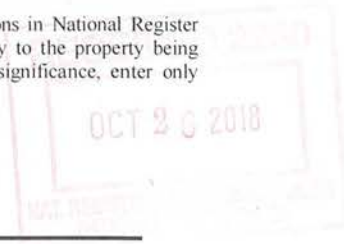


LeUnited States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

563216

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: Cadillac House

Other names/site number: Cadillac Hotel

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

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

2. Location

Street & number: 5502 Main Street

City or town: Lexington

State: MI

County: Sanilac

Not For Publication: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 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 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 local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A ___ B C ___ D

<u>Brian D. Murray</u> Signature of certifying official/Title: <u>SHPO</u>	<u>10/18/18</u> Date
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	

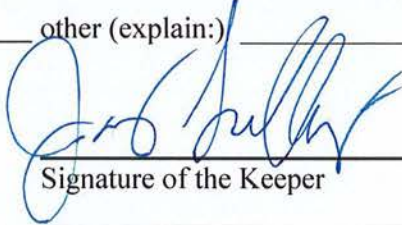
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4. National Park Service Certification

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:)


Signature of the Keeper

12-4-2018
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 NA

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC – Hotel

COMMERCE/TRADE - Restaurant

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC – Hotel

COMMERCE/TRADE - Restaurant

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN- Italianate

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

WOOD - Weatherboard

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

Located at 5502 Main Street in the village of Lexington, Michigan, the Cadillac House is an Italianate style hotel and restaurant. The wood-frame building is three stories tall with a two-story wing extending to the west and a one-story wing set within the ell of the three- and two-story sections. It has wood clapboard siding and wood trim topped by a projecting bracketed cornice. A full-length one-story porch extends across the front (east) elevation. The center entry door on the east elevation features sidelights with decorative panels and round-arched windows and a transom with oval window insert. The building has historically-appropriate six-over-six double-hung windows. The flat roof is topped by four brick chimneys and a windowed cupola. The first-floor interior has a public restaurant and lobby space with a central stair. The upper floors are divided into hotel rooms arranged to either side of central corridors. The recently restored building retains its integrity to the period of significance.

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Narrative Description

The Cadillac House was until 2017 covered with non-historic siding applied in several phases during the 1960s-1980s, including faux-half timbering and vertical wood siding. Several windows on the second floor of the north elevation had been converted to bow windows, and A-frame enclosures covered the original doors on the east and north elevations. The Cadillac House closed and was sold in 2016, and the new owners intended to restore the building and reopen it as a hotel and restaurant. Investigation during the planning stages for the building's restoration revealed the original siding, corner and window trim, and main entry door surround were still present under the non-historic covering. The description below reflects the building's post-restoration appearance.

Setting

The Cadillac House is located at 5502 Main Street in the village of Lexington, Michigan. Lexington is a small community on the shores of Lake Huron in southern Sanilac County, about 25 miles north of Port Huron. The building sits on the southwest corner of Main Street and Huron Avenue, the main commercial crossroads of the community. Main Street is on the major north-south road along the shore of Lake Huron, while Huron Avenue leads down to Lexington's harbor, about three blocks away. The streets around the Cadillac House are lined with a mixture of nineteenth and twentieth century commercial buildings. The Cadillac House abuts the sidewalks on the north and east elevations; to the south is a paved driveway between the building and adjacent stores and to the west is a paved parking lot. The parking lot is accessed from the alley to the south of the Cadillac House and from a driveway on Huron Avenue.

Exterior

The Italianate-style, wood-framed building consists of a three-story rectangular section adjacent to Main Street, with a two-story rectangular ell extending to the west along Huron Street and a one-story rectangular section set within the ell formed by the two main wings. The one-story extension is set back slightly from the three-story building creating a narrow open space, in which a stair and elevator tower has been added to provide accessibility and a second means of egress. The roofs are flat with membrane roofing. Brick chimneys are located on the three- and two-story sections. The one-story section roof has HVAC equipment installed. A centered wood cupola with wood windows and a bracketed cornice was removed sometime prior to the 1920s but recently reconstructed.

The building is sided with wood clapboard siding and wood corner and window trim. The siding on the first floor of the east elevation under the front porch roof is flush siding, possibly tongue-and-groove. The words "Cadillac House" are painted between the second and third floor on the north elevation. The south, east, and north elevations of the three-story section and the north and west elevations of the two-story section are topped by a deeply projecting bracketed cornice.

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On the east elevation is a full-length open porch with square columns. At the second story level, the porch roof serves as a balcony, with a railing. The east elevation has three doors spaced regularly across the first floor. The center door is a single unit with a wood-framed oval glass transom, flanked by wood paneled sidelights with round-arched glass windows on the upper halves; the door is new, but the transom and sidelights are historic. To either side of the center entry are French-style single-leaf doors with glass transoms above, flanked by windows. At the second floor of the east elevation, three doors lead onto the porch roof balcony, separated by windows. The center entry retains the historic paired doors with octagon inset panels below and divided light three-quarter windows above. The flanking doors are French-style single-leaf units. Over the center door is a half-hipped roof supported on brackets that match the cornice. The third floor of this elevation has five windows.

The north elevation has five windows on each floor of the three-story section. On the first floor of the two-story wing is an entry door and five windows, with six windows on the second floor. The entry door is a single-leaf French-style door sheltered by a half-hipped roof supported on brackets that match the cornice. The two-story section of the west elevation has a single window on the first floor and three on the second floor, while the one-story wing has a single window and a utilitarian entry door with two lower panels and a single upper glass pane. An exterior below-grade entry leads to the basement on this elevation. The three-story section of the north elevation has four windows on the first floor and three windows each on the second and third floors. The words "Cadillac House" are painted vertically on the east end of the second and third story where there are no windows. There are four windows each on the first floor of the one-story wing and the second floor of the two-story wing. An accessible entry door with a ramp leads from the center of the north elevation into the elevator and stair tower. All windows on the building (with the exception of the cupola, see below) are double-hung, six-over-six replacement sash to match the historic configuration.

Interior

The Cadillac House interior has a lobby, bar, and restaurant on the first floor and twelve guestrooms on the second and third floors. On the first floor, the main entry opens to a central corridor running east-west. The stairs to the second floor rise from this hallway. At the west end of the corridor another corridor turns south, leading to the accessible entry, elevator, and stair tower. To the south of the main corridor at the east end is the hotel reception desk and lounge. Beyond that to the west are an office, restrooms, the elevator/stair tower, and a dining room. The north side of the first floor has the bar on the east end and a dining room on the west. The kitchen extends across the west end of the building. The first floor has wood tongue-and-groove floors with drywall walls and ceilings. The rooms are finished with wide bases and door and window trim. The corridors, stair, and southwest dining room have wood wainscot, and multi-paned windows punch through the interior wall between the corridor and bar and the partial wall between the bar and dining room. Stained wood trim on the walls and ceilings divides the bays of the bar, while the restaurant has painted ceiling coffer beams. The hotel lobby and the main dining room feature paneled wood fireplace surrounds and mantels.

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The second floor has a corridor running east-west along the entire length of the building. In the three-story section, the corridor is flanked by two hotel rooms to either side, while a further four guest rooms are located on the north side of the corridor in the two-story section, with windows on the other side of the corridor. The third floor has four guest rooms, two to each side of the corridor. The two easternmost guest rooms on the second floor are suites with separate bedrooms. These suites have access to private sections of the balcony, while a center door on the east elevation leads to the public balcony. The corridors and guest rooms on the second and third floor have wood tongue-and-groove floors and drywall walls and ceilings. They are finished with wide bases and door and window trim. The guest rooms have transoms above the doors. The interior walls adjacent to the main stair on the second and third level have multi-light windows.

