## 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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* 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.

1. Name of Property	2280
Historic name: Saginaw News Building	OCT 2 8 2016
Other names/site number: N/A	001 2 0 2010
Name of related multiple property listing:	Natl. Reg. of Historic Places National Park Service

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

## 2. Location

Street & number: 203 South Washington Avenue

City or town: _Sagina	aw	State: MI	County: _Saginaw	
Not For Publication:	N/A	Vicinity: N/A		

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this  $\underline{x}$  nomination  $\underline{x}$  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 at the following level(s) of significance:

	_local		
<u>x</u> A <u>B</u> <u>x</u> C <u>D</u>			
Brear D Comment	10	1	16
Signature of certifying official/Title: MI SHPO	Da	te	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal In my opinion, the propertymeetsd		Registe	er criteria.
Signature of commenting official:	Da	ite	
Title :	State or Federal ag or Tribal Gover		

Sections 7-11 p.1

National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

Saginaw News Building

Name of Property

Saginaw Co., MI

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

V entered in the National Register

\_\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register

\_\_\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register

\_\_\_ removed from the National Register

other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

## 5. Classification

### **Ownership of Property**

(Check as many box	
Private:	x
Public - Local	
Public - State	
Public - Federal	
Category of Prope	rty
(Check only one box	k.)
Building(s)	х
District	
Site	
Structure	

Object

Saginaw News Building Name of Property Saginaw Co., MI

## Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count) Contributing Noncontributing 0 buildings 1 (plaza) 0 1 sites 0 structures (flagpole) 0 objects 1 3 0 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register \_\_\_\_0

6. Function or Use Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.) <u>Commerce: Business</u> <u>Processing: Communications Facility</u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.) Vacant/Not in Use 7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.) International Style

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.) Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation: Concrete Walls......Metal Steel Glass Stone: Granite, Brick Veneer, Ceramic Tile Roof......Synthetic: Rubber Membrane

#### **Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

#### Summary Paragraph

Constructed in 1958-60, the Saginaw News Building is a three-story, International style building located in downtown Saginaw. The building stands on flat terrain with its two front facades facing north on Federal Avenue and east on South Washington Avenue, its west (rear) facade on Water Street and a blank side façade facing south toward Janes Avenue. Three of four elevations display aluminum trimmed curtain walls containing single glass lights in horizontal bands between ceramic coated light green steel paneling above and below. Glazed face brick and light and dark granite are also used on the exterior. The 99,000 sq. ft., steel frame building rests on a poured concrete foundation and features a projecting entry with flat-topped canopy along the north elevation slightly west/right of the northeast corner. Fronting the entry is an asymmetrical, brushed concrete plaza furnished with modestly raised, granite capped, landscaping beds that are placed around the perimeter and an elongated octagonal bed containing a flagpole, placed in the center of the plaza. The plaza contains several large trees and other plantings. A tall 112' long concrete wall screen forms the west edge of the plaza off the building's northeast corner; it angles north, then east, then north again out to the sidewalk line outlining a small northwardprojecting plantings alcove off the plaza near the building facade and separating the plaza's west side from an asphalt-surfaced parking lot (with small garage in its rear angle) to its west near the

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street. West of the plaza a loading dock area, with projecting flat roof, extends along the west half of the north façade, its east edge corresponding with the plaza and a small parking area in front (north) of it sheltered from the plaza by the angled wall. The white brick facade that edges the loading dock's west end continues as the first-floor facing along three quarters of the west façade. This separates the plaza from the loading dock area along the longer west part of the north façade.

#### **Narrative Description**

The building is positioned between South Washington Avenue, east side Saginaw's main street, to the east, Federal Avenue to the north, Water Street to the west and Janes Avenue to the south, with the two primary elevations facing north and east. To the north beyond Federal Street and parking lots stand several major downtown Saginaw landmarks including the Bancroft and Eddy Buildings and, beyond, the Bank of Saginaw Building, Temple Theater, and Saginaw Club – within the national register-listed East Saginaw Historic Business District. Across Washington to the east are several smaller early twentieth-century commercial buildings together with parking lots. To the immediate south are parking lots. One occupies the former site of the Saginaw Auditorium that fronted on S. Washington, while behind it to the west stands the former Saginaw Armory fronting on Water Street. To their south across a narrow street stands the massive Art Deco former Michigan Bell Telephone Building. West of the Saginaw News Building between Water Street and the Saginaw River is a large parking lot once used by the *Saginaw News* but no longer connected with the nominated building.

### Exterior

#### Plaza

The Saginaw News Building's two primary facades on S. Washington and Federal focus on a landscaped plaza fronting the northeast corner that leads to the main entrance. The plaza has an asymmetrical. L-shaped footprint, with a square-plan, eighty-by-eighty-foot "base" at the street corner and a long, narrow "head" extending west against the building's north front wall back from the street. The building's main entry, set beneath a projecting canopy in the building's north facade, is located at the midpoint of the south side of the large square part of the plaza, and aligns with a broad passage to Federal through low granite-capped brushed concrete-walled planting beds that edge the plaza along much of the street frontages. One L-footprint planting bed fronts the plaza along both streets near the Washington/Federal intersection, terminating on the Federal/north side at the passage aligned with the front door and on the east/Washington side at a much more broad passage fronting much of that edge of the plaza. A second similar planting bed extends along the east/Federal side from west of the front entry-aligned passage to the west parking lot wall. A similar but wider planting bed extends along the west wall/west edge of the square plaza area and also fills the plaza's narrow westward-projecting ell. The plantings contain two larger maple trees, along the plaza's west side, smaller ornamental crabapple in the square part of the plaza and birch in the narrow strip against the building front, and several varieties of shrubs. Placed in the center of the square part of the plaza site, perpendicular to the north

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building façade and Federal Avenue, is an elongated octagonal island feature with an aluminum flagpole placed at its north end.

