

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED DEC 03 1979
DATE ENTERED FEB 8 1980

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME
HISTORIC The Hirst Hotel

AND/OR COMMON The Holly Hotel

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER 110 Battle Alley
CITY, TOWN Holly VICINITY OF 19th
STATE Michigan COUNTY Oakland CODE 026 CODE 125

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME Dr. and Mrs. Leslie Sher
STREET & NUMBER 5210 Grange Hall Road
CITY, TOWN Holly VICINITY OF STATE Michigan

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Oakland County Court House
STREET & NUMBER 1200 North Telegraph Road
CITY, TOWN Pontiac STATE Michigan

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE State of Michigan
Battle Alley Historic District
DATE _____
____FEDERAL STATE ____COUNTY ____LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Michigan History Division, Department of State
CITY, TOWN Lansing STATE Michigan 48918

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 Holly Hotel is located in the central business district of the town of Holly on a side street (Battle Alley) one block off the main street adjacent to the railroad tracks. The neighboring buildings are 2-story, late Victorian, commercial buildings.

The hotel is a domestically scaled, 2½-story, gabled, hip-roofed, red brick, rectangular, Queen Anne style structure about 50 feet wide by 75 feet long. There are two equally important facades: a long north elevation facing Battle Alley (Martha Street), and a narrow east elevation facing the railroad tracks on Broad Street. The transition from the dormered, hip-roofed, north elevation is accomplished by means of a 3-story, helmet-domed, octagonal, corner tower, which is the most architecturally distinctive features of the building.

The first story of the north elevation is assymmetrical with a pair of off-center doors flanked by single windows and two, large, tripartite windows set under broad segmental arches. The plain, one-over-one sash openings on the second floor are alligned with the fenestration of the lower story. Two large, gabled, shingled dormers with panelling separating the sash windows are placed low on the towering, steeply pitched, hip roof. The Tuscan columned porch sheltering the entrance is a 1913 replacement of the original 1891 one which burned.

The first story of the east elevation is symmetrical with a central entrance with a small-paned transom, flanked by segmentally-arched, tripartite windows of the same type as those on the north elevation. On the second floor, three one-over-one sash windows are centered over the first story fenestration. A small porch sheltering the entrance was destroyed by fire in 1978 and has not yet been rebuilt. Placed low in the tall gable that dominates this elevation are three, closely-spaced, plain, one-over-one, sash windows.

The interior is simply finished with stock millwork and plaster walls dating from a 1913 rebuilding. In addition, some ornamental, ceramic tile floors and pressed tin ceilings can be found in the lobby and dining room. The interiors were damaged by fire in 1978, but are being restored using as much of the old woodwork, tin ceilings and ceramic tile floors as can be salvaged.

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 checked="" 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 1891, 1913, 1930, 1978 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Holly Hotel is significant for its prominent role in the social life of Holly and as an example of the rapidly vanishing railroad hotels once so common in small town America.

The hotel was built in 1891 by John Hirst who named it after himself. Holly's location on a major railroad route ensured a steady flow of travelers through the town on the twenty-two passenger trains that passed this junction daily. Hirst located his hotel immediately adjacent to the tracks in order to capture as much of the trade as possible.

The hotel rapidly became the social center of the region as the finest and largest dining room in the area. Many local private clubs and organizations held their meetings here, such as the Washington Club, the oldest private club in Oakland County. Its convenient location near the tracks made it a popular dining place for area residents, many of whom would come by rail from surrounding towns for an afternoon or evening meal and then return home on a later train. As the finest hotel in Holly, many notable visitors to the town stayed there including Governor Thomas E. Dewey and Governor G. Mennen Williams. A less welcome visitor was temperance crusader Carrie Nation who railed against the evils of alcohol at the Holly Hotel Bar in 1908.

The heyday of the hotel was from 1891 to 1930. During this period the domestically-scaled Queen Anne building was one of the more architecturally notable structures in the town. Its tower was a local landmark. In January of 1913, the structure suffered a disastrous fire. The second and third floors were completely destroyed. Mr. Joseph P. Allen, who had bought the building the previous year, immediately rebuilt it in a much more modest style lowering the roof, eliminating the top two levels of the tower and substituting robust, tuscan-columned porches for the more delicately scaled original ones on the north and east facades. The second floor fenestration was slightly rearranged at this time, although the first floor remained unchanged from its original design. Allen re-opened it as the Allendorf later that year.

