

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Michigan	
COUNTY: Oakland	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 13 1972

1. NAME			
COMMON: John W. Hunter House			
AND/OR HISTORIC: John W. Hunter House			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 556 West Maple			
CITY OR TOWN: Birmingham			
STATE: Michigan		CODE 26	COUNTY: Oakland
			CODE 125

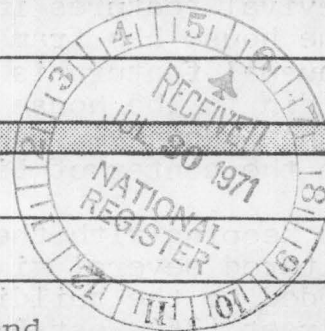
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: City of Birmingham			
STREET AND NUMBER: City Hall			
CITY OR TOWN: Birmingham		STATE: Michigan	CODE 26

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Oakland County Registry of Deeds			
STREET AND NUMBER: 1200 North Telegraph			
CITY OR TOWN: Pontiac		STATE: Michigan	CODE 26

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Michigan Historical Commission Register Local Site No. 130			
DATE OF SURVEY: 6-19-71 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Michigan Historical Commission			
STREET AND NUMBER: 3405 North Logan			
CITY OR TOWN: Lansing		STATE: Michigan	CODE 26

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Michigan
COUNTY: Oakland
ENTRY NUMBER JAN 13 1972
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Hunter House is a simple Greek Revival residence, one-and a-half stories high, and measuring 26 by 37 feet. Greek Revival features include cornice, cornice return, and lintels. The house has frame construction and clapboard siding. An unusual feature is the plank construction found behind the siding. The house was originally located at 168 South Woodward (then known as the Saginaw Trail). The original site is now in the center of Birmingham's commercial district.

In keeping with the needs of its many owners the house has been altered several times and moved twice. By 1872 a wing had been added to the building. In 1893 the house was moved to Fremont Street (264 West Brown Street). The wing was not moved with the rest of the house. Changes have been made in the size and use of rooms as well as in plumbing and heating systems. No evidence of the early heating system has been found. Around 1920 a porch was added to the back. When the house was moved in 1970, the porch was left behind. Restoration of the house is now underway. Attempts at authentication include the use of a fieldstone facade to resemble the original foundation. The wing (14 by 17 feet) will be reconstructed on the west side of the house.

The Hunter House has been moved twice but both times within a half mile radius of its original site. Birmingham and environs are now almost entirely residential suburbs of Detroit. The house's new site in a wooded park along a branch of the Rouge River is suggestive of its original setting.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian | ☐ 16th Century | ☐ 18th Century | ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century | ☐ 17th Century | ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1822, 1893, 1970

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

John W. Hunter arrived in Michigan Territory, March 10, 1818, from New York State. He settled in Bloomfield Township, Oakland County, in what is now the city of Birmingham and was soon joined by his wife, parents, and daughters. He is regarded as one of the first three or four settlers of the township.

Hunter was the original purchaser of the land upon which he built the Hunter House making a purchase September 5, 1821, and possibly one as early as December 2, 1818. First Hunter built a log house, and according to the county history published in 1877: "George Taylor, a carpenter, and without a doubt the first of his trade in the township, came in the spring of 1822....He stopped at the Hunter settlement, and worked on the frame house which John W. Hunter erected in that year. This was the first frame house built in Bloomfield, and is the same which is now occupied by Ira Toms."

By the late 1820s Hunter had established himself as a manufacturer of farm implements and constructed a furnace in Detroit on land leased from Lewis Cass and also built a foundry near his home in Bloomfield Township. He served as township highway commissioner, and as a militia captain.

John Hunter died in 1880 in Oakland County, three years after the county history was published. Long before, he had sold the house to his son-in-law, who in turn had sold it to Ira Toms. Toms was the owner in 1877. By 1893 Henry Randall owned the house and had it moved to Fremont Street (now Brown Street) possibly because of the commercial value of its original site.

The house served as a private residence to a series of individuals until it was purchased by the city of Birmingham in 1970. That same year it was moved to a new historical park on West Maple.

The history of the house has been exhaustively researched by members of the city historical society, and the recent move has meant an opportunity for painstaking study of the structure itself. Local interest in history centers around the Hunter House, which is not only the oldest house in town but

(cont'd)



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clohset, Virginia C. "The John W. Hunter House: A Report." Unpublished report. Birmingham Historical Society, 1970. Copy on file at the Michigan Historical Commission.

