>
Component of a Historic District	Contributing to a district <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Non-contributing to a district <input type="checkbox"/>	Historic District Name:	Jackson Hill Neighborhood	

Not Eligible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Area(s) of Significance	N/A		
Period(s) Significance	N/A		
Integrity – Does the landscape possess integrity in all or some of the 7 aspects?			
General Integrity:	Intact <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>
Date(s):			
Location <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Design <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Materials <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Workmanship <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Setting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feeling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Association <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Condition of District?	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Poor <input type="checkbox"/>
Threats to Resource?	None known		

Landscape Description

Provide a description of the landscape, including general character of the landscape, specific information regarding the landscape characteristics, and the qualities distinguishing the landscape from its surroundings. This is required for all landscapes.

Natural Features	
Topography	Flat
Vegetation	Grass, mature trees
Water	Ryerson Creek
Geology	Unknown
Ecology	Unknown
Climate	Unknown
Designed/Cultural Features	
Land use patterns	Recreation
Planting patterns	None
Boundary demarcations	Bounded by Wood Street, Sumner Avenue, South Getty Street, White Avenue, and Oak Avenue
Spatial organization/layout	Parking lot at north end, open space in center, wooded on southern end
Circulation Networks	Sidewalks between buildings
Views and vistas	None
Water features	Ryerson Creek flows east-west at south end of park
Buildings, structures, and objects*	1950s Sims Ray Community Building, c.1967 maintenance building, 2011 picnic shelter, 2011 restroom building
Small-scale elements (markers, statuary, site furnishings)	Playground, storybook trail, picnic tables, disc golf course, basketball courts, football fields
Other (including ephemeral qualities – sounds, activities, wildlife, smells, etc.)	None

**list and briefly describe each and attach an Architectural Resource Inventory Form for each major resource*

History of the Cultural Landscape

Provide a general history that includes the people, trends, and time periods that shaped the landscape over time. This could include information on previous owners, land use, construction and alteration dates in a narrative format. This is required for all intensive level surveys and recommended for other identification efforts.

<p>In 1963, C.W. Smith, former President of Central Paper Company, donated funds to the city for the purchase of 25 acres on Wood Street, immediately south of the Froebel School, to establish a park for the Jackson Hill neighborhood and a park maintenance headquarters. An existing building on the site was converted for use as a maintenance shed and later a community building. Aerial images show the current maintenance shed was constructed between 1961 and 1973. The park was named the C.W. Smith Playfield. (<i>The Muskegon Chronicle</i>)</p> <p>Further improvements were made to the park in the early 1970s when urban renewal funding was used to construct the playground, known as the Ryerson Playground. The park may have been renamed Smith-Ryerson Park at that time. (Trygg, 26)</p>

A \$400,000 grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in 2011 funded construction of a trail along Ryerson Creek, a new restroom building, and improvements to the basketball courts and football field. The grant also funded the construction of picnic named the Reverend Gregory M. Kirksey Pavilion in honor of the late pastor of the nearby New Hope Baptist Church. (MLive)

In 2022, the community center at the park was named the Sims Ray Community Building in 2022 in honor of the park's long-time caretaker. (WZZM13)

Statement of Significance/Recommendation of Eligibility

Provide a detailed explanation of the landscape's eligibility for the National Register, including an evaluation under the four criteria, discussion of the seven aspects of integrity, and recommendations about eligibility. This is required for all cultural landscapes.

The property appears to retain integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association. However, it does not appear to represent a significant aspect of history, culture, architecture, or archaeology. The property is likely not individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, but would likely be a contributing resource with a Jackson Hill Neighborhood Historic District. Interior access was not provided during this project.

GIS/Locational Information

Please provide the SHPO with GIS shapefiles when available.

Lat: 43.241017 Long: -86.231401

References

List references used to research and evaluate landscape.

Alexander, Dave. "City of Muskegon Rededicates Smith-Ryerson Park, Pavilion in Pastor's Memory." *MLive*. May 21, 2011. https://www.mlive.com/news/muskegon/2011/05/city_of_muskegon_rededicates_s.html.

"Charles W. Smith, Industrialist, Dies." *The Muskegon Chronicle*. June 8, 1970. Hackley Public Library, Torrent House Local History and Genealogy Department, Muskegon.

"City's Yule Gift... a 25-Acre Playground Site: C.W. Smith Offer Assures Financing." *The Muskegon Chronicle*. December 24, 1963. Hackley Public Library, Torrent House Local History and Genealogy Department, Muskegon.

"Industrialist Adds \$10,000 to Develop Ryerson Playfield." *The Muskegon Chronicle*. December 14, 1965. Hackley Public Library, Torrent House Local History and Genealogy Department, Muskegon.

Jon Mills. "Muskegon Parks Employee Ready to Retire at 91, Gets Big Surprise from City Leaders." *WZZM13*. January 12, 2022. <https://www.wzzm13.com/article/news/local/muskegon/muskegon-parks-employee-gets-big-surprise-from-city-leaders/69-23284333-23d3-4cee-aa69-1ae9dfb670c5>.

"See City Gaining 25-Acre Park in C.W. Smith Gift." *The Muskegon Chronicle*. November 26, 1963. Hackley Public Library, Torrent House Local History and Genealogy Department, Muskegon.