### North Facade

The three-story building has north and east elevations that, facing Federal Avenue and Washington Avenue respectively, complement one another in design, sharing a curtain wall design. The north elevation contains the building's primary entrance, a stainless steel revolving door flanked on either side by a swinging door. Facing the midpoint of the plaza's square main part, it is located within a glass-enclosed entry porch that, fronted by rectangular-footprint piers faced in polished Minnesota dark gray granite, is topped by a broadly projecting flat-topped canopy. The ceiling of this entrance is surfaced with small ceramic tiles that surround nine recessed light fixtures.

The building's long north façade displays a metal frame curtain wall in the second and third stories formed of alternating bands of single-light rectangular windows and light green porcelainized enameled steel panels. The curtain wall extends around the corner for twenty-six feet onto the east/Washington façade and clads the upper stories and a portion of the ground story façade on the west end as well. The structural framework of the curtain wall along the north elevation/façade continues from the top floors to the ground level. At ground level the curtain wall framework rests atop low polished dark gray granite bulkheads and is finished in glass without the green panels. The ground-story windows extend along the part of the north façade fronting on the plaza's square section.

Directly west/right of the main entrance a handicap-accessible entrance punctuates the curtain wall framework. To its west the ground story is faced in eighteen sections of polished red granite atop the low concrete foundation, these extending to the wall marking the west end of the plaza's northern alcove. To its west, extending across more than half of the north façade's ground level, is a loading dock designed for shipping and receiving purposes, with an adjoining asphalt parking lot. Its 112-foot frontage at the ground level is faced with glazed face brick. The loading dock projects eight feet in front of the facade and is sheltered with an EPDM-surfaced canopy that extends out twenty-two feet. Along the concrete loading dock surface six original telescoping truck loading devices remain in place. Doors along this section include an aluminum single-light glass door, three single steel employee doors, a double employee door, and steel overhead rolling garage door.

### **East Elevation**

The east front facing South Washington is 130' in length and forty-eight feet in height. Its north or right-hand end, one quarter of the total breadth of that façade, is recessed about two feet from the rest of the façade to its south, and the recessed portion is faced in the same glass and green panel curtain wall, above low dark gray granite base, as the north elevation fronting on the plaza. In the broader left or south part of the east façade, at ground level a series of twelve vertically oriented rectangular fixed windows, each with a fixed transom, is situated behind a series of seven structural steel piers faced with the polished dark gray granite. The piers rise to the base of the two-foot projection of the second and third floors. A soffit created by the projection is surfaced with small ceramic tiles surrounding recessed light fixtures. The polecting portion of

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this elevation is seventy-seven feet in width and faced with polished white Maine granite set in rectangular panels that mirror the dimensions of the adjacent curtain wall's glass and metal panels. Twelve regularly spaced fixed windows, six each in the second and third stories, are aligned horizontally with the curtain wall windows and each is separated by two granite panels from the window to either side. The only change made to this primary façade of the building has been the removal of signage. Centrally placed below the second-floor windows, against the white granite background, large green lettering once placed horizontally spelled out "THE SAGINAW NEWS." What remains of this absent feature is a series of small holes in the granite surface indicating where the signage was once placed. Also missing are four internally illuminated stainless steel block letters that, angled vertically to spell "NEWS," were once viewable at a distance from the north and east. The location of this missing feature is also evidenced by anchor holes along the two-foot projection of granite facing north.

#### West and South Elevations

The west elevation fronts Water Street with the Saginaw River in the distance. It continues the north elevation's curtain wall construction in the upper two stories and along the south end of the ground story. The west elevation has a length of 125' and height of forty-eight feet. The overall length includes a twenty-two-foot long wall of white glazed face brick off the northwest corner that provides support for the west end of the loading dock canopy off the north elevation. The white glazed brick continues southward forming all of the façade's ground story except for the short section of curtain wall near the southwest corner, and contains three overhead steel garage doors. The west façade rests on a low concrete foundation.

When the building was constructed the south (rear) elevation closely adjoined two slightly lower neighboring structures, with only a foot wide space between. Those two structures have since been demolished, leaving the News Building's south façade exposed. The south elevation was and remains purely utilitarian, absent of any window or door fenestration. It is 240' in length between Water Street to the west and South Washington Avenue to the east and forty-eight feet in height. The wall is faced in glazed face brick in the upper portions that rose above the adjoining buildings and in plain common brick where formerly hidden by them. Following removal of the neighboring structures the common brick was painted white.

#### Penthouse

The roof contains a mechanical penthouse that occupies forty per cent of the roof surface and has overall dimensions of 121' by sixty-eight by fourteen feet. Its elevations are faced with a vertically ribbed, pre-finished, metal panel system. A series of louvers piercing the walls serve the building's HV/AC and ventilation systems.

#### Interior

All Saginaw News department locations in the building were designed with space left over for future expansion amounting to more than a third of the 106,000 square feet of floor space left unused. In addition, moveable mechanical walls installed throughout the interior allowed for easy reassignment of space when needed. Original furnishings and printing equipment have been removed; however, the majority of original fixtures and finishes remain intact.

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#### **First Floor**

Entering the building through the main entrance on the north façade the public arrives into an open and naturally well-lit lobby space that occupies a large interior section of the northeast corner of the building. This is one area of the building the general public would have seen as it served all general customer service needs.

In direct line with the main entrance, facing south across the lobby's Italian Travertine floor, is a recessed counter faced in dark Boise Giordan marble. The walls to the left/east and right/west of the counter are treated in light colored Italian Perlatto marble. The wall behind the counter is finished in red oak paneling. To the east/left as you enter the lobby is a waiting area that looks north onto the plaza and east onto South Washington Avenue.

