1045

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 80 documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of alguificance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. OCT 3 1 2014 1. Name of Property MAT REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES Historic name: Saginaw County Fairgrounds Main Gate Other names/site number: N/A Name of related multiple property listing: (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing 2. Location Street & number: 2701 East Genesee Avenue City or town: Saginaw County: Saginaw State: Not For Publication: Vicinity: 3. State/Federal Agency Certification As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance: national statewide x local Applicable National Register Criteria: x A Signature of certifying official/Title: MI SHPO State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. Signature of commenting official: Date Title: State or Federal agency/bureau

or Tribal Government

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

Saginaw County Fairgrounds Main Gate

Name of Property

4. National Park Service Certification I hereby certify that this property is: ventered 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 5. Classification Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.) Private: Public - Local Public - State Public - Federal **Category of Property** (Check only one box.) Building(s) District Site Structure Object

Saginaw Co., MI

County and State

ginaw County Fairgrounds Main Gate e of Property	_	Saginaw Co. County and State
		a a
Number of Resources within Proper (Do not include previously listed resou		
Contributing	Noncontributing	buildings
		sites
1		structures
	(d.	objects
1	0	Total
6. Function or Use Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)		
Other/Ticket Booth-Gateway		
Other/Ticket Booth-Gateway		
Other/Ticket Booth-Gateway		
Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.) Vacant/Not in Use	_	
Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)	_	

ginaw County Fairgrounds Main Gate e of Property	Saginaw Co., County and State	
7. Description		
Architectural Classification		
(Enter categories from instructions.) <u>Bungalow/Craftsman</u>		

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

Standing at the northeast corner of the fifty-acre former site of the Saginaw County Fairgrounds facing the intersection of the two streets fronting the site, the gate is a sixty feet long by fifteen feet deep structure containing a ticket office at each end flanking central, side-by-side pedestrian and automobile gates. Constructed in 1929, the gate structure has walls and central piers constructed of red paving brick with a limestone base, window sill-level beltcourses, and window impost blocks. A white-painted wooden entablature displaying paired and single brackets supports a green clay Spanish tile hip roof.

Saginaw County Fairgrounds Main Gate
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Narrative Description

The gate faces northeast toward the intersection of East Genesee Avenue and Webber Street. The east-west Webber Street fronts the former fairgrounds on the north and the northwest-to-southeast-running East Genesee Avenue fronts them on the northeast. East Genesee Avenue, a primary street on Saginaw's east side, is part of the Michigan section of the old Dixie Highway, which runs from Sault Ste. Marie to Detroit on its way to Atlanta, where it combines with a separate Chicago/western route on its way south to Miami.

The Saginaw County Fair was located at this site from 1914 until 2001, after which the county fair moved to new grounds near Chesaning, fifteen miles to the south-southwest. The former fairgrounds were then sold, and all buildings and structures have been demolished except for this gate and the former race track grandstand. The old fairgrounds are located on Saginaw's southeast side. The neighborhood contains some commercial development along East Genesee and mostly smaller, working-class homes. Saginaw High, one of the city's two public high schools, is located several blocks away on Webber.

The gate displays a ticket office at each end flanking two broad passages between them. The northwest office was the ticket office for pedestrians, who entered the broad passage closer to it, controlled by a now-removed turnstile system. The southeast office served as a ticket and gatekeeper's office for the automobile entry point/passage next to it. Square-plan brick piers separate the two equal-width passages at the structure's front and back and support wooden lintels whose lower sides slope very gently upward to a point in the center. The office sections at the ends have raised brick piers marking the ends of their narrow outer end walls and a segmental-arch-head ticket window in the center of the inner side facing the passage. The street-facing front of each office has a slant-sided bay, containing a segmental-arch-head window in each face, spanning most of its front. The offices' rear, southwest facades are flat, and each contains a door.

The gate structure displays an Arts-and-Crafts character. The windows are edged by single rows of headers and rowlocks across the top, with plain limestone impost blocks at the upper corners, and the upper piers each contains a panel of flush-laid soldier bricks, five across by two high. A beltcourse of rowlock bricks, with plain limestone blocks at the angles, rings each office exterior just below the wooden entablature and roof. Paired brackets rising above the end piers, above the center passage piers, and flanking the outer ends of the passages support the roof, which projects broadly beyond the walls in those areas. The green clay Spanish tile hip roof is capped by a flagpole rising above a square-plan pedestal toward each end. The passages are now closed off by tall chain-link fences, part of a chain-link fence system that encloses the former fairgrounds' entire street-facing sides.