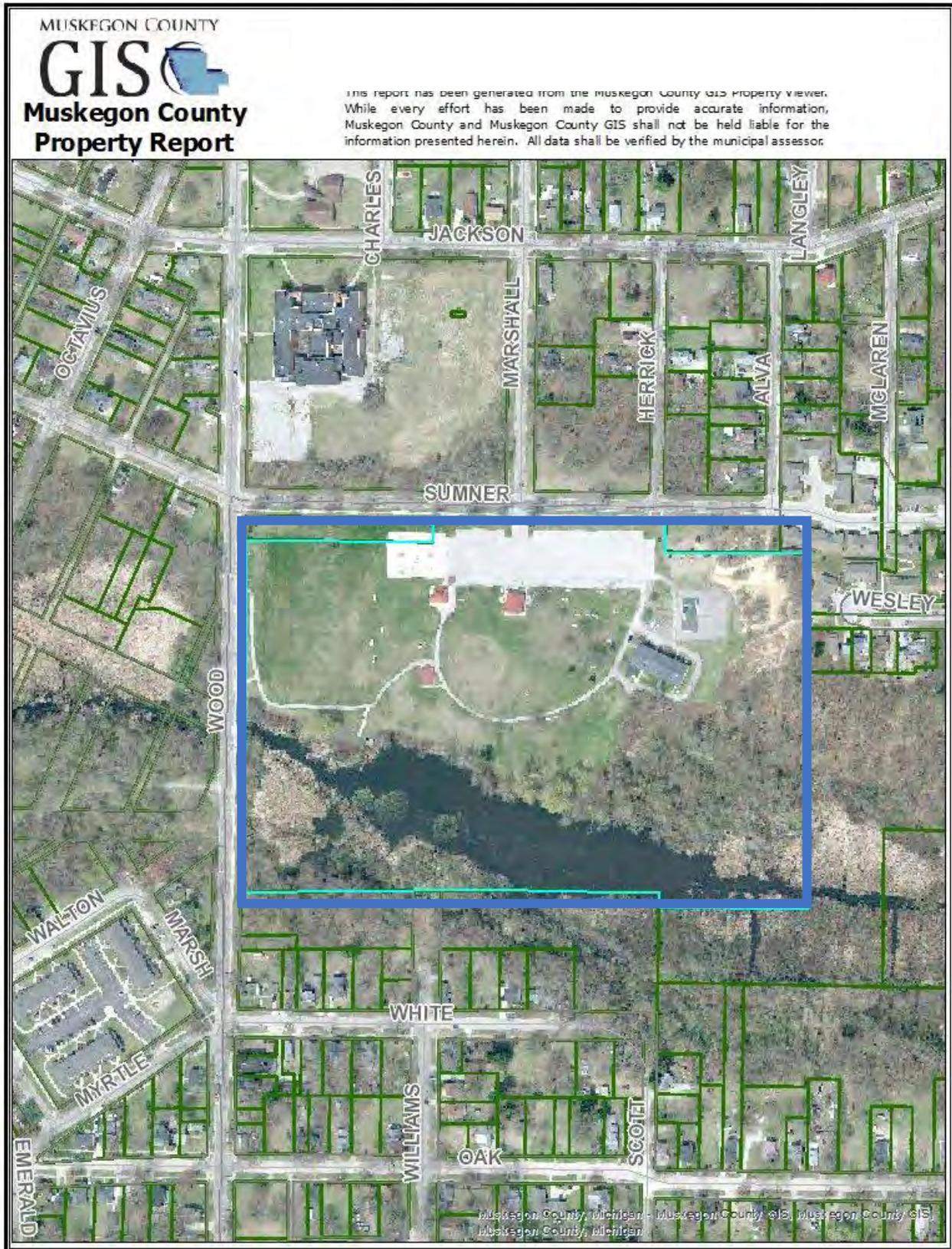
Trygg Lodge No. 536, Vasa Order of America, ed. "Jackson Hill Area: A Historical Sketch." City of Muskegon Planning Department.

US Department of Agriculture Aerial Images. 1961, 1973, 1990. Courtesy of City of Muskegon Planning Department.

Survey Date	2022-2023	Recorded By	Cheri Szcodronski
For SHPO Use Only	SHPO Concurrence?: Y / N		Date:

Detailed Site Plan/Map

Provide a full page site plan or map with important features identified.



Historic Photographs



1961 Aerial Image
(courtesy of City of Muskegon Planning Department)



1973 Aerial Image
(courtesy of City of Muskegon Planning Department)



1990 Aerial Image
(courtesy of City of Muskegon Planning Department)

Current Photographs



Sims Ray Community Building – Facing South



Sims Ray Community Building – Facing Southeast



Sims Ray Community Building – Facing East



Sims Ray Community Building – Facing Northeast



Landscape – Facing West



Maintenance Shed – Facing Northwest



Maintenance Shed – Facing South



Maintenance Shed – Facing Southeast



Landscape – Facing Northwest



Restroom Building – Facing Northeast



Restroom Building – Facing Northwest



Restroom Building – Facing Southwest



Picnic Shelter – Facing Northwest



Football Fields – Facing Northwest



Football Fields – Facing West



Playground – Facing Northeast



Landscape – Facing Southeast



Sign Detail – Facing South



Landscape – Facing East

Michigan SHPO Architectural Properties Identification Form



Property Overview and Location

Street Address	886 Wood Street				
City/Township, State, Zip Code	Muskegon, MI 49442				
County	Muskegon				
Assessor's Parcel #	61-24-205-046-0008-00				
Latitude/Longitude (to the 6 th decimal point)	Lat: 43.236228	Long: -86.233815			
Ownership	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public-Local <input type="checkbox"/>	Public-State <input type="checkbox"/>	Public-Federal <input type="checkbox"/>	Multiple <input type="checkbox"/>

Property Type

(Insert primary photograph below.)

Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> select sub-type below	Structure <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Object <input type="checkbox"/>
Residential <input type="checkbox"/>	
Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	
Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	



West Elevation

Architectural Information

Construction Date	1909-1911, c.1955
Architectural Style	Gothic Revival
Building Form	Rectangular
Roof Form	Gable
Roof Materials	Asphalt
Exterior Wall Materials	Brick, stone
Foundation Materials	Unknown
Window Materials	Wood
Window Type	Stained Glass
Outbuildings	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Number/Type:	Parsonage – 1911