Positioned west/right as you enter the lobby is the main staircase. It runs in a north-south direction, the stairs rising to the north for the first twelve steps to a landing placed inside of the windowed north façade, then reverse direction south for another half-flight to the second floor. From there another flight in reverse (north) direction rises up to the third/top floor of the building. The lobby staircase's design appears inspired by Eero Saarinen's sweeping staircase in the General Motors Technical Center lobby space. The Saginaw News Building staircase makes use of marble, granite, stainless steel and aluminum, materials used on the building exterior and throughout the lobby space. An illusion of suspension, with an east-facing wall of Perlatto marble behind, is created through a series of vertically oriented aluminum rods that are secured at the end of each stair tread extending upward. Suspended over the stairway landing is an original, six-arm light fixture whose light is cast down through hourglass-shape holders.

From the lobby a corridor with walls of Perlatto marble extends west to a pair of double doors opening into the Classified Department. Walking west down the corridor a pair of elevator doors in stainless steel are positioned to the right/north followed by two doorways also trimmed in stainless steel that lead into a conference room and a managerial suite. The left/south corridor wall has two door openings that, accented in stainless steel, lead into an office supply storage space.

The rest of the first floor space, off-limits to the public, does not display the fine finishes used in the lobby and main corridor space. The employee-only space accounted for more than seventy-five per cent of the overall square footage of the first floor and served a variety of operational and production/distribution-related functions. The physical location for each of these two distinct first floor spaces is best described in relationship with the building's outer walls, customer service counter location and the main corridor.

Behind the red oak paneled wall of the customer service counter is an open asymmetrical space that extends back/south to the south side of the building, left to the east end of the building and west/right to an interior wall that opens into a corridor running west. Along the east side of the building are a series of tall windows with fixed transoms looking out onto South Washington Avenue. Along the south/rear side of the building from east to west/left to right are the Cashiers

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Office, vault, employee restrooms, and locker rooms. In the center of the open floor moveable partitions subdivide space between the Accounting, Classified and Circulation departments.

Walking west down the main corridor from the lobby and through a pair of double doors, the corridor continues to a glazed brick wall. Turning at the wall toward the north/right leads to an exterior exit, while turning south/left takes one into a corridor that separates Operations to the east/left and Distribution/Manufacturing to the west/right. Proceeding south to the end of this corridor a turn west/right leads into the Distribution/Manufacturing Department and onto floor space designated as the mail room. This space backs up to walls to the south and west that enclose the Press Room that contained the Goss Headliner press. The Goss Headliner was a massive piece of printing equipment anchored below the floor surface and extending up into the floor space above. Along the building's north exterior elevation a series of openings accommodated the transferring of bundled newspapers onto delivery trucks positioned at the loading dock just outside.

#### Second Floor

The primary approach to the second floor is gained by elevator or staircase from the ground-floor lobby space. The elevator and staircase land along the main second-floor corridor; exiting the stairs or elevator an individual faces south. The main corridor on the second floor is finished with the same marble used on the first floor. Turning to the left/east off the elevator or stairs, doors along the right/south wall lead into the newsroom. Doors along the left/north corridor wall lead into a three-room suite that consists in progressive order of a conference room, secretarial space, and executive corner office. Each of the three rooms is finished with ash wall paneling, and the conference room and office have fixed single-light windows facing north with built-in bookcases between the floor and window sill. The office, occupied by the Editor, has windows facing north and east, with a dedicated door along an interior north-facing wall that opens into the adjacent newsroom space. The newsroom is centrally positioned between the north, south and east elevations. The perimeter of the newsroom floor is occupied by a series of small offices that face east. Support services such as a library occupied the southeast corner and extended west/right along the building's south side. Photo and microfiche files, interview rooms, photo office and wire service space are located along the west/right side of newsroom floor against the south exterior wall and extend north to the main corridor. All of these spaces have maintained their original footprint; the original rubberized tile material over the majority of the newsroom floor has been replaced with vinyl flooring,

Exiting to the right/west off the elevator the main corridor leads through a glass door with sidelights framed in stainless steel. Beyond this door the corridor turns left/south, then to the right/west. Beyond the west turn the corridor walls are mechanical partitions. Behind the left/south corridor wall is the photo work area, equipped with black rooms and studio space. Behind the right/north corridor wall is a meeting room that extends over to the building's north exterior wall. West of the photo space is a large unutilized space. The corridor terminates at a kitchen and cafeteria space inside the west exterior wall. One-third of the second-floor space was occupied by the upper level of the Press Room containing the Goss Headliner press equipment that extended through the floor from the ground level below.

Name of Property Third Floor

I hird Floor

The primary approach to the third floor is the same elevator or a continuation of the staircase used in accessing the second floor below. The elevator and staircase land along the main third-floor corridor and face south. The main corridor on the third floor is finished with the same marble used in the lobby and second-floor corridors. Turning to the left/east off the elevator or staircase a few steps lead through a glass door that, trimmed in stainless steel, opens into a space used for National Advertising along the building's north side. A doorway beyond to the east leads into a private northeast corner office. Turning right and then facing south, the Advertising and then Art Department occupied spaces along the building's east outer wall to the south outer wall. Turning to the right/west, the Dispatch Department was positioned west of the Advertising Department. South of the Dispatch Department against the south outer wall are restrooms and locker rooms.

Turning right/west from the elevator, passing through a doorway, a proof-reading room against the building's north outer wall stands to the right/north. Facing west is the largest expanse of open floor space in the building. All composing functions were carried out in this centrally positioned floor space. The monotype room was positioned against the north outer wall west of the proof-reading room. A stairwell is located at the building's northwest corner. To the left/south along the west side is a freight elevator. Adjacent left/south of the freight elevator is space for stereotype functions. The remaining space along the west side wall has a quarry tile floor. This space extends to the building's southwest corner. The interior space with this flooring material was intended for future engraving use. With the exception of quarry tile the flooring used throughout this section of the third floor is the original hard maple, a preferred wood surface for areas that experience high-impact conditions such as factory floors. Some portions of the existing wood surface have suffered significant warping, indicative of unstable environmental conditions and water damage.

