

STATE OF MICHIGAN



CANDICE S. MILLER, Secretary of State  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48918-0001

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
Michigan Historical Center  
717 West Allegan Street  
Lansing, Michigan 48918-1800

February 10, 1999

Ms. Carol D. Shull, Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
800 Capitol Street, NW, Suite 400  
Washington, D. C. 20002

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed are national register nomination materials for the Thomas and Anna Morrissey House in Holland, Ottawa County, Michigan. This property is being submitted for listing in the national register. No written comments concerning this nomination were submitted to us prior to the submission of this nomination to you.

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to Robert O. Christensen, National Register Coordinator (517/335-2719).

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian D. Conway".

Brian D. Conway  
State Historic Preservation Officer

BDC:roc

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NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Morrissey, Thomas and Anna, House

other names/site number Early Settler's House

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 190 West 9th Street not for publication  
N/A

city or town Holland vicinity N/A

state Michigan code MI county Ottawa code 139

zip code 49423

=====

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination      request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant      nationally      statewide X locally. (      See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*Brian D. Wray*

*2/10/99*

Signature of certifying official

Date

MI SHPO

State or Federal agency and bureau



Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register   0  

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  
  N/A  

=====  
6. Function or Use  
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:   Domestic   Sub:   single dwelling    
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:   Work in Progress   Sub:   museum    
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

=====  
7. Description  
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

  Other: hall and parlor house with leanto    
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation   Brick    
roof   Wood/shingle    
walls   Wood/weatherboard    
other   N/A    
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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### Description

The Morrissey House is a one-and-one-half-story side-gable hall and parlor house with added rear leanto. The simple balloon-frame dwelling is finished with clapboarded walls, plain corner boards, square-head door and window openings with board frames, and raking cornices without returns. In the front facade, a central entrance is flanked on either side by a single six-over-six window. The gable ends also display six-over-six windows. The house's original dimensions were twenty-four by fifteen feet. A board-and-batten-clad leanto addition and small porch which together extend across the back nearly doubles the house's depth. A small dirt-floored cellar underlies one part of the house, but most of the building has no foundation and is supported only on brick piers.

The house faces north. Its original section contains in the first story a main room on the west, into which the front door opens, and a bedroom occupying the north portion of the east end. South of the bedroom is an enclosed staircase running from the west (main) room eastward to the attic floor, and at the south end of the east part of the house is a storage or pantry area. The floors and ceilings in this original part of the house are of tongue-and-groove boarding and the walls were also finished in boarding which, it is thought, was originally wallpapered.

The south-side leanto addition contains a kitchen on the west with a small pantry at its east end against the south wall of the original building. The kitchen walls are finished in plaster above a wainscot. The floor of the pantry contains a door which provides access to a board-sheathed, dirt-floored cellar. An open porch fills the corner of the leanto east of the kitchen and south of the pantry.

To the kitchen's south stood a foundation-less shed finished in drop or novelty siding. The shed appears in the 1902 Sanborn maps and was thought to date from ca. 1900. Due to severe deterioration the shed was removed in 1997.

The grounds display little attempt at landscaping. A concrete walk leads in a straight line from the house's front door out to the sidewalk. No plantings surround or front the house. A few trees edge its small city lot.

=====  
8. Statement of Significance  
=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
Exploration/Settlement  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance 1867-71  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates   1871    
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
  N/A  \_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation   N/A  \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder   Unknown  \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

- Previous documentation on file (NPS) None  
 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.  
 previously listed in the National Register  
 previously determined eligible by the National Register  
 designated a National Historic Landmark  
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

- Primary Location of Additional Data  
 State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other

Name of repository:   Holland Historical Trust  \_\_\_\_\_

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property   Less than one acre  

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	572290	4737570	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
	<u>  See continuation sheet.  </u>					

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### Significance

The house is important in the Holland context for illustrating better than can any other house left in the city today how the majority of Holland's residents lived in the later pioneer years from 1855 to 1870. It is one of the very few buildings left in Holland that predates the 1871 fire that destroyed the greater part of the community.

White settlement of Holland, Michigan, began in 1847 with the arrival of a colony of Dutch settlers who, unified by their dissent from the state church of the Netherlands, were led by the Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte. This first Holland colony became the nucleus of a large Dutch migration to west Michigan that has given this area the largest concentration in North America of persons of Dutch ancestry.

The Morrissey House stands on property that the Rev. Van Raalte himself platted early in 1867 as the "West Addition," located at the then edge of the settlement. It has been conjectured that this house and another now demolished identical building were both constructed by Van Raalte on speculation for sale to new settlers, but this cannot be proven. What is known is that Thomas and Anna Morrissey paid taxes on this property beginning in 1867 and the tax paid, \$100, was twice that for nearby apparently vacant lots -- thus seeming to indicate the presence of a house on the property in 1867. However, Van Raalte did not actually sell the lot to the Morrisseys until July 1, 1870.

