

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

818

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

Historic name: Criffield-Whiteley House

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: 601 Main Street

City or town: Doawgiac State: MI County: Cass

Not For Publication: Vicinity: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:

 A x B x C D

<u>Bruce D. Canney</u>	<u>10/12/16</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>MI SHPO</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- 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:)

Jan Elson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

12.6.16
Date of Action

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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Queen Anne

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: STONE
Walls: WOOD/weatherboard
Roof: SYNTHETICS

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

The Criffield-Whiteley House is a two-and-one-half-story dwelling in the Queen Anne style, located at the intersection of Main Street and North Lowe Street on the west side of Dowagiac, Michigan. Standing on a rubble fieldstone foundation formed of large, carefully fitted pieces, the house faces north on a triangular city park containing the Civil War Monument. Since its construction in 1897 the home has remained a single-family dwelling occupied successively by four families. The current property comprises a lot of approximately 130 feet by 130 feet. The main front section of the wood frame house has a tall side-gable roof, with short two-story gable-topped projections at the right end of the front and back end of the house's east side. A three-story round corner tower, topped by a conical roof, dominates the house's northeast corner facing the intersection. There is a gable-roof rear ell. The house's exterior is finished in narrow clapboarding, with plain cornerboards, and displays Colonial Revival detailing. This includes simple classical cornices and friezes, an entry porch with paired (triple at the corners) Tuscan columns that wraps around the north corner, and windows with trim in a palladian window motif

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in the front and two side gables. The property is in very good condition and remains essentially unaltered from its original design, construction, materials, and workmanship.

Narrative Description

The house is located in a neighborhood of generally more modest homes on the main entrance to the city from the south and the west. Across the street is a large triangular community park containing the city's Civil War Monument. Dowagiac's downtown is located three blocks to the east.

The only change to the property dimensions occurred in 1920, when the original property was divided, separating the house from the carriage house and reducing the size of the lot from 130 feet by 190 feet to 130 feet by 130 feet. The house itself has been kept in its original state since being constructed in 1897. The only exception to excellent condition is an ongoing painting project on the porch.

The north elevation fronts Main Street and is the house's primary façade. This elevation features clapboard siding, wooden one-over-one and two-over-two double-hung sash windows with wooden storms, and simple broad baseboards and entablatures capping the foundation and below the eaves. A three-story rounded tower with small decorative brackets and a conical roof marks the northeast corner. A single brick chimney rises above the roof behind the tower. Wrapping around the northwest corner across half the front and partially down the west side elevation is a porch fronting the primary front entrance – a wooden door glazed with a large single light. The porch has rock-face cut stone piers that serve as bases for the columns, a balustrade with spindle balusters topped by a milled and shaped rail between the bases, Tuscan columns in groups of two and three, and a broad frieze with dentil molding below the porch's hip roof. The shallow front projection rising above the porch is topped by a sharply pointed gable that contains a simple palladian window, with arch-top central one-over-one window flanked by a narrow single light on either side.

The other, east and west side and south/rear elevations continue many of the elements from the front façade. The primary continued elements include the fieldstone foundation, clapboard cladding, base and cornerboards, friezes and cornices, and window trim with simple molded caps. The west side elevation includes the continuation of the front porch, which ends on that side at a small gabled projection from the west wall containing an entry onto the porch. The gabled entry is aligned with a slightly wider square-sided projection of the side wall in the second story above that rises up to the base of the main roof's gable. This west side gable, like the one at the other, east end, displays a palladian window motif much larger and more complex than the one in the front-facing gable. It features a central flat-topped one-over-one window flanked on either side by narrower blind wood paneled "sidelights," each formed of two side-by-side panels above and below separated by a single taller one. The windows and paneled sidelights are framed by thin pilasters and topped by a tall frieze with molded cap. A round-arch

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glass lunette capped by molded trim rises above the central double-hung window. The south/rear elevation displays an entrance to the kitchen via a small porch with a simple balustrade, thin square posts, and a low hip roof. The only other unique element of the rear elevation is an entrance directly to the basement. Both entrances have original wooden glazed doors with wooden screen doors.

The east elevation is the most complex. This elevation features a one-story octagonal bay window, another entrance with a short one-story porch – with its shed roof supported by curving brackets springing from square posts at the ends and the same balustrade as the front porch – and another large palladian window motif, identical to that in the west gable, in this east gable. The shallow gabled projection below the main side gable that contains the bay window in its ground story also displays an oculus window in its gable, and the slightly lower-roof rear ell has a gable-topped wall dormer on its east face. There is also a second brick chimney near the rear of the house on the east slope of the rear ell's roof.

Like the exterior, the house's interior remains basically unaltered. It contains nine major rooms that retain their original woodwork of quarter-sawn oak in the formal areas and butternut and ash in the less formal areas. Special features include three sets of double sliding pocket doors, two single sliding pocket doors, built-in cabinets and ice box, a cast-iron fireplace, a butler's pantry, and original fixtures in the bathrooms.

