

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

1. Name

historic The Winter Inn

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 100 N. Lafayette Street not for publication

city, town Greenville vicinity of congressional district 10

state Michigan code 026 county Montcalm code 117

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: hotel & restaurant

4. Owner of Property

name John B. Stafford

street & number 410 South Street

city, town Greenville vicinity of state Michigan

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montcalm County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Stanton state Michigan

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Michigan State Register of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records Michigan History Division, Department of State

city, town Lansing state Michigan 48918

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7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Winter Inn is located in Greenville, a regional market town and trading center of about 7500 people in Montcalm County in western Michigan. The building is sited on the northeast corner of Lafayette and Grove streets in the central business district. The front faces Lafayette Street with a secondary elevation on Grove Street. The other two sides, the north and east elevations, are not architecturally designed.

The brick building is basically composed of a three-story, 'L' shaped, flat roofed, main block adjoined by a two-story, flat-roofed addition extending to the east on Grove Street. The front corner of the main block at Lafayette and Grove is canted. A modern one-story kitchen wing has been constructed out-of-sight in the rear of the structure to replace an earlier one which burned in 1979.

The Winter Inn is of a utilitarian design. The austere red brick walls are relieved only by the wide rock-faced brownstone belt courses that encompass the building above the second and third story windows and by the metal bracketed cornice. Originally there was a stone belt course above the first story windows also, but this was removed many years ago when the first floor facade was altered. When the Winter Inn was built, a wooden, tuscan-columned porch extended across the Lafayette Street elevation and wrapped around the corner extending one bay east on Grove Street. This porch was removed before 1940 and has not been rebuilt. The fenestration, asymmetrically-arranged, one-over-one, sash is varied on the first floor front by three wide, tripartite, arched windows with leaded glass fanlights flanking the double-door entrance with fanlight located at the canted corner. All of the first floor fenestration had been extensively altered in the 1950s, but has now been reconstructed to its original configuration.

The interior has been restored to nearly its original floor plan and appearance. As much of the original fabric as remains has been incorporated into the restoration while modern reproductions and antique elements salvaged from other Greenville buildings of about the same period are being used to replace missing features and to recreate the original interior appearance. Old photographs of the building taken in the early 1900s are being used to guide the restoration, which is being accomplished under the auspices of the Tax Reform Act of 1976.

The first floor of the hotel had been extensively altered when it was divided into shops and a restaurant. The original floor plan has been restored. The main entrance in the canted front corner leads through a vestibule into the lobby containing a large turn-of-the-century hotel desk. The lobby is separated from the original lounge (which is now used as a dining room/bar) extending east along the Grove Street side of the main building by a pair of oak tuscan columns. The large main dining room is in its original location to the north of the lobby occupying the entire area of the original north wing along Lafayette Street. The remainder of the first floor area is composed of functional spaces including coatrooms, toilet rooms, and storage, except for the banquet room on the first floor of the two-story east wing on Grove Street. A modern kitchen and dining room addition have filled much of the space behind the original Winter Inn.

(continued)

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DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

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All of the first floor spaces were originally simply finished with typical features of the period including plain board door casings, plastered walls, pressed tin ceilings, and wood and patterned mosaic tile floors. The interiors are being restored to reflect this period.

The second floor contains fourteen guest rooms, each about 13' x 14', with attached private baths. This floor has mostly modern finishes and furnishings. The third floor remains in its original state. It was closed in the 1930s and has been un-used ever since. It contains guest rooms arranged along a double-loaded corridor. The simple original woodwork including natural finish door and window casings, baseboards and five-panel doors with transoms remains intact. Many of the rooms still contain their original, wall-mounted, basins. Since there are no immediate plans to utilize the third floor, it will remain as it is.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> invention				

Specific dates 1902 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Winter Inn is significant as a still-functioning example of the modest, locally-owned hotels once common, but now becoming scarce, in small towns across the nation. It is architecturally significant as a good example of the simple, functional, turn-of-the-century, vernacular architecture of main street America during the late Victorian period. The Winter Inn is historically significant as the successor to a string of hotels established at this site since 1850, that have served as the social focus for this important agricultural trading center in western Michigan.