The ticket office interiors are simply finished with painted brick walls and narrow beaded board ceilings.

Sagin Name o	aw C f Prop	oun erty	y Fairgrounds Main Gate	Saginaw Co., MI County and State
8.	Sta	iten	nent of Significance	
(M	-	'x"	National Register Criteria n one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property f	or National Register
2	ĸ	A.	Property is associated with events that have made a signification broad patterns of our history.	ant contribution to the
		В.	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in	n our past.
;	х	C.	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, property construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose individual distinction.	s high artistic values,
		D.	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important history.	rtant in prehistory or
			563	120
			onsiderations in all the boxes that apply.)	
		A.	Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purpo	ses
		В.	Removed from its original location	
		C.	A birthplace or grave	
		D.	A cemetery	
		E.	A reconstructed building, object, or structure	
		F.	A commemorative property	
Ē		G.	Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the	past 50 years
	Enter	cat	Significance egories from instructions.) inment/Recreation	
_			cture	

ginaw County Fairgrounds Main Gate	Saginaw Co., M
e of Property	County and State
	
	
Period of Significance	
1929-64	
Significant Dates	
1929	
Significant Person	
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)	
Cultural Affiliation	
N/A	
	* +
Architect/Builder	
Cowles & Mutscheller, Saginaw, MI, architects	
CONTROL OF THE STATE OF THE STA	
	

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Saginaw County Fairgrounds Main Gate

Saginaw Co., MI County and State

Name of Property

This gate structure served as the main entry gate for the Saginaw County Fair from its construction in 1929 until the closing of these fairgrounds after the 2001 fair. Historically the street face of the fairgrounds, the gate today remains one of the only standing structures of the nearly three dozen buildings and structures at this large fairgrounds, which contained agricultural and other exhibit buildings, merchants' buildings, a grandstand and racetrack, food stands and farmers' market, a duck pond and picnic park, and other features. The gate, though modest in size, is notable for its fine Arts-and-Crafts-inspired architecture and as a unique and appealing product of a leading early twentieth-century Saginaw architectural firm, Cowles & Mutscheller, comprised of Clarence Cowles (1869-1935) and George Mutscheller (1882-1936).

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

County fairs, with their roots and continuing emphasis on agriculture, have a very long history in Saginaw County. An editorial in the *East Saginaw Courier* of October 13, 1859, under the heading "Let Us Have a Fair," asked, "Inasmuch as Fairs, Horse Shows, Agricultural and Mechanical Exhibitions are now the order of the day in all quarters of the State, and every other State for that matter, ... why it is that we cannot get up something of the kind in the Valley of Saginaw? ... Let all classes, Farmers, Nurserymen, Mechanics, Lumbermen, Merchants, Fishermen, and more especially the Ladies take an interest, and we really believe we can have a Fair of our own that will do us honor. ... We make the suggestion; will not some of the leading men in the Valley take hold of the matter and see what can be done?" A follow-up article two weeks later (October 27, 1859) noted "that the matter is being talked about," but nothing concrete resulted at the time.

The Saginaw County Fair originated with the organization of a Saginaw County Agricultural Society on March 20, 1866. The society established a fairgrounds in East Saginaw – this once separate city on the east side of the Saginaw River merged with Saginaw City, west of the river, in 1890 to form today's city of Saginaw – on the east side of South Jefferson Avenue between Sidney (now Rust) and Webber Streets in what is now the near south side of the city east of the Saginaw River. The society held its first fair October 3-5, 1866.

In May 1873 a group of Saginaw City businessmen and farmers organized a separate Saginaw Central Agricultural Society "to promote the agricultural interest of the county's western townships." The society held its first fair September 15-17, 1873, on grounds located on Court Street near State on the West Side.

The east and west-side societies each held their own fair annually for a time, reportedly vying for subsidies from the county board of supervisors, but after a few years the two agreed to hold their fairs in alternate years. Mills' Saginaw County history states that the west-side society "maintained a fairly successful existence for about fifteen years, but at length disbanded and its ground reverted to the uses of agriculture" (Mills, I, 701).

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Name of Property

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Mills (I, 700) states that the Saginaw County Agricultural Society disbanded "almost" thirty years after its founding, or about 1895. In its last year the society held its fair at Union Park, a privately owned park on the city's West Side that featured a fine race track. Its owner, Isaac Bearinger – whose pet hobby of fine driving horses, according to Mills, led to him developing the park – was a leading businessman in Saginaw, with lumber interests in Michigan, Ontario, and West Virginia, and also a banker, developer of the first local trolley line, and a paving brick manufacturer. The park was abandoned in 1905 and platted into lots in 1906 (Mills, I, 700; II, 78-81).