### Basement

Primary approach into the basement is a set of stairs in a stairwell positioned in the building's northwest corner. Turning left/east and looking across the cavernous expanse of space, eighteen structural support columns are visible. According to original Frantz & Spence drawings from 1958, the foundation system consists of a reinforced concrete mat across the entire basement surface covered with a three-inch layer of concrete. Basement walls are of reinforced concrete, many surfaced with glazed masonry.

Around the perimeter of this space are a sequence of defined spaces of varied size and intended function. The primary function of the basement was printing material storage. The inventory of materials often included 500 tons of newsprint and 5200 gallon storage tanks for ink. The movement of these materials between floors was aided by a large freight elevator, smaller elevator and Newsprint Lowerator, all positioned along the west side. To move the massive rolls of newsprint a conveyor belt placed in the center of the floor space was utilized. Not all designated basement space was used in the storage of printing materials; a significant portion was occupied by dedicated maintenance, telephone, office supply and printing press control rooms.

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#### 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.
- 1

x

x

- 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 grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance Architecture, Communications

Period of Significance 1958-66

Significant Dates 1958-Beginning of construction of the building 1960-Completion

Significant Person (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.) N/A

**Cultural Affiliation** 

N/A

Architect/Builder Architects: Frantz & Spence – Robert B. Frantz & James A. Spence Spence Brothers, General Contractors Wilcox and Laird, Landscape Architects

#### Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

Built in 1958-60, the Saginaw News Building is significant under national register criterion A for housing the *Saginaw News*, Saginaw's daily newspaper, from its completion in 1960 until the paper moved to new quarters in 2010. Marking the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Saginaw News*, ground was broken for the building on August 19, 1958, and in May 1960 the building was occupied. The building is also significant under criterion C as a locally important example of the International style, exemplifying the glass and enameled metal panel curtain wall design and use of a variety of granite and marble building stones characteristic of 1950s and 60s architecture in that style. The building is notable in the career of its designers, the long established, prolific, and accomplished Saginaw architectural firm, Frantz & Spence, as one of the leading examples of their International style work at the very end of the two architects' careers together.

#### Narrative Statement of Significance

How the Saginaw News of 1960 developed is best understood with an explanation of two independent lines of succession that came together in a 1918 merger by the Booth Newspaper Co. Print publication has played a significant role in Saginaw dating back to 1836 when Norman

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Little brought the first printing press to Saginaw. In true pioneering and entrepreneurial spirit John P. Hosmer would print the first town newspaper called *The Saginaw Journal*.

I. The Saginaw News' earliest direct predecessor dates back to 1859, when the first edition of a weekly newspaper known as The East Saginaw Courier was published by George F. Lewis. In 1868 the Saginaw Daily Courier began and the weekly publication was phased out. In 1889 the Courier acquired the Saginaw Daily Herald, and the two were merged into the Courier-Herald. This paper was owned at different times by two Michigan Governors, Aaron T. Bliss (Governor 1901-1904) and Chase S. Osborn (Governor 1911-1912).

**II.** In 1881 what became the second predecessor of the *Saginaw News* was launched with the birth of the *Saginaw Evening News* by Joseph Seemann and Charles H. Peters.

### Purchase by the Booths

In 1910 George and his brother Ralph H. Booth, Charles M. Greenway, and two other investors purchased the *Saginaw Evening News*, and in 1918 they also acquired the *Courier-Herald*. The two papers were consolidated into the *Saginaw News Courier*, which was renamed the *Saginaw Daily News* in 1927. In 1936 the newspaper was renamed one last time as the *Saginaw News*.

#### **Booth Newspapers**

Booth Newspapers can be said to have begun with the 1873 establishment of The Evening News in Detroit by James E. Scripps. Beginning in 1888 Scripps' son-in-law George E. Booth gradually assumed leadership of what became The Detroit News. Separate from the Scripps newspapers (in the 1890s Scripps also owned papers in Cleveland, Cincinnati, and St. Louis), Booth began to acquire Michigan newspapers in 1893 with the acquisition and consolidation of two Grand Rapids newspapers into the Grand Rapids Press. George's younger brother Ralph H. Booth also began acquiring his own group of Michigan newspapers with the 1905 purchase and consolidation of two Jackson papers. George and Ralph with other investors together bought the Muskegon Chronicle in 1907, the Saginaw Evening News in 1910, and the Flint Evening Journal in 1911. In 1914 the Booths merged all their newspaper interests into a Booth Publishing Company. Additional southern Michigan newspapers were purchased in Jackson in 1918, Ann Arbor in 1919, and Kalamazoo in 1922 (Pound, 211-19), and others followed over the years. The company was later reorganized as Booth Newspapers, Inc. Beginning with the Detroit News and Grand Rapids Press and continuing until the 1976 purchase of the company by Newhouse Newspapers, Booth Newspapers had built a large-scale portfolio of prominent newspaper publications in southern Michigan cities including Detroit, Flint, Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids and Jackson. So well respected was the Booth brand in the publishing business that Newhouse and subsequent owners would continue to operate in Michigan under this long established name.

The Booth family was notable not simply for their success in newspaper publishing but also for their use of substantial parts of the proceeds in making significant philanthropic contributions in the fields of education, art, design and architecture. In 1904 Booth newspaper chain founder George Gough Booth and his wife Ellen Scripps Booth purchased over 300 acres in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, northwest of Detroit, for an estate. Before long the Booths were spearheading and largely financing the development of what has become the Cranbrook Educational

Name of Property

Community on much of this land. Cranbrook would attract world renowned architects, artists and design professionals and train many others whose impact on the Modern Movement was profound. The seeds of architecture and design appreciation were planted by George and Ellen Booth in their children, especially in their youngest son Henry Scripps Booth, who would pursue architecture at the University of Michigan during a period when Eliel Saarinen was a visiting professor. While at the university Henry introduced Eliel Saarinen to his parents; this began a longstanding relationship between the Booth and Saarinen families.