The original stair between the third floor and cupola remains in place, with a new railing. The reconstructed cupola has a wood floor, with the walls consisting of framed double-hung one-over-one windows with transoms above. A door to the roof is located on the south end of the west wall.

Integrity

The restored Cadillac House retains a high degree of integrity to the period of significance. The presence of cut nails in the original exterior siding, long covered by non-historic siding and recently restored, suggests that this is the building's original siding. Character-defining features of the exterior, including the trim, bracketed cornice, and main entry surround, survived throughout the building's history and have been retained and restored, while other key features, including the cupola, windows, and full-length entry porch, have been accurately reconstructed based on historic photographs and physical evidence. In the interior, non-historic finishes of the first-floor bar and restaurant have been removed and replaced with new finishes more complementary to the character of the building during its period of significance. The upper floors have been reconfigured to accommodate modern hotel usage while retaining original features such as the wood floors and transom windows. The building is once more open as a hotel and restaurant, reflecting its original use and purpose dating to 1860.

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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.
- 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

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMERCE

RECREATION

Period of Significance

1860-1909

Significant Dates

1860

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

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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 Cadillac House (Hotel) is significant under National Register Criteria A and C, at the local level. Standing on the site of a previous hotel dating back to Lexington's earliest years, the Cadillac House served as a hotel in Lexington for nearly one hundred years, offering overnight accommodations from its 1860 opening until about 1954. In its early years, while Lexington was the Sanilac County seat of government, the hotel served the multiple purposes of a small-town hotel, housing transient guests brought to Lexington by county business and the community's lumber and then fishing and agriculture-based economy, along with some more permanent residents, and acting as a community social center because of its restaurant, billiards room, and other public rooms. In the late nineteenth century, after the county seat was moved from Lexington to Sandusky, and its nineteenth century industries declined, Lexington evolved into a resort town due to its location on Lake Huron, now within easy reach via steamer and railroad from Detroit and other Michigan and Midwest population centers. The Cadillac House also evolved, continuing to serve travelers and locals but also catering more to vacationers. By about 1910 it was serving primarily as a seasonal hotel, open for tourists and vacationers in the warm weather months but offering only limited services during the winter. The hotel continued to serve primarily as a warm season tourist and vacationer hotel, now catering to auto travelers, into the 1950s before switching entirely to a restaurant and bar operation. The building stands today as the oldest hotel building in Sanilac County and retains much of its clapboarded Italianate character despite extensive renovations over the years. Other than a relatively small number of early stagecoach inns widely scattered across southern Michigan, the Cadillac House is likely one of the oldest hotel buildings in Michigan. The period of significance for the Cadillac House Hotel is 1860 to 1909, from its construction until the hotel transitioned from a year-round hostelry to a seasonal resort and began to lose some of its key characteristic features.

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

The Cadillac House (Hotel) was constructed to accommodate visitors drawn to the area during Lexington's "golden era" of the late nineteenth century, when it served as a significant center for the lumber and fishing industries in Michigan's "Thumb" region and a major transshipment point for goods and materials on the Great Lakes. The Thumb is an informal designation for the peninsula extending north into Lake Huron and Saginaw Bay, so named because it resembles the thumb on the mitten-shaped Lower Peninsula of Michigan. The Thumb generally includes the counties of Huron, Tuscola, Sanilac, Lapeer, and Saint Clair.

The village of Lexington is located on the eastern shore of Lake Huron, just north of where the lake's south end channels into the Saint Clair River at Port Huron. The first Euroamerican settlers in the area were attracted by the large timber stands of Michigan's Thumb, and lumber

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was the earliest industry in the region. Following an 1834 survey that documented large stands of valuable pine trees, as well as beech, maple and other hard woods, a large portion of county lands were purchased by speculators, including about seventy-two percent of Lexington Township. The early settlers were largely connected to the lumber industry, either working directly in the field or in supporting roles such as saw mills or shipping. Lexington was one of the earliest settlements in the county, with the first families building permanent homes in the late 1830s. During the lumbering era, Lexington was the principal port for shipping lumber and wood products via Lake Huron, and it also served as the harbor for merchandise and provisions being shipped into the county from points south, in particular Ohio.¹ The village was originally named Greenbush, and was renamed Lexington around 1845. One source attributes this to an early settler who was related to Ethan Allen and reportedly named the village to honor the Battle of Lexington.² Walter Romig, author of *Michigan Place Names*, identifies Rueben Diamond as that early settler, and notes that Diamond's wife was a cousin of Allen. However, Ethan Allen was not at Lexington on April 19, 1775, rather he was in what was known as the New Hampshire Grants, now the state of Vermont, so the connection seems tenuous.

In 1840 Clark Mills, a native of Vermont, purchased a tract of land in what is now the village of Lexington and built a residence where the Cadillac House now stands, according to the 1884 *Portrait and Biographical Album of Sanilac County*. The same source later states that Mills opened the first hotel in the county in 1840 on the present site of the Cadillac House. A later source claimed that the Colonial Hotel was supposedly built around 1835, but as the first permanent Euroamerican settlers did not arrive until a few years later, this seems unlikely. Given how early it was built in the village's history, the Mills hotel was likely quite modest. However, it was reported to be popular with sailors whose ships docked in Lexington.³

Clark Mills owned the Mills Hotel for just a few years. Around 1843, he traded the land in the village on which the hotel sits for forty acres of land west of the village owned by James Yakes, where he remained until his death in 1864. Yakes then sold the hotel to J. W. Buel, whose mother Mary Buel ran it until 1859. It seems likely that J. W. Buel was Jacob Buel, a resident of Lexington who married Clark Mills' daughter Nancy in 1842. Another unattributed source told a similar story, but suggested that Mills lost the hotel in a card game to Yakes, who was his cousin, and later got it back.⁴

Little is known of the size or appearance of the Mills Hotel. It is likely that, given the increased transient population due to the growing lumber industry, the original hotel was soon inadequate to handle the traffic. In the mid 1800s, Lexington was a bustling port, with a large lake trade and

¹ *Portrait and Biographical Album of Sanilac County* (Chicago, IL: Chapman Brothers, 1884), 180, 453

² "Resorters Have Fun at Lexington Resort," *The Times Herald*, July 28, 1943, p. 10; "Our' Lexington Joins Salute to Paul Revere's Ride," *The Times Herald*, April 18, 1975, p. 1; Florence H. Walther, *A History of Lexington* (self-published, 1934, copy held by the Sandusky District Library), 6.

³ *Portrait and Biographical Album of Sanilac County* (Chicago, IL: Chapman Brothers, 1884), 361, 479; "Our' Lexington Joins Salute to Paul Revere's Ride," *The Times Herald*, April 18, 1975, p. 1; "Cadillac House Regulars Don't Think the Bar is Haunted – They Know it is," *The Times Herald*, March 26, 2006, p. 76.

⁴ *Portrait and Biographical Album of Sanilac County*, 479; Photocopied history of the Hotel Cadillac provided by local historians – original citation not found.

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a strong market. The timber stands of the Thumb region were being heavily harvested during this period, and Lexington was the center of the industry in the region. Farmers who had purchased the land cleared by the lumber industry could bring their hay, barley, oats, and livestock to Lexington to be shipped out from the village's docks. Many successful lumber businessmen lived in Lexington during this period, and the town likewise attracted carpenters, coopers, woodworkers, and various support industries.⁵ Larger hotels were needed to accommodate the increased traffic.

Sanilac County, which had originally been part of a larger Saint Clair County, was set off administratively in 1848, and Lexington was initially designated as the county seat (Lexington had been established in 1842 as Greenbush). Clark Mills sat on the first board of supervisors of the county in 1848, and was later elected a Judge of the Probate Court in 1850. Lexington incorporated as a village in 1855 (it remains a village today).⁶



Date unknown but prior to 1900, looking southwest, prior to removal of south two-story section.