While Holly flourished and rail traffic remained steady the hotel thrived. By the 1930's, though, the old inn, like small town life and passenger railroad service, was fading in importance. In 1930 the Allendorf was purchased by Henry Norton who redecorated the interior and renamed it the Hotel Norton. With the passing of passenger rail service and the stagnation of Holly's growth and prosperity the hotel drifted into a marginal existence as a local restaurant.

(continued)

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

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RECEIVED DEC 03 1979

DATE ENTERED

FEB. 8 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

8. Significance (continued)

In 1978, as the surrounding area, particularly Battle Alley (Martha Street), was enjoying a measure of commercial revitalization as a Victorian historic district of specialty shops and boutiques, the hotel suffered a second disastrous fire which again damaged the second floor and burned-off the roof. At that time Dr. Leslie Sher, a local resident, bought the ruined building to save it from destruction and began restoring it by rebuilding the roof and tower to its original 1891 form. Plans call for eventually restoring the original porches although, for the present, the 1913 Tuscan-columned ones will be retained for financial reasons. The 1913 interior trim is being salvaged and re-used as are the few interior features on the first floor surviving from the 1891 period. This sensitive restoration is being undertaken in consultation with the Michigan History Division with the hope of taking advantage of the provisions of the Tax Reform Act of 1976.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

9 PAGE 2

9. Major Bibliographical References (continued)

Holly Herald Advertiser, December 7, 1978.

_____, "History of Washington Club," Holly Herald,
June 17, 1965.

Schwartz, Arthur. "Pres. of Washington Club Recalls 'The Good Old Days'",
Herald Advertiser.

Welch, George. Personal communication, 1978-79.

8000 1887

Property Hirst Hotel

State Mi-Oakland Working Number 12-03-79 2847

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos 3
Maps 1

HISTORIAN

The Hirst Hotel is a large 2 1/2 - story brick hotel representing vernacular Queen Anne architecture of the late 19th C. It is architecturally significant as a somewhat uncommon example of the small town railroad hotel. It possesses historical significance for its association w/ the commercial and social life of the community of Holly as the center for meetings of social clubs, area residents and political rallies. Built in 1891, rebuilt in 1913 after a severe fire in a somewhat altered form, altered in the interior in 1930 and then restored in 1979 to the 1891 appearance after another severe fire in 1978.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept,
Saxe
2/6/80

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Saxe
2/6/80

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____ Send-back _____ Entered FEB 8 1980
Federal Register Entry 2-3-80 Re-submit _____



L. CAPTAIN BAR

THE RESTORATION OF THE
HISTORIC
HOLLY HOTEL
10 BATTLE ALLEY
FRIDAY, MARCH

PROHIBITED TO
ENTER BY
BATTLE ALLEY

HISTORIC HOLLY HOTEL

NO PARKING
AT ANY
TIME

HER
PUB

HOLLY HOTEL
110 Battle Alley
Holly, Oakland County, Michigan

(Hurst Hotel)

Photographer: Leslie J. Vollmert
Date: October, 1979
Negative: Michigan History Division
View: Looking southwest toward the two
principal elevations
Photo: 1 of 3

DEC 03 1979

FEB 8 1980



Holly INN
HOLLY, MICH., '37

R. H. PHOTO

HOLLY HOTEL
110 Battle Alley
Holly, Oakland County, Michigan

(Hurst Hotel)

Photographer: Unknown

Date: c. 1895

Negative: Holly Hotel

View: Looking west on Battle Alley showing
the original appearance

Photo #: 2 of 3

DEC 03 1979

FEB 8 1980



Wm. P. ADDIS AGENCY, INC.
Est. 1892
Fire & Marine INSURANCE

ARCADE

BATTLE ALLEY
ANTIQUE

BATTLE ALLEY
ANTIQUE
GIFT
LEATHER ET
CRAFTS ET

HOLLY HOTEL
110 Battle Alley
Holly, Oakland County, Michigan

(Hurst Hotel)

Photographer: Betty Lee Francis

Date: March, 1979

Negative: Betty Lee Francis

31920 Mountain View

Franklin Village, Mich.