Durant, Samuel W. (ed.). History of Oakland County, Michigan. Philadelphia: L. H. Everts & Co., 1877.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		42° 32' 46"	83° 14' 59"	
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: one acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: <u>Catherine Ellis, Assistant Historian</u>	
ORGANIZATION <u>Michigan Historical Commission</u>	DATE <u>June 23, 1971</u>
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>3405 North Logan</u>	
CITY OR TOWN: <u>Lansing</u>	STATE <u>Michigan</u>
	CODE <u>26</u>

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

Name Samuel A. Milstein

Title Deputy Director and SLO
Dept. of Natural Resources

Date 7/26/71
by Norman F. Smith Acting

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Connelley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

JAN 13 1972

Date _____

ATTEST:

William J. Mustangs
Keeper of The National Register

Date JAN 8 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

17/317760/4712660
OTM Return
4677

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Michigan	
COUNTY Oakland	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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	JAN 13 1972

(Number all entries)

8. Significance (cont'd)

closely associated with one of the earliest settlers of the region.

The Hunter House is one of the oldest buildings in Midigan. It is a simple Greek Revival residence built for a man of considerable prominence in the early history of Oakland County.



72000648
oakland

RECEIPT

PROPERTY

(John W.) Hunter House

STATE

Mich.

REGISTER NUMBER

DATE OF RECEIPT

7/30/71

YES

NO

NUMBER

JAN 13 1972

DATA PAGE

PHOTO (S)

PHOTO DESCRIP (S)

MAP (S)

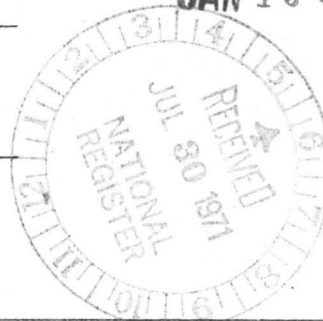
MAP DESCRIPTION (S)

LOGGED

ACKNOWLEDGE

7/30/71

RESUBMIT



REVIEW

although the house has been moved twice, it seems to be an important center for interest in local history. OK

Means 9/9/71

HISTORIAN

OK

Van Zee 12/9/71

ARCHAEOLOGIST

OK

5 Morrison 10/6/71

ARCHITECT

OK

Chambers 11-17-71

ASST. KEEPER

KEEPER

OK

Wm 1/3/72

ENTRY

CHIEF, OAHP

EMC 1-13-72

EDITORIAL PROCESSING, EDITOR

Date

Federal Register Entry

2/72

Annual Edition Entry

Logged

1/13/72

Card

WORKING NUMBER

730-7117

COMMENTS:

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:



The John W. Hunter House
BUILT IN 1822
THE OLDEST HOUSE IN THE CITY
BEING RESTORED BY THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
AND THE BIRMINGHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The John W. Hunter House
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THE OLDEST HOUSE IN THE CITY
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AND THE BIRMINGHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MICHIGAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION
HISTORIC SITE SURVEY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

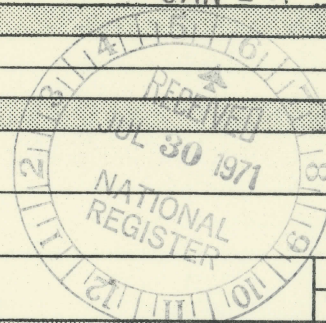
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Michigan	
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: John W. Hunter			
AND/OR HISTORIC: John W. Hunter			
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STREET AND NUMBER: 556 West Maple			
CITY OR TOWN: Birmingham			
STATE: Michigan		CODE 26	COUNTY: Oakland
			CODE 126
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Michigan Historical Commission			
DATE OF PHOTO: December, 1970			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Michigan Historical Commission			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. The front of the house is shown; the house faces south.			