In 1859 the Mills Hotel was torn down and the current hotel, the Cadillac House, was built. The *Portrait and Biographical Album* states that the builder was John L. Woods, who was listed in the 1860 census as a dry goods and lumber merchant in Lexington (Woods, who became a

⁵ *Portrait and Biographical Album of Sanilac County*, 180; "Picturesque Lexington," *Detroit Free Press*, June 25, 1893, p 13.

⁶ E. R. Cookingham, J. S. Randall, J. L. Smith, and L. D. Cookingham, *Atlas of Sanilac County, Michigan : containing maps of every township in the county, with village and city plats, and outline map of the county, also maps of Michigan, United States and the world* (Philadelphia, PA: J. L. Smith, 1894),

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wealthy on the strength of his business interests, eventually moved to Cleveland, Ohio). Given his position as a merchant, it is unlikely that Woods physically built the Cadillac House himself, but no information on the actual construction of the building was found. The new Cadillac House was dedicated on July 4, 1860, and named after General Antoine De La Mothe Cadillac, the founder of Fort Pontchartrain, later Detroit.⁷ Why the hotel was named for Cadillac is also unclear, except that he had also explored and charted the Great Lakes.

The main part of the hotel was a three-story Italianate cube clad in white-painted clapboard siding. A full-length porch stretched across the east elevation of the second floor, carried on wood columns; the second-floor porch had a railing and could be accessed from a door in the center of the second floor. Five windows stretched across each floor on each elevation; early photos show the original windows were double-hung, six-over-six wood sash. The first floor originally had a single centered entry on the east elevation and another on the north elevation. A photograph of the east entry shows it with sidelights and a transom window. The walls were capped by a deep projecting bracketed cornice, and four chimneys rose from the roof. The building had a centered cupola, with three windows on each side and a bracketed cornice. It is not known if the two- and one-story sections were original to this construction or added later; they were certainly there by the first Sanborn map in 1884 and the north elevation of the two-story addition matches the three-story building in structure and appearance. That map (and at least one historic photograph) also shows a two-story addition of similar construction/appearance on the south elevation with the porch extending across to this building. Again, it is not known if this was part of the 1860 construction or added sometime between that and 1884, the date of the earliest Sanborn map.

Woods owned the hotel for about six years, but leased it to a series of proprietors, the first being Jeremiah Jenks. Jenks was at the time investing in timber in the Lexington area, including a five-hundred-acre tract of land with a saw mill. He also owned a hotel in nearby Sand Beach, known as the Sand Beach House and later the Dow House (Sand Beach is now Harbor Beach).⁸ Jenks's nephew, Jeremiah Whipple Jenks, would later become a noted political scientist and professor at Cornell University. In the 1860 census, Jenks was listed as a hotel keeper, along with his wife, two children, and two staff members. The census also listed for the hotel nine apparently non-transient, resident "guests," including a stage proprietor, two clerks, forwarding agent, two laborers, a physician, a law student, and a carpenter.⁹

Subsequent proprietors under Wood included William Wilson who "took it for a year" around 1863 and Amos James, who rented the hotel for two years. In 1866, Wood sold the hotel to John Cole. After "some other changes, occupying two years," Amos James purchased the Cadillac House.¹⁰ James was a native of Massachusetts who had moved with his family to nearby St. Clair County around 1828. After beginning his career as a cabin boy on a lake steamer, he became a

⁷ *Portrait and Biographical Album of Sanilac County*, 479.

⁸ "Huron Milling Company Started 84 Years Ago," *The Times Herald*, June 28, 1944, p. 51.

⁹ 1860 U. S. Census, Sanilac County, Michigan, population schedule, Township of Lexington, 39. It is unclear if the guests listed were transient or permanent residents.

¹⁰ *Portrait and Biographical Album*, 479.

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captain and later owned partial or full shares in a number of schooners engaged in trade on the lakes. He also held elected offices in St. Clair County and operated two hotels in Port Huron before purchasing the Cadillac House.

Under Amos James, the hotel became increasingly popular. The 1884 *Portrait and Biographical Album* described the hotel as “admirably constructed and fitted for its purpose (and) faithfully and creditably conducted...the hotel is the largest at Lexington and has accommodations for about one hundred guests, with billiard and pool rooms, bar, and fixtures.”¹¹ A Port Huron journalist reported in a 1960 story that prospectors crowded into the Cadillac House during a period of oil speculation in 1864-1865. Oil had recently been discovered in western Ontario, prompting exploration in adjacent areas, including the Thumb of Michigan. Prospectors reportedly flooded into the area hoping to find more, and many apparently found their way to the Cadillac House in the process. However, it was later found that the initial well that had triggered the boom was actually a fraud.¹²

Another industry that did rather better in Lexington was fishing. The Great Lakes had an abundant supply of fish during the nineteenth century, principally lake trout, and fishing was a significant industry up and down the shores of the Thumb. Fishing was one of the earliest industries in Lexington, and a fish dock had been built there perhaps as early as the late 1830s. During the mid to late 1800s, fishing gradually supplanted lumber as Lexington’s principal industry, and the harbor, already developed to support the lumbering industry, was a convenient point for processing and then shipping out the catch.¹³

By the late 1860s there were two other hotels listed in Lexington: the Franklin House, run by John Graham, and the Lexington Hotel, under proprietor James Potts.¹⁴ In addition to hosting hotel guests, the Cadillac House was also used as a wedding venue and, along with the second floor of the nearby village hall (constructed 1876), was a social center for the village.¹⁵

The 1870 census reflected the prosperity of the Cadillac House during this period. In addition to Amos James and his wife, the census listed five servants (four women and one man), a fourteen-year-old porter, two hostlers (for the attached livery stables) and a bartender. Also residing at the hotel were a carpenter and his milliner wife, a physician, another carpenter, two painters, a printer, and a stage driver.¹⁶ In contrast, John Graham, the proprietor of the Franklin House, was listed with his wife and seven children, one servant and one laborer, although some of the children were old enough to help run the hotel. Also in the 1870 census, living in the next listed

¹¹ *Portrait and Biographical Album*, 305, 345.

¹² Dorothy Mitts, “On Parrot, Goats, and Capt Clarke’s Pigs,” *The Times Herald*, February 28, 1960, p. 6; James Donahue, “St. Clair County produced some oil in past years,” *The Times Herald*, September 21, 1980, 2B; see also Scott Bellinger, Roger Lintemuth, et al, *Michigan Oil and Gas Story: County by County* (Mt.Pleasant, MI: Michigan Oil and Gas News, 1991).

¹³ *Portrait and Biographical Album*, 454, 479.

¹⁴ *Michigan State Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1867-68* (Detroit, MI: Chapin and Brother, 1867), 457.

¹⁵ “Social Gatherings: Golden Wedding,” *The Times Herald*, December 18, 1918, p. 7.

¹⁶ 1870 U. S. Census, Sanilac County, Michigan, population schedule, Township of Lexington, 8.