Each room (with the exception of the altered area at the rear of the second floor) retains its historical integrity. Entrance to the home is through the west side porch to a north-facing entry into a vestibule projecting from the house's west side midway back. The vestibule retains all original woodwork including laurel-wreath motifs. A pocket door with large opaque light provides entrance into an antechamber with access to a half bathroom. This bathroom has the original marble sink and wainscoting. The antechamber opens east into the large stair hall. To the right (south) in the stair hall rises the quarter-sawn oak open dogleg staircase and also, beyond it, the entrance to an office directly behind (south of) the hall. To the left (north) off the hall is a parlor (first parlor), and directly ahead (east) from the hall is the dining room. The office, a less formal space, retains its butternut woodwork.

The primary flow of the floor plan is to the left off the stair hall. Access to the first parlor is through a set of pocket doors in the hall's north side. These and all other pocket doors retain their original, fully functional hardware. All original quarter-sawn oak woodwork remains in the stair hall, both parlors, and the dining room. Passage from the first into the second parlor is through a set of pocket doors in the room's east wall. The second parlor occupies the northeast corner of the first floor and incorporates the rounded space inside the northeast corner tower. The primary feature of the second parlor, located against the east wall, is a cast iron fireplace with a mantelpiece that frames the firebox itself and a large mirror above it. The mantelpiece is approximately eight feet in height. The firebox is flanked by fluted Ionic columns that, topped by urn-decorated pedestals, support a shelf above a swag-decorated frieze. The large mirror is framed by another set of fluted Ionic columns that support another swag-detailed frieze topped by a dentiled cornice. The cast-iron firebox is similarly decorative and includes geometrically patterned screens. A set of pocket doors in the second parlor's south wall provides entrance into

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the dining room. The primary features of the dining room include an octagonal bay window on the east and two built-in china cabinets – one inset and one mounted on the wall. The dining room is connected to the kitchen in the rear ell via a butler's pantry that, located to its south, contains built-in, floor-to-ceiling paneled-door cabinets. The dining room is also connected back to the stair hall by an oversized pocket door in its west wall. As with other rooms, the kitchen is remarkably intact. The original woodwork, wainscoting, cabinets, and built-in ice chest with cast hardware in intricate motifs remain.

The dogleg main staircase in the stair hall rises three steps to a landing against the room's south wall, then west along the south wall up to an L-shaped hall in the second floor. Directly ahead, opposite the stairs' upper landing, a slightly projecting section of the house's west side, rising directly above the downstairs entry vestibule, contains a pair of tall and narrow original stained- and leaded-glass windows. The L-shaped second-floor hall provides access to two bedrooms on the north/front side of the house. Rounding a corner turning south, there is a bedroom on the east over the dining room and to the west above the office. The main bathroom is located above the pantry. This bathroom includes the original claw-foot tub, marble sink, and wainscoting. The hall terminates at its south end at a room above the kitchen. This room, left unfinished at the time of construction, was renovated, incorporating a small bathroom, in 1999. A roughly finished rear staircase descends back to the kitchen along the west side of the home.

The second floor retains all original woodwork, hardware, wainscoting, and many of the original grills for the heating vents. The refinished rear room contains a historically interesting feature dating from early in the house's history that was retained when the renovations were done. It is a set of large initials ("AW") that Arthur Whiteley, the son of Harry and Ethel Whiteley, carved in the then rough boarded wall. During the 1999 renovation, the owners had a display box cut into the drywall to exhibit this artifact *in situ*.

The basement fully retains its historical integrity. Access to the basement is via a stairway accessed in the west wall of the kitchen or through an exterior door in the south elevation of the house. All exterior foundation walls are of rough-cut rubble fieldstone with all interior walls of brick. The floor plan of the basement mirrors that of the main floor. Outstanding features of the basement include the original coal room, a movable vent-board near the base of the chimney, and the original fully-functional Round Oak Furnace manufactured in Dowagiac.

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.)

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- 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 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

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE
CONSERVATION
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

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Period of Significance

1897
1920-1957

Significant Dates

1897
1920
1957

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Whiteley, Harry Huntington

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Architect unknown
Corber, Fred

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.)

The 1897 Criffield-Whiteley House is an outstanding and virtually unaltered example of the later type of Queen Anne house called by Virginia and Lee McAlester and others "Free Classic" in which the rambling house form associated with Queen Anne houses is combined with detailing such as classical columns and palladian window forms that look forward to the Colonial Revival. The house's form is defined by its asymmetrical form and steeply sloping gable roofs that include the main side-gable one plus gabled projections to the rear and subsidiary front and side gables. The front corner displays a round projecting "tower" with conical roof that is particularly characteristic of the Queen Anne houses of the 1890s and ultimately harkens back to the architecture of French chateaux. The Criffield-Whiteley House is the outstanding example of the "Free Classic" type of Queen Anne house in Dowagiac. The house also meets national register

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criterion B as the long time home of Harry H. Whiteley, significant for his long time service and important role on the Michigan Conservation Commission from 1927 to 1948.