Eligibility

Individually Eligible	Criterion A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Criterion B <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Criterion D <input type="checkbox"/>		
Criteria Considerations:	a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> b. <input type="checkbox"/> c. <input type="checkbox"/> d. <input type="checkbox"/> e. <input type="checkbox"/> f. <input type="checkbox"/> g. <input type="checkbox"/>					
Component of a Historic District	Contributing to a district <input type="checkbox"/>	Non-contributing to a district <input type="checkbox"/>	Historic District Name:			
Not Eligible <input type="checkbox"/>						
Area(s) of Significance	European Ethnic Heritage, Black Ethnic Heritage, Social History, Architecture					
Period(s) of Significance	1909 – 1972					
Integrity – Does the property possess integrity in all or some of the 7 aspects?						
Location <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Design <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Materials <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Workmanship <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Setting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feeling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Association <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
General Integrity:	Intact <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Date(s):		
Historic Name	First Netherlands Reformed Church, Fifth Reformed Church					
Current/Common Name	John Wesley AME Zion Church and Parsonage					
Historic/Original Owner	First Netherlands Reformed Church					
Historic Building Use	Religion – religious facility, church-related residence					
Current Building Use	Vacant					
Architect/Engineer/Designer	Unknown					
Builder/Contractor	Unknown					

Narrative Architectural Description

Provide a detailed description of the property, including all character-defining features and any accessory resources. This is required for all properties.

Located at the northeast corner of Wood Street and Amity Avenue, this brick, Gothic Revival-style church is a two-story with raised basement, front-gable form with square towers, pointed-arch stained glass windows, stone lintels with keystones and springers, brick and stone buttresses, and a stone water course. The raised basement level is obscured

by vegetation but appears to lack window or door openings. The first story is three bays wide with paired pointed-arch wood windows, above which is a large, four-part, pointed-arch wood stained-glass window at the second story. A stone sill course spans the gable, which contains an arched vent with a stone lintel with keystone and springers. The south elevation, facing Amity Avenue, is four bays wide with tall, arched stained-glass windows with stone sills and lintels with keystones and springers. There are four-light wood windows at the basement level. The north elevation, facing an asphalt parking lot, is five bays wide with stained-glass windows matching the south elevation, four-light windows at the basement level, and a narrow exterior chimney.

A two-story square tower at the northwest corner of the façade projects slightly from the façade. It contains an entrance at ground level on the west elevation with paired five-panel wood doors sheltered by a shed roof supported by wood brackets. The first story contains paired pointed arch windows that match those of the main block, with a pair of tall, narrow, rectangular windows with rectilinear stone lintels and stone sills at the second story. The tower has a corbeled cornice and hipped roof topped with a finial. The north elevation of the tower is blind and flush with the north elevation of the main block.

A four-story tower at the southwest corner projects slightly from the west and south elevations. The west and south elevations contain entrances at ground level with paired five-panel wood doors sheltered by shed roofs with wood brackets. The first story of these elevations contain paired pointed arch windows that match those of the main block. The second story of each elevation contains tall, narrow rectangular windows set in a group of three with rectilinear stone lintels and stone sills. The third story of these elevations contain windows matching that of the first story, and the fourth story is an open belfry with square wood posts and a decorative wood railing. The tower features a corbelled cornice with dentil detailing, and has a hipped roof with a finial and decorative center gables on the west and south elevations.

In the 1950s, an education wing was added onto the east elevation of the church. This wing is one-story with a raised basement and has a hip roof. A stone water course and corbelled cornice match those of the main block. A small, gabled, stone entrance bay extends from the south elevation and contains a recessed entrance with paired three-light wood doors flanked by three-light wood sidelights. The first story of the south elevation is three bays wide with a three-light wood awning window with three-light wood sidelights and stone sill in the center flanked by tall, narrow four-light wood windows with stone sills and decorative stone panels above. The basement level contains two-light windows with stone sills. The east elevation is four bays wide with eight-light wood awning windows with vents above and twelve-light wood awning windows, all with stone sills. There are four-light wood windows with stone sills at the basement level of the east and north elevations. This wing does not appear on the 1950 Sanborn map.

Parsonage – 1911, c.1920

The adjacent parsonage was built around the same time as the church, with both buildings dedicated in 1911 and appearing on the 1911 Sanborn map. This two-and-one-half-story Queen Anne-style house features a complex roofline, leaded glass cottage windows, bay windows, and weatherboard cladding with wood shingles in the gables. The gabled porch spans nearly the full-width of the façade and has been enclosed, likely in the 1920s, with four-over-one Craftsman-style wood windows and a nine-light-over-two-panel door, set slightly off center and accessed by concrete steps with concrete cheek walls. The porch is clad in brick veneer beneath the windows. The main block of the house is a hip-roof form with projecting center gables on the front and side elevations. The second story of the façade is two bays wide and contains cottage windows with decorative leaded glass upper panes, and the pedimented center gable contains a Palladian window opening, though the window itself is missing. The west elevation features a cottage window and a projecting, polygonal bay window containing one-over-one wood windows and cottage windows at the first story; two one-over-one windows at the second story; and a pair of fixed four-light wood windows in the pedimented gable. The east elevation features a decorative Queen Anne-style wood window and one-over-one wood windows at the first and second stories with fixed four-light wood windows in the pedimented gable. The house has a rusticated stone block foundation with fixed two-light wood windows. A one-story, hip-roof wing and exterior chimney at the rear (north) elevation cannot be seen from the public right-of-way.

History of the Resource

Provide information on previous owners, land use(s), and construction and alteration dates in a narrative format. This is required for all intensive level surveys, NRPQs, and nominations, and recommended for other identification efforts.

This church was built for the First Netherlands Reformed Church, which formed in 1907 with about twenty families. Construction began in 1909 and the church and parsonage were dedicated in 1911. Services were initially held in Dutch. In 1919, the church became the Fifth Reformed Church, joining the American Reformed Church due to the

difficulties of communicating with the Dutch church headquarters in the Netherlands, though services were held in both Dutch and English through the 1920s. Additions were built in the 1920s and the 1950s to accommodate the growing congregation. As new Reformed Church congregations formed in other areas of Muskegon, the membership began to drop at this church. In 1970, the church was sold and the congregation worshipped at Reeths-Puffer School until the new church building was completed on Holton Road in 1972. It is now known as the Discovering Christ Church. (Discovering Christ Church)

John Wesley AME Zion Church purchased the building in 1970. (Discovering Christ Church) The third African American congregation to form in Muskegon County, the church was founded in 1923 by O. Stearns of Grand Rapids. The congregation had previously worshipped at 23 East Webster Avenue in the Jackson Hill neighborhood, but that building was demolished, likely due to the construction of Shoreline Drive/Business 31 and Moses J. Jones Parkway (named for the long-time pastor of the church), which intersect near the former church site.