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household, was Amos James' son William and his family. William had purchased the nearby livery stable in 1868 and operated it in conjunction with the hotel business.¹⁷

During the 1870s, the James family was plagued by several fires, although none in the hotel itself. In October of 1871, the first of two great Thumb fires burned a large portion of the Thumb region, including the Forest House Hotel at Forestville, managed by Amos James' daughter Irene and her husband Henry Adams. Although that fire spared Lexington and the Cadillac House, not long afterward a fire destroyed the large livery barn attached to the hotel, as well as a wagon and blacksmith shop. This fire was one of several from around the same period of time, leading the authorities to suspect arson.¹⁸ In the winter of 1877-1878, another fire destroyed the barn and livery stock of the Cadillac House. It was then that Amos James discovered that his agent had never processed the insurance policy James had paid for. Following legal action, James was awarded 750 dollars in compensation and costs.¹⁹

By 1880, Amos James had moved back to Port Huron, turning over management of the Cadillac House to his son, William. William's family included his wife, daughter and son, his widowed sister Irene Adams, who was now running the livery business, and her son. The hotel had five servants (three women and two men). Those listed as boarders included the hotel's clerk, a harness maker, carriage painter, blacksmith, cigar worker, and a clothing dealer. There were several other hotels in town, but none as large as the Cadillac House.²⁰ An interesting incident was reported in a Wisconsin paper in 1883; it noted that a white man, a painter who was a guest at the Cadillac House, was "tarred and feathered" after bigamously marrying an African American cook at the Cadillac House.²¹

The Cadillac House appears in the first Sanborn Fire Insurance Map for Lexington in 1884. The map showed the three story section with its cupola. To the west, the two-story section was listed as a dining room while the two-story section to the south was a billiards room. Several one-story sections were also shown in the ell of the main buildings and attached to the southern two-story section. The front porch stretched across both the three and two story sections. The livery stable for the Cadillac House was located on the opposite corner of the block, off Lake (now Boynton) Street. Other buildings on the block included a barber shop, meat market, blacksmith shop, skating rink, furniture and cabinet shop, agricultural implements shop, and various sheds.

In 1881, after a long legal battle, the county seat of Sanilac was moved from Lexington to Sandusky, located in the center of the county. While this removed the county government from Lexington, the village remained a center for the lumber and fishing industries in the region; many woodworkers and fishermen were listed in the 1870 and 1880 censuses as living in the village.

¹⁷ 1870 U. S. Census, Sanilac County, Michigan, population schedule, Township of Lexington, 8; *Portrait and Biographical Album of Sanilac County*, 305.

¹⁸ Untitled, *The True Northerner* (Paw Paw), October 20, 1871, p. 9.

¹⁹ "An Important Insurance Suit," *Detroit Free Press*, December 21, 1878, p. 8.

²⁰ 1880 U. S. Census, Sanilac County, Michigan, population schedule, Village of Lexington, 11.

²¹ Untitled, *The Northern Tribune* (Cheboygan), August 18, 1883, p. 7.

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While industry remained strong in the area, Lexington was also becoming known as a resort town in the late nineteenth century. In the summer of 1889, the *Detroit Free Press* wrote that “Landlord Gerardin, of the Cadillac House, in Lexington, has prepared a beautiful resort on Lake Huron’s shore one mile south of the village.”²² It is unclear when management/ownership of the hotel passed out of the James family. The 1887-1888 *Michigan State Gazetteer and Business Directory* listed W. M. Johnson as the proprietor and the above article had Gerardin as the landlord, but the *Michigan State Gazetteer and Business Directory* for 1891-1892 again listed Amos James as the proprietor. By the summer of 1893, Thomas McVeigh, a young attorney from Detroit, had purchased the hotel and spent “a large amount of capital...in refitting and refurnishing it.” The hotel was described as “a charming retreat for the summer months.” It had “thirty commodious rooms, well-ventilated and lighted and overlooking the lake. Large and well-furnished parlors are on all floors, and the table is well supplied with the wholesome delicacies of the season.” At this time the hotel was renamed the Lexington Beach Hotel, and McVeigh hired Charles Rooney to manage the hotel, with rates at two dollars per day or eight dollars per week. The same article noted that Lexington was a “growing town and new resort on Lake Huron.” It could be accessed by steamers and freighters on their way to and from Port Huron, or by train to Croswell and then by bus [i.e. stage) to Lexington. The town itself was situated on a hill above the lake, giving the advantages of “the health-giving lake breeze” and making it “the most healthy spot in the state.”²³



Circa 1900-1909, looking southwest, after removal of south two-story section, but showing cupola still in place.

The next Sanborn map was published in 1893. Not much had changed since 1884, with the exception of the loss of some of the one-story additions to the south two-story section. However, the 1900 Sanborn map shows considerable change. The south two-story section was gone, as was

²² “Sanilac County Matters,” *Detroit Free Press*, July 4, 1889, p 4.

²³ “Picturesque Lexington,” *Detroit Free Press*, June 25, 1893, p 13.

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the one-story section in the ell of the main building; aside from the three-story section, west two-story section, and the porch, the only thing remaining was a small two-story addition in the ell. In both this and the 1909 Sanborn map, the cupola appears to still be in place.

Most available photographs of the Cadillac House from the late 1800s and early 1900s are not labeled with dates, so it is difficult to determine the exact sequence of changes. At some point in this period, the building was painted a darker color with light trim; it later reverted to white. It also appears that sometime during this period, the windows were altered from six-over-six sash to one-over-one. Additionally, the windows to either side of the east center entry were converted to doorways and the north elevation door was converted to a window.

By the early years of the twentieth century, the lumber and fishing industries in the Thumb were in decline and Lexington's relative importance likewise began to fade. The process began with the routing of the Port Huron and Northwestern Railroad (later merged with the Flint and Pere Marquette Railway) through Crosswell, rather than Lexington, in 1879. Another blow was the previously mentioned removal of the county seat to Sandusky in 1881. By the early years of the twentieth century, many of the village's major industries had closed, including the local brewery, foundry, and organ factory. The woolen mill burned in 1900 and its operations moved to Port Huron. Another major blow came with the great freshwater "hurricane" of 1913; in addition to the loss of many ships and lives during the storm, Lexington's docks were severely damaged by the storm, and much of the shipping for the Thumb region that had previously centered on Lexington was moved down to Port Huron.

This decline is reflected in the census figures for Lexington village. Prior to 1880, there was no separate listing for villages in the census; the total population of Lexington Township was 1,176 in 1850, 2,038 in 1860, and 2,434 in 1870. In 1880, the first year that the village of Lexington was listed separately, it had 968 inhabitants, out of a total of 2,609 in the township. In subsequent years the population continued to decline: from 619 in 1900, to 526 in 1910, 378 in 1920, 380 in 1930, and to 328 in 1940 – about a third of its 1880 population.²⁴

As industry declined, the resort business became relatively more important to the village of Lexington. The city's convenient distance from Detroit and Port Huron and location right on Lake Huron drew guests for sport fishing, beach bathing, and sightseeing along the lake. Dining was also a draw, and the owners of resort hotels, including the Cadillac House, advertised their chicken and fish dinner specialties.

With the change in catering to the resort business rather than business travelers, the hotels in the area evolved into seasonal businesses. A surviving ledger from the hotel covering the period 1905 to 1910 illustrates the change. In 1905/1906, the hotel had steady numbers of guests even in the winter months, but by 1909/1910, winter guests were few and far between. The ledger also shows that the majority of guests were from southeast Michigan (Port Huron, Detroit, etc.) but there were occasionally visitors from Chicago, New York, California and as far as Ireland.

²⁴ United States Federal Census, 1850 to 1940. Population figures are estimates from counting individuals listed on the census sheets.

