## United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

code 026

For NPS use only received AUG | 3 |985 date entered SEP | 2 |985

n/a not for publication

code<sup>125</sup>

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms Type all entries—complete applicable sections

# 1. Name

historic Grand Trunk Western Railroad Birmingham Depot

and/or common Norman's Eton Street Station

# 2. Location

street & number 245 S. Eton St.

city, town Birmingham

n/a\_vicinity of

state Michigan

# 3. Classification

Category _X_ district building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition in process	Status X occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted	Present Use agriculture X commercial educational entertainment government	museum park private residence religious scientific
	being considered	X yes: unrestricted	industrial military	<pre> transportation other:</pre>

county

**Oakland** 

# 4. Owner of Property

name Mr. Anthony S. Brown c/o Birmingham Train Station Associated Limited Partnership, Inc.

street & number 255 E. Brown Street, Suite #10

city, t	own Birmingham	n/a_ vicinity of	state Michigan 48011
5.	Location of Lo	egal Description	
court	house, registry of deeds, etc. Oa	akland County Register of Deec	ls
street	& number 1200 North Tele	graph Road	
city, t	own Pontiac		state Michigan 48053
6.	Representatio	on in Existing Surv	eys
title	Oakland County Survey	has this property be	en determined eligible? yes _X no
date	1981		federal Xstate county local
depos	sitory for survey records Bure	eau of History	

city, town Lansing

state Michigan 48918

# 7. Description

Condition		Check one
excellent X good fair	deteriorated ruins unexposed	unaltered _X altered

Check one X original site moved date

#### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Grand Trunk Western Railroad Birmingham Depot is located southeast of the intersection of Maple Road (15 Mile Road) and Eton Street in Birmingham, in a mixed residential and commercial neighborhood. The depot is a rectangular, gable-roofed structure of red brown brick, fronted by a projecting white limestone, gabled, entranceway block containing a recessed round-head entrance. The Vermont slate roof is pierced by several gables displaying herringbone and basketweave brickwork. The structure has a concrete foundation and utilizes structural steel framing.

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In 1983, the former train depot underwent rehabilitation as a restaurant and cocktail lounge now known as Norman's Eton Street Station. Exterior alterations to the building's front facade are cosmetic in nature and include canvas awnings over windows and entranceway, oak benches, fieldstone walks, period lighting, and formal landscaping, including surrounding trees and plantings.

The former train station's interior space has been divided into four dining rooms. Floors are carpeted and finished in terrazzo. The side walls have a painted plaster finish, and the arched ceiling is of painted plaster. The four dining rooms vary in motif and character. The Palms Room, the western half of the former waiting room, has a dramatic, barrel-vaulted and ribbed ceiling. The Loft Room, located on a balcony or loft at the east end of the waiting room area, is also topped by the barrel-vaulted ceiling and features vertical striped oak paneling. The former underground baggage tunnel now serves as a dining room with a dining car motif. A fourth dining room, called the Coach Room, features glass mirrors, oriental rugs, and wood paneling.

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# 8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture x architecture	heck and justify below community planning conservation economics education engineering	landscape architectur law literature military music	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian
1700–1799 1800–1899 _X1900–	commerce communications	engineering exploration/settlement industry invention		theater transportation other (specify)

Specific dates 1930 - 1931

Builder Architect George B. Walbridge and Albert H. Aldinger of Detroit, building contractors

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Grand Trunk Western Railroad Binningham Depot is the principal manifestation in Binningham of that city's long history of rail passenger service as a stop on the line between Detroit and Pontiac. It also recalls the response of a Michigan governor and a long-established rail line to changing transportational needs for Detroit's northern suburbs at the outset of the Great Depression. Constructed at a cost of \$125,000 by Walbridge and Aldinger, Detroit building contractors, the Binningham station has architectural note as a scaled-down imitation of the Binningham, England, train station.

Railroad passenger service first came to the village of Binningham in the spring of 1839. Albert Sault Williams, co-owner of the privately-financed Detroit and Pontiac Railroad, announced that "...after June 1, 1839, two steam trains would run from Detroit to Binningham. The line reached Pontiac by 1840, following a north-south right-of-way alongside Woodward Avenue, which ran in a direct line for twenty-three miles from Detroit to Pontiac. The Detroit and Pontiac Railroad became part of another privately owned line, the Ottawa and Oakland, in 1848. The line was absorbed by the Grand Trunk Railroad in 1860.