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

In 1835 Patrick Hamilton became the first resident at the future site of Dowagiac. The following year Orlando Crane platted a town he called Venice on a part of the site. Little settlement took place until the late 1840s, when the Michigan Central Railroad planned its main line between Detroit and Chicago to pass through the area. In 1847 Jacob Beeson and Nicholas Cheesbrough, then involved in purchasing right of way for the railroad, together bought eighty acres from Patrick Hamilton and platted a new village they named Dowagiac after the name the local Pottawatomie gave to the river running through the site – reportedly meaning “many fishes.” Their Dowagiac plat was recorded in 1848. The community developed rapidly following the 1848 completion of the railroad to Dowagiac and the completion of the line to Chicago a few years later and became the “largest village in the county and the largest between Kalamazoo and Niles” by the end of the century. Dowagiac produced wheat and other grains, flour, apples, stock, and lumber and wood products, and early industries included flour milling and agricultural machinery and basket factories. Philo D. Beckwith, who settled in 1854, made his first stove in 1867 and two years later established a stove works that by 1900 had become the town’s largest industry, with 350 employees, and was shipping its “Round Oak” brand of heating stoves and ranges across the nation.

The Criffield-Whiteley House’s first owner, Charles M. Criffield (1867-1929), was born in LaGrange Township, adjoining Dowagiac on the southeast, of a father born in Indiana and mother born in Michigan. Like his father, he was a farmer. The 1899 Dowagiac directory lists him as the owner of a 190-acre farm in Section 3 of nearby Pokagon Township. The 1900 and 1920 federal censuses both list him as a farmer, but in the 1910 one his occupation is listed as “Owns Income,” suggesting he was by then living off income from his property or other investments.

The Criffield family included Charles; Mrs. Cora (Rodgers) Criffield, born in 1869; and son Lloyd, born in 1888. In 1897 the family had this new house at 601 Main Street constructed. Information on construction of the house is slim – two brief notices in the local paper, *The Dowagiac Daily News*. The more informative of the two, in the July 16 issue, reported that “Work is progressing rapidly on Charles Criffield’s new residence, corner Main and Chestnut streets. The plans call for a very spacious and convenient house, and when completed it will be one of the handsomest and best frame residences in the city. Fred Corber has charge of the work, which is being done by the day, and the mason work has been under the supervision of Messrs. Genung and Doolittle.” Construction of the house was likely completed by the end of the year.

The house is Dowagiac’s outstanding example of the later phase of Queen Anne sometimes referred to as “Free Classic,” typically of the 1890s, in which Colonial Revival finishes

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predominate on buildings that retain the complex massing and tall roofs of Queen Anne. The source of the house's design is not presently known. There were a number of professional architects as close as Kalamazoo or Grand Rapids who could have designed the house, and some Chicago architect, such as William K. Johnston, who designed the city's landmark late nineteenth-century house, the 1898 Archie B. Gardner House ("The Maples") at 511 Green Street, could also have been responsible. But it is also possible the house was built from a pattern book plan by some currently unknown designer. The city has at least one house, the 1890 Henry Mason Lee House at 307 Green Street, modeled on one of the published designs of the Knoxville, Tennessee-based architect George F. Barber, who marketed his house plans across the country through a series of plan books ordered by mail, and the plan for this house *could* have been obtained from some other designer's plan book.

Criffield engaged Fred Corber to oversee construction of the home. Corber, a recent immigrant to the United States from England, was a struggling farmer with land near Dowagiac at the time he took the commission to manage the house's construction, hiring the work force of day laborers and bringing in and supervising specialized craftsmen where necessary. Within five years after finishing the house Corber abandoned farming for carpentry work; his work on the house may have constituted an important step in that direction. By 1910 he owned and operated his own carpentry shop. George Genung and Silas Doolittle, both residing in Dowagiac, had charge of the house's masonry work, built of fieldstone presumably obtained from nearby, perhaps from his farm. Genung was then a fifty-year old bricklayer, while Doolittle, ten years his junior, had experience as both a brick and a stone mason.¹ The outstanding craftsmanship exhibited by Corber, Genung, and Doolittle is easily visible today throughout the home.

The Criffields sold the house in 1920 to Harry H. and Ethel Whiteley and moved to 519 Main, where Charles M. Criffield was living until his death in 1929. The Criffield-Whiteley Home possesses significance through its association with Harry H. and Ethel Whiteley. Harry H. Whiteley (1882-1957) owned and published Dowagiac's daily newspaper, won election to the Michigan Senate, and served as a member of the Michigan State Conservation Commission from 1927 until shortly before his death. An anonymous manuscript biography preserved at the University of Michigan today provides the only detailed account of Whiteley's life and accomplishments, and the information presented below is largely summarized from it. Ethel Whiteley made her own contributions to the significance of the family. She spearheaded the design and construction of a memorial to the veterans of World War Two including a commemorative park and roadside landscape and the formation of the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.²

¹ *United States Census* (1870, 1880, 1900, and 1910); Geo. A. Ogle & Co., *Atlas of Cass County, Michigan* (Chicago, 1896) 13; "Editorial Comment," *Dowagiac Daily News* (April 2, 1897); *Dowagiac Daily News* (July 16, 1897); and "Editorial Comment," *Dowagiac Daily News* (Aug. 14, 1897).