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During that period, the Frank Tucker Theater Company occasionally stayed at the hotel while performing nearby. By the mid 1910s, the Cadillac Hotel was largely a seasonal operation, opening in the spring and closing back down in the fall; in the summer “first class meals and accommodations can be secured there at reasonable rates.”²⁵ However, it did appear that the hotel served soft drinks and lunches during the winter in an effort to generate off-season revenue.²⁶

Cadillac House ownership/proprietorship turned over several times in the late 1800s and early 1900s. F. B. Lewis, of London, Ontario, had apparently purchased the hotel, still known at the time as the Lexington Beach Hotel, from McVeigh not long after he had refitted it in 1893. However, Lewis failed to pay his taxes and decamped in February of 1895, taking all the furniture, bar fixtures, etc. with him.²⁷ John A. Wagg was listed as the proprietor in the 1897 *Michigan State Gazetteer and Business Directory*, while a Mr. Hacking was reported as selling the hotel and retiring from the business in 1898.²⁸ In the 1900 census, William Baker was listed as the keeper of the Cadillac Hotel. Living with Baker were his wife, Ida, daughter Mamie, father Samuel, mother Mariah Eastom, a boarder (stone mason), and three servants, a woman and two men.²⁹ Baker was also listed as the proprietor in the 1903 and 1907-08 *Michigan State Gazetteer and Business Directory*. In 1910, John Smith operated the hotel, now known again as the Cadillac House; the following year his wife, Sarah, ran afoul of the county’s liquor laws (Sanilac had gone “dry” in 1910) and eventually was reported as selling the hotel to Robert Long of Coleman.³⁰ In June of 1914 the hotel was listed as under new management, but in 1918 John Smith apparently still owned the hotel as he was reported as closing it and moving to Detroit with his family; the hotel was rumored to be leased and open during the summer.³¹ That proprietor may have been A. E. Goodson, who was reported to be opening the hotel in May of 1920 for the season. Guests were invited to “take a run over on the new concrete road [from Port Huron]” or take a bus from the Port Huron hotels. Rates at that time were four dollars per day or twenty-five dollars per week.

Around the same year (1920), Mr. and Mrs. James Yake or Yakes became the owners of the Cadillac Hotel (it is unknown the relationship between this Mr. Yake(s) and the James Yakes who reportedly owned the Mills Hotel in the 1840s).³² During the 1920s, the Yakes family made several renovations to the hotel, including enlarging and improving the dining room, adding private dining rooms, lavatories, a housekeeping apartment on the first floor, and other

²⁵ “Lexington,” *The Times Herald*, April 28, 1914, p. 7.

²⁶ “Lexington,” *The Times Herald*, September 28, 1912, p. 10.

²⁷ “Fooled the Treasurer,” *Detroit Free Press*, February 25, 1895, 7.

²⁸ “General News,” *The Yale Expositor*, December 23, 1898, p. 1.

²⁹ 1900 U. S. Census, Sanilac County, Michigan, population schedule, Village of Lexington, 3.

³⁰ “General News,” *The Yale Expositor*, December 23, 1898, p. 1; “Here and There,” *The Yale Expositor*, June 15, 1911, p. 4; “Here and There,” *The Yale Expositor*, September 14, 1911, p. 4; “Here and There,” *The Yale Expositor*, October 12, 1911, p. 4.

³¹ “Lexington,” *The Times Herald*, April 28, 1914, p. 7; Advertisement, *The Times Herald*, June 20, 1914;

“Lexington,” *The Times Herald*, July 8, 1918, p. 8.

³² “Mrs. James S. Yake Dies in Montana,” *The Times Herald*, September 21, 1944, p. 16.

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unspecified improvements.³³ The cupola may have been removed around this time, as it is not visible on the 1924 Sanborn map. The other change on the Sanborn map was a small one-story addition off the southwest corner of the building. Photographs from around this time also show the enclosure of the second story porch with a shed roof and screens, and the alteration of the first story porch supports to the current configuration of tapered columns supported on brick piers.



Historic postcard, circa 1940, looking north, showing enclosed second-story porch

Yakes advertised the Cadillac House as “the best hotel between Port Huron and Harbor Beach,” and a place where “tourists are made welcome.” It continued to serve fish and chicken dinners, as well as catering dinner parties and banquets. Frog leg dinners were becoming a specialty of the resort trade as well. Daily rates were three dollars and weekly rates between fifteen and twenty dollars.³⁴ Both the Cadillac House and the Lexington Inn claimed to have their best summer season ever, and that guests stayed at the hotel for longer periods of time. Other resorts in the area included the Huron Inn, also in Lexington, the Tanner House in Forester, the Lakeview Hotel at Forestville, and the Lakeview Inn in Port Sanilac. Guests mostly came from Detroit and southeast Michigan, although some were from out of state, including Toledo.³⁵ In 1928 resort hotels were expecting their “greatest rush” of recent years, even though hotel owners had been worried about losing guests to Canada, where beer was available.³⁶ In that year, the

³³ “What the Huron Shore Resorters Are Doing,” *The Times Herald*, June 28, 1923, p. 11; “Cadillac Hotel in Lexington to Open for Season Sunday,” *The Times Herald*, April 11, 1925, p. 9; “Lexington Hotel Being Remodeled,” *The Times Herald*, July 3, 1925, p. 8; “Heavy Season, Says Lexington, More Next Year,” *The Times Herald*, September 10, 1926, p. 13.

³⁴ Advertisement, *The Times Herald*, August 2, 1923, p. 8.

³⁵ “Lexington Hotel Being Remodeled,” *The Times Herald*, July 3, 1925, p. 8.

³⁶ “Sanilac County Hotels Expecting Busy Summer,” *The Times Herald*, June 27, 1928, p. 10; “Cadillac Hotel in Lexington to Open for Season Sunday,” *The Times Herald*, April 11, 1925, p. 9.

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Port Huron *Times Herald* reported that the Cadillac House offered spacious rooms that were ideal for resorters.³⁷

The 1930 census lists James Yake and his wife Sadie as hotel keepers, living with their married daughter and her two children. Even though prohibition had ended in 1933, the Cadillac House was apparently not selling alcohol as late as 1936, as an article noted that, despite it being the oldest hostelry in Sanilac County and serving good meals, it did not serve beer.³⁸ In 1938, Mr. and Mrs. Yake retired to Glacier National Park in Montana (Mrs. Yake died there in 1944). They sold the hotel to a Mrs. L. Rosswurm, but that was short-lived, as the following year the hotel was advertised as “again” under the management of the Yakes.³⁹

By 1940 the Cadillac House was under the ownership/management of P. A. Rice, who renamed the hotel the “Rice-Cadillac Hotel.” Rice may have made some renovations to the restaurant area, as in 1940 he advertised for sale a fourteen-foot bar, a twelve-foot back bar, a bottle cooler, and two draft tap stations. However, the hotel itself was still open, with twenty-five rooms listed starting at 1.50 dollars per night. The hotel was also still serving fish, chicken, and steak dinners with the addition of a cocktail bar.⁴⁰ A photograph labeled from the 1940 Lexington Celebration parade shows the enclosed porch still in place on the second floor, but no other major alterations. The Sanborn map for 1940 shows the one-story addition at the southwest corner of the three-story had been removed, and a new one-story addition placed at the southwest corner of the two-story section, with a one-story porch bridging the gap between that and the three-story section. There also appeared to be a one-story shed at the southwest corner of the lot.

In the mid 1940s, even with the Depression still in recent memory and World War II in progress, the resort industry continued to be important to the economy of the Lexington area. A 1943 article on the resort industry noted that Lexington was the Thumb’s “biggest little town” and marketed itself to tourists and war workers for relaxation and rest (a small fishing industry still operated, and there was a defense factory in the village). The attractions continued to be chiefly swimming and sun bathing on the beaches, fishing, and boating. A local golf club was also available. Tourists could choose from among two “modern” hotels, private tourist cabins, and a tourist camp maintained by the village. Visitors to the Cadillac House enjoyed seven course fish, steak, or chicken dinners costing between 85 cents and 1.25 dollars, and dancing was now offered on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays.⁴¹

Around 1943, Harry Douros, a native of Greece, purchased the Cadillac House from Al Rice. In 1944, a newspaper article noted there was “extensive remodeling and decorating” underway at the Cadillac House; an advertisement the following year promoted its modern rooms with tile

³⁷ “Sanilac County Hotels Expecting Busy Summer,” *The Times Herald*, June 27, 1928, p. 10.