Oakland County's population leaped from 90,050 to 211,251 between 1920 and 1930. Binningham's population more than doubled during this period. As the number of automobiles using Woodward Avenue doubled and tripled after World War I, Michigan highway officials pressed the need for a wider right-of-way for Woodward Avenue. In November, 1923 the Michigan legislature passed the "Wider Woodward Act" calling for a 200-foot width. At a cost of 2.5 million dollars, an additional right-of-way was purchased covering the twenty-three miles from Detroit's city limits to Pontiac.

The Grand Trunk Railroad opposed the new legislation. Its tracks ran directly along the eastern edge of Woodward Avenue through most of the route from Detroit to Pontiac, including Birmingham. The railroad took a dim view of any suggestion that it vacate its right-of-way or spend the millions necessary to move the track away from Woodward Avenue. Governor Alexander Groesbeck induced the 1925 session of the Legislature to adopt a resolution declaring it "necessary to attain that end." This was a thinly veiled hint that unless Grand Trunk cooperated, its charter would be revoked. The threat produced a willingness to cooperate. In early 1926, for an annual consideration of \$200,000 from the State of Michigan, Grand Trunk agreed to abandon its right-of-way and move its tracks to a location a mile east of Woodward Avenue.

Between 1926 and 1930 the Grand Trunk spent eight million dollars on land purchases and construction of a new right-of-way from Detroit to Pontiac. In October, 1930, ground was broken for a new passenger and freight station in Birmingham. The depot was completed at a cost of \$125,000 by the Detroit building contractor firm of Walbridge and Aldinger and it and the new line were dedicated on August 1, 1931 in the presence of Governor Wilbur Brucker, former Governor Groesbeck, and an estimated 50,000 on lookers, inaugurating commuter train service to eleven cities and villages between Detroit and Pontiac.

In 1978 the Southeast Michigan Transportation Authority allowed its lease with Grand Trunk to expire and the depot was vacated. In 1979 the train depot was purchased by the present owner. It has since undergone conversion as a restaurant, Norman's Eton Street Station.

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# 9. Major Bibliographical References

(attached)

10. Geographica	al Data	
Acreage of nominated property Two Quadrangle name <u>Birmingham</u> Quadrangle		Quadrangle scale 1:24000
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C	Р[ F[ Н[	
Verbal boundary description and	justification	NOTE IS A STALLAR DWM UNITABILIAR OF THE ATTINUM
(attached)		
List all states and counties for p	roperties overlapping state	e or county boundaries
state <sub>N/A</sub>	code county	code de contra contra code
state	code county	code
organization Bureau of History street & number 208 North Capit	col Avenue	date May 30, 1985 telephone (517) 373-0510
city or town Lansing	ic Preservatio	state Michigan 48918
The evaluated significance of this pro	perty within the state is:	al Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89–
665), I hereby nominate this property f	for inclusion in the National Re	gister and certify that it has been evaluated
665), I hereby nominate this property f according to the criteria and procedur	for inclusion in the National Re res set forth by the National Pa	gister and certify that it has been evaluated
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665), I hereby nominate this property f according to the criteria and procedur State Historic Preservation Officer sig title Director, Bureau of His	for inclusion in the National Re res set forth by the National Pa inature Martle story y is included in the National Re Entered in the	egister and certify that it has been evaluated ark Service. date 8/7/85 egister date 9-12-85
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NPS Form 10-900-a (3-82)

## **United States Department of the Interior** National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet Item number

#9 & 10 page 1

Page

9. Major Bibliographical References

Birmingham Eccentric. August 1, 1931, p. 1A.

Detroit Free Press. August 2, 1931, p. 1A.

Detroit News. August 1, 1931, p. 1A.

- Durand, Samuel W. <u>History of Oakland County, Michigan</u>. Philadelphia: L. H. EVerts Publishing Company, 1877.
- Hagman, Arthur A. (ed). Oakland County Book of History. Pontiac: Sesqui-Centennial Executive Committee, 1970.

McMechan, Jervis B. and al. The Book of Birmingham. Birmingham: Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Pontiac Daily Press. August 1, 1931, p. 1 and 2A.

Woodford, Frank B. Alex J. Groesbeck: Portrait of a Public Man. Detroit: Wayne State University, 1962.