Three years after Greenville was founded in 1844 a private residence was constructed on this site by Stephen Rossman. In 1850 Rossman converted his house into an inn. The Rossman House, as the hotel was known, went through various ownerships before it burned in 1863. Another hotel was erected on the site in 1865 and named the Edwards House. About 1870 the Edwards House was damaged by fire, but was promptly repaired and opened as the Webster House. In the 1870s and 1880s, extensive additions were made to this buildings, a boxy, clapboarded, three-story, hip-roofed, Italianate structure with bracketed eaves and a cupola. The hotel had various owners and names until March of 1899 when it was destroyed by fire.

T. B. Winter, the owner at the time of the fire, completed the present brick structure on the site in 1902. Since its reopening it has been known as the Winter Inn.

The new Winter Inn was the most luxurious and modern hotel in Montcalm County. It originally had forty guest rooms, but this was increased to sixty by the addition of a new wing within a decade after its construction. The latest conveniences were installed as they became available, including electric lights and telephones, both of which were in use by 1912. In addition to providing well-appointed rooms equipped with the latest conveniences, the inn went to great lengths to maintain a reputation for fine cuisine. The quality of a hotel's dining room was a matter of great pride and fierce competition among hostelryes in the early twentieth century, since this could determine whether or not an establishment would become the social center of the community, the chosen meeting place for prestigious local organizations and the preferred lodging for travelers. The Winter Inn maintained one of the region's most popular restaurants by offering an extensive menu of elegant gourmet selections and many other unusual items designed to tempt the local populace, as well as travelers, to dine at the hotel.

The Winter Inn succeeded in gaining a reputation as the biggest and the best in the region. As a result, as traffic through the town declined steadily after World War I and through the 1920s and 1930s, the Winter Inn remained viable while its rivals were closed and destroyed. The building was modified continuously over the years to respond to changing tastes and functional requirements. For example, probably in the late 1930s, the porch had been removed, glass block installed in some of the windows, and flat Art Moderne style stainless steel hoods placed over the doors to give the building a

(continued)

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more up-to-date appearance. In the 1950s and 1960s the facade was remodelled again by the construction of a two-story, bowed, Colonial style entrance portico at the corner and the installation of colonial and half-timbered storefronts across the first floor. The interior was divided into small shops, a private dining club and a hotel, while the second floor rooms were modernized and new baths installed. The third floor was closed in the 1930s and has remained unaltered.

Unsympathetically altered, but still marginally in business, the Winter Inn limped into the 1970s. In 1979 a fire, which destroyed a modern kitchen wing, lead to the closing of the building. The owner determined at that time to restore the structure to its original appearance as a first class restaurant and hotel. Since then the facade has been returned to its original design with the reconstruction of the fenestration. Only the porch has not been rebuilt. The interior is also being restored to approximately its original appearance. Photographs showing the inn as it looked in the early 1900s are being used as a guide to the restoration, which is being accomplished under the auspices of the Tax Reform Act of 1976.

When it is complete, the Winter Inn will not only authentically reflect the appearance of a small town hotel of the turn-of-the-century, but it will carry on its 130 year long role of offering food and lodging to Greenville residents and visitors.