³⁸ Walter D. Holst, “Cherry Fete Spices,” *The Times Herald*, July 25, 1936, p. 8.

³⁹ “Mrs. James S. Yake Dies in Montana,” *The Times Herald*, September 21, 1944, p. 16; Advertisement, *The Times Herald*, August 4, 1938, p. 95; Advertisement, *The Times Herald*, June 28, 1939, p. 76.

⁴⁰ Classified Ad, *The Times Herald*, February 21, 1940, p. 13; Advertisement, *The Times Herald*, June 26, 1940, p. 43.

⁴¹ Advertisement, *The Times Herald*, June 24, 1942, p. 60; “Resorters Have Fun at Lexington Resort,” *The Times Herald*, July 28, 1943, p. 10.

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baths, a new kitchen and dining room, and a liquor bar and cocktail lounge. At this time, the hotel was open year round, rather than seasonally as had been the case in the 1920s and 1930s.⁴²

In the late 1940s Harry Douros sold the hotel to Mr. and Mrs. Julian DeMeyer, who in turn sold it to Newton and Edith Rawlings in 1950. The Rawlings family had previously lived on a farm north of Lexington, and planned a grand reopening of the hotel in September of that year, offering weeknight entertainment. By the late 1950s, however, the resort era of the early to mid twentieth century was in decline. The greater range of automobiles meant that visitors could plan day trips to towns like Lexington from Port Huron or Detroit; small, old hotels like the Cadillac were less attractive than the modern motor courts and roadside motels that were appearing across the country. While the Rawlings family redecorated the Cadillac House in 1953-1954 and tried to tempt visitors with clean and restful rooms at the center of summer activities and “the finest food served anywhere,” 1954 was the last year that hotel rooms were advertised. By the late 1950s, the Cadillac House was being marketed primarily as a bar and restaurant.⁴³

Despite the decline of its identity as a hotel, the Cadillac House remained a popular dining room and bar for the next fifty years and more. Around 1966, it was sold to Wes and Ann Burleigh who owned it until 1970, when it was purchased by brothers Robert and Albert Kredell, who planned to turn it into “one of the finest dining establishments in the area.” By now, that meant not fish and chicken dinners, but pizza and barbecued spare ribs. A dance band played on the weekends.⁴⁴

The hotel itself was also experiencing incremental change. A 1962 photograph shows that several of the first-floor windows on the north elevation of the three-story section had been removed, leaving only the two outermost; a door was also added to the first bay of the north elevation of the two-story section. These changes were likely related to modifications to the bar area which was adjacent to this wall. The chimneys had also been reduced in height by this time. In the 1970s and 1980s, the Kredells made extensive changes to the exterior, first adding the mansard roofs to the first and second floor porch roofs and signage advertising barbecue ribs and pizza on the first floor of the north elevation. They later added the recently removed stucco and wood paneling to the exterior and the oversized A-frame door porticos, although the exact date of this installation is still unclear. A 1984 article noted the installation of the bow windows of the

⁴² Untitled, *The Times Herald*, March 8, 1945, p. 18; Advertisement, *The Times Herald*, June 26, 1946, p. 76; “Sanilac Shavings,” *The Times Herald*, March 23, 1947, p. 3.

⁴³ “Sell Cadillac Hotel,” *The Times Herald*, October 1, 1950, p. 9; “Cadillac Hotel at St. Clair Sold,” *The Times Herald*, November 22, 1950, p. 9; Advertisement, *The Times Herald*, June 24, 1953, p. 114; Advertisement, *The Times Herald*, June 23, 1954, p. 91. A 1997 article in the Port Huron *Times Herald* claimed that the hotel remained functional until 1978; however, there is no evidence of hotel rooms being advertised after 1954. It is possible that they were available, but the emphasis of the business had turned to the restaurant side; Pat Tweedie, “Cadillac House Mixes Old, New,” *The Times Herald*, July 28, 1997, pp 1c, 8c.

⁴⁴ Classified Advertisement, *The Times Herald*, October 5, 1966, p. 21; Advertisement, *The Times Herald*, June 23, 1967, p. 99; “Sylvester S. Burleigh,” (Obituary), *The Times Herald*, August 14, 1972, p. 7.; “Robert L. Kredell,” (Obituary), *The Times Herald*, February 27, 2008, p. 12; Advertisement, *The Times Herald*, June 11, 1971, p. 22.

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north elevation of the second floor, an outside stairway (probably the one on the west elevation), and remodeling of the second floor, likely to add space to the restaurant area.⁴⁵

In 2001, Robert Kredell suffered a stroke and sold the Cadillac House to Martin and Julia O'Brien. The O'Briens owned and operated the Cadillac House as a bar and restaurant until they closed it in August of 2016. The following month it was purchased by the Roxbury Group, who during 2017-2018 restored the Cadillac House as a boutique hotel and restaurant, returning it to its original function.

The period of significance for the Cadillac House is 1860 to 1909. The period begins with the construction of the present hotel in 1860, to replace an earlier hotel on the same site. The period ends in 1909, a date which reflects the hotel's transition from a year-round hostelry catering to business travelers to one surviving primarily on the resort trade, and represents the last known date for the existence of the cupola (based on the Sanborn Fire Insurance maps). While the hotel remained active to cater to resort visitors into the 1950s, its most significant historical association is with the "golden era" of Lexington's history during the mid to late nineteenth century, when the hotel was a major hospitality destination serving business travelers drawn to Lexington by its thriving lumber and fishing industries. The significance of the building's architectural character lies in its original 1860s Italianate appearance; the period of significance also reflects the longest period of exterior integrity for the extant building, which remained relatively unchanged for at least sixty years. It appears that removal of the cupola was due to persistent leaking (evidence of which is still visible today in the roof structure under the cupola); both this and the enclosure of the second-story porch were not part of major remodeling efforts, but rather for utilitarian or economic considerations. While those changes happened more than 50 years ago, they were more reflective of practical considerations in maintaining the hotel's viability into the twentieth century in the face of a declining clientele, rather than as the expression of a new design aesthetic for the hotel or association with a significant era in the village's or building's history.

Following the purchase of the building by the Roxbury Group in 2016, exploratory removal of the late twentieth century exterior finishes demonstrated that the integrity of the building's remaining 1860 finishes and details was high, and most of the changes that had occurred were reversible. Characteristic details that survived include the Italianate brackets, wood clapboard siding, and even signage. Even the sidelights and transom of the original main entry door on the east were still intact. The restored Cadillac House is the oldest remaining hotel, and one of the oldest extant buildings, in the county; the survival of a wooden hotel building from 1860 is relatively rare, particularly given its apparent integrity from that period.

⁴⁵ Mrs. Rosemary Macklem, "Lexington News," *The Times Herald*, March 13, 1984, p. 32.

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Jay Kandler, via Flickr. <https://www.flickr.com/photos/michiganbird/>
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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
- 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
- Other

Name of repository: No primary repository; see bibliography above

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one 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: _____ Longitude: _____

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1. Zone: 17 Easting: 375722.597 Northing: 4791734.595

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

Lots 11, 12, and 13 of the James Plat, Village of Lexington, Michigan, Township 10 North, Range 16 East, Section 36.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses the Village of Lexington lots historically associated with the Cadillac House.