² *United States Census* (1910, 1930, and 1940); Author unknown, "Biography of Harry Huntington Whiteley, 1882-1957," (circa. 1960) Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan; and Ethel Whiteley, (undated) in Berenice Vanderberg papers, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution Archives, Washington DC.

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Whiteley's father, an immigrant from England who made a living combining work as an attorney, politician, and newspapermen had a large impact on his son. In 1900 Whiteley and his father took over the newspaper in the newly established lumber town of Millersburg in Presque Isle County in the far northern Lower Peninsula. By the age of nineteen Harry Whiteley was taking on substantial duties at the paper and documenting what he witnessed. Over the course of the next decade Whiteley bought out his father's interest in the paper and expanded his reach to purchase additional small-town papers in Tower and Rogers City, the latter with his brother Harold. In 1915 Whiteley bought into and became manager of the *Dowagiac Daily News*, moving there late in that year and selling off his northern interests. He soon modernized the plant and the paper. The biography explains:

The *Dowagiac Daily News* was actually a country weekly, publishing Daily when he took over the management, publishing the same ads six days a week. He completely remodeled it and, in June, 1916, installed the first United Press teletype in Michigan. Not only did he establish a new look but he modernized its advertising and business practices. He also insisted on responsible new[s] reporting from his staff and stopped some questionable "scandal-sheet" reporting. Under his guidance the *Dowagiac Daily News* was the first paper in Michigan to have the United Press wire service. In the same time he took an active and vigorous part in city and political affairs.³

Even before his family moved to Millersburg, Whiteley began to establish a record in politics that he built upon throughout his life. At the age of eleven, Whiteley secured a spot as a floor messenger in the state House of Representatives. His effective service and his father's connections helped him leverage this to a position as personal messenger for Lieutenant Governor Dunstan. Whiteley continued his early work of contact and experience building by serving as a page for General Russell Alger, Chairman of the Michigan Delegation to the Republican National Convention in St. Louis in 1896. After the convention, he secured a clerkship in the census department before returning to Millersburg where he obtained the appointed position of postmaster before beginning his career in electoral politics.

Whiteley first won political office in 1914 with his election to the Michigan House of Representatives from the northern Michigan district that included Presque Isle, Montmorency, Otsego, Oscoda, and Crawford counties. In the short period he served before the 1915 move to Dowagiac he established a record of support for the issues that would remain at the core of his interests: education, natural resource conservation, and professionalism in governmental administration. He left his position in the House when he moved to Dowagiac. In 1922 he won the first of two terms to the Michigan Senate representing the people of the Seventh District from Cass and Berrien counties. As a member of the Senate Whiteley worked to further the same issues he had pursued in the House. During his congressional tenure he utilized his influence and experience to shepherd every bill he introduced to full approval as state law.⁴

³ "Biography of Harry Huntington Whiteley," 4

⁴ "Record of Appointment of Postmasters, 1832-September 30, 1971," Roll 62, Michigan, Oceana-Wexford Counties (National Archives and Records Service: Washington, 1973) 404; Dennis Alward, *Journal of the Senate of the State of Michigan* Vol. 1 (Wynkoop, Hallebeck, Crawford Co., State Printers: Lansing, 1915) 3; "Fifth Normal Gets Legislative Boost," *Ludington Daily News* (Jan. 23, 1925); *News-Palladium* (Nov. 6, 1924); Michigan

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Whiteley seems to have achieved his greatest level of significance through his contribution to natural resource conservation in Michigan. Under Governor Alex Groesbeck in 1921 the legislature established the Michigan Department of Conservation, with a director and seven-member Michigan Conservation Commission appointed by the governor.⁵ In 1927 Governor Fred W. Green appointed Whiteley, who "had been active in the Green gubernatorial campaign, making a point of the conservation issue," to the commission.⁶ For the next twenty-one years Whiteley served on the commission, once serving a term as its chairman. During his years on the commission Whiteley was a strong advocate for the department's serving as a steward of the public trust in protecting the state's natural resources for the long term benefit of the public both through his voice on the commission and through his strongly worded editorials in his Dowagiac newspaper, often reportedly picked up by other papers around the state. The anonymous biography states regarding his role on the conservation commission:

The discovery of oil in Michigan was the occasion of the need for new laws and regulations in the foundation of which he was an active participant. Tax reversion had brought to the state the management of millions of acres of denuded timber lands and new and progressive programs for its rehabilitation were set up. Mr. Whiteley was a thorough believer in the public ownership of lands and waters in sufficient amount to provide adequately for the recreation of the people. He believed that rehabilitation of worn out and deforested lands was a public function better to be handled by the state under uniform policies than by individuals with varying degrees of exploitation of the natural resources. He never departed from that policy and as chairman of the commission's land and oil committee was influential in setting that policy firmly as a part of the state's conservation program. He fought consistently for public rights in waters, stronger public controls in commercial fishing management, drastic measure to renew forest resources and adequate law enforcement and fire protection.