No Saginaw County fair was then held from the mid-1890s until 1912, when a new Saginaw County School and Farm Bureau Association was organized. That fall and in 1913 the association "gave interesting educational exhibits at Riverside Park" on the city's West Side (Mills, I, 700).

From this beginning a new Saginaw County Agricultural Society was organized in 1914. Their first fair took place October 4-7, 1914, at the Saginaw Driving Club grounds – soon to become the permanent home of the fair for the next ninety years, located on the East Side bounded by Genesee on the east and Webber on the north, where the nominated Main Gate is located – and hosted a reported 40,000 visitors. The driving club's horse racing track, dating back to 1873, became a key feature of the fairgrounds (Mills, I, 701; "Fair Here One of Nation's Biggest," *The Saginaw News*, 8/24/1947).

In 1917 the county agricultural society purchased the driving club grounds and began making their own improvements, including two exhibit buildings that first year, with more planned. By the 1919 fair a series of views of "Some of the Magnificent Buildings" at the fairgrounds shows large wooden Agricultural, Cattle, Horses, Automobiles, Educational, and Manufacturers buildings, and a Machinery Building was to be built in 1920 to augment the display space in the Manufacturers Building. New features and buildings were added over the years, and the fair's attendance figures jumped upward – to 225,000 over seven days in 1946. In a 1947 story on the fair, manager Clarence H. Harnden, a former president of the National Association of Fairs, was quoted as stating that among county fairs "the Saginaw exposition is surpassed in attendance and gate receipts only by the Pomona, Calif., County Fair" ("Fair Here One of Nation's Biggest"). A 1978 story makes note of the fairgrounds' seventy-eight-acre site, and a map shows thirty-eight buildings and structures, including the race track and grandstand ("Saginaw Fair Observes 65th Year," *The Saginaw News*, 9/12/1978).

Saginaw County Fairgrounds Main Gate
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The Main Gate

One of the improvements of the 1920s at the Saginaw County Fairgrounds was the construction of three new gates to the grounds. Two of the gates were automobile gateways leading to the large parking area at the south end of the site, one located at the south end of the fairgrounds off Genesee, the other off Hess Avenue. The nominated Main Gate structure was built in the same location as an earlier main gate facing the Genesee/Webber intersection. This was built to provide both a main pedestrian entrance to the fair and an automobile entrance.

Surviving plans for the structure, designed by Saginaw architects Cowles & Mutscheller, are dated July 1929. The completed structure is illustrated in a September 9, 1929, story in *The Saginaw News*. The article states, "... the new main entrance does much to improve the general appearance of the property. Handsomely constructed of brick, it makes an imposing entry-way off Genesee avenue at the north end of the grounds. It is, of course, located at the same spot the main entrance always has been. The gateway includes entrances for both automobiles and pedestrians, with wide columns and an attractive arch between the two built-in rooms for the ticket sellers and gatemen."

The structure's architects, Cowles & Mutscheller, were Clarence Cowles (1869-1935) and George Mutscheller (1882-1936). Born in not-far-distant Flint, Cowles moved to Saginaw and opened his own architectural office in 1893. Mutscheller was born in Sturgis and moved to Saginaw by 1908, when he and Cowles formed the Cowles & Mutscheller firm. Saginaw historian and architectural historian Thomas Trombley states that, "In the first decade of the twentieth century, Clarence Cowles produced designs for a number of substantial private and public buildings. Although he employed many different historically inspired styles, his work is characterized by structural innovation and imaginative manipulation of space." Trombley lists among Cowles' own buildings St. Mary's Catholic Cathedral, 601 Hoyt, a Gothic building built 1901, and the Forest Lawn Cemetery Comfort Station, exotic for Saginaw in its Moorish elements.

A 1915 article cited by Trombley reported that the Cowles & Mutcheller firm "has designed 1,600 buildings since its inception" ("Cowles & Mutscheller Architects," *Commerce of Greater Saginaw*). He states, "In the teens, Cowles and Mutscheller designed some of their finest buildings. They progressively moved away from historical revival styles and developed a personal style based on the American Arts and Crafts Movement. In the late 1920s the office produced designs for three major buildings in the Art Deco style."

The Saginaw County Fairgrounds Main Gate, while certainly not one of the firm's larger and more costly commissions, displays fine architectural design qualities and is a notable example of the firm's Arts-and-Crafts-inspired work.