## 10. Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

## PARCEL A

A parcel of land located in the North 1/2 of Section 31, Town 2 North, Range 11 East, Township of Troy (now City of Birmingham) now owned by Grand Trunk Western Railroad Company and previously platted as Lots 58 and 59, part of Lot 11, Lots 12 through 15 plus all or parts of Lots 55 through 59, plus part of vacated Yosemite Boulevard, Eton Road and 16 foot alley in BIRMINGHAM GARDENS SUBDIVISION, as recorded in Liber 31 of Plats, Page 38, Oakland County Records. Parcel more particularly described as: Beginning at a point on the Eastline of Eton Road (as relocated), said point being North 88 degrees 16 minutes 37 seconds West 117.95 feet along the East-West Section line in Maple Road (66 feet wide) and South 34° 11 minutes 27 seconds East 87.17 feet along the Easterly Right-of-Way line of Eton Road (50 feet wide) extended from the North 1/4 corner of said Section 31; thence continuing South 34 degrees 11 minutes 27 seconds East 112.57 feet along said right of way line; thence South 1° 59 minutes 10 seconds West 236.98 feet along the East line of Eton Road; thence South 88° 20 minutes 47 seconds East 245.76 feet; thence North 33 degrees 44 minutes 54 seconds West 390.56 feet parallel and 1.00 feet Westerly of an existing concrete retaining wall; thence South 56° 34 minutes 45 seconds West 16.90 feet; thence North 33° 36 minutes 11 seconds West 57.77 feet to the South line of Maple Road as widened for Railroad Bridge (43 feet=1/2 right of way); thence North 88° 16 minutes 37 seconds West 22.56 feet along said right of way; thence South 29° 04 minutes West 31.10 feet along the Easterly right of way of Eton Road as relocated to the point of beginning.

OMB No. 1024-0018 Expires 10-31-87

For NPS use only

received

date entered

## **United States Department of the Interior** National Park Service

## **National Register of Historic Places** Inventory—Nomination Form

OMB No. 1024-0018

Expires 10-31-87

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received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

10. Continued

PARCEL B

Easements over the following described parcels

## EASEMENT Parcel 1:

Commencing at the intersection of the North line of Section 31, Town 2 North, Range 11 East, and the centerline of Track No. 690-1 (as shown by Grand Trunk Western Railroad's Plan No. A-30-80, dated September 24, 1980 File No. 70/5) thence Southeasterly 328.4 feet, more or less, along the centerline of said track; thence Southwesterly 32.5 feet at right angles to the outside Easterly corner of the former Birmingham Depot Baggage and Utility Rooms being the point of beginning; thence Northwesterly 45.1 feet, at right angles, to the outside Northerly corner of said Baggage and Utility Rooms; thence Southwesterly 11.3 feet, at right angles, to a point on Southwesterly right of way line; thence Southeasterly 45.1 feet along said right of way line; thence Northeasterly 11.3 feet, at right angle to the point of beginning.

## EASEMENT Parcel 2:

Commencing at the intersection of the North line of Section 31, Town 2 North, Range 11 East and the centerline of Track No. 690-1 (as disclosed by Grand Trunk Western Railroad's Plan No. A-30-80, dated September 24, 1980, file No. 70-53) thence Southeasterly 297.3 feet, more or less, along the centerline of said track to the outside face of the Northwesterly wall of the former Birmingham Depot Baggage Tunnel, being the point of beginning; thence Southwesterly 32.5 feet at right angles along the outside face of said wall to the Northeasterly outside face of the former Birmingham Depot Baggage Room wall; thence Southeasterly 9.4 feet, more or less, at right angles to the outside face of the Southeasterly wall of said tunnel; thence Northeasterly 76.0 feet at right angles along the outside face of said wall to Northeasterly right of way line; thence Northwesterly 9.4 feet, more or less, along said right of way line to the outside face of the Northwesterly wall of said baggage tunnel; thence Southwesterly 43.5 feet along the outside fence of said wall to the point of beginning.

## **EASEMENT** Parcel 3:

Commencing at the intersection of the North line of Section 31, Town 2 North, Range 11 East and the centerline of Grand Trunk Western Railroad Track No. 690-1 (as disclosed by Grand Trunk Western Railroad's Plan No. A-30-80, dated September 24, 1980, file No. 70-53); thence Southeasterly 253.3 feet, more or less, along the centerline of said track to the outside face of the Northwesterly wall of the former Binningham Depot Passenger Tunnel, being the point of beginning; thence Southwesterly 43.8 feet at right angles along the outside face of said wall to Grand Trunk Western Railroad Southwesterly right of way line; thence Southeasterly 13.4 feet, more or less at right angles along said right of way line to the outside face of the Southeasterly wall of said passenger tunnel; thence Northeasterly 61.8 feet at right angles along the outside face of said wall; thence Northwesterly 13.4 feet at right angles to the outside face of the Northwesterly wall of said tunnel; thence Southwesterly 18.0 feet along the outside face of said wall to the point of beginning.