Reverend Moses J. Jones led the church from 1936 until his retirement in 1972. Born in Montgomery County, Alabama, the descendant of enslaved laborers, he joined the ministry in 1919. He led churches in Pittsburgh, PA; Grand Rapids, MI; and Hammond, IN, before coming to Muskegon. When he took over leadership of Wesley AME Zion, there were about 100 members. He was an early leader in fighting racial discrimination. He hosted interracial “good will dinners” to feed the needy, and often visited White churches, recalling “White churches loved to hear Negro [sic] music, but it was funny, there was never no Negro [sic] speaker invited. I used to say, ‘Have my choir, but you’ve got to have me, too.’ I would interpret the spirituals for them... tell them we sang them when things were so dark, the only thing we could see was the hand of God.” In 1946, he became the first African American elected president of the Greater Muskegon Pastors Fellowship, and an organization he started at the church later grew into the Great Muskegon Urban League. He also established the first community recreation center for African American youth in Muskegon, hosting young people in the church basement where they could play table tennis or join basketball and baseball teams. (Harrison; Muskegon County)

Statement of Significance/Recommendation of Eligibility

Provide a detailed explanation of the property’s eligibility for the National Register. Include an evaluation under at least one of the four National Register Criteria and one Area of Significance. Include a discussion of the seven aspects of integrity, and make a recommendation about eligibility. This is required for all properties.

The church appears to retain integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association. It is likely individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion A for European Ethnic Heritage as an important community institution for the Dutch immigrant population in the Jackson Hill neighborhood. It is also likely eligible under Criterion A for Black Ethnic Heritage and Social History as the only extant building associated with the John Wesley AME Zion Church congregation, which was the second African American congregation established in Muskegon and home to early leaders in anti-discrimination and Civil Rights, especially under the leadership of Reverend Moses J. Jones from 1936 to 1972. The church is likely eligible at the local level under Criterion C for Architecture as an intact example of Gothic Revival-style religious architecture. Interior access was not provided during this project. The property meets Criteria Consideration A for religious properties as it derives its primary significance from European Ethnic Heritage, Black Ethnic Heritage, Social History, and Architecture. Interior access was not provided during this project.

References

List references used to research and evaluate the individual property. For NRPQ’s include copies of key documents.

“The History of Discovering Christ Church.” <https://www.discoveringchristchurch.org/about/>.

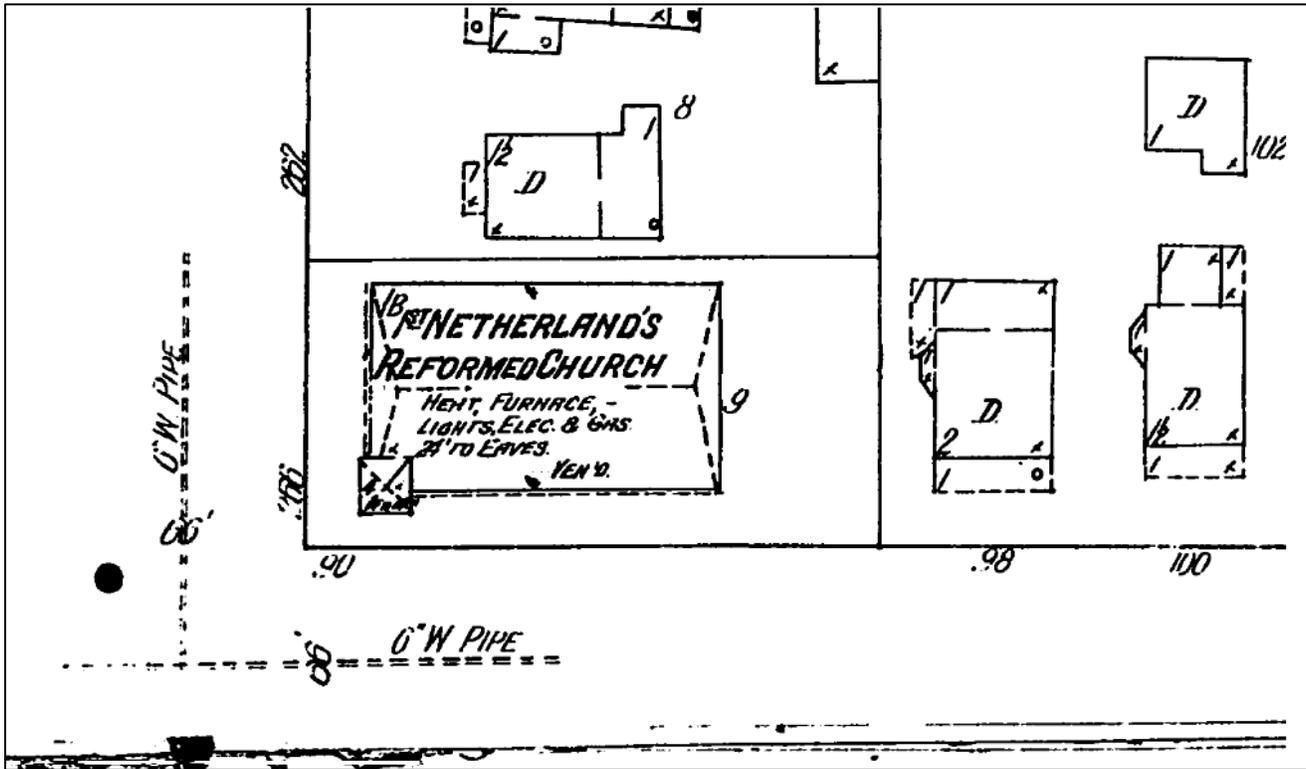
Harrison, Susan E. “Rev. Jones – he followed God and led the way.” *The Muskegon Chronicle*. March 9, 1986. Urban League of Greater Muskegon Records, Box 13. Folder 430: Printed Material, Newspaper Clippings, 1961-1962. Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