Cadillac House
Name of Property

Sanilac County, Michigan
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Ruth E. Mills
organization: Quinn Evans Architects
street & number: 219 ½ North Main Street
city or town: Ann Arbor state: MI zip code: 48104
e-mail: rmills@quinnevans.com
telephone: 735-926-0433
date: July 1, 2018

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

Cadillac House
Name of Property

Sanilac County, Michigan
County and State

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: Cadillac House
City or Vicinity: Lexington
County: Sanilac **State:** Michigan

Photographer: Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting
Date Photographed: June 2018
South and east elevations looking northwest
0001 of 0044

Photographer: Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting
Date Photographed: June 2018
East elevation looking west
0002 of 0044

Photographer: Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting
Date Photographed: June 2018
East and north elevations looking southwest
0003 of 0044

Photographer: Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting
Date Photographed: June 2018
North elevation looking south
0004 of 0044

Photographer: Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting
Date Photographed: June 2018
North and west elevations looking southeast
0005 of 0044

Photographer: Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting
Date Photographed: June 2018
West elevation looking east
0006 of 0044

Cadillac House

Name of Property

Sanilac County, Michigan

County and State

Photographer: Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting
Date Photographed: June 2018
West and south elevations looking northeast
0007 of 0044

Photographer: Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting
Date Photographed: June 2018
First floor, hotel lobby (southeast room) looking northwest
0008 of 0044

Photographer: Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting
Date Photographed: June 2018
First floor, hotel lobby (southeast room), looking southeast
0009 of 0044

Photographer: Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting
Date Photographed: June 2018
First floor, stair to second floor looking southwest
0010 of 0044

Photographer: Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting
Date Photographed: June 2018
First floor, corridor looking west
0011 of 0044

Photographer: Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting
Date Photographed: June 2018
First floor, bar (northeast room), looking west
0012 of 0044

Photographer: Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting
Date Photographed: June 2018
First floor, bar (northeast room), looking east
0013 of 0044

Photographer: Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting
Date Photographed: June 2018
First floor, dining room (northwest room), looking west
0014 of 0044

Photographer: Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting
Date Photographed: June 2018
First floor, dining room (northwest room), looking east
0015 of 0044

Cadillac House

Name of Property

Sanilac County, Michigan

County and State

Photographer: Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting
Date Photographed: June 2018
First floor, dining room (northwest room), looking northeast
0016 of 0044

Photographer: Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting
Date Photographed: June 2018
First floor, dining room (southwest room), looking northeast
0017 of 0044

Photographer: Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting
Date Photographed: June 2018
First floor, dining room (southwest room), looking southwest
0018 of 0044

Photographer: Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting
Date Photographed: June 2018
First floor, corridor looking east
0019 of 0044

Photographer: Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting
Date Photographed: June 2018
First floor, stair/elevator corridor looking south
0020 of 0044

Photographer: Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting
Date Photographed: June 2018
Second floor, corridor looking west
0021 of 0044

Photographer: Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting
Date Photographed: June 2018
Second floor, corridor looking east
0022 of 0044

Photographer: Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting
Date Photographed: June 2018
Second floor, corridor looking south
0023 of 0044

Photographer: Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting
Date Photographed: June 2018
Second floor, balcony on east elevation, looking south

Cadillac House

Name of Property

Sanilac County, Michigan

County and State

0024 of 0044

Photographer: Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting

Date Photographed: June 2018

Second floor, room 202 looking northwest

0025 of 0044

Photographer: Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting

Date Photographed: June 2018

Second floor, room 220 looking northeast

0026 of 0044

Photographer: Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting

Date Photographed: June 2018

Second floor, room 205 looking north

0027 of 0044

Photographer: Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting

Date Photographed: June 2018

Second floor, room 218 looking south

0028 of 0044

Photographer: Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting

Date Photographed: June 2018

Second floor, room 207 looking north

0029 of 0044

Photographer: Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting

Date Photographed: June 2018

Second floor, room 211 looking north

0030 of 0044

Photographer: Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting

Date Photographed: June 2018

Second floor, room 213 looking north

0031 of 0044

Photographer: Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting

Date Photographed: June 2018

Second floor, corridor looking east

0032 of 0044

Photographer: Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting

Date Photographed: June 2018

Cadillac House

Name of Property

Sanilac County, Michigan

County and State

Second floor, stair to third floor, looking west
0033 of 0044

Photographer: Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting
Date Photographed: June 2018
Third floor, corridor looking east
0034 of 0044

Photographer: Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting
Date Photographed: June 2018
Third floor, room 302 looking east
0035 of 0044

Photographer: Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting
Date Photographed: June 2018
Third floor, corridor looking south
0036 of 0044

Photographer: Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting
Date Photographed: June 2018
Third floor, room 312 looking east
0037 of 0044

Photographer: Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting
Date Photographed: June 2018
Third floor, room 305 looking north
0038 of 0044

Photographer: Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting
Date Photographed: June 2018
Third floor, room 309 looking south
0039 of 0044

Photographer: Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting
Date Photographed: June 2018
Third floor, corridor looking east
0040 of 0044

Photographer: Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting
Date Photographed: June 2018
Third floor, elevator/stair corridor looking south
0041 of 0044

Photographer: Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting

Cadillac House

Name of Property

Sanilac County, Michigan

County and State

Date Photographed: June 2018
Third floor, stair to cupola, looking west
0042 of 0044

Photographer: Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting
Date Photographed: June 2018
Cupola, looking southwest
0043 of 0044

Photographer: Ruth Mills, Quinn Evans Architects
Date Photographed: August 2016
Exterior showing pre-restoration condition, looking southwest
0044 of 0044

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.