### The Saginaw News Building

Prior to the 1960 completion of the new Saginaw News Building the News had operated out of a building that stood on the site of the new building's plaza at the corner of Federal Avenue and South Washington Avenue. That building was demolished when the new one was completed. The Detroit-based Booth newspaper chain had a longstanding record of building newspaper plants in southern Michigan cities that were models both from the standpoint of planning for modern business operations but also in terms of their architectural character, beginning with the 1904 Grand Rapids Press Building and the 1915-17 Detroit News Building and continuing with fine buildings built for the chain's Flint and Jackson newspapers in the 1920s - all designed by Detroit architect Albert Kahn. By the late 1950s the Saginaw News had outgrown its previous building, and the building's structure was viewed as inadequate to support the larger presses and other equipment planned. The new building was designed to address all current and projected future needs and to incorporate additional space for all functions. "On August 19, 1958, ground was broken for the new building. On April 22, 1960, The News was printed for the first time on its new presses. During the next few weeks the other departments completed their moves to the new quarters." A formal dedication of the new building was held September 18, 1960 ("The Saginaw News Story," The Saginaw News, 9/18/1960).

The newspaper's September 18 issue celebrated the new building as "Designed, Built By Saginaw People." It was designed by Saginaw architects Frantz & Spence and built by Saginaw general contractors the Spence Brothers. Subcontractor for the mechanical work was the Bigelow Company and for electrical work the Lighthouse Electric Company, both Saginaw firms ("The News Of Today Designed For Tomorrow," *The Saginaw News*, 9/18/1960). Materials suppliers for the building included ("Materials For Building Come From Near, Far," *The Saginaw News*, 9/8/1960):

- Mississippi Valley Structural Steel Co., which supplied 850 tons of structural steel fabricated in their plants in Flint and Lansing, Michigan.
- Saginaw Rock Products Co., which provided concrete for the foundations.
- Shutt Brick and Tile Co. provided concrete brick for the interior of the south and west walls.
- Ripslinger Brothers of Saginaw supplied glazed face brick, made by Claycraft of Columbus, Ohio, for the exterior.
- Marble for the interior finish included Perlatto, quarried in northern Italy, and also Boise Giordan. The marble was supplied and installed by the Boston Tile and Terrazzo Company of Detroit.

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- The Bethel white granite for the east façade was quarried in Maine and "polished and fabricated in Minnesota and shipped from there by the Cold Spring Granite Co. of Cold Spring, Minn. The dark gray granite columns and base at the front of the building are Minnesota products."
- The enameled metal panel curtain walls are ADLAKE brand products manufactured by Adams and Westlake of Elkhart, Indiana, and Davidson Enamel Products, Inc., of Lima, Ohio, supplied the porcelain enamel steel panels to Adams and Westlake.
- The building's windows are Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co.'s SOLARGRAY plate glass windows on the east and west facades ("SOLARGRAY provides brightness and glare control, [and] solar heat control....") and TWINDOW exterior glass elsewhere ("Gray Glass," Pittsburgh Plate Glass advertisement, *The Saginaw News*, 9/18/1960, Sec. G).

The paper's dedication coverage noted that "The plaza and adjacent shipping area will complete the site development," suggesting that these were not yet complete ("The News Of Today Designed For Tomorrow," *The Saginaw News*, 9/18/1960). In planning the plaza area, "Wilcox and Laird, Birmingham [MI] landscape architects, worked with the building architects, Frantz and Spence..." ("Materials For Building Come From Near, Far," *The Saginaw News*, 9/18/1960).

At the time of the building's dedication *The Saginaw News* reported 218 employees in all and a daily circulation of 52,500 ("Questions, Answers On Building," *The Saginaw News*, 9/18/1960).

### Subsequent History

The building served as home to the Saginaw News for about fifty years. In 2009 daily publishing was reduced to a three-day schedule on Thursday, Friday and Sunday. In conjunction with the ending of daily publication, printing of the paper was outsourced to the Booth-owned Valley Publishing Company in nearby Monitor Township. In 2010 the News' moved its last operations out of the 203 South Washington Avenue location. Decisions made at the Saginaw News during this time were not unlike those faced by many print publications where resources gradually began shifting towards a less traditional and more cost effective digital media format. Saginaw News offices are now located in the Ippel Building in the Old Saginaw City area west of the Saginaw River under the direction of the MLive Media Group.

## **Architectural Significance**

The Saginaw News Building is significant in architectural terms as a product of the Saginaw architectural firm of Frantz & Spence. Frantz & Spence began in 1925. Robert B. Frantz (1894-1971) was born in Waynesboro, PA, and attended the University of Michigan, receiving his BS in Architecture in 1917 and MS in Architecture in 1920. He worked during the summer of 1916 as a draftsman for New York architects Helmle & Corbett (Frank J. Helmle and Harvey W. Corbett) – Corbett was a highly innovative designer through the first half of the twentieth century; he was best known for his tall apartment and other buildings in Manhattan of the late 1920s to late 1930s, but his 480-foot tall Bush Tower office building, W. 42<sup>nd</sup> and W. 43<sup>rd</sup> Sts. between Sixth Avenue and Broadway, would have been on the boards in 1916 (White and Willensky, 73-4, 215, 231, 239, 337, 656). Frantz worked for Saginaw architects Cowles & Mutscheller in 1920-25 before establishing the Frantz & Spence firm.

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Partner James A. Spence, Sr. (1899-1970), a Saginaw native, also attended the U-M, receiving his BS in Architecture in 1922. He worked for several architectural firms, including the prominent Detroit firm of Malcomson & Higginbotham, before joining with Frantz. Frantz & Spence continued until 1960, when the partners dissolved the firm and each established his own Saginaw-based practice. A sketch of the firm by Saginaw historian Tom Trombley states that "Early residential designs by Frantz and Spence were inspired by American Colonial examples and demonstrated the partners' careful analysis and understanding of historical prototypes. ... After World War II, they almost completely abandoned traditional inspiration and embraced Modernism." Saginaw's Castle Museum of Saginaw County History contains a collection of drawings for over 400 Frantz & Spence projects.