Whiteley was a strong advocate for managing game populations by protecting habitat. Aldo Leopold, often considered the progenitor of the idea that the stocking of game animals was a vain pursuit without ensuring sufficient habitat, first put his ideas in wide circulation with *Game Management* in 1933. Whiteley did not have the advanced education, scientific training, or breadth of field experience possessed by Leopold or others at the forefront of the field, but he recognized the same issues. Whiteley used his editorial prerogative to cogently argue for the importance of protecting habitat to support game populations. In one example, the prosaic raccoon receives his attention. Recognizing the declining numbers of the animal, much sought after for its fur, Whiteley called for a reduction in the number of hunting licenses. In the same

Historical Commission, *Michigan Biographies, Including Members of Congress, Elective State Officers, Justices of the Supreme Court, Members of the Michigan Legislature, Board of Regents of the University of Michigan, State Board of Agriculture and State Board of Education* Vol. 2 (Lansing: The Michigan Historical Commission, 1924) 438.

⁵Dempsey, Dave, *Ruin and Recovery: Michigan's Rise as a Conservation Leader* (University of Michigan Press, 2001), 83.

⁶"Biography of Harry Huntington Whiteley, 1882-1957," 6.

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argument he laid out the cause of the furbearer's decline, the loss of habitat trees. Whiteley would go on to become a strong advocate for habitat protection in a manner prescient of the ecological concerns of later generations.⁷

Whiteley was also a strong proponent for public parklands. His years of service on the commission coincided with the years during which P. J. Hoffmaster served as Parks Chief (1920-34) and then Director (1934-51) within the Department of Conservation (Hoffmaster died in office in 1951) and E. Genevieve Gillette, a landscape architect and strong advocate for public parks for Michigan, worked in co-operation to greatly expand and improve Michigan's state park system. While most accounts give Hoffmaster and Gillette, friends since their college days at the Michigan Agricultural College, much of the credit for the rapid advances in the state park system from the 1920s to the 1950s, Whiteley as a member of the Conservation Commission stood staunchly behind their efforts. The biography notes particularly his strong support during his term as chairman of the commission in the 1944 creation of Porcupine Mountains State Park in the western Upper Peninsula in an effort to halt timbering in favor of recreational use. As the park plan was being developed, lumbermen Gordon Connor accelerated cutting in the proposed parklands and planned construction of a new railroad line through one of the areas considered most scenic. In a letter to Gov. Harry F. Kelly, Whiteley, as chair of the commission, "said that if the railroad was built, 'the Presque Isle River watershed would become a denuded waste and its beauty destroyed forever.' He called the company greedy and inflexible, adding, 'I must say that in its larger aspects this case only represents the baronial concepts of the early lumber operators toward the natural resources which came within their grasp.'"⁸ Today Porcupine Mountain Wilderness State Park encompasses roughly 60,000 acres and exists as one of the largest wilderness areas in the Midwest. Today Harry Whiteley is enshrined in the Michigan United Conservation Clubs' Michigan Conservation Hall of Fame.

During the period of his professional significance he kept his office and made his home at the Criffield-Whiteley Home in Dowagiac.⁹

Harry and Ethel Whiteley also used their home as the locus of their activities as social and philanthropic leaders in the Dowagiac area. Harry spent two years as president of the local Rotary Club, of which he was a charter member. He was also an active member of the Elks Club and the Cass County Historical Society.

Sara Ethel Whiteley, born in the same year as her husband, outlived him by about twenty years by the time she passed away in Macomb, Michigan, in 1975. Escaping a serious case of scarlet

⁷ The following selection of Whiteley's editorials effectively illustrates his attitude towards game and habitat management. "Editorial Comment," *Dowagiac Daily News* (Feb. 17, 1937); "Editorial Comment," *Dowagiac Daily News* (March 1, 1937); "Editorial Comment," *Dowagiac Daily News* (March 11, 1937); and "Editorial Comment," *Dowagiac Daily News* (March 17, 1937).

⁸ Dempsey, Dave, *Ruin & Recovery: Michigan's Rise as a Conservation Leader*, 98-99.

⁹ Michigan Historical Commission, *Michigan Biographies, Including Members of Congress, Elective State Officers, Justices of the Supreme Court, Members of the Michigan Legislature, Board of Regents of the University of Michigan, State Board of Agriculture and State Board of Education* Vol. 2 (Lansing: The Michigan Historical Commission, 1924) 438; and Author unknown, "Biography of Harry Huntington Whiteley, 1882-1957," (circa. 1960) Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan.