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

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RECEIVED

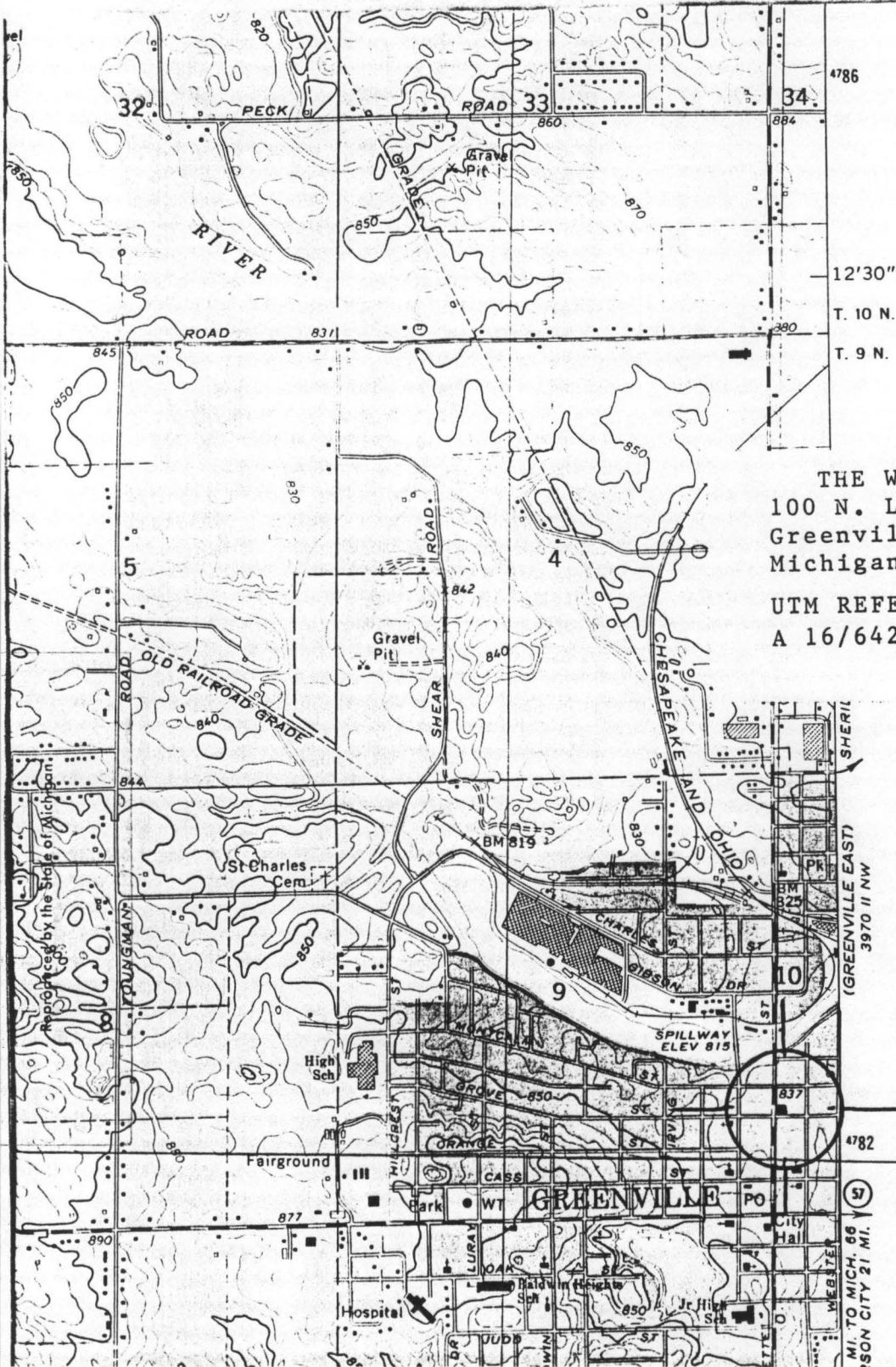
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Montcalm County Records, Montcalm County Courthouse, Stanton, MI

The Farm Journal Directory of Montcalm County Wilmer Atkinson Co., Phil. 1917.



THE WINTER INN
 100 N. Lafayette Street
 Greenville, Montcalm Co.
 Michigan

UTM REFERENCE:
 A 16/642020/4782180

16/642/020

16/4782/180

4786

12'30"

T. 10 N.

T. 9 N.

4782

37

MI. TO MICH. 66

SON CITY 21 MI.