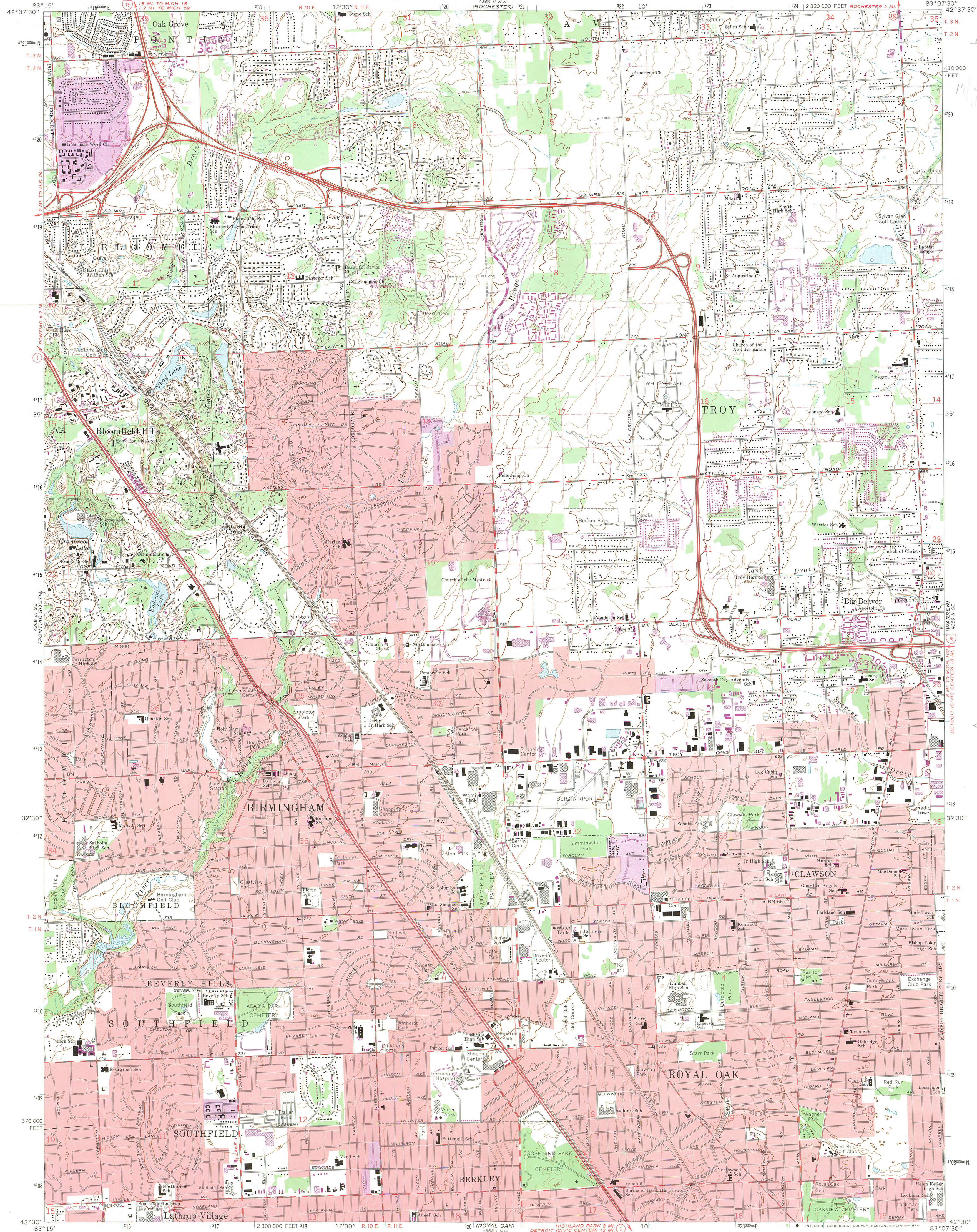
PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

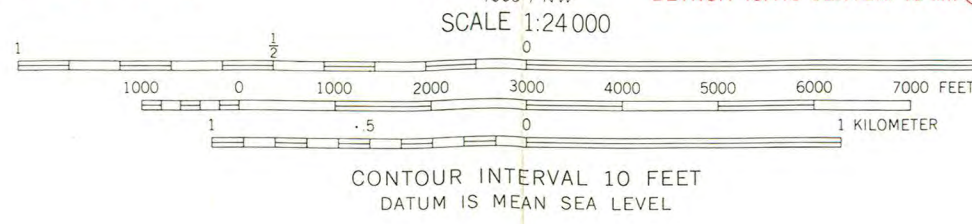
BIRMINGHAM QUADRANGLE
MICHIGAN-OAKLAND CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

John W. Hunter
P40007358

11/21/76
11/2660



Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
in cooperation with State of Michigan agencies
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
Topography by planimetric surveys 1942-1943
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1967. Field checked 1968
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
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