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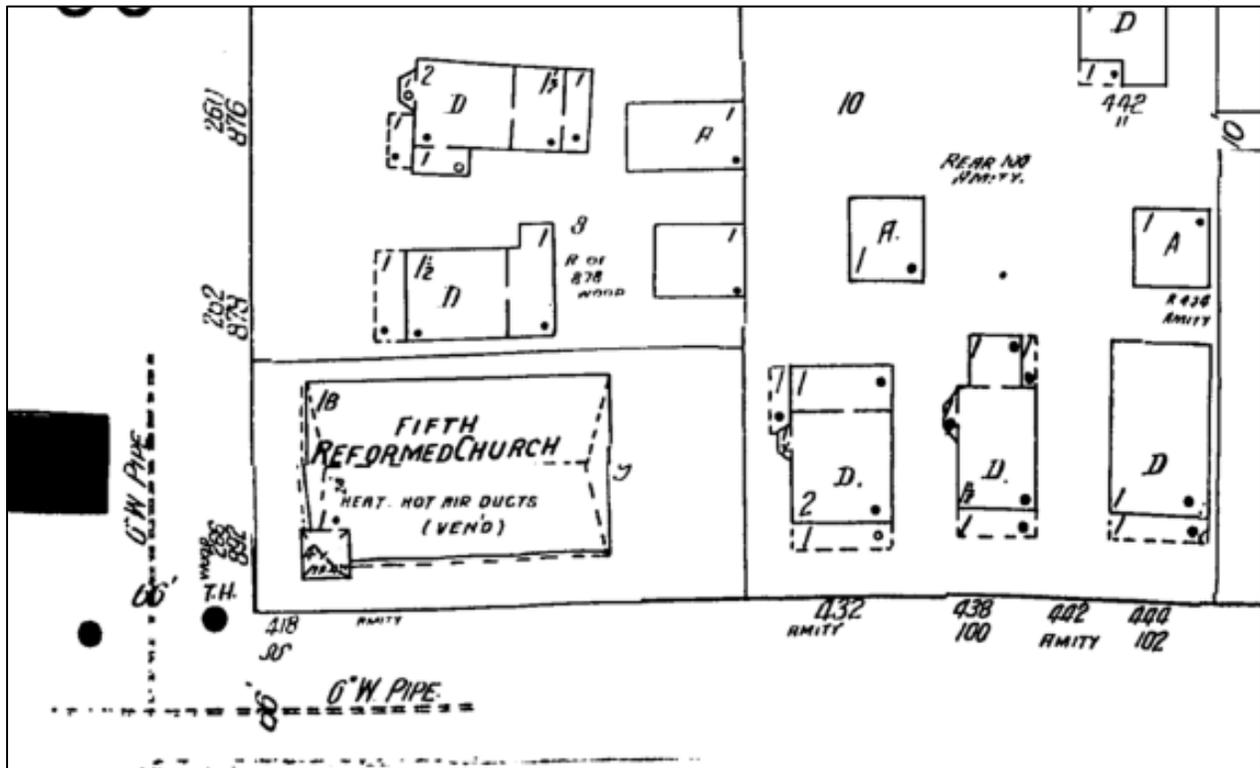
Survey Date	2022-2023	Recorded By	Cheri Szcodronski	Agency Report #	
For SHPO Use Only	SHPO Concurrence?: Y / N		Date:		

Form date: 2/28/2020

Historic Maps



Excerpt of 1911 Sanborn Map, Church and Parsonage
(courtesy of University of Michigan Libraries)



Excerpt of 1950 Sanborn Map, Church and Parsonage
(courtesy of University of Michigan Libraries)

Current Photographs



Window Detail – West Elevation



Tower Detail – West Elevation



Southwest Elevation



Southwest Elevation



Southeast Elevation



Northeast Elevation



North Elevation



Northwest Elevation



Sign Detail – West Elevation



Parsonage – South Elevation

Michigan SHPO Architectural Properties Identification Form



Property Overview and Location

Street Address	564 Yuba Street <i>(See also Jackson Hill Neighborhood, Muskegon)</i>				
City/Township, State, Zip Code	Muskegon, MI 49442				
County	Muskegon				
Assessor's Parcel #	61-24-205-161-0001-00				
Latitude/Longitude (to the 6 th decimal point)	Lat: 43.242101	Long: -86.238516			
Ownership	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public-Local <input type="checkbox"/>	Public-State <input type="checkbox"/>	Public-Federal <input type="checkbox"/>	Multiple <input type="checkbox"/>

Property Type

(Insert primary photograph below.)

Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> select sub-type below	Structure <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Object <input type="checkbox"/>
Residential <input type="checkbox"/>	
Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	
Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	



South Elevation

Architectural Information

Construction Date	1865, 1989
Architectural Style	No style
Building Form	Square
Roof Form	Gable
Roof Materials	Asphalt
Exterior Wall Materials	Vinyl
Foundation Materials	Rusticated Concrete Block
Window Materials	Wood, metal
Window Type	Stained glass, 2/2, casement
Outbuildings	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Number/Type:	Parsonage – c.1930

Eligibility

Individually Eligible	Criterion A <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion B <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion C <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion D <input type="checkbox"/>
Criteria Considerations:	a. <input type="checkbox"/> b. <input type="checkbox"/> c. <input type="checkbox"/> d. <input type="checkbox"/> e. <input type="checkbox"/> f. <input type="checkbox"/> g. <input type="checkbox"/>			
Component of a Historic District	Contributing to a district <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Non-contributing to a district <input type="checkbox"/>	Historic District Name:	Jackson Hill Neighborhood
Not Eligible <input type="checkbox"/>				
Area(s) of Significance	N/A			
Period(s) of Significance	N/A			
Integrity – Does the property possess integrity in all or some of the 7 aspects?				
Location <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Design <input type="checkbox"/>	Materials <input type="checkbox"/>	Workmanship <input type="checkbox"/>	Setting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Feeling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Association <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
General Integrity:	Intact <input type="checkbox"/>	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Date(s):
Historic Name	Norwegian Lutheran Church/First Lutheran Church			
Current/Common Name	New Hope Baptist Church & Parsonage			
Historic/Original Owner	Norwegian Lutheran Church/First Lutheran Church			
Historic Building Use	Religion – religious facility, church-related residence			
Current Building Use	Religion – religious facility Vacant			
Architect/Engineer/Designer	Unknown			
Builder/Contractor	Unknown			

Narrative Architectural Description

Provide a detailed description of the property, including all character-defining features and any accessory resources. This is required for all properties.