Cadillac House National Register Nomination Form

Village of Lexington, Sanilac County, Michigan

NRHP Boundary Map

 NRHP Boundary

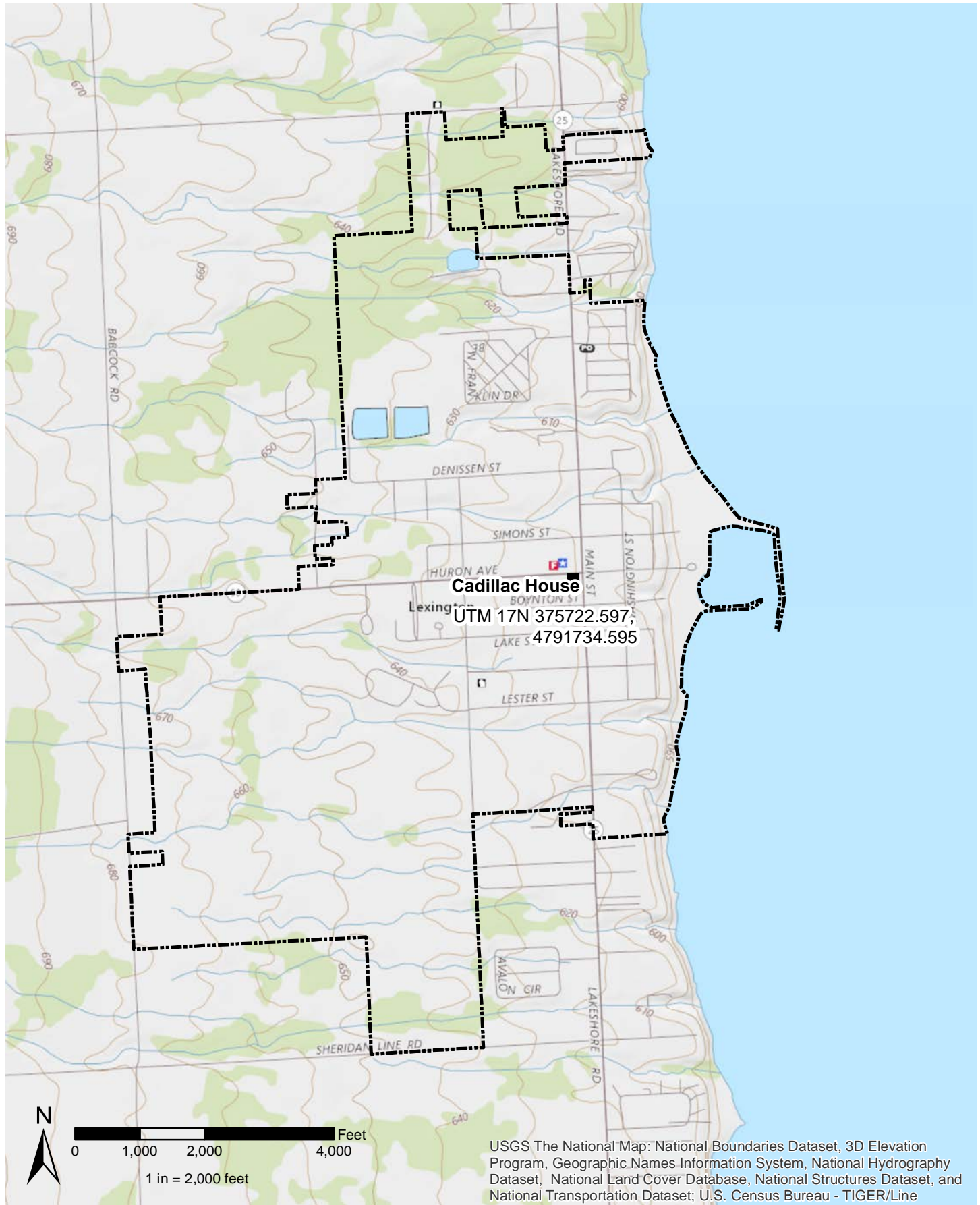


Cadillac House National Register Nomination Form

Village of Lexington, Sanilac County, Michigan

Context Map

- Cadillac House
- ▭ Village of Lexington





THE CADILLAC

LESLIE WELCOM CENTER

ROBERT W. REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONAL





THE CADILLAC

ST. JAMES

ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE

ROCKS



THE CADILLAC.



A large, three-story light blue building with white trim and a mansard roof. The building features numerous windows and decorative architectural elements, including a central tower with a mansard roof and several brick chimneys. The facade is light blue with white window frames and decorative brackets under the eaves. A small entrance with a black metal railing is visible on the ground floor.

FOLEY'S Market

NO TURN ON RED
STOP
ON RED

Peaks

P













































































ONLY

CADILLAC HOUSE

Cadillac House
Broasted Chicken

Cadillac House
FINE FOOD

Welcome to the Cadillac House
THANK YOU FOR
15 GREAT YEARS

Cadillac House
DINING ROOM
PIZZA & RIBS

ESTATE
SALE

COMMERCIAL
PROPERTY
FOR SALE
CALL 7

WELCOME TO THE CADILLAC HOUSE
FINE FOOD



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Cadillac House

Multiple Name: _____

State & County: MICHIGAN, Sanilac

Date Received: 10/26/2018 Date of Pending List: 11/16/2018 Date of 16th Day: 12/3/2018 Date of 45th Day: 12/10/2018 Date of Weekly List: _____

Reference number: SG100003216

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 12/4/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: Originally constructed in 1860, it is an outstanding and rare example of a wood frame, multistory hotel in Michigan. Designed in the Italianate style, it served as a center for commercial travelers and for vacationers as the town became more of a resort.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept / A & C

Reviewer Jim Gabbert Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275 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.



VILLAGE OF LEXINGTON

7227 HURON AVENUE, SUITE 100
LEXINGTON, MICHIGAN 48450
810-359-8631
FAX: 810-359-5622

OCT 25 2018



State Historic Preservation Office
735 East Michigan Ave.
P.O. Box 30044
Lansing, MI 48909

August 20, 2018

Dear Michigan Historic Preservation Review Board,

It is with great pleasure that I write to you about the beautiful Cadillac House and what it means to the Village of Lexington. This amazing building sits prominently on our 4-corners in the center of the town for everyone to see as they enter our Village. It has grand appearance that makes you appreciate it from the moment you set eyes on it.

The renovations were spectacular to watch and as impressive as you can get. This building has been restored to its full potential and our town couldn't be more grateful for that.

It would be an honor for the Village of Lexington to have the Cadillac House deemed an official historic place and put on the national registry. The Village of Lexington is a proud town and it would be a great compliment to the residents to know that this monument within their community will be nationally recognized.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,

Holly Tatman
Village Manager

September 10, 2018

Michigan State Historic Preservation Office

Michigan State Housing Development Authority

PO Box 30044

735 East Michigan Avenue

Lansing, MI 48909

Email: WalshT@michigan.gov

Dear Mr. Walsh,

The Sanilac County Planning Commission applauds your nomination of the Cadillac House, Lexington, to the National Register of Historic Places. It is an honor to have a local establishment recognized for its historic importance in Sanilac County and the U.S.A..

The Sanilac County Planning Commission unanimously hopes the Cadillac House's nomination is approved. The Commission appreciates this opportunity to comment. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Scott Franzel".

Scott Franzel, Chair

Sanilac County Planning Commission



**THE SENATE
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

PHIL PAVLOV

25TH DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 30036
LANSING, MI 48909-7536
PHONE: (517) 373-7708
FAX: (517) 373-1450



COMMITTEES
EDUCATION, CHAIR
FAMILIES, SENIORS, AND
HUMAN SERVICES, VICE CHAIR
NATURAL RESOURCES, VICE CHAIR
TRANSPORTATION
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
K-12, SCHOOL AID, EDUCATION,
VICE CHAIR

September 14, 2018

State Historic Preservation Office
735 East Michigan Ave
Lansing, MI 48909

Michigan Historic Preservation Review Board Members:

I am writing today in support of the Cadillac House’s nomination to be added to the National Register of Historic Places. The Cadillac House is currently a hotel and restaurant in Lexington. However, there is more to it than meets the eye. It has been a part of Lexington’s rich history for a century and a half.

In 1860, the Cadillac House held its first grand opening on Independence Day. Named after General Antoine De La Mothe Cadillac, the Cadillac was originally an inn. It has served as an integral part of the Lexington community as a place of both leisure and business. In Lexington’s “Golden Era” the Cadillac House acted as a hub to accommodate visitors, receiving accolades from the Detroit Free Press around the turn of the 20th century.

The Cadillac House has withstood the test of time surviving several fires and facing economic struggles. Lexington’s identity as an industrial hub was lost when operations moved elsewhere, but the town evolved into a tourist attraction with the Cadillac House serving its visitors as one of the largest hotels in Lexington. The Cadillac House is a testament to the entrepreneurial spirit of Michiganders and is an homage to the community of Lexington. Certainly, the Cadillac House is worthy of this distinction for its significance in history.

The Cadillac House has always found a way to reinvent itself with the changing times to serve the Thumb of Michigan. However, you have the opportunity to protect the Cadillac House from being forgotten. By adding the Cadillac House to the National Register, you will ensure its fixture as an essential part of Lexington and Michigan’s culture.

I urge your consideration of and support for the Cadillac House.

Sincerely,

Phil Pavlov
State Senator
Michigan 25th District



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

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

EARL J. POLESKI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

October 3, 2018



Ms. Joy Beasley, Keeper
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Beasley:

The enclosed discs contain the true and correct copy of the nomination for the **Cadillac House, 5502 Main Street, Lexington, Sanilac County, Michigan**. This property is being submitted for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Disc one contains the nomination file, signed cover page, and any correspondence. Disc two contains photographs of the nominated site.

All owners and appropriate elected public officials were notified and provided at least thirty (30) days to comment on the above proposed nomination in accordance with National Register regulations. All written comments concerning this nomination, submitted to us prior to our forwarding this nomination to you, are included in the correspondence file on disc one.

The State Historic Preservation Review Board approved this nomination at their meeting on September 14, 2018.

Questions concerning this nomination should be addressed to Todd A. Walsh, National Register Coordinator, at (517) 373-1979 or walsht@michigan.gov.

Sincerely yours,

Brian D. Conway
State Historic Preservation Officer

BDC/taw