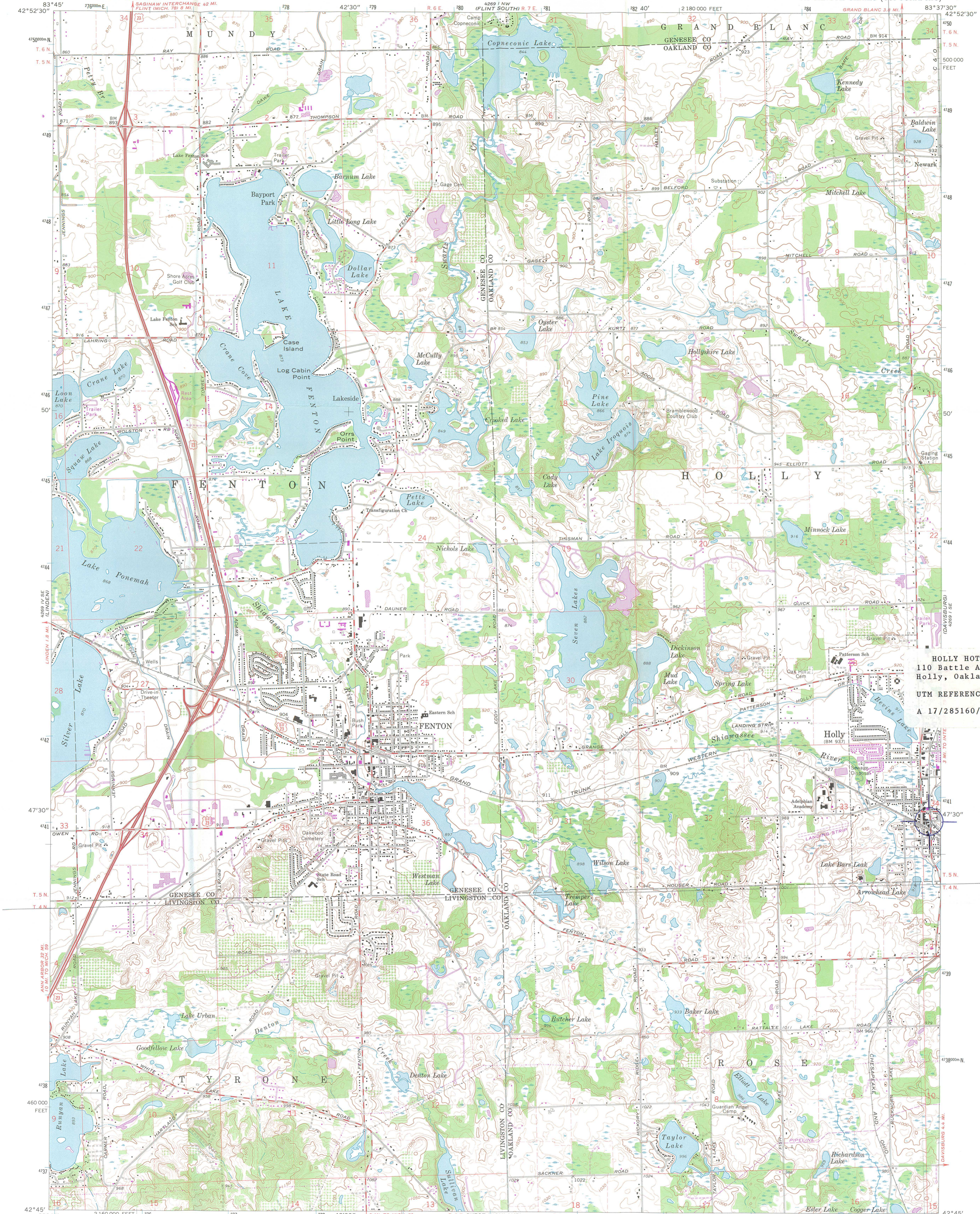
View: Looking east on Battle Alley
showing the burned Hotel before
restoration