Located at the southeast corner of Yuba Street and Giddings Avenue, this church has been altered with the application of vinyl siding and construction of a large addition. The original church building comprises the north wing of the church, and is a front-gable form on a raised basement with a central tower facing west toward Yuba Street. Concrete steps lead to the tower's main entrance, a pair of metal doors with a stained-glass, semi-elliptical window with a wide surround set well above the doors. The belfry has a gabled roof topped with a large cross and once contained openings, though it has been enclosed with vinyl siding. Shed wings extend from either side of the tower and contain two-over-two wood windows at the lower level and paired casement windows at the main level. The lower level of the north shed wing is slightly recessed and shelters a slab door. The north elevation of the original building is four bays wide at the main level with large, arched stained-glass windows. This elevation also has entrances at the east end, one at ground level and one accessed by concrete steps. The rusticated stone block foundation is visible on the north and east elevations, and there are two-over-two wood windows at the basement level. The original building has an interior brick chimney and an exterior metal flue on the east elevation.

A large, gabled wing constructed in 1989 extends from the south elevation of the original building. This wing has a raised basement to match the original building, with the lower level clad in brick veneer, and the gable on the north end extends slightly above the roofline of the original church. A narrow, gabled portico supported by paired square columns on the south elevation shelters the entrance, which contains paired metal doors at ground level. A small hip-roof cupola is topped with a large cross. A secondary entrance at the southwest corner is also at ground level. Three arched stained-glass windows area are at the main level. The west elevation contains paired single-light casement windows at the main level with semi-elliptical windows set high on the walls.

Parsonage – c.1930

The parsonage is located at 233 Giddings Avenue, immediately east of the church building. It is a two-story Craftsman-style house built between 1911 and 1950 according to Sanborn maps. The house has a partial-width hip-roof porch, vinyl siding, and rusticated stone block foundation. The porch was originally supported by tapered square posts on piers but has been enclosed. A one-light, eleven-panel wood door is centered on the façade. First story windows on the façade and west elevation have been replaced with one-over-one vinyl windows, and those on the east elevation appear to have been shortened. The house retains five-over-one and three-over-one Craftsman-style windows at the second story. A hip-roof dormer on the front elevation contains two-light fixed wood windows.

History of the Resource

Provide information on previous owners, land use(s), and construction and alteration dates in a narrative format. This is required for all intensive level surveys, NRPQs, and nominations, and recommended for other identification efforts.

This church was built in 1865 to serve the European immigrants that first settled in the Jackson Hill area. It was first named the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church, and was later known as the English Lutheran Church and First Evangelical Lutheran Church. By 1940, the congregation had voted to close the church, but a bishop refused to allow the church to close and its membership again began to grow. In 1953, the congregation had outgrown this building and constructed a new, much larger church at 1206 Whitehall Road in Muskegon.

New Hope Baptist Church was established in 1949 and originally located at 341 Ottawa Street in a residential area of the Jackson Hill Neighborhood. This building is no longer extant, and most of the surrounding homes have also been demolished, likely a result of the construction of Business 31/Moses Jones Parkway. In 1953, the New Hope Baptist congregation purchased the former First Lutheran Church, which offered a greater seating capacity than the Ottawa Street building, as well as basement spaces for religious education and community events.

Reverend Jacob D. Buckley led the congregation through the transition from Ottawa Street to Yuba Street. He served as a pastor at Bethesda Baptist Church as well, was a member of the Greater Muskegon Pastors Conference, and had been one of the charter members of the Muskegon County Urban League.

Statement of Significance/Recommendation of Eligibility

Provide a detailed explanation of the property's eligibility for the National Register. Include an evaluation under at least one of the four National Register Criteria and one Area of Significance. Include a discussion of the seven aspects of integrity, and make a recommendation about eligibility. This is required for all properties.

This building appears to retain integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association, but due to substantial alterations to the historic form and materials, does not appear to retain integrity of design, materials, or workmanship. The building is likely not eligible for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places, but would likely be contributing to a Jackson Hill Neighborhood Historic District. Interior access was not provided during this project.

References

List references used to research and evaluate the individual property. For NRPQ's include copies of key documents.

"First Lutheran to Build Larger Church; Baptists to Take Possession Next April." *The Muskegon Chronicle*. August 22, 1953. Urban League of Greater Muskegon Records, Box 13. Folder 417: Newspaper Clippings, 1951-1953. Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

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"Re-Dedication Souvenir Program of the New Hope Baptist Church." No date. Urban League of Greater Muskegon Records, Box 13. Folder 383: Michigan, undated. Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. "Muskegon, Michigan, Vol. 1." 1911. ProQuest Digital Sanborn Maps, 1867-1970, Via University of Michigan Libraries.