WEBSTER

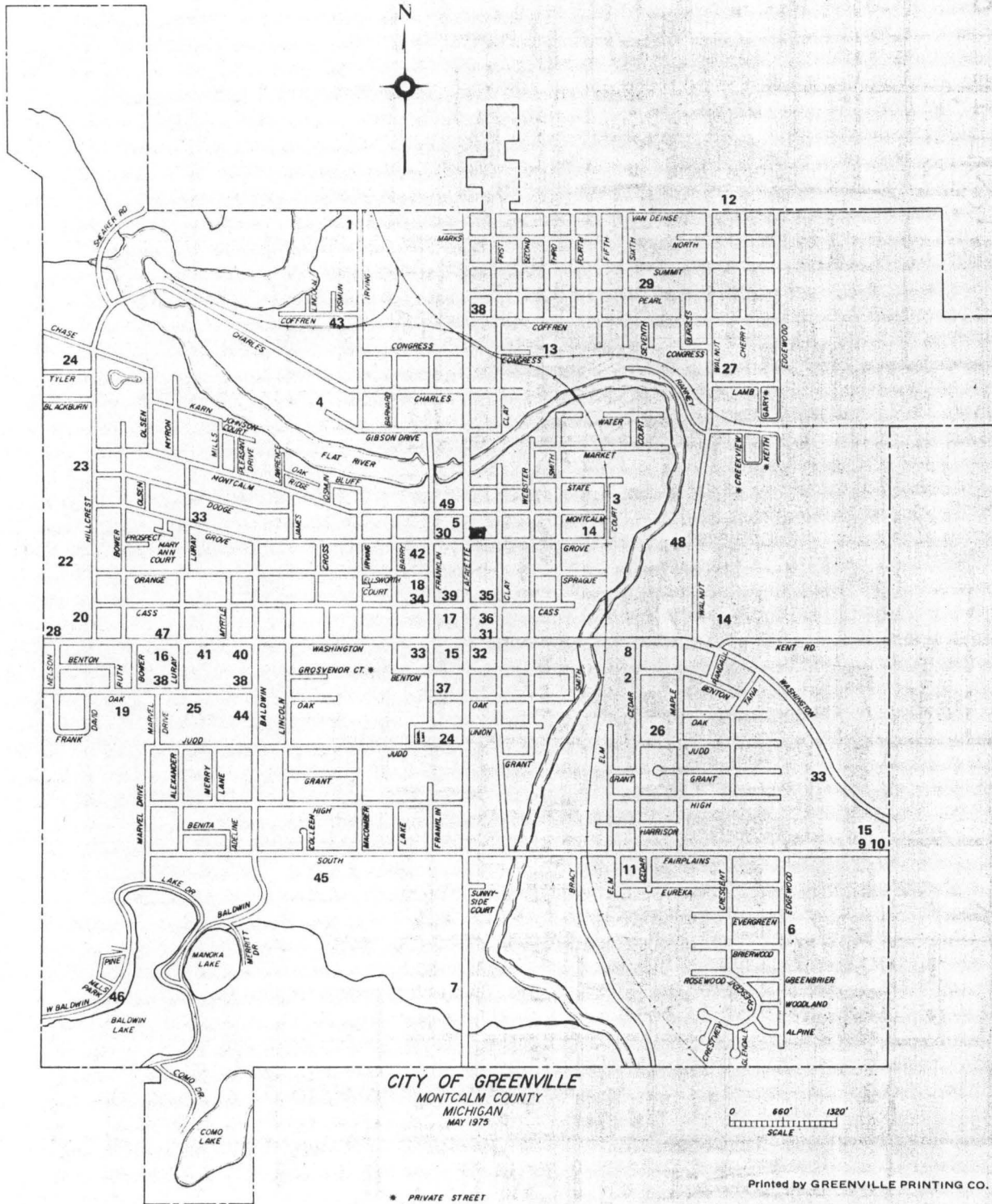
MI. TO MICH. 66

SON CITY 21 MI.

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CITY OF GREENVILLE

Reproduced by the State of Michigan



Printed by GREENVILLE PRINTING CO. 1/77

Property Winter Inn

State mi-montcalm

Working Number 2-13-80 495

80001883

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos 8

Maps 1

HISTORIAN

This building is eligible for architecture and commerce - Built in 1902
this three story brick hotel is a good example of late Victorian, modest, utilitarian,
vernacular commercial architecture. The Winter Inn played an important role in this small
town's economy. ^{over} for years it was rated the grandest hotel in the country. It occupies a corner
that has been the site of hotels since 1850. less than 1 acre.

accept
Tatuck/Andrews
4/15/80

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Given Preliminary Cert. for Individual
Listing on 2/8/80. Ground floor west side had been
heavily altered in 1930s + again in 1950s. Rehab did not
restore original porch configuration.

accept
Saxe
4-15-80

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

accept
Saxe
4-15-80

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry 2.3.81

Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

Entered APR 17 1980

6 April, 1987

To: All National Register File Users

From: Mark L. Baker

A photocopy of this nomination was provided by the state office to replace the copy of the nomination that is missing from our files. This is not a copy of the original document that was included in the National Register.