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Recent History

After the 2001 fair, the Saginaw County Fair moved to a new fairgrounds outside of Saginaw in Chesaning, with the first fair held there in 2002. The old fairgrounds property in Saginaw was purchased by the Saginaw Housing Commission in 2002. In 2009 most of the fairground buildings were demolished. No new development has taken place at the site. Beginning in 2010 Saginaw historians and the Saginaw Valley Historic Preservation Society have proposed creating a memorial park on a small section of the property centered on the gate at the Genesee/Webber corner. The proposal has the support of the Saginaw County Board of Commissioners and the Saginaw County Fair Board but will require city and housing commission support and raising funds to purchase the property needed.

Saginaw	County	Fairgrounds	Main Gate	
Name of Pro	nerty			

Saginaw Co., MI County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Cowles & Mutscheller, Architects. Ticket Office and Gates, Saginaw Fair Association. Plansheets dated July 1929. Plans housed at Castle Museum of Saginaw County History, Saginaw.

East Saginaw Courier

- "Let Us Have a Fair." Oct. 13, 1859.
- "A Fair of Our Own." Oct. 27, 1859.

Mills, James Cooke. History of Saginaw County, Michigan, Historical – Commercial – Biographical. Profusely Illustrated with Portraits of Early Pioneers, Rare Pictures and Scenes of Olden Times, and Portraits of Representative Citizens of Today. 2 vols. Saginaw: Seemann & Peters, 1918.

The Saginaw News

- "Attractive Entry Gate Built at Fair." Sept. 8, 1929.
- "Architect's Career Ended" [Clarence Cowles]. Oct. 21, 1935.
- "Death Takes Civic Leader" [George Mutscheller]. April 11, 1936.
- "Fair Here One of Nation's Biggest." Sept. 14, 1948.
- "Saginaw Fair Observes 65th Year." Sept. 12, 1978.
- "Historians Want to Save Fair Gates." Sept. 2, 2010.
- "Fairgrounds Continue to Haunt Saginaw Housing Commission." Nov. 22, 2011.
- "The Makings of a Memorial Park?" Sept. 25, 2012.

Trombley, Thomas. "More Information on Cowles and Mutscheller" (Notes with sources, emailed to Thomas Mudd, May 10, 2013. Copy in working file.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

Primary location of additional data:

	ds Main Gate			Saginaw Co., County and State
of Property State Historic P	reservation Office			County and State
Other State age				
Federal agency				0.
Local governme				
University	50 5 72			
Other				
Name of reposi	tory:			
Historic Resources	Survey Number (i	f assigned):	-	
10. Geographical D	ata			
Acreage of Property	Less than one			
Use either the UTM	system or latitude/l	ongitude coordinat	es	
Latitude/Longitude Datum if other than ' (enter coordinates to	WGS84:	imal degrees) —		
1. Latitude: 43.4072		Longitude: -83.9	17084	
2. Latitude:		Longitude:		
3. Latitude:		Longitude:		
4. Latitude:		Longitude:		
0*				
UTM References	USGS map):			
UTM References Datum (indicated on	USGS map): or NAD 1	983		
Or UTM References Datum (indicated on NAD 1927		.983	Northing:	
UTM References Datum (indicated on NAD 1927	or NAD 1	.983	Northing:	

Saginaw County Fairgrounds Main Gate		Sagina	w Co., MI
Name of Property		County an	d State
4. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:	

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

The nominated property's boundary begins at the intersection of the south Webber Street right-of-way line west of E. Genesee Ave., extended east to its intersection with the west-southwest right-of-way line of E. Genesee Ave. south of Webber St., extended north-northwest. The east-northeast boundary follows the west-southwest right-of-way line of E. Genesee from the pt of beginning for 175 ft. The north boundary begins at the pt of beginning and extends west from there 150 ft. to a point along the south right-of-way line of Webber St. The south line runs west from the south-southeast end of the east-northeast boundary and parallel with Webber St. to the intersection with the west line, and the west line runs south from the west end of the north line to its intersection with the south line.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The gate structure stands southwest about fifty feet from the E. Genesee/Webber intersection. The nominated property includes an adjacent portion of the historically open space around the gate structure that should be maintained to provide separation in the event of new development on the former fairgrounds property. The rest of the former fairgrounds has been almost entirely obliterated and the site is to be made available for new development in the future.

name/title: R.C	. Christensen,	National	Register (Coordinator	_
organization:	MI SHPO				
street & number:	702 W. Kal	amazoo S	t		
city or town:	Lansing	state:	MI	zip code: 48909	
e-mail christer	nsenr@michig	an.gov_			
telephone: _517/	335-2719				
date: Aug	gust 2014				