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fever in her youth with severe hearing loss, Ethel faced down subsequent challenges with vigor. Ethel gained considerable social influence in Dowagiac by organizing and leading philanthropic efforts. Recognizing the social and philanthropic opportunities the organization offered, Whiteley took it upon herself to bring the Daughters of the American Revolution to Cass County. She gained admission to the national organization, then organized a meeting of socially prominent women at her home, at which they established the Samuel Felt Chapter of the DAR in 1921. She hosted meetings and held leadership positions while focusing the chapter's attention on what would become one of her key causes, World War II veterans. The national organization recognized the Samuel Felt Chapter for its extraordinary efforts in support of the Red Cross during World War II. Throughout Mrs. Whiteley's life the chapter remained a significant civic group in the community. Her commitment to recognizing the service and sacrifices of local men during the war went beyond the Daughters of the American Revolution. By the late 1950s she conceived of a plan for a World War II memorial in the county. Within a decade she had pushed the plan to completion with the dedication of a stretch of highway, state trunkline M-62 from Dowagiac to Cassopolis, and the establishment of commemorative plantings and a memorial park dedicated to local soldiers. Her success in establishing and leading the local chapter of the DAR and in bringing about the World War II memorial highway and park are two illustrations of her local significance as a social and cultural leader.¹⁰

¹⁰ Berenice Vanderberg, "Memorandum on the history of The Samuel Felt Chapter" and "Ethel Whiteley," (undated) Virginia Springsteen, "History of the Capt. Samuel Felt Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution" (unpublished), all preceding items in Berenice Vanderberg papers, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution archives, Washington DC; "Felt DAR Chapter Conducts Meeting at Whiteley Home," *Dowagiac Daily News* (January 11, 1938); *United States Census* (1910, 1930, and 1940); Author unknown, "Biography of Harry Huntington Whiteley, 1882-1957," (circa. 1960) Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan; "Cass County," in Michigan, Marriage Records, 1867-1952, register Cass-Iron County, 1905, (Michigan Department of Health, Department of Vital Records) 3.

Criffield-Whiteley House
Name of Property

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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Criffield-Whiteley House

Cass Co., MI

Name of Property

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Criffield-Whiteley House
Name of Property

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Whiteley, Harry Huntington to Harry Harold Strauss. January 30, 1942. State Archives of Michigan.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government

Criffield-Whiteley House
Name of Property

Cass Co., MI
County and State

University

Other

Name of repository: Archives of Michigan; Library of Michigan; Dowagiac Area History Museum; and Zhang Legacy Collections Center

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 16 | Easting: 573120 | Northing: 4648240 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |

Criffield-Whiteley House
Name of Property

Cass Co., MI
County and State

3. Zone: Easting: Northing:

4. Zone: Easting : Northing:

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

The Criffield-Whiteley House is located on Parcel # 14-160-200-625-00 in the city of Dowagiac in Cass County, Michigan. The boundaries of the lot are DW 1567 E ¾ Lots 7 & 8 Also Com SE Cor Lot 8, Th N 8 Rds, E 25.74 Ft to Beg B McConnell's Add, City of Dowagiac.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries reflect the current property associated with the house.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: David Benac/Associate Professor and Public History Coordinator _____
Revised by R. O. Christensen, National Register Coordinator, MI SHPO
organization: _Western Michigan University _____
street & number: 1903 W Michigan Ave _____
city or town: Kalamazoo _____ state: MI __ zip code:49008 _____
e-mail _david.benac@wmich.edu _____
telephone: 269-387-5361 _____
date: 05/31/2015 _____

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.

Criffield-Whiteley House
Name of Property

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- **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: Criffield-Whiteley House

City or Vicinity: Dowagiac

County: Cass

State: MI

Photographer: David Benac

Date Photographed: September 2014

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

Photo 1 of _15_. (MI_Cass County_Criffield-Whiteley House_0001)

North façade, camera facing south

Photo 2 of _15_. (MI_Cass County_Criffield-Whiteley House_0002)

North façade (left) and west elevation (right), camera facing southeast

Photo 3 of _15_. (MI_Cass County_Criffield-Whiteley House_0003)

South elevation (left) and east elevation (right), camera facing northwest

Photo 4 of _15_. (MI_Cass County_Criffield-Whiteley House_0004)

East elevation (left) and north façade (right), camera facing southwest

Photo 5 of _15_. (MI_Cass County_Criffield-Whiteley House_0005)

East elevation (left) and north façade (right), camera facing southwest, dated 1900

Photo 6 of _15_. (MI_Cass County_Criffield-Whiteley House_0006)

Antechamber and vestibule from stair mall

Photo 7 of _15_. (MI_Cass County_Criffield-Whiteley House_0007)

Stair mall as viewed through pocket doors from first parlor

Photo 8 of _15_. (MI_Cass County_Criffield-Whiteley House_0008)

Fireplace with mantle in second parlor, detail includes classical motifs

Photo 9 of _15_. (MI_Cass County_Criffield-Whiteley House_0009)

Dining room, pocket door to stair mall ahead, pocket doors to second parlor to right

Photo 10 of _15_. (MI_Cass County_Criffield-Whiteley House_0010)

Butler's pantry, view from kitchen into dining room

Photo 11 of _15_. (MI_Cass County_Criffield-Whiteley House_0011)

Kitchen, built in ice chest with original hardware, original wainscoting

Photo 12 of _15_. (MI_Cass County_Criffield-Whiteley House_0012)

Tower feature carried through into basement floor plan

Criffield-Whiteley House

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Photo 13 of _15_. (MI_Cass County_Criffield-Whiteley House_0013)

Basement detail, original Round Oak furnace

Photo 14 of _15_. (MI_Cass County_Criffield-Whiteley House_0014)

