

PH0006874

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

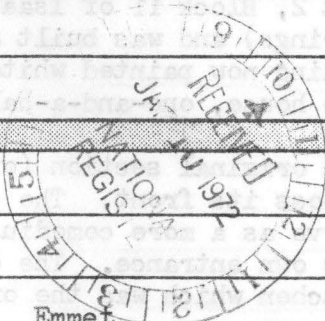
STATE: Michigan	
COUNTY: Emmet	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER APR 14 1972	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON: (Chief Blackbird Ottawa Indian Museum)  
AND/OR HISTORIC: X Chief Andrew J. Blackbird House

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: 368 East Main Street  
CITY OR TOWN: Harbor Springs  
STATE: Michigan CODE: 26 COUNTY: Emmet CODE: 047



**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input 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 Harbor Springs  
STREET AND NUMBER: 349 East Main Street  
CITY OR TOWN: Harbor Springs STATE: Michigan CODE: 26

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Registry of Deeds Office  
STREET AND NUMBER: 463 East Lake Street  
CITY OR TOWN: Petoskey STATE: Michigan CODE: 26

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Michigan Historical Commission Registered State Site #352  
DATE OF SURVEY: 10-29-71  Federal  State  County  Local  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Division of Michigan History  
STREET AND NUMBER: 208 North Capitol Avenue, Mutual Building  
CITY OR TOWN: Lansing STATE: Michigan CODE: 26

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Michigan	ENTRY NUMBER APR 14 1972	FOR NPS USE ONLY
COUNTY: Emmet		
DATE		

**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 type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The Chief Andrew Blackbird House is located on a part of the north half of Lot 2, Block 11 of Isaac Whichers survey of Little Traverse (now Harbor Springs) and was built about 1860. It is a wood frame building with wooden siding now painted white. The gable roof is covered with construction paper. The house, one-and-a-half stories high, rests on a cement block foundation.

The original section (on the left in the photograph) has a porch extending across its front. The section on the right was added in the early 1870s to serve as a more comodius post office. This section has a flase front and its own entrance. The entrance in the original section opens into the kitchen which was the original post office. Each section has a brick chimney.

The changes to the house, in addition to general maintenance, have been to install a lavatory and furnace. The original house plan and features have been preserved.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**SIGNIFICANCE**

**PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

**SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)**

**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              | osophy  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture               | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention             | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture              | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape             | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian   | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" 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**

This building was the residence of the Chief Andrew Blackbird family as well as the first post office in Harbor Springs (formerly Little Traverse). Blackbird, son of an Ottawa chief, was the first postmaster of Little Traverse. It is now an Indian Museum housing antiques and relics from the Ottawa Indians and early settlers of the region. It is the only such museum in the area.

Blackbird compiled and published two books on the Indian language and legends, one of which contained an autobiography. Blackbird's writing is one of the few accounts of the experiences of a Michigan Indian in adapting himself to the conditions of white civilization. In addition to serving in other government posts, this proponent of Indian civil rights was US interpreter for the Mackinac Agency in 1861 and was appointed postmaster of Little Traverse April 12, 1869. As the village was small, the post office was set up in the Blackbird kitchen, and residents stopped at the house to pick up their mail. This arrangement worked until the white population increased thereby resulting in an improvement in the salary, making the job more attractive to others. In 1873 Washington was petitioned to have Blackbird removed. In order to appease the townsfolk, Chief Blackbird built a more comfortable office; however, he was replaced as postmaster June 4, 1877. The original mailboxes are now in the museum with some of the names of the original box holders still on the board.