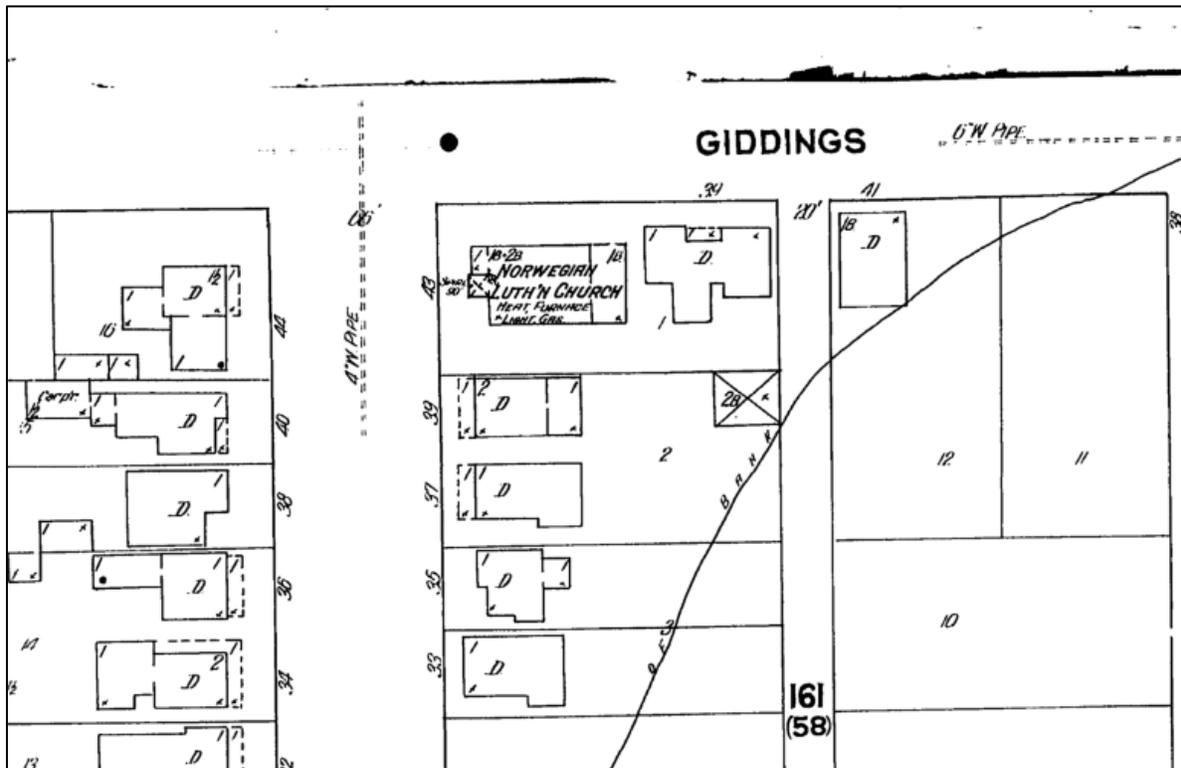
Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. "Muskegon, Michigan, Vol. 1." 1911, Revised 1950. ProQuest Digital Sanborn Maps, 1867-1970, Via University of Michigan Libraries.

Wittkowski, Tony. "First Lutheran Church Celebrates 150 Years, Throws Luncheon for Loyal Congregation." *MLive*. September 7, 2014. https://www.mlive.com/news/muskegon/2014/09/first_lutheran_church_celebrat.html.

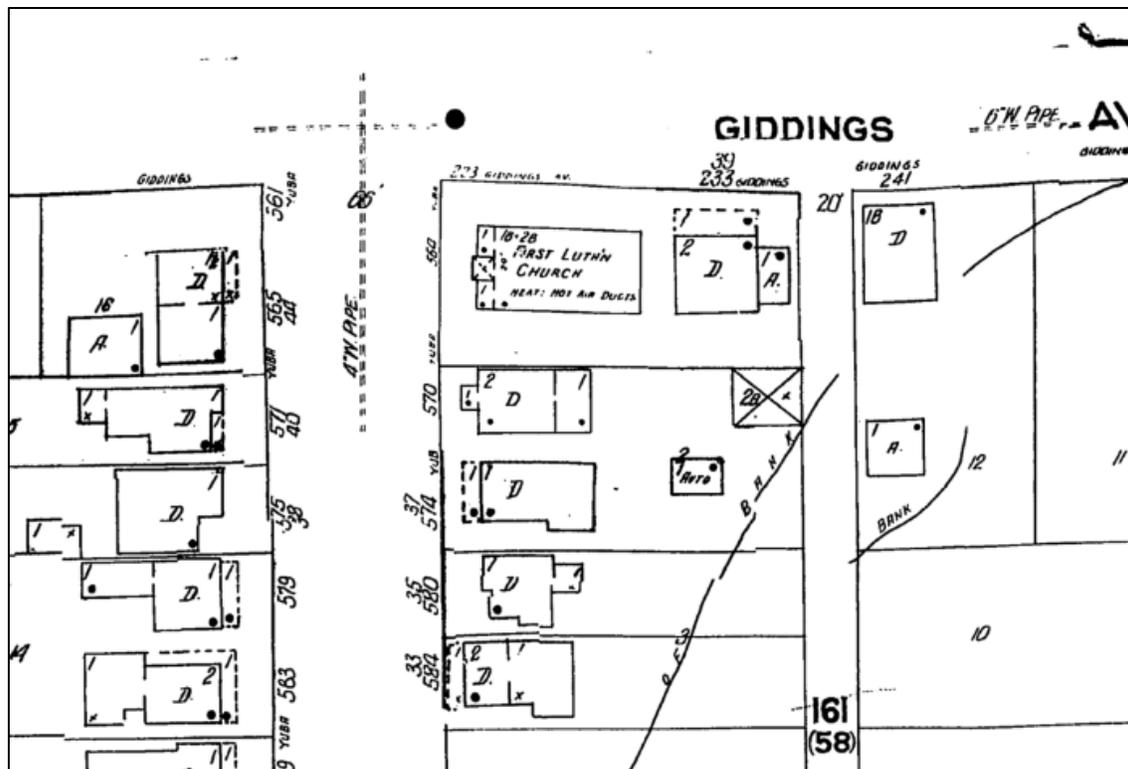
Survey Date	2022-2023	Recorded By	Cheri Szcodronski	Agency Report #	
For SHPO Use Only	SHPO Concurrence?: Y / N		Date:		