Stairway to second floor, detail, stained and leaded glass windows

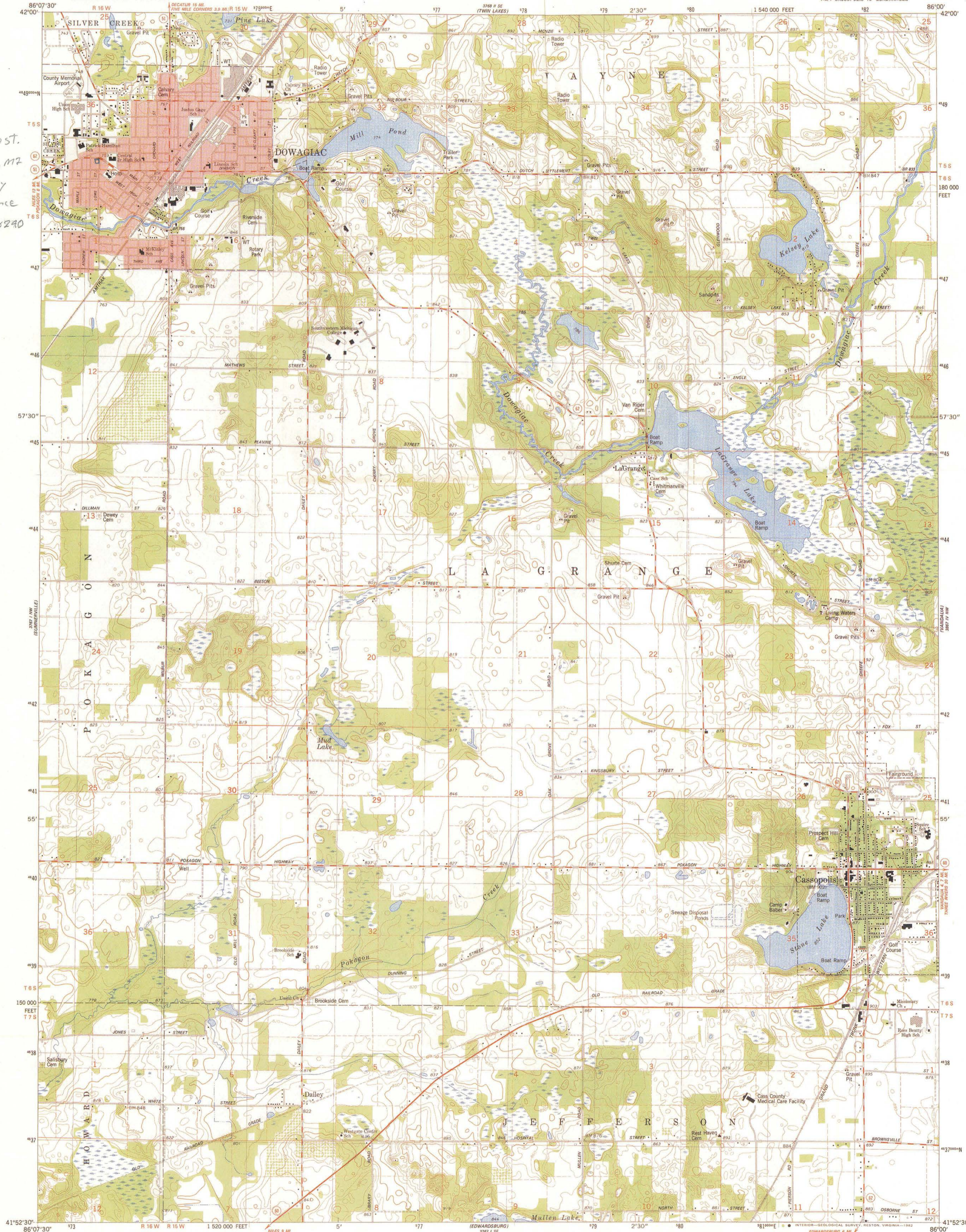
Photo 15 of _15_. (MI_Cass County_Criffield-Whiteley House_0015)

Detail in renovated room, Arthur Whiteley initials carved in wall, now preserved

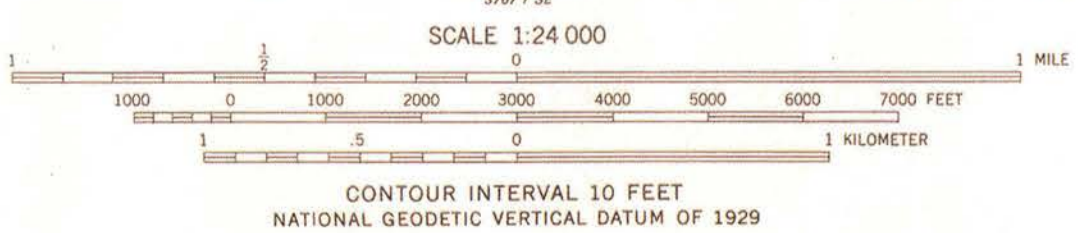
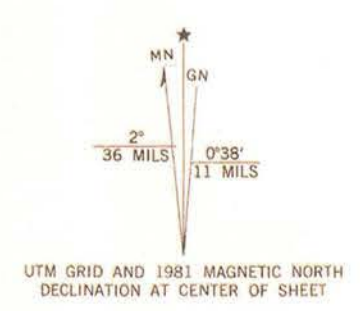
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain 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.