## #10 page 2

Continuation sheet	Item number	Page
National Register of Inventory—Nomina		received date entered
United States Department o National Park Service	f the Interior	For NPS use only
NPS Form 10-900-a (3-82)		OMB No. 1024-0018 Expires 10-31-87

#10 page 3

10. Continued EASEMENT Parcel 4:

Commencing at the intersection of the North line of Section 31, Town 2 North, Range 11 East and the centerline of Grand Trunk Western Railroad Track No. 690-1 (as disclosed by Grand Trunk Western Railroad Plan No. A-30-80, dated September 24, 1980, file no. 70-53) thence Southeasterly 220.2 feet, more or less, along the centerline of said track; thence Southwesterly 43.8 feet at right angles to a point 1.3 feet Northwesterly of the Northwesterly face of the former Binningham Depot, said point being the point of beginning; thence Southeasterly 79.4 feet, more or less, along Grand Trunk Western Railroad Southwesterly right of way line; thence Northeasterly 2.8 feet at right angles; thence Northwesterly 24.8 feet at right angles; thence Southwesterly 0.8 feet at right angles; thence Northwesterly 29.8 feet at right angles thence Northeasterly 0.8 feet at right angles; thence Northwesterly 24.8 feet at right angles thence Northeasterly 0.8 feet at right angles; thence Northwesterly 24.8 feet at right angles; thence Northeasterly 0.8 feet at right angles; thence Northwesterly 24.8 feet at right angles thence Northeasterly 0.8 feet at right angles; thence Northwesterly 24.8 feet at right angles; thence Northeasterly 0.8 feet at right angles; thence Northwesterly 24.8 feet at right angles; thence Southwesterly 2.8 feet to the point of beginning.

This is the entire property on which the depot stands.

AENR85158A AENR85158E

#### WASO Form - 177 ("R" June 1984)

#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# fw Rere# 85002148

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Grand Trunk Western	Railroad Bir	mingham						
Depot	P. 49-49-49-49-49-49-49-49-49-49-49-49-49-4					AL	G 1 3 1985	
Oakland County MICHIGAN					Working N	•		
MICHIGAN					Fed. Reg. I	Date: 9/12/85	1-4-86	
					Date Due:	9/12/85	- 9/27.	185
			Enat	ared in	-Action:	ACCEPT	9-12-	55-
			Not	tanol D	gister	RETURN		
nomination by person of	or local governme	ent	A166 9	recorder US	STRICL	REJECT_		
owner objection					Federal Ag	ency:	The second	1.1.1
appeal								
Substantive Review:	sample	🗆 request		appeal		NR decision		
Reviewer's comments:								
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1. Name				1	nolisi	ing the role	ionel sociation	
2. Location								
3. Classification		anne constants					and the second second	
Category	Ownership Public Acqui	sition	Status Accessi	ble	in the second	Present Use		
4. Owner of Property								
5. Location of Legal Descri	ption					·····	Constant	
6. Representation in Existin	ng Surveys					and formed the	ter de Cara	<u></u>
Has this property been dete	rmined eligible?	🗆 yes	🗆 no					
7. Description								3. 600
Condition		c	Check one		(	Check one		
🗆 excellent	deteriorated	[	unaltered		[	original site		
good	ruins	[	altered		[	moved da	te	
🗌 fair	unexposed							
Describe the present and or	iginal (if known)	physical appeara	ance					
summary paragraph								
completeness								
Clarity								
alterations/integrity								
dates								
boundary selection								

#### 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance-Check and justify below			

**Builder/Architect** Specific dates Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

#### 9. Major Bibliographical References

10	GAARAF	hical	Data
10.	Geograp	/III Gal	Dala

Signed\_

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_ Quadrangle name\_\_\_\_ **UTM References** 