One of the firm's large pre-World War II works, the 1938-40 Arthur Hill High School in Saginaw, exhibits a strongly International style-influenced aesthetic and blocky square-plan towers suggestive of some of Eliel Saarinen's work from the same period. Post-WW II era Frantz & Spence commissions listed by the firm's members as among their most significant in the 1962 American Architects Directory include a 1949 Michigan National Bank building, the 1952-54 Saginaw High School, and 1960 YMCA Building in Saginaw; 1955 General Hospital and Staff Residence Building at the Lapeer State Home & Training School; and 1958 Buena Vista High School, near Saginaw, along with the Saginaw News Building (Koyl 1962, 225, 664). Of the downtown Saginaw buildings, the Saginaw YMCA was a fine International style building, judging from the photographs (it has been demolished). It was a large and complex building that included one and two-story sections along with a long and narrow, presumably double-loadedcorridor six-story residential block faced in curtain walls on either long side. Another of the firm's major Saginaw buildings, the Saginaw High School, remains in operation but threatened. Like Hill, it has an imposing, blocky central section fronted by two-story piers but of more simplified International style design, and lower recessed wings on either side that angle gently outward toward the street in front and toward the rear in back. The Saginaw News Building is one of the firm's and Saginaw's key landmarks of the International style of the 1950s and early 1960s by virtue of its size, its use of characteristic finishes and materials, and also its enhancement with a landscaped plaza that was part of the original design.

The building's general contractor, Spence Brothers of Saginaw, founded in 1893 by Hugh and Matthew J. Spence, has an extensive portfolio of large projects in Michigan and beyond to their credit. Arthur M. Spence, Sr., a son of Hugh Spence, joined the firm in 1916 and was later president and as of 1960 chairman of the board. James A. Spence, one of the building's architects, was his younger brother. Matthew J. Spence, Jr., part of the company since 1929, was serving as president in 1960. Spence Brothers expanded from a local contractor in the Saginaw area to take up large building projects across the state and beyond by the 1920s, including the first of many buildings at the University of Michigan over the coming years. During the Great Depression of the 1930s they built numerous post office buildings across the country. By 1960, when they were completing the Saginaw News Building, Spence Brothers' then current or recent projects included three of the major Frantz & Spence projects in Saginaw, the YMCA and Saginaw High School as well as the News Building, plus other major buildings in Saginaw including the Saginaw Veterans Administration Hospital and several banks ("The Builders," *The* 

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Saginaw News, 9/18/1960). The firm remains in business today with offices in Ann Arbor and Traverse City as well as Saginaw.

In its architectural design, the Saginaw News Building utilizes the curtain wall construction of large glass lights and porcelain enameled metal panels that came into use as a characteristic feature of International style buildings in the post-World War II era and also makes much use of the relatively costly granite and marble sometimes used in these buildings.

Porcelain-enameled steel panels as a finish for building walls date back to the 1920s and came into substantial use, particularly for smaller commercial buildings, during the 1930s, providing a smooth finish that contributed much to the sleek stylishness of the early modern architecture of the time labelled Moderne in style. In the early post-World War II years as the earlier Moderne in architecture transitioned into the International style, a previously unknown form of facade construction, known as curtain wall construction, in which non-load-bearing wall sections formed of horizontal bands of large-light windows above metal panel spandrels were supported on the walls' structural framing, began to come into common use. In the 1919-21 period Mies van der Rohe, then a young architect in Germany, prepared several (unexecuted) studies for tall buildings with glass curtain walls. Architect Pietro Belluschi's 1946-48 Equitable Savings & Loan Association Building in Portland, Oregon, is generally considered a pioneer example of the general type, though with its glass and aluminum panel wall sections outlined by the polished aluminum-clad horizontal and vertical structural members rather than suspended from their outer faces (Clausen, 167; McCallum, 79). The 1947-50 United Nations Secretariat Building in New York, designed by Wallace K. Harrison (as director of planning, working with an International Design Board of architects), used glass curtain walls - window bands of blue-green Thermopane windows over tempered wire glass spandrels - for the major elevations, with marble for the building's narrow end walls (Newhouse, 127-28, see 116-40 in general).

New York's Lever House office building, designed by Gordon Bunshaft of architects Skidmore, Owings & Merrill and completed in 1952, is regarded as having been particularly influential in promoting the widespread acceptance and use of curtain wall construction because of its widely admired design and generous provision of public space. As in the all-glass curtain-wall U. N. Secretariat Building, the building was faced in glass windows above glass spandrels, in this case blue-green glass windows above wire glass-faced spandrels backed by concrete block masonry (Architectural Record Editors, Commercial Buildings, 20-25). The 1960 Office Buildings, a compilation of articles from Architectural Record generally from the 1957-60 period, makes clear that, as James S. Hornbeck stated in his article "The New Skyscraper" published in the book, "The lightweight curtain-wall has come of age in the form of a modular, industrial unit. For its facing, a variety of materials have been used, tried, or dreamed of - with more to come: glass, plastics, thin stone, metals, ceramics, etc." (Office Buildings, 3). Examples of larger buildings presented in the book illustrating practices current as the Saginaw News Building was being designed and built tended to use glass spandrel panels of various types (see, for example, Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Co. Building, Toledo, 93-102; Crown Zellerbach Building, San Francisco, 127-36; and Seagram Building, New York, 142-50).