601 Main St.
Dowagiac, MI
Cass County
UTM Reference
16/573120/4648290



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1975. Field checked 1977. Map edited 1981
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Michigan coordinate
system, south zone (Lambert conformal conic)
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 16
1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 1 meter north and
2 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks
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

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

DOWAGIAC, MICH.
NE/4 CASSPOLIS 15' QUADRANGLE
N4152.5-W8600/7.5
1981
DMA 3787 1 NE—SERIES V862

MAR 4 1982

1950















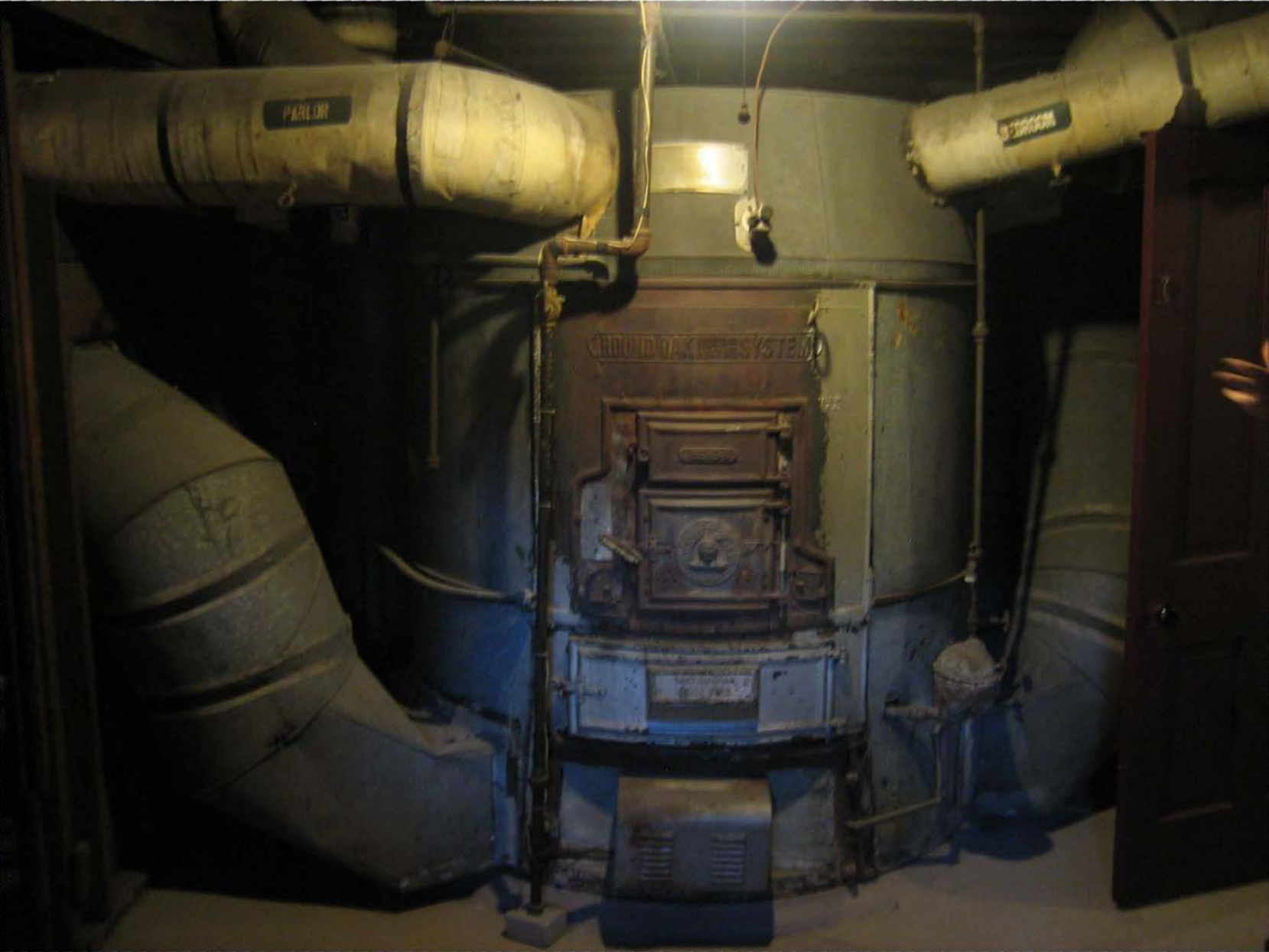












PARLOR

BEDROOM

GROUNDWATER SYSTEM





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 10/21/2016 Date of Pending List: Date of 16th Day: 12/6/2016 Date of 45th Day: 12/6/2016 Date of Weekly List: 12/15/2016

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 12/6/2016 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/
Criteria

Reviewer Edson Beall Discipline Historian

Telephone _____ Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: 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.



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN STATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

October 6, 2016

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 Crifffield-Whiteley House in Cass 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 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