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By				
12. State Historic Pres	ervation Officer Certification	2000 2008 00		
The evaluated significar	nce of this property within the state is:			
national	statelocal			
State Historic Preservat	ion Officer signature			a amazinan 2
title	date			
13. Other				- tota the second second
Maps Photographs Other				
Questions concerning t	his nomination may be directed to		<u>, in the second s</u>	
Signed	Date		Phone:	All and a second se

Date \_



Grand Trunk Western Railroad Birmingham Station (Norman's Eton Street Station) 245 South Eton Birmingham, Oakland County, Michigan Photographer: Cathy Clements Date: May, 1985 Bureau of History Lansing, III 48918 Camera facing N NE Photo # 1 of 8



Grand Trunk Western Railroad Birmingham Station (Norman's Eton Street Station) 245 South Eton Birmingham, Oakland County, Michigan Photographer: Cathy Clements Date: May, 1985 Bureau of History Lansing, MI 489 18 Camera facing N Photo #2 of 8



Grand Trunk Western Railroad Birmingham Station 245 South Eton Birmingham, Oakland County, Michigan Photographer: Cathy Clements Date: May, 1985 Bureau of History Lansing, MI 48918 Camera facing N NE Photo # 3 of 8



Grant Trunk Western Railroad Birmingham Station (Norman's Eton Street Station) 245 South Eton Birmingham, Oakland County, Michigan Photographer: Cathy Clements Date: May 1985 Bureau of History Lansing, MI 48918 Camera facing SE Photo # 4 of 8



Grand Trunk Western Railroad Birmingham Station (Norman's Eton Street Station) 245 South Eton Birmingham, Oakland County, Michigan Photographer: Cathy Clements Date: May, 1985 Bureau of History Lansing, MI 48918 Camera facing N NW Photo# 5 of 8



Grand Trunk Western Railroad (Norman's Eton Street Station) 245 South Eton Birmingham, Oakland County, Michigan Photographer: Cathy Clements Bureau of History Lansing, MI 48918 Camera facing SE Photo # 6 of 8