From the beginning, working class people occupied the house. The Morrissey family consisted of ship's carpenter/caulker Thomas Morrissey (1833-71), his wife Anna (1834-1913), and five children. The Morrisseys came to Holland from Wisconsin between 1862 and 1867. They sold the property in 1870, the same year a railroad line was completed to Holland, and moved to Saugatuck, where Thomas Morrissey died the following year.

Hermanus Boone became the house's second owner in 1870. Boone was a Dutch immigrant businessman who owned a livery stable and rental properties in town. He probably never lived in the house but rented it to tenants. In October, 9, 1871, at the same time as the disastrous fires in Chicago, Peshtigo, Wisconsin, and Michigan's Thumb region, Holland was also devastated by a forest fire that swept into town from the south and west. Gerrit Van Schelven, a member of the local relief committee organized immediately after the fire, reported that over 350 Holland buildings, including 210 houses and the entire business district -- representing the larger part of

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the city -- were destroyed, with "not a fencepost or a sidewalk plank and hardly the stump of a shade tree left to designate the old lines." Of the houses which survived the fire, this is one of the few still standing today and the one that is the best preserved and the most representative of the simple and modest houses the early settlers typically occupied. A printed handbill announcing relief distribution was recently found in one of the house's walls. Hermanus Boone's home, livery stable, and two rental properties burned in the fire.

Boone sold the house in January 1873 to David and Hermina Dangremond Bertsch, whose parents came from Germany and the Netherlands, and their three children. David Bertsch worked at the Cappon and Bertsch leather tannery located a half block from their house that was one of Holland's leading industries. His brother John was one of the tannery's owners. The high-style Italianate home of the other tannery owner, Isaac Cappon, built in 1873-74, stands in sharp contrast to David Bertsch's house located just five doors to the east in the same block.

Later owners included fire insurance agent Hermanus Dangremond and his wife Emma (1880), bookseller/stationer and later Holland fire chief Leendert Kanters and his wife Minnie (1880-86), Heinrich and Annie Eigner (1886-90), and Nancy Charter (beginning in 1890). It is thought that the board-and-batten kitchen leanto may have been added during the Kanters' ownership due to a doubling of the taxable property value between 1879 and 1882. Nancy Charter lived next door and her family owned the house until 1952, renting it out to various families. The last occupants, Stephen and Margearet Boneburg, purchased the property in 1952 and resided there for over forty years until Mrs. Boneburg died in 1996. The city of Holland purchased the house in 1996 and is in the process of restoring it to serve as a historic house museum.

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### Bibliography

Abstract of Title for Lot 4, Block C, of West Addition to City of Holland, 1867-1964.

Bertsch Family Genealogy, Holland Museum files.

Early Settler's House, State Register of Historic Sites application, MI SHPO, 1973.

Lankheet, H. *Holland City* (map), 1870.

Morrissey, Anna, obituary. *Holland Evening Sentinel*, 2/3/1913.

Morrissey, Thomas, obituary. *Holland Evening Sentinel*, 7/8/1871.

Shober, Chas., & Co. *Bird's Eye View of Holland Mich.* Chicago, IL, 1875.

United States Census, 1870 and 1880.

Van Schelven, G[errit]. "The Burning of Holland, October 9, 1871." In *Report of the Pioneer Society of the State of Michigan*, IX, 334-41. Lansing, MI, 1886.

Weir, Lynne B., and Mary Grace York. *City of Holland, Intensive Level Study Areas*. Holland, MI, 1993.

### Boundary Description

Lot 4, Block C, West Addition to the City of Holland.

### Boundary Justification

Entire property historically associated with the house.

=====  
11. Form Prepared By  
=====

name/title Joel Lefever, Curator

organization Holland Historical Trust date Jan. 1999

street & number 31 West 10th Street telephone 616/394-1362

city or town Holland state MI zip code 49423  
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Additional Documentation  
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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage  
or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====  
Property Owner  
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Hon. Albert H. McGeehan, Mayor, City of Holland

street & number 270 South River Avenue telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Holland state MI zip code 49423  
=====

=====  
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

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## Photographs

Photographer: Joel Lefever

Date: November 15, 1998

Negatives:

The Holland Museum  
31 West 10th Street  
Holland, MI 49423

1. North (front) facade
2. East and north facades
3. West and south facades





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Holland Museum  
Settlers House  
Built 1867