FEB 8 1980

FEB 8 1979

DEC 03 1979

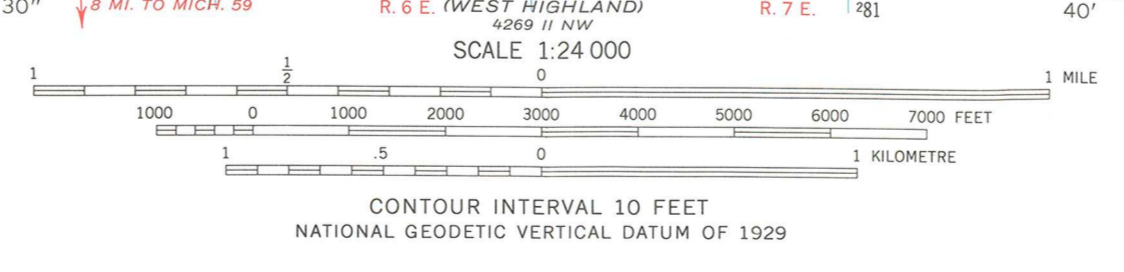
3 of 3



HOLLY HOTEL
110 Battle Alley
Holly, Oakland Co., Mi.
UTM REFERENCE:
A 17/285160/4740720

285-160
4740-720
4740

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 1965-67, and in part by the Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission field checked 1969
Polyconic projection, 1927 North American datum 10,000-foot grid based on Michigan coordinate system, south zone 1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 17, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is uncheckd
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1975. This information not field checked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

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



FENTON, MICH.
N4245-W8337.5/7.5
1969
PHOTOREVISED 1975
AMS 4269 1 SW-SERIES V882

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



FEB 8 1980

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

November 27, 1979

DEC 03 1979

Mr. Charles Herrington
Acting Keeper of the National Register
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20243

Dear Mr. Herrington:

Enclosed for your review is a National Register nomination for the Hirst Hotel (Holly Hotel), Holly, Oakland County, Michigan. Would you kindly direct any requests for clarification to Kathryn Eckert (1-517-373-0510).

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

Reference #661
January 4, 1980

Hirst Hotel
12/18/79

Historic Holly Hotel
110 Battle Alley
Holly, Michigan 48442

MI

gp

Carol D. Shull
Acting Keeper of the National Register
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Pension Building 440 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20243

Dear Ms. Shull:

Thank you for your letter of December 10, referring to the nomination of the Hirst Hotel for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

As your records from the Michigan History Division must reveal, the Hotel played a prominent role in Holly's history. Dating back to 1890 and known as the Hirst House it was visited in 1908 by prohibitionist, Carry Nation. It served as a center for traveling salesmen and doctors as well as a tonsorial parlor and hotel.

The building burned in 1913 and was considered significant enough to the community to be rebuilt a year later. For many years thereafter it was famous for its fine restaurant.

During its 90 years, it has never closed or remained vacant. Consequently, when the building burned again in 1978, and the local newspapers declared, "Holly Hotel Dealt Death Blow", the community was deeply saddened.

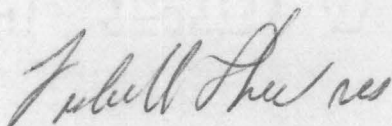
Because of its strategic location, its commercial potential, historic significance, and the challenge that its restoration presented, we decided to restore it with private capital. The work began September 14, 1978. An occupancy permit for the first two floors was granted October 4, 1979. A fine restaurant is now housed on the first floor and an additional dining facility is available on the lower level. Although the

second and third floors are vacant, we hope in the future to develop these areas.

Our restoration efforts have been directed toward National Register Designation. The building is now included in a State Historic District, and the restoration was supervised by a preservation oriented architect who also prepared the Historic Preservation Certification Applications, part one and part two. In every possible case the guidelines of the "criteria for evaluation" were utilized.

Because of our painstaking efforts the Holly Hotel has been restored. We sincerely hope that your department will list our property, and we would like to invite you or a member of your staff to visit Holly, Michigan, and tour the beautiful Historic Holly Hotel.

Sincerely,



Leslie H. Sher D.D.S.

08/18/80

SEARCHED
INDEXED
SERIALIZED
FILED
AUG 18 1980
FBI - GRAND RAPIDS

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RECEIVED

Leslie H. Sher

Leslie H. Sher D.D.S.