WINTER INN
100 North Lafayette Street
Greenville, Montcalm County, Michigan

FEB 13 1980

Photographer: unknown

Date: c. 1905

Negative: John B. Stafford Enterprises
100 N. Lafayette Street
Greenville, MI 48838

View: The Winter Inn about 1905

Photo: 1 of 8

APR 17 1980

1



Greenville
Construction
Company, Incorporated
GENERAL CONTRACTORS
1000 W. 10th St. - Grand Rapids, Mich.
616-455-1100

VAN HAREN
ELECTRIC
INC.
8795 Conservation Rd. Ada, MI.
676-1132

N. LA. ST

WINTER INSULATION
Call for a free estimate
1-800-368-3683

2

WINTER INN
100 North Lafayette
Greenville, Montcalm County, Michigan

FEB 13 1980

Photographer: unknown

Date: August 1979

APR 17 1980

Negative: John B. Stafford Enterprises
100 N. Lafayette Street
Greenville, Michigan 48838

View: Lafayette Street elevation during restoration

Photo: 2 of 8

APR 17 1980



NO
TURN
ON RED

WINTER INN

P
PARKING

CLARK ST
E. SIDE ST

W
4

11

WINTER INN
100 North Lafayette
Greenville, Montcalm County, Michigan

FEB 13 1980

Photographer: unknown
Date: December, 1979
Negative: John B. Stafford Enterprises
100 N. Lafayette Street
Greenville, Michigan 48838

APR 17 1980

View: The Winter Inn looking northeast at the
corner of Lafayette and Grove streets
after restoration

Photo: 3 of 8



MEMBER
FEDERAL RESERVE
SYSTEM

MEMBER
FEDERAL RESERVE
SYSTEM



K

#5

WINTER INN
100 North Lafayette
Greenville, Montcalm County, Michigan

FEB 13 1980

Photographer: unknown
Date: December, 1979
Negative: John B. Stafford Enterprises
100 N. Lafayette Street
Greenville, Michigan 48838

APR 17 1980

View: Side entrance door from the vestibule showing
a typical period door treatment.

Photo: 4 of 8



9

WINTER INN
100 North Lafayette
Greenville, Montcalm County, Michigan

FEB 13 1980

Photographer: unknown
Date: December, 1979
Negative: John B. Stafford Enterprises
100 N. Lafayette Street
Greenville, Michigan 48838

View: The hotel desk during installation and
restoration. This is a period fixture salvaged
from a turn-of-the-century Greenville
structure that is similar to the original
front desk which was destroyed.

Photo: 5 of 8

APR 17 1980





6

~~10~~
10

WINTER INN
100 North Lafayette
Greenville, Montcalm County, Michigan

FEB 13 1980

Photographer: unknown
Date: December, 1979
Negative: John B. Stafford Enterprises
100 North Lafayette
Greenville, Michigan 48838
View: The main staircase during restoration
Photo: 6 of 8

APR 17 1980

①

16
#

WINTER INN
100 North Lafayette
Greenville, Montcalm County, Michigan

Photographer: unknown
Date: December, 1979
Negative: John B. Stafford Enterprises
View: modern reproduction of a period fireplace
Photo: 7 of 8