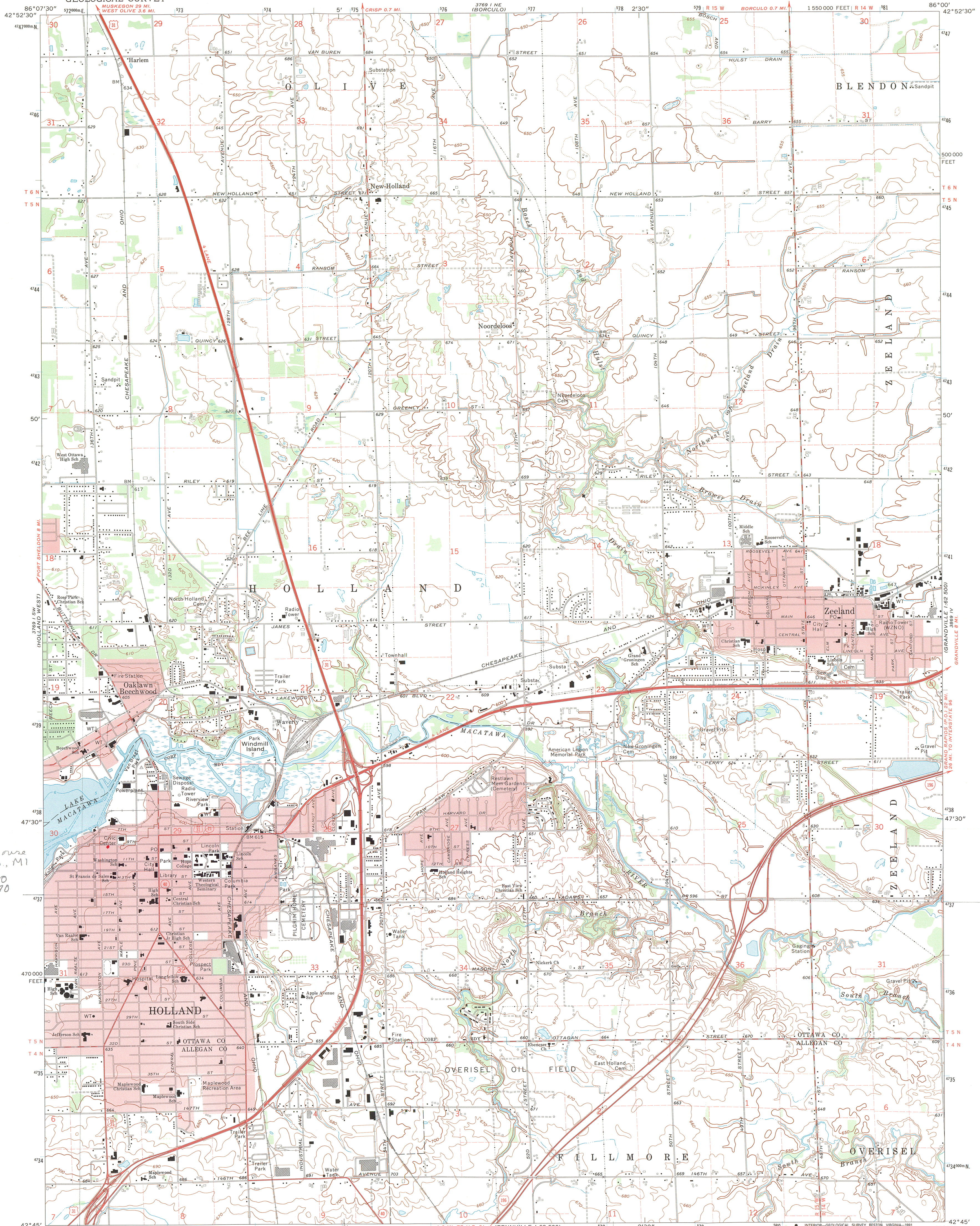
Morrissey House  
Holland, Ottawa Co.  
Michigan /



Morrissey House  
Holland, Ottawa Co  
Michigan 2

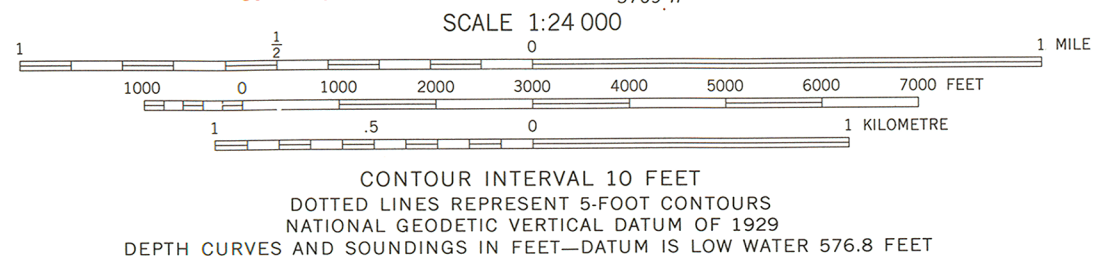


Morrissey House  
Holland, Ottawa Co.  
Michigan



Morrissey House  
Ottawa Co., MI  
16 572290  
4737570

Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey in cooperation with State of Michigan agencies  
Control by USGS/NOAA  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1972  
Selected hydrographic data compiled from U. S. Lake Survey Chart 763 (1972)  
This information is not intended for navigational purposes  
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Michigan coordinate system, south zone (Lambert conformal conic)  
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 16, shown in blue. 1927 North American datum  
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	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS LOW WATER 576.8 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
AND GEOLOGICAL SURVEY DIVISION  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

QUADRANGLE LOCATION  
Map photocopied 1980  
No major culture or drainage changes observed

HOLLAND EAST, MICH.  
SE 1/4 HOLLAND 15' QUADRANGLE  
N4245—W8600/7.5  
1972  
PHOTOINSPECTED 1980  
AMS 3769 1 SE—SERIES V862