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Detroit's and perhaps Michigan's first post-war curtain wall structure was the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago Detroit Branch Annex designed by Minoru Yamasaki, then head designer at the Detroit firm Smith, Hinchman & Grylls, and constructed in 1949-51. The building's spandrels were made of white marble panels (Savage). But more typical of the new generation of curtain wall International style buildings of the 1950s and 60s are those in which the spandrels are of porcelain enameled steel panels such as those used in the Saginaw News Building. The General Motors Technical Center research park at Warren, north of Detroit, designed by Eero Saarinen and constructed in its first phase in the 1949-56 period, likely offered among the earliest Michigan examples of the use of steel panels in curtain wall construction. By the later 1950s when the Saginaw News Building was being designed, steel panel curtain walls were becoming common in Michigan's cities and across the nation. As in many of the larger International style buildings of the time, such as New York's 1954-58 Seagram Building (Mies van der Rohe and Philip Johnson, architects), where pink granite and green and gray-green marble were used in parts of the exterior, high tone building materials such as granite and marble in different hues used in different locations as decorative accents were also popular.

The building's design also incorporates another feature intended to shelter the main entry and separate it from the building's loading docks, located along the same side. This is a landscaped plaza at the northeast corner close to South Washington, a key business street in the downtown. The plaza both serves as a forecourt for the building's main entrance but also screens a loading dock and parking area that is located along the same side of the building, but back farther from S. Washington on a side street. The plaza with its raised planting beds and shrubs and trees was planned by Birmingham, Michigan, landscape architects Wilcox and Laird. The firm's work is thus far not well documented: only one other example of their work, the landscaping for The Jeffersonian, a thirty-story apartment tower in Detroit designed by Giffels & Rosetti, Inc., and built in the early 1960s, was located in the course of research for this nomination (Paul, 176).

Carefully planned landscaping, including open landscaped plazas, became a common, even characteristic, feature of larger International style buildings with their development after World War II. The new breed of office parks that proliferated in the wake of the publicity generated by the construction of key early examples including the 1949-56 General Motors Technical Center and the Connecticut General Life Insurance Company complex in Bloomfield, Connecticut, completed in 1957, were set in landscaped grounds and contained landscaped plazas and courtyards (von Eckardt, 110-13). Of the landscaped space in front of the GM Technical Center, it was stated, "It has been designed for people who walk, relax, and need a change of pace from work" (von Eckardt, 111-12). The concept of open, landscaped plaza spaces in an urban environment got a strong boost with New York's Lever House office building, with its open ground level with a central courtyard whose plantings continued into the enclosed lobby space and its third-floor rooftop plaza surrounding the central court. Closer to Saginaw, an early example of a post-World War II office building with a plaza-fronted entry was Yamasaki's (previously noted) 1949-51 Federal Reserve Detroit Annex.

Saginaw News Building Name of Property Saginaw Co., MI

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- "The Builders. Long-Established Saginaw Firm Was The General Contractor."
- "Materials For Building Come From Near, Far."
- "The News Of Today Designed For Tomorrow."
- "Pride of accomplishment Our Congratulations to The Saginaw News" [Spence Brothers advertisement].
- "Questions, Answers On Building."

Saginaw News Building

Name of Property

"The Saginaw News Story."

Saginaw Co., MI

Sec. G of same issue:

 "GRAY GLASS – A New Approach Used in the New Saginaw News." Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co. advertisement.

Savage, Rebecca Binno. Detroit News Complex, Detroit. National Register nomination, 2015.

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[Trombley, Tom]. "Colonial Revival Becomes Modern: The Architecture of Frantz and Spence of Saginaw." Michigan Historic Preservation Network, May 14, 2015. https://www.planning.org/events/event/4191859. Accessed 7/25/2016.

[Trombley, Tom]. "Architects & Biographies: Frantz and Spence." http://www.saginawlibrary.org/jeffersonavenue/architects/frantzspence.php. Accessed 7/25/2016.

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### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- x\_previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #\_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #\_\_\_\_\_

### Primary location of additional data:

- \_\_\_\_ State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- X Other

Name of repository: The Castle Museum of Saginaw County History

Saginaw News Building Name of Property Saginaw Co., MI

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .99 acre Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)		
Datum if other than WGS84: (enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)		
1. Latitude: 43.431719	Longitude: -83	3.940157
2. Latitude:	Longitude:	
3. Latitude:	Longitude:	
4. Latitude:	Longitude:	
Or UTM References Datum (indicated on USG	S map):	
NAD 1927 or	NAD 1983	
1. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting :	Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Lots 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, Block 20, Hoyt's Plat, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 38 of Plats, page 303, Saginaw County Records. The nominated property is bounded on the north by Federal Ave, on the east by Water St., and on the west by S. Washington Ave.

Saginaw News Building Name of Property Saginaw Co., MI

## **Boundary Justification**

The boundary of the nominated property includes all land currently associated with the building.

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: <u>William M. Danforth II</u> <u>Revised by R. O. Christensen, National Register Coordinator</u> organization: <u>Danforth Preservation Consulting LLC.</u> street & number: <u>140 East Bloomfield Ave.</u> city or town: <u>Royal Oak</u> state: <u>Michigan zip code: 48073</u> e-mail: <u>danforthconsulting@wowway.com</u> telephone: <u>c.617-610-8582 h.248-589-0843</u> date: <u>November 14, 2015</u>

#### **Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- Maps: A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

#### Photographs

#### Photo Log

Name of Property: City or Vicinity: County: State: Photographer:

Dates Photographed:

Saginaw News Building Saginaw Michigan William Danforth

Multiple Dates: April 8, 2015 September 14 and 28, 2015 October 27, 2015 November 22 and 24, 2015