Surrounded by modern civilization, dejected, blind, deaf, and senile, Blackbird died at the county poor farm. The house remained in the family until 1947 when it was sold to the Michigan Indian Foundation to be used as a local museum specializing in Indian artifacts. The City of Harbor Springs obtained possession of the house in 1964 with the stipulation that it be used as an Indian museum.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Blackbird, Andrew J. History of the Ottawa and Chippewa Indians of Michigan. Ypsilanti: Ypsilantian Job Printing House, 1887.  
 Greenmen, E.F. "Indian Chiefs of Michigan," Michigan History, XXIII (1939), 220-222.  
 Swift, Ivan. "Chief Blackbird," Michigan History, X (1926), 233-240.  
 Walz, Grace. "Andrew Jackson Blackbird of L'Abre Croche" (unpublished M.A. thesis, Western Michigan University, 1964).  
Grand Traverse Herald, September 11, 1908.  
 Correspondence from the City Clerk, City of Harbor Springs, Michigan, in the Site Survey files of the Michigan Historical Commission.

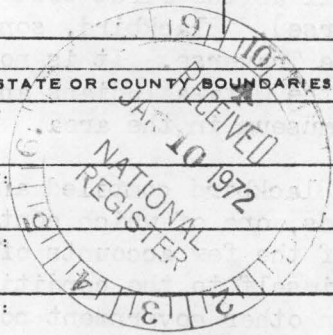
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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	
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds 0   '   "	Degrees Minutes Seconds 0   '   "		Degrees Minutes Seconds 45°   25'   49"	Degrees Minutes Seconds 84°   59'   05"	
NE	0   '   "	0   '   "				
SE	0   '   "	0   '   "				
SW	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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS  
 16/657650/5038500  
 5-14-71  
 CM PCT 100

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Constance Henslee, Assistant Historian

ORGANIZATION: Michigan Historical Commission      DATE: 20 September 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: 3405 North Logan Street

CITY OR TOWN: Lansing      STATE: Michigan      CODE: 26

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

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 D. Weinstein  
 Title: Deputy Director - Recreation SLO for Historic Preservation  
 Date: 12/28/71

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

Robert M. Utley  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 4/14/72

ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: April 7, 1972

Emmet

Chief Blackbird Ottawa Indian Mich.

DATE OF RECEIPT 1/10/72 YES NO NUMBER 72000611 MUSEUM REGISTER:

APR 14 1972

12/6/72

DATA PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

PHOTO (S) \_\_\_\_\_

PHOTO DESCRIPTION (S) \_\_\_\_\_

MAP (S) \_\_\_\_\_

MAP DESCRIPTION (S) \_\_\_\_\_

LOGGED \_\_\_\_\_

ACKNOWLEDGE \_\_\_\_\_

RESUBMIT \_\_\_\_\_

1/11/72

check of j/l: 3/24/72



REVIEW

HISTORIAN "Aboriginal - Historic" category should be checked. Olay. Sailes 3/28/72

ARCHAEOLOGIST

ARCHITECT OK Chambers 3-27-72

ASST. KEEPER UGM 010 P. Miller 4/3/72

KEEPER AFB for 4/7/72

WRITER/EDITOR OK on local significance, but don't agree in museum with state sig. Checked. OK 3/27/72

CHIEF, OAHB

EDITORIAL PROCESSING, EDITOR

Federal Registry Entry 6-6-72 Annual Edition Entry

Logged APR 14 1972 Card APR 14 1972

REMARKS: WORKING NUMBER 1,10,72,74



CHIEF BLACKBIRD HOME  
MICHIGAN INDIAN FOUNDATION  
MUSEUM

NPS Number 4/14/72

Title: Chief Andrew Blackbird House  
Emmet, Michigan  
Building

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	
COUNTY Emmet	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
APR 14 1972	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Chief Blackbird Ottawa Indian Museum  
AND/OR HISTORIC: Chief Andrew Blackbird House ✓

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
368 East Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Harbor Springs

STATE: Michigan

CODE 26	COUNTY: Emmet	CODE 047
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**3. PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT: City of Harbor Springs

