

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

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

For NPS use only

received

JUN 14 1985

date entered

JUL 26 1985

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 50

Historic Name: Rodney G. Hart House (Photograph 25)
Common Name: Same
Location: 326 W. Park Street
Date of Construction: 1890
Architect: Unknown
Builder: Unknown

Classification:
Category: Building
Ownership: Neomi White and Joan Spohn - Private
326 W. Park Street
Lapeer, Michigan 48446
Public Acquisition: N/A
Statue: Unoccupied
Accessible: Yes: Restricted
Present Use: Private Residence

Description:
Condition: Fair
Altered
Original Site

This two-story, brick, Queen Anne-styled home set upon a stone foundation is located one block from Lapeer's main commercial street and across the street from another impressive brick house at 507 Cedar, the William H. and Sabrina Watson House discussed above. Its front entryway is oriented to the south where it faces the intersection of Park and Cedar Streets. A porch at this corner of the house, supported beneath by an arched stone foundation, wraps around both the southwest and southeast facades and opens to a stairway and front sidewalk at the corner. Some wood detailing at the main entrance has been lost over the years as a result of unsympathetic changes and additions. A square brick tower rises a full three stories at the south corner of the house and is capped by a domed hip roof. The main entrance to the Queen Anne house is at the base of this tower on the southwest side. A single door at the second-story level of the tower indicates that the roof of the first-floor porch once served as a balcony. Gable roofs frame the brick tower with decoratively shingled gable ends facing both southwest and southeast; on the southwest elevation, the gable is ornamented by a sunburst panel projecting over the shingled surface. Double-hung, one-over-one

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JUN 14 1985

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 51

windows are capped by voussoirs of radiating brick braced between stone imposts. On the southwest facade, the chamfered corners of the building include second-floor windows accented with hoods and large brackets while the southeast facade features a single ocular window at the second-story level and a bay window on the rear ell.

Significance:

Period: 1800-1899

Areas of Significance: Architecture, commerce, politics, agriculture

Like the Joseph Armstrong House located at 707 Monroe Street, the Rodney G. Hart House is an ample, elegant Queen Anne residence executed in brick, stone, and wood. It well reflected that period of strong economic development following the arrival of Lapeer's first railroad in 1871 and utilized to the fullest the money, materials, and manpower that could so richly interpret the popular Queen Anne styles. And, like the Armstrong House, the Hart residence gains its importance not only from its architecture, but from its associations with a man who flourished as his community boomed. Rodney G. Hart (1831-1905), as noted in the 1884 Lapeer County History, was the first child born in what now is the City of Lapeer. His father, Alvin N. Hart, was one of the first settlers of Lapeer and, most importantly, was responsible for construction of the Lapeer County Courthouse and the platting of the current commercial district. Rodney Hart pursued a number of careers and business ventures during his lifetime. In addition to serving as Lapeer's first mayor, Hart was a banker for twelve years, built the first grain elevator in Lapeer, served as postmaster, and was involved in farming and stockbreeding. Naturally, this adventurous man was responsible for bringing the first automobile to Lapeer from Chicago in the Spring of 1901.

Bibliography:

Ellis, Pioneer Families, page 129, 134, 135, 144, 145
Lapeer County Democrat: 3-26-1890, page 8
Page, History of Lapeer County

Geographical Data:

Acreage: less than one acre
Quadrangle Name: Lapeer
Quadrangle Scale: 1:24000
UTM Reference: 17/311700/4769330

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification:

Lot 107 in the Lapeer Village Plat of the City of Lapeer. This is the lot that the house stands on.

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Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 1 of 2

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Lapeer Multiple Resource Area
State Lapeer County, MICHIGAN

Cover 7/26/85

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Armstrong, Joseph, House

Substantive Review

for Keeper

Patrick Andrews 7/26/85

Attest

2. Dutton, James B., House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 7/26/85

Attest

3. Hart, Rodney G., House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 7/26/85

Attest

4. Hevener, John and Julia, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 7/26/85

Attest

5. Hungerford, Robert A., House

Substantive Review

for Keeper

Determined Eligible

Eligible Patrick Andrews 7/26/85

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Attest

6. Lee, John and Rosetta, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 7/26/85

Attest

7. Perry, Warren, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 7/26/85

Attest

8. Piety Hill Historic District

Substantive Review

for Keeper

Patrick Andrews 7/26/85

Attest

9. Tomlinson, Samuel J., House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 7/26/85

Attest

10. Tuttle, Columbus, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 7/26/85

Attest

Ref #
85001627

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Hart, Rodney G., House (Lapeer MRA)
Lapeer County
MICHIGAN

JUN 14 1985

Working No. _____

Fed. Reg. Date: 2/4/86

Date Due: 7/11/85 - 7/29/85

Action: ACCEPT 7-26-85

RETURN

REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____

Reviewer _____

Discipline _____

Date _____

_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition

- excellent
- good
- fair
- deteriorated
- ruins
- unexposed

Check one

- unaltered
- altered

Check one

- original site
- moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 ___ national ___ state ___ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

PHOTO: 25 of 27

HART House

85001627



25
85001627

PHOTOGRAPH 25 of 27

Rodney G. Hart House
(326 W. Park)
Lapeer, Lapeer County, Michigan

Photographer: R. Haynes
July 1984 - camera facing east

Negative: Michigan History Division
208 N. Capitol, Lansing, Michigan

50