#### Saginaw News Building Name of Property

Saginaw Co., MI

Photo #1 of 16: (MI_Saginaw County_SaginawNewsBuilding_0001)
East elevation (left) and north elevation/façade (right), Plaza at center,
camera facing southwest. R. O. Christensen, Sept. 2016.
Photo #2 of 16: (MI)_Saginaw County_SaginawNewsBuilding_0002)
East elevation (left) and north elevation/façade (right), Plaza at center,
camera facing southwest. R. O. Christensen, Sept. 2016.
Photo #3 of 16: (MI_Saginaw County_SaginawNewsBuilding_0003)
East elevation detail, camera facing north-northwest.
R. O. Christensen, Sept. 2016.
Photo #4 of 16: (MI_Saginaw County_SaginawNewsBuilding_0004)
North elevation, entry off plaza, camera facing southwest.
R. O. Christensen, Sept. 2016.
Photo #5 of 16: (MI_Saginaw County_SaginawNewsBuilding_0005)
Plaza off N entrance looking west, wall separating plaza and loading dock
at right. R. O. Christensen, Sept. 2016.
Photo #6 of 16: (MI_Saginaw County_SaginawNewsBuilding_0006)
West plaza alcove, loading dock in center background, camera facing
west. R. O. Christensen, Sept. 2016.
Photo #7 of 16: (MI_Saginaw County_SaginawNewsBuilding_0007)
Front edge of plaza and wall separating it from loading dock area, north
façade of building in background, camera facing southwest.
R. O. Christensen, Sept. 2016.
Photo #8 of 16: (MI_Saginaw County_SaginawNewsBuilding_0008)
North and west elevations, camera facing southeast.
R. O. Christensen, Sept. 2016.
Photo #9 of 16: (MI_Saginaw County_SaginawNewsBuilding_0009)
Loading dock area, north façade, looking east.
R. O. Christensen, Sept. 2016.
Photo #10 of 16: (MI_Saginaw County_SaginawNewsBuilding_0010)
West (and south) elevations, camera facing northeast.
R. O. Christensen, Sept. 2016.
Photo #11 of 16: (MI_Saginaw County_SaginawNewsBuilding_0011)
East and north elevations, camera facing southwest.
W. E. Danforth, Oct. 2015.
Photo #12 of 16: (MI_Saginaw County_SaginawNewsBuilding_0012)
Interior: First floor lobby, camera facing southwest.
W. E. Danforth, Oct. 2015.
Photo #13 of 16: (MI_Saginaw County_SaginawNewsBuilding_0013)
Interior: First floor lobby, main staircase, camera facing northwest.
W. E. Danforth, Oct. 2015.
Photo #14 of 16: (MI_Saginaw County_SaginawNewsBuilding_0014)
Interior: First floor lobby, main staircase, camera facing northwest.
W. E. Danforth, Oct. 2015.
Photo #15 of 16: (MI Saginaw County SaginawNewsBuilding 0015)

Name of Property

Saginaw Co., MI

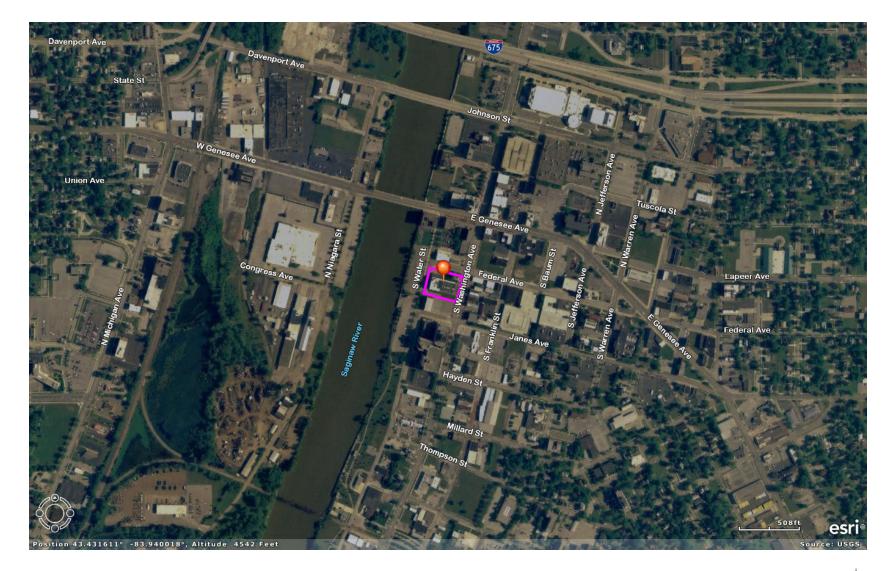
Interior: First floor, main hallway, passenger elevators, camera facing northwest. W. E. Danforth, Oct. 2015.

Photo #16 of 16: (MI\_Saginaw County\_SaginawNewsBuilding\_0016) Interior: First floor, main hallway, camera facing west.

W. E. Danforth, Oct. 2015.

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



203 South Washington Avenue, Saginaw, Saginaw County, Michigan

Lat./Long.: 43.4317192323946/ -83.9401575439858

one inch = 508 feet 0 508 ft



































#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:	Nomination		
Property Name:	Saginaw News Building		
Multiple Name:			
State & County:	MICHIGAN, Saginaw		
Date Rece	eived: Date of Pending List: Date of 16th Day: Date of 45th Day: Da 12/13/2016 12/13/2016	te of Weekly List: 12/22/2016	
Reference number:	r: 16000838		
Nominator:	State		
Reason For Review	w:		
<b>X</b> Accept	ReturnReject <b>12/13/2016</b> Date		
Abstract/Summary Comments:	Meets Registration Requirements		
Recommendation/ Criteria			
Reviewer Patrick	k Andrus Discipline Historian		
Telephone (202)3	354-2218 Date		
DOCUMENTATION	N: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No		

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

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OCT 2	8 2016

II. Reg. of Historic F National Park Service



RICK SNYDER GOVERNOR STATE OF MICHIGAN MICHIGAN STATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

October 11, 2016

Mr. J. Paul Loether, Chief National Register of Historic Places National Park Service 1201 Eye Street, NW, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the **Saginaw News Building** in Saginaw, Saginaw County, Michigan, to the National Register of Historic Places. This property is being submitted for listing in the national register. No written comments concerning this nomination were submitted to us prior to our forwarding this nomination to you.

Questions concerning this nomination should be addressed to Robert O. Christensen, National Register coordinator, at (517) 335-2719 or christensenr@michigan.gov.

Sincerely yours,

Brian D. Conway State Historic Preservation Officer