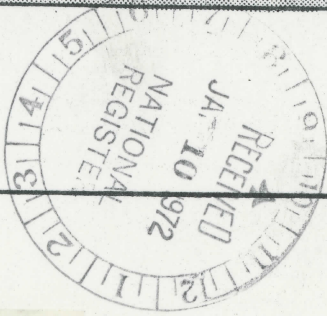
DATE OF PHOTO: 1971

NEGATIVE FILED AT:  
City of Harbor Springs, 349 E. Main St., Harbor Springs, Mi

**4. IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Front of building faces north.



CHIEF BLACKBIRD OTTAWA INDIAN MUSEUM

P40006874

MULLETT LAKE

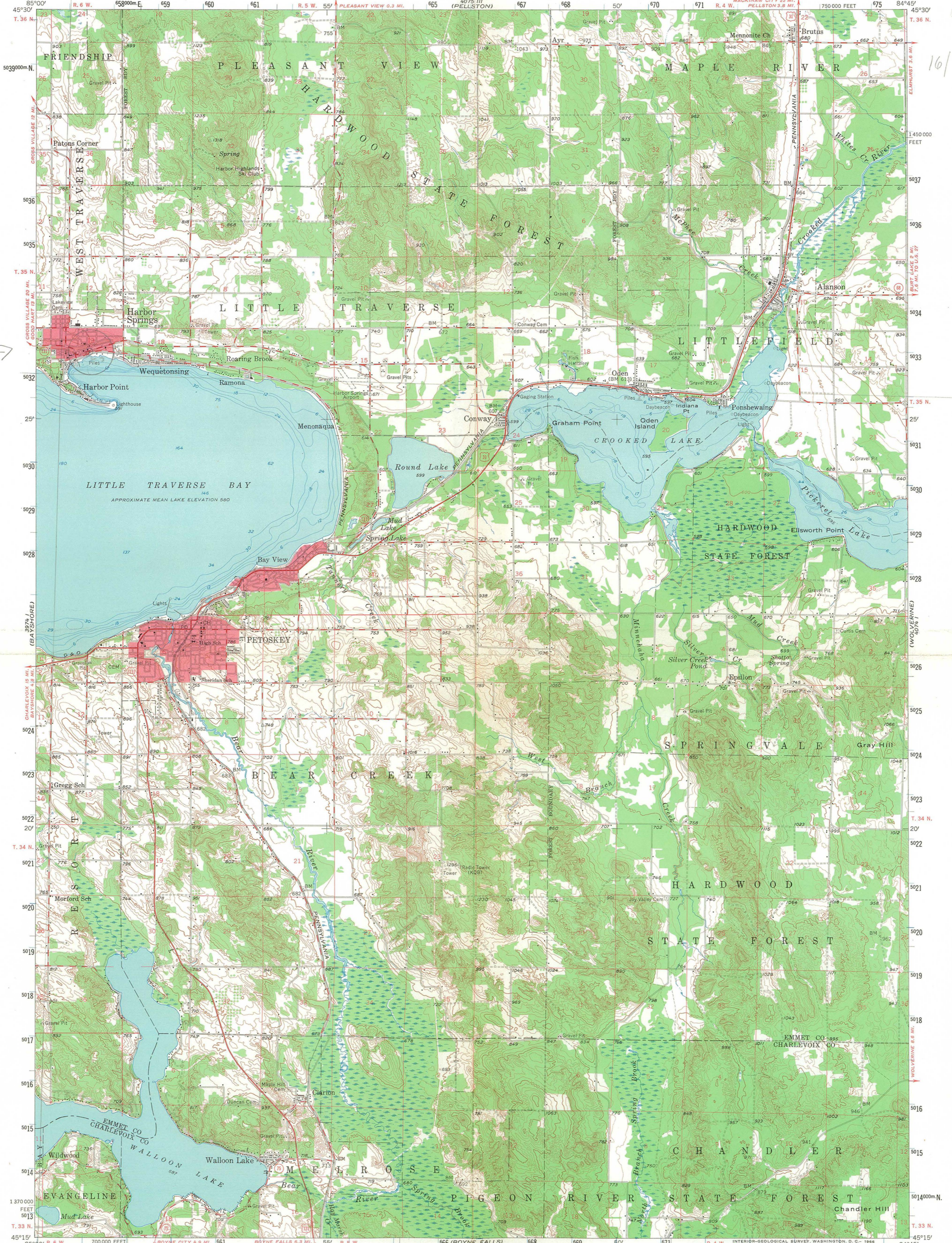
UTM ZONE 16  
3-14-77

16/ 657 650  
5032-500

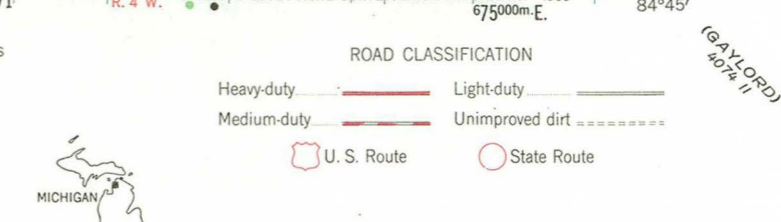
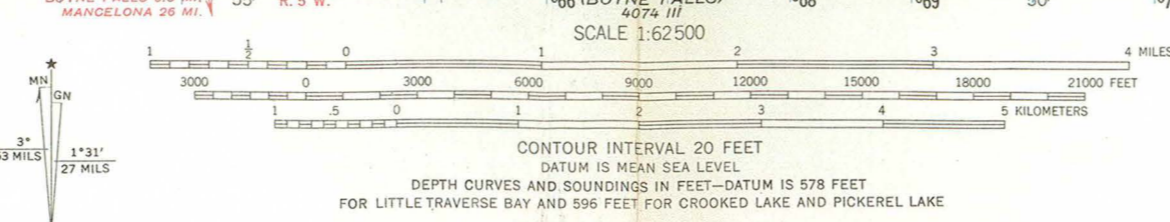
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

MICHIGAN  
STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT  
JOHN C. MACKIE  
STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER

PETOSKEY QUADRANGLE  
MICHIGAN  
15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods  
Aerial photographs taken 1953-1956. Field check 1958  
Hydrography compiled from U. S. Lake Survey charts 66 (1958) and  
706 (1957)  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Michigan coordinate system, central zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 16, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates areas in which only  
landmark buildings are shown