APR 17 1980

FEB 13 1980



00

WINTER INN
100 North Lafayette
Greenville, Montcalm County, Michigan

FEB 13 1980

Photographer: unknown

Date: August, 1979

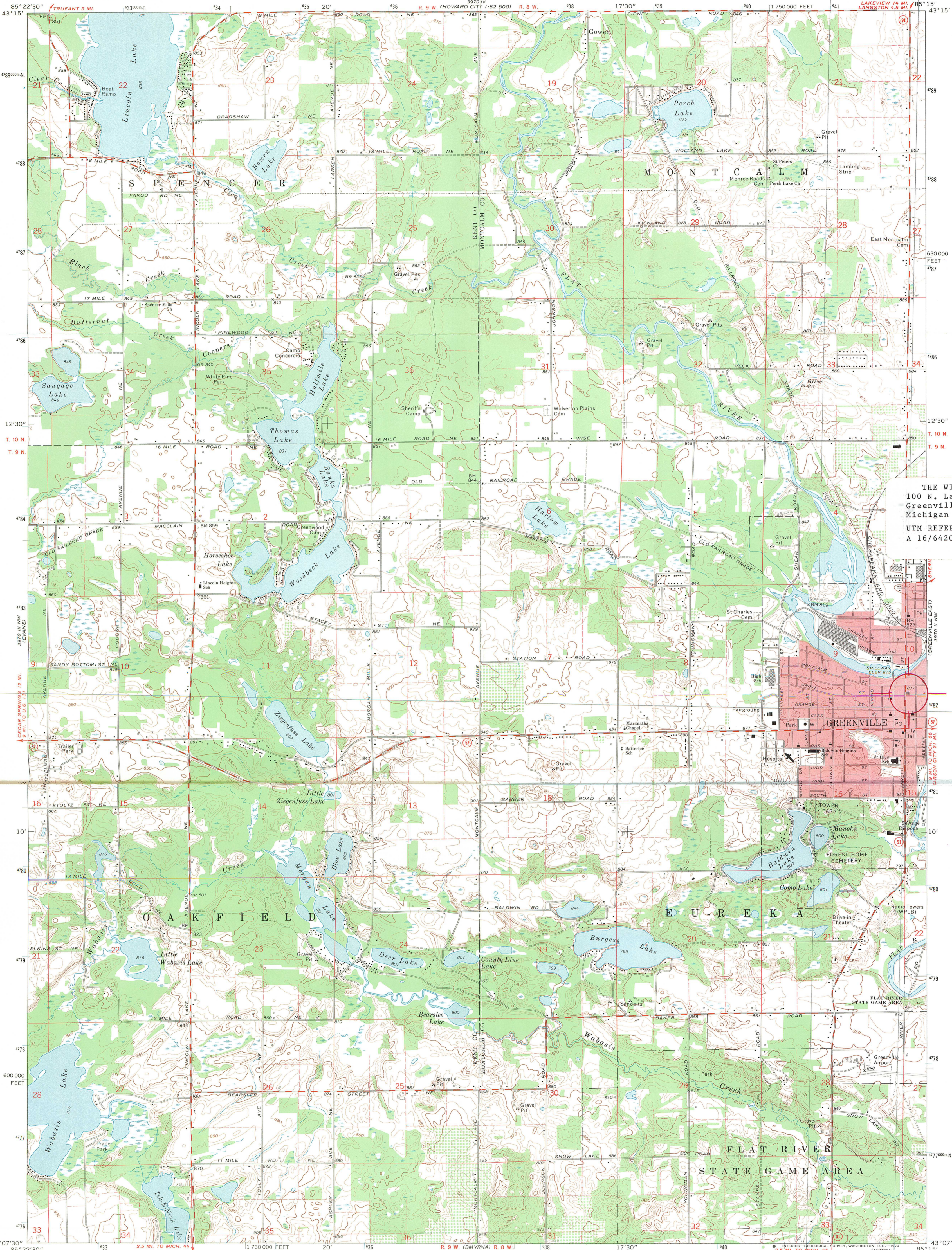
Negative: John B. Stafford Enterprises
100 North Lafayette Street
Greenville, Michigan 48838

View: The third floor cooridor before restoration
showing the original woodwork and doors
used as models for the restoration of the
lower floors.

Photo: 8 of 8

APR 17 1980

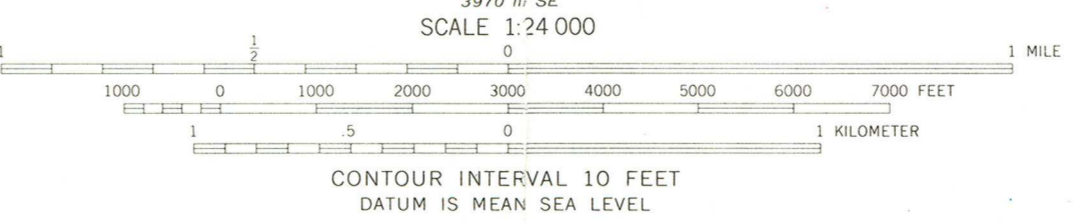
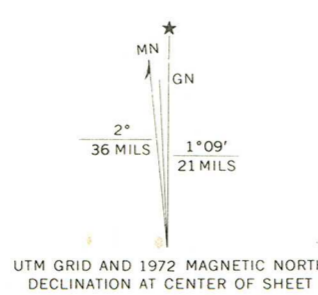
001