Form date: 2/28/2020

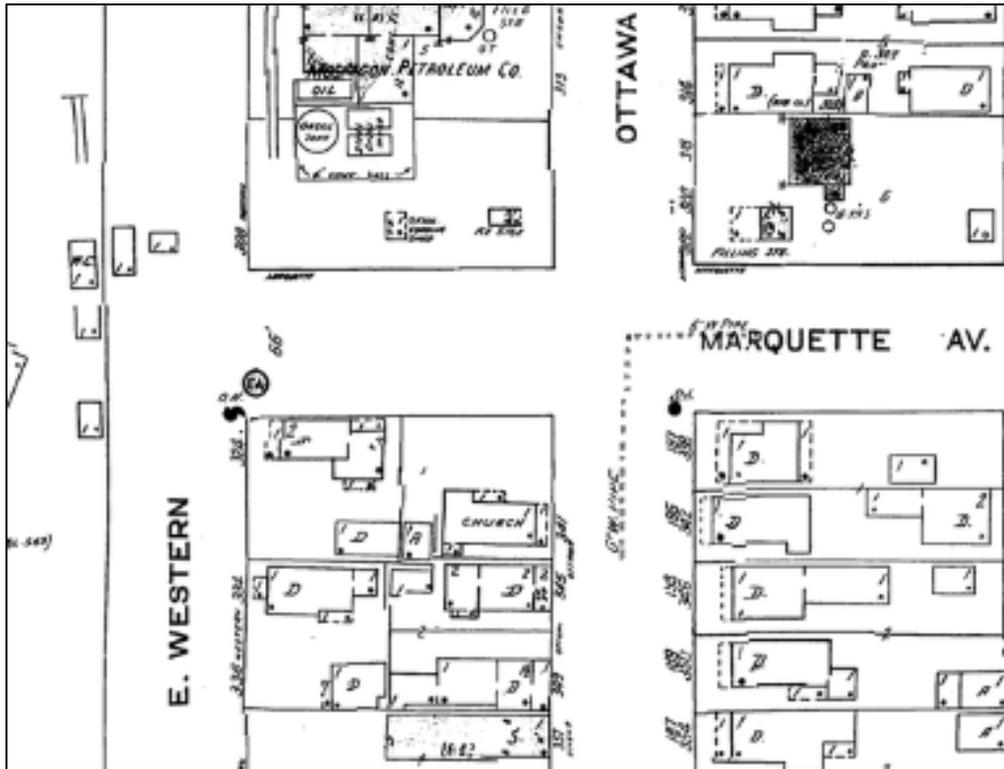
Historic Photographs and Maps



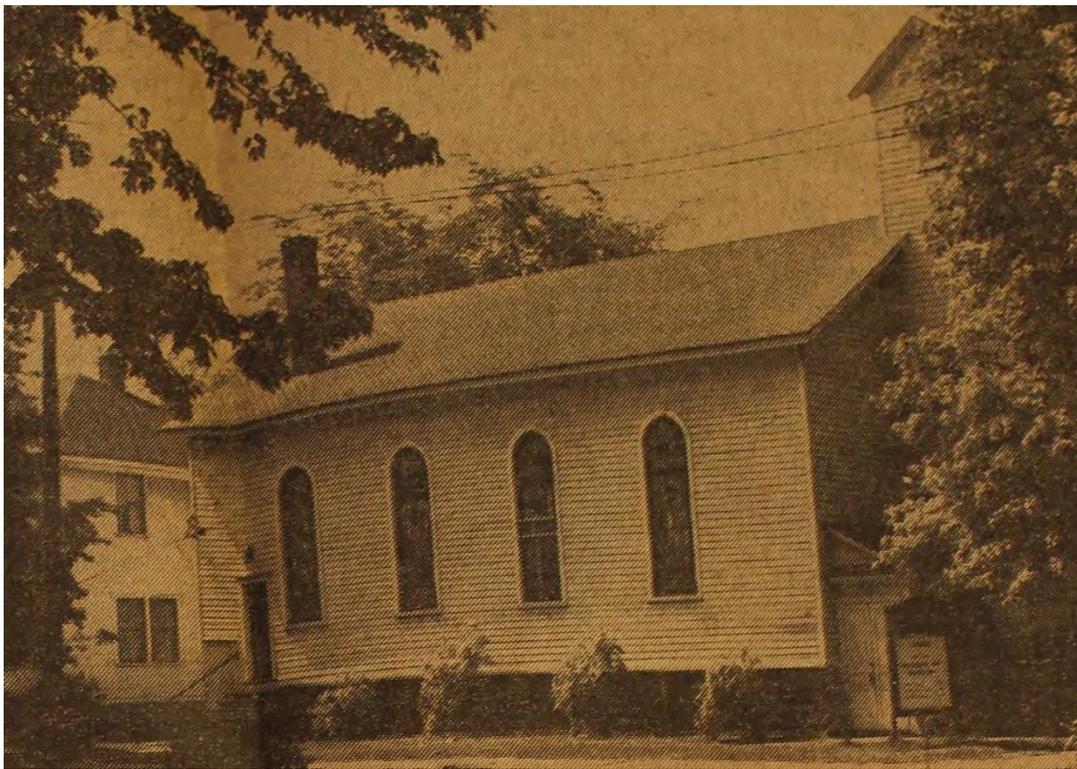
Excerpt of 1911 Sanborn Map, Church and First Parsonage
(courtesy of University of Michigan Libraries)



Excerpt of 1950 Sanborn Map, Church and Parsonage
(courtesy of University of Michigan Libraries)



Excerpt of 1950 Sanborn Map, Original Location of New Hope Baptist Church
 (courtesy of University of Michigan Libraries)



New Hope Baptist Church, 1953
 (courtesy of *The Muskegon Chronicle*)



Church Interior c.1954, Re-Dedication Souvenir Program
(courtesy of Bentley Historical Library)

Current Photographs



Northwest Elevation



West Elevation



Southwest Elevation



Cornerstone Detail



Window Detail – Northwest Elevation



Northeast Elevation



Church and Parsonage – Northeast Elevation



Parsonage – Northeast Elevation



Parsonage – West Elevation