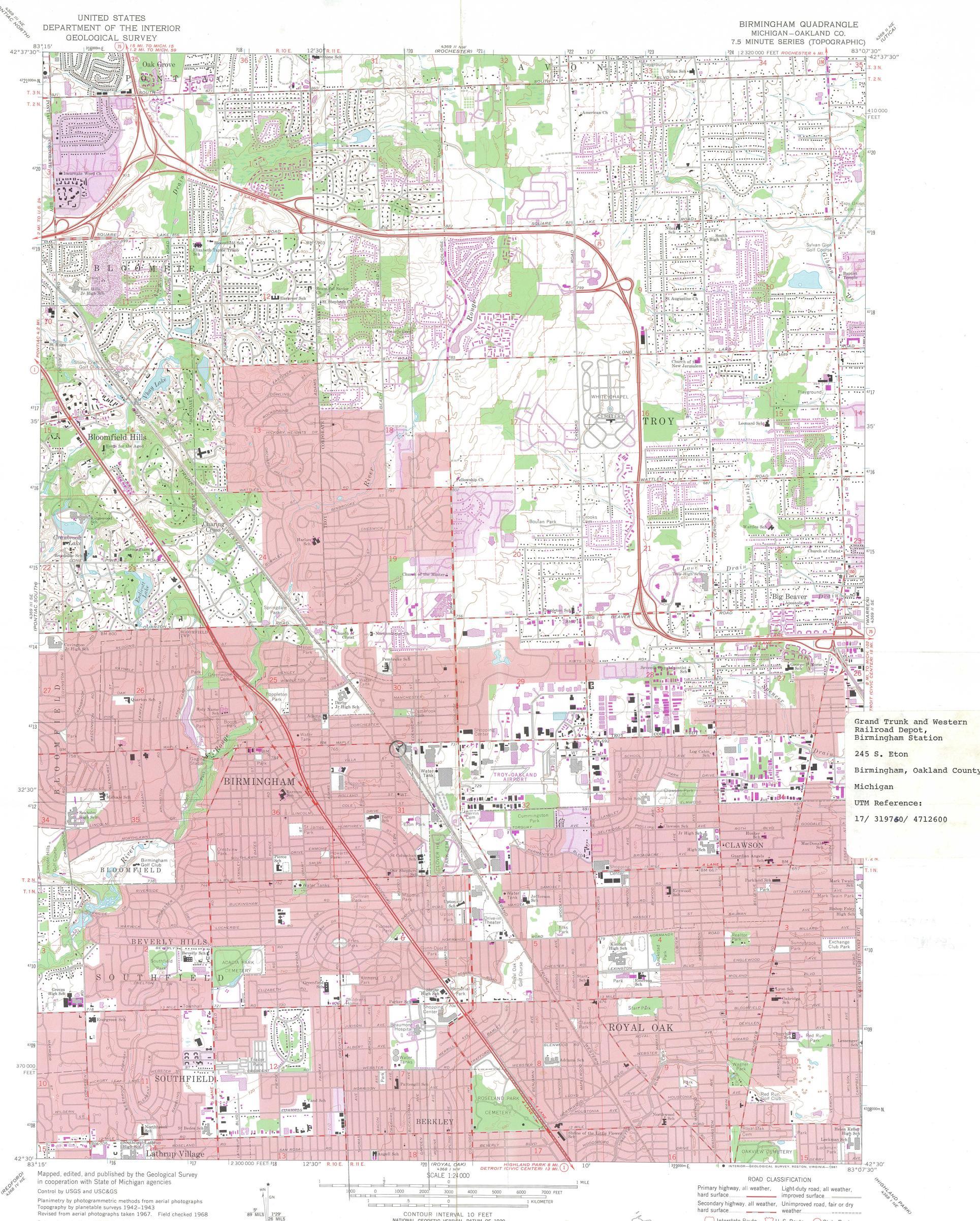


Grand Trunk Western Railroad Birmingham Station (Norman's Eton Street Station) 245 South Eton Birmingham, Oakland County, Michigan Photographer: Cathy Clements Date: May, 1985 Bureau fo History Lansing, MI 48918 Camera facing NE Photo # 7 of 8



Grand Trunk Western Railroad Birmingham Station (Norman's Eton Street Station) Birmingham, Oakland County, Michigan Photographer: Cathy Clements Date: May, 1985 Bureau of History Lansing, MI 48918 Camera facing S Photo# 8 of 8

S



Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum 10,000-foot grid based on Michigan coordinate system, south zone 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 17, shown in blue UTM GRID AND 1981 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 7 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092 AND BY THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY DIVISION MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



Purple tint indicates extension of urban area

BIRMINGHAM, MICH. N4230 - W8307.5/7.5 1968

PHOTOREVISED 1981 DMA 4369 II SW-SERIES V862



Daniel T. Murphy, Oakland County Executive

50010185

July 3, 1985

Dr. Martha M. Bigelow State Historic Preservation Officer Bureau of History Michigan Department of State Lansing, MI 48918

Dear Dr. Bigelow:

The information from your office regarding the Birmingham Grand Trunk Railroad Depot and the Affleck House in Bloomfield Hills has been received with interest. I am pleased that effort is being made to list these properties on the National Register of Historic Places.

We in Oakland County government are proud to support the preservation of our historic sites and buildings and thank you for endeavoring to register them at the national level.

Our Oakland County Historic Commission is dedicated to encourage citizens to seek restoration of properties important to our American history and culture. I understand that members of this organization have utilized the expertise of your fine staff on several occasions for workshops and information of current legislation related to historic preservation.

Please call on me if I can be of further assistance in the consideration of these two Oakland County properties when your Review Board meets in the near future.

Sincenely,

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DTM/jls

## MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RICHARD H. AUSTIN

July 30, 1985

SECRETARY OF STATE



LANSING

MICHIGAN 48918

**BUREAU OF HISTORY** 

ADMINISTRATION, PUBLICATIONS ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION 208 N. Capitol Avenue 517-373-0510

STATE ARCHIVES 3405 N. Logan Street 517-373-0512

MICHIGAN HISTORICAL MUSEUM 208 N. Capitol Avenue 517—373-3559

Ms. Carol D. Shull, Supervisory Historian National Register of Historic Places Branch Interagency Resource Management Division National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed are National Register of Historic Places nomination materials for the Grand Trunk Western Railroad Birmingham Depot, Birmingham, Michigan. I certify that the intent-to-nominate notification requirements have been fulfilled. This property is being submitted for listing in the National Register. All notarized statements of objection and written comments concerning this nomination submitted to us prior to the submission of this nomination to you are enclosed.

Please direct all questions concerning this nomination to Brian Conway, Historic Preservation Coordinator (517/373-0510).

Sincerely,

Bigelow

Martha M. Bigelow Director, Bureau of History and State Historic Preservation Officer

MMB/ROC/s1

enc.

AUG 1 3 1985