PETOSKEY, MICH.  
N4515-W8445/15

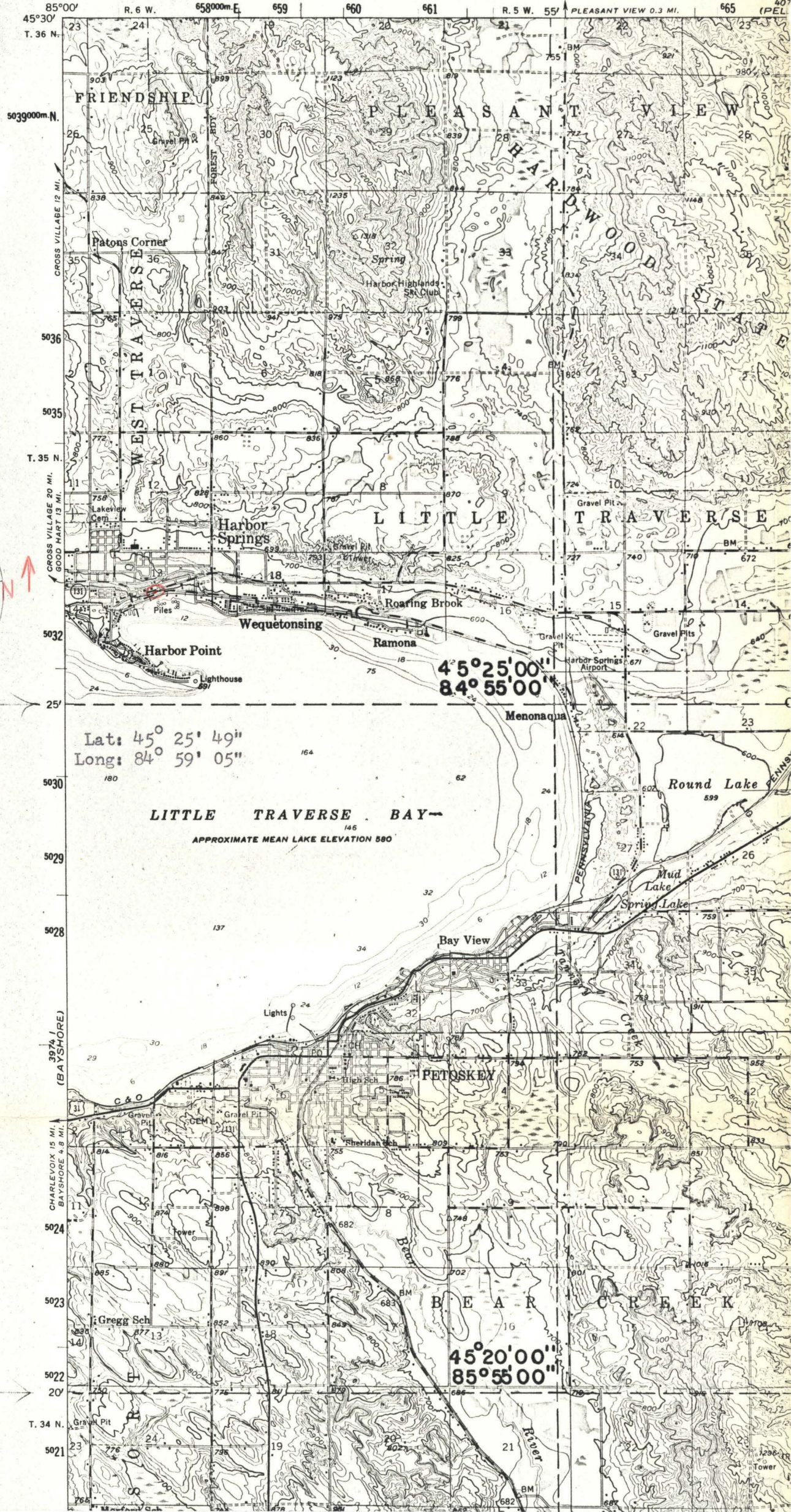
1958  
AMS 4074 IV—SERIES V762

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

MICH  
STATE HIGHWA  
JOHN C.  
STATE HIGHWA

(CROSS VILLAGE)  
373



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

STATE	
Michigan	
COUNTY	
Emmet	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 14 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Chief Blackbird Ottawa Indian Museum  
AND/OR HISTORIC: Chief Andrew J. Blackbird House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
368 East Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Harbor Springs

STATE:	Michigan	CODE	20	COUNTY:	Emmet	CODE	047
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3. MAP REFERENCE

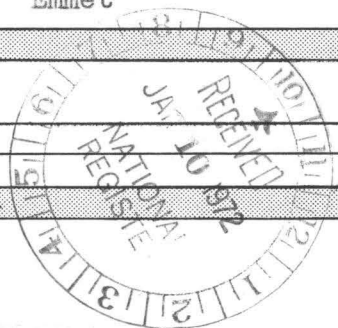
SOURCE: Petoskey

SCALE: 1:62500

DATE:

4. REQUIREMENTS

- TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. Property boundaries where required.
  2. North arrow.
  3. Latitude and longitude reference.
- PH0006874



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MICHIGAN

Date Entered APR 14 1972

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Old West Side District	Ann Arbor Washtenaw County
Chief Blackbird Ottawa Indian Museum	Harbor Springs Emmet County
Sandburg House	Harbert Berrien County

Hon. Philip A. Hart      Also Notified  
 Hon. Robert P. Griffin  
 Hon. Marvin L. Esch  
 Hon. Philip E. Ruppe  
 Hon. Edward Hutchinson  
 Director, Northeast Region

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