Sincerely,

08/18/80

INITIALS	_____
DATE ACTION TAKEN	_____
TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)	_____
INFORMATIVE MATERIAL SENT	_____
INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)	_____
DATE REC'D	JAN 10 1980
THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MICHIGAN

Date Entered FEB 8 1980

Name

Location

Hirst Hotel

Holly
Oakland County

Also Notified

Honorable Carl Levin

Honorable Donald W. Riegle, Jr.
Honorable William S. Broomfield

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

NR Byers/bjr 2/12/80

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

WILLIAM PROXMIRE, WIS., CHAIRMAN

JOHN SPARKMAN, ALA. EDWARD W. BROOKE, MASS.
HARRISON A. WILLIAMS, JR., N.J. JOHN TOWER, TEX.
THOMAS J. MC INTYRE, N.H. JAKE GARN, UTAH
ALAN CRANSTON, CALIF. H. JOHN HEINZ III, PA.
ADLAI E. STEVENSON, ILL. RICHARD G. LUGAR, IND.
ROBERT MORGAN, N.C. HARRISON SCHMITT, N. MEX.
DONALD W. RIEGLE, JR., MICH.
PAUL S. SARBANES, MD.

KENNETH A. MC LEAN, STAFF DIRECTOR
JEREMIAH S. BUCKLEY, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR
MARY FRANCES DE LA PAVA, CHIEF CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

1815 Genesee Towers
Flint, MI 48502
(313) 234-5621, Ext. 380

February 19, 1980

U.S. Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation
Washington, D.C. 20240

Gentlemen:

I am writing to you in behalf of the:

Hirst Hotel
aka Holly Hotel
Holly, Michigan
Project No. MI 79-0008

Recently, the owners of the hotel, Dr. and Mrs. Leslie Sher, contacted my Regional Office in Flint regarding the proposed listing of the above mentioned properties in the National Register of Historic Places.

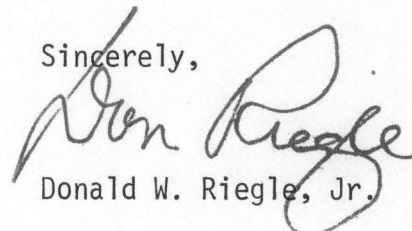
As you know, the hotel is located in Battle Alley, a section of Holly that was designated in 1978 as a State Historical District.

The Hirst Hotel was originally constructed in 1890, burned and rebuilt in 1913 and again burned and rebuilt in 1979. Of historical significance is the fact that Carrie Nation, a leader of the Women's Suffrage Movement, paid a visit to the hotel in 1908.

Because of the history of this great structure and its meaning to the people of Holly and Michigan, I am urging that you give kind consideration to placing the Hirst Hotel in the National Register of Historical Places.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,


Donald W. Riegler, Jr.

DWR/ib:ph

BOR Mail Control No. 9991

Holly Co,

Oakland Co

Sheffield 35-80
Greenberg
3/5/80
Pp 3/7
HTM 3/7

436

(X)

MAR 11 1980

Honorable Donald W. Riegler, Jr.
United States Senator
1815 Genesee Towers
Flint, Michigan 48502

Dear Senator Riegler:

Thank you for your inquiry of February 19, 1980, on behalf of Dr. and Mrs. Leslie Sher endorsing the nomination of the Hirst Hotel, Holly County, Michigan, to the National Register of Historic Places.

We are pleased to inform you that the Hirst Hotel was entered in the National Register on February 8, 1980. Enclosed is a leaflet which describes the National Register program.

If we can be of further assistance to you, please let us know. We appreciate your taking the time to share your thoughts with us.

Sincerely,

CHRIS T. DELAPORTE

Chris Therral Delaporte
Director

Enclosure

cc: Your Washington, D.C. Office

Dr. Martha M. Bigelow
Director
Michigan History Division
Department of State
Lansing, Michigan 48918

bcc: Director's Reading File
Associate Director for Cultural Programs
Deputy Associate Director for Cultural Programs
FHR-Lumpkin / FHR-CL / CL / POR - 7991

FHR:S Sheffield:lw:343-6401:3-5-80

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN NR

HOLLY COUNTY, MICHIGAN