THE WINTER INN
100 N. Lafayette Street
Greenville, Montcalm Co.
Michigan
UTM REFERENCE:
A 16/642020/4782180

16/642/020
16/4782/180

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
in cooperation with State of Michigan agencies
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1972
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Michigan coordinate system, south zone
2000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 16, 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, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

GREENVILLE WEST, MICH.
N4307.5-W8515.7.5
1972



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

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE
RICHARD H. AUSTIN SECRETARY OF STATE



LANSING
MICHIGAN 48918

MICHIGAN HISTORY DIVISION
ADMINISTRATION, ARCHIVES,
HISTORIC SITES, AND PUBLICATIONS

3423 N. Logan Street
517-373-0510

STATE MUSEUM
505 N. Washington Avenue
517-373-0515

February 7, 1980

Ms. Carol Shull, Acting Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243



Dear Ms. Shull:

I am submitting for your review three National Register nominations prepared by the Michigan History Division of the Michigan Department of State:

The Winter Inn, Greenville, Montcalm County

Clarkston Village, Clarkston, Oakland County

Henry Ford "Square House", Garden City, Wayne County

Would you kindly direct any requests for clarification to Kathryn Eckert, Supervisor of the Historic Sites Research Unit?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Martha M. Bigelow".

Martha M. Bigelow
Director, Michigan History Division
and
State Historic Preservation Officer

enc.

MMB/KBE/pr

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MICHIGAN

Date Entered

APR 17 1980

Name

Location

Goodspeed Brothers Building

Grand Rapids
Kent County

Winter Inn

Greenville
Montcalm County

Also Notified

Honorable Carl Levin

Honorable Donald W. Riegler, Jr.
Honorable Harold S. Sawyer
Honorable Donald J. Albosta

State Historic Preservation Officer
Dr. Martha Bigelow
Director
Michigan History Division
Department of State
Lansing, Michigan 48918

NR Byers/bjr 4/24/80

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.

County Montcalm

MICHIGAN HISTORY DIVISION
Michigan Department of State

Theme(s) Arch: 20C
Commerce

INVENTORY FORM

STATE REGISTER SITES
(Michigan Historical Commission Meeting)

X NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION REPORT
(State Historic Preservation Review Board Meeting)

Name of Site (Common) The Winter Inn

(Historic) The Winter Inn

Address: Street and Number 100 N. Lafayette

City/Town Greenville zip 48838

Significant Dates (construction, cornerstone event, etc.) 1900-1902

Significance/Description

The Winter Inn is a three-story, flat-roofed, brick and brownstone structure with a two-story addition of the same design. This utilitarian building is significant not only as a good example of the Victorian architecture of Main Street America at the turn-of-the-century, but also for its historic role as one of the social centers of its region for over half a century and the successor to a long string of hotels on the site dating back to 1850. It is currently being restored to its original appearance under the auspices of the Tax Reform Act of 1976.

Present Owner John B. Stafford

Address: Street and Number 410 South Street

City/Town Greenville zip 48838

Present Use vacant, being restored for use as a hotel and restaurant

State Register: To Be Local Site No. _____ To Be State Site No. _____

Date Listed _____ Marker _____

National Register Level of Significance: Local _____ State _____ National _____

Date Nominated _____ Date Sent _____ Date Listed _____

Date of: Commission Meeting _____ Review Board Meeting 12/11/79

Prepared by Leslie J. Vollmert Date 11/30/79

Source(s) see National Register Nomination

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Acknowledgment Letters

Name of Site (Common) The Winter Inn
(Historic) The Winter Inn

Individual to receive master copy:

John B. Stafford
Street Address 410 South Street
City/Town Greenville Zip 48838

Individuals to receive carbon copies:

1. Name Leslie K. Morford, Mayor, City of Greenville
Street Address 411 South Lafayette Street
City/Town Greenville Zip 48838

2. Name _____
Street Address _____
City/Town _____ Zip _____

3. Name _____
Street Address _____
City/Town _____ Zip _____



WINTER INN
100 North Lafayette Street
Greenville, Montcalm County, Michigan

Photographer: unknown

Date: c. 1905

Negative: John B. Stafford Enterprises
100 N. Lafayette Street
Greenville, MI 48838

View: The Winter Inn about 1905.

Photo: 1 of 8

#2