Additional Documentation

Saginaw County Fairgrounds Main Gate
Name of Property

Saginaw Co., MI County and State

• Additional items: (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Saginaw County Fairgrounds Main Gate

City or Vicinity: Saginaw

County: Saginaw State: MI

Photographer: Jeff Cottrell

Date Photographed: August 23, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 8: Northeast and southeast facades

MI Saginaw SaginawCoFairMainGate 0001.tif

2 of 8: Northeast and northwest facades

MI Saginaw SaginawCoFairMainGate 0002.tif

3 of 8: Southeast and northeast facades

MI Saginaw SaginawCoFairMainGate 0003.tif

4 of 8: Pedestrian gate, northeast and southeast facades

MI Saginaw SaginawCoFairMainGate 0004.tif

5 of 8: Back side of gate, southwest and northeast facades

Saginaw County Fairgrounds Main Gate

Name of Property

MI Saginaw SaginawCoFairMainGate 0005.tif

County and State

Saginaw Co., MI

6 of 8: Interior of ticket office

MI Saginaw SaginawCoFairMainGate 0006.tif

7 of 8: Ticket office ceiling

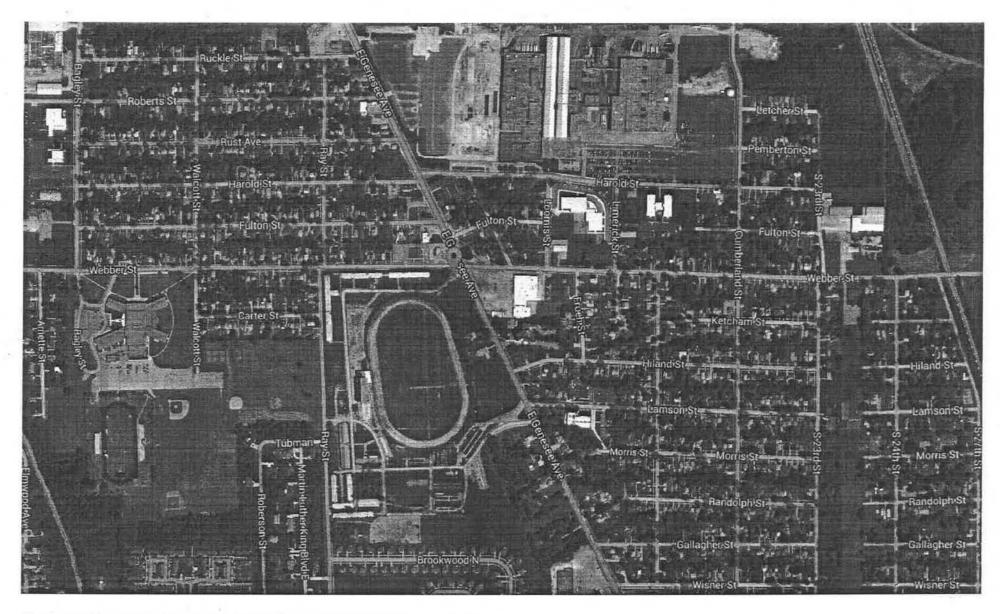
MI Saginaw SaginawCoFairMainGate 0007.tif

8 of 8: View of fairgrounds site showing surviving grandstand

MI Saginaw SaginawCoFairMainGate 0008.tif

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.



Saginaw County Fairgrounds Main Gate, Saginaw County, Michigan Lat.: 43.407299; Long.: -83.917084

















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION
PROPERTY Saginaw County Fairgrounds Main Gate NAME:
MULTIPLE NAME:
STATE & COUNTY: MICHIGAN, Saginaw
DATE RECEIVED: 10/31/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/25/14 DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/10/14 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/17/14
REFERENCE NUMBER: 14001045
REASONS FOR REVIEW:
APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N
COMMENT WAIVER: N
ACCEPTRETURNREJECT
ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:
The Mathemal Register of Photos
RECOM./CRITERIA
TELEPHONE DATE
DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N
If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



RICK SNYDER GOVERNOR

MICHIGAN STATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

WAYNE WORKMAN
ACTING-EXECUTIVE DIBECTOR.

RECEIVED 2280

OCT 3 1 2014

MATREGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INATIONAL PARK SERVICE

October 22, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed is a national register nomination form for the Saginaw County Fairgrounds Main Gate in Saginaw, Saginaw 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 should be addressed to Robert O. Christensen, national register coordinator, by phone at 517/335-2719 or email at christensenr@michigan.gov.

Sincerely yours,

Brian D. Conway

State Historic Preservation Officer