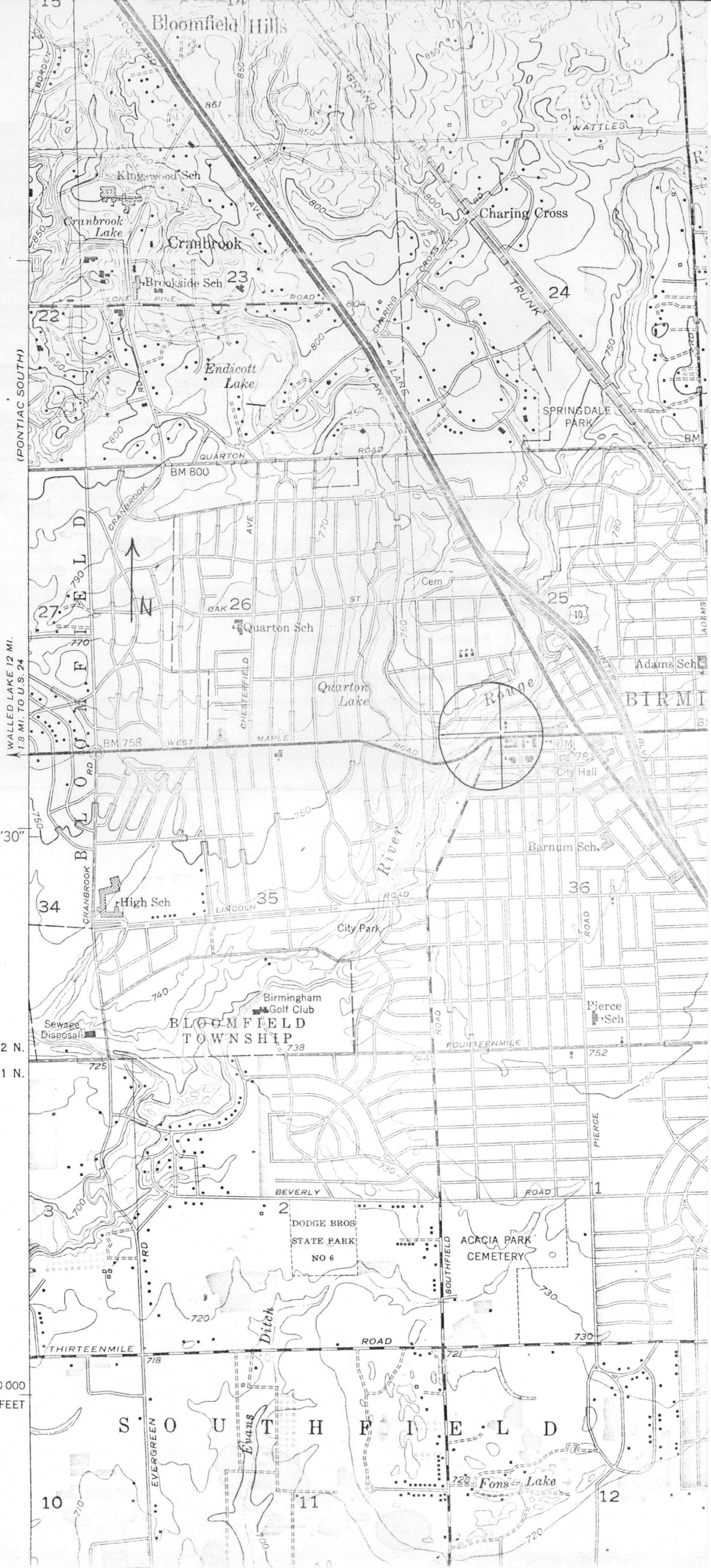


ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, all weather, hard surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface
Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
Interstate Route
U. S. Route
State Route

BIRMINGHAM, MICH.
N4230-W8307.5/7.5
1968
PHOTO REVISSED 1973
AMS 4369 II SW-SERIES W862

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1973. This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



42° 32' 46"
83° 14' 59"

WALLED LAKE 12 MI.
1.8 MI. TO U.S. 24

32'30"

T. 2 N.
T. 1 N.

370 000
FEET

Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

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CITY OR TOWN: Birmingham			
STATE: Michigan	CODE 26	COUNTY: Oakland	CODE 125
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U.S.G.S., Birmingham, Michigan'			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1952			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

PH0007358

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTERSTATE MICHIGANDate Entered JAN 13 1972

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Caswell House	Troy Oakland County
Ward-Holland House	Marine City St. Clair County
Hunter (John W.) House	Birmingham Oakland County
Call (C.H.) House	Marquette Marquette County
Moross House.	Detroit Wayne County
New Fort Brady	Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa County
Ramsdell Theatre	Manistee Manistee County

Also Notified

Hon. Philip A. Hart
 Hon. Robert P. Griffin
 Hon. William S. Brocafield
 Hon. James Harvey
 Hon. Philip E. Ruppe
 Hon. Lucien N. Nedzi
 Hon. Guy Vander Jagt

State Liaison Officer
 Mr. Samuel Milstein
 Acting Deputy Director-Recreation
 Department of Natural Resources
 Mason Building
 Lansing, Michigan 48926

Director, Northeast Region

/ HR

MCMeans:mmm 1/13/72