

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received AUG 29 1985

date entered OCT 10 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

Historic Resources of Saline, Michigan -- Partial Inventory:
historic Historic and Architectural Properties

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number Incorporation limits of City of Saline,
Michigan N/A not for publication

city, town Saline N/A vicinity of

state Michigan code 026 county Washtenaw code 161

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> multiple resources	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple owners (see attached lists)

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Washtenaw County Courthouse, 101 E. Huron

city, town Ann Arbor state Michigan

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Michigan State Survey Data has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1975-85 federal state county local

depository for survey records Bureau of History

city, town Lansing state Michigan

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

See attached.

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Introduction

The Saline Multiple Resource Nomination comprises two districts, one complex, and 16 individual buildings within the incorporated limits of the City of Saline, Washtenaw County. The nominated properties include religious, commercial, and residential structures which represent the City's finest nineteenth and twentieth century historic and architectural resources. Archeological resources are not included as they were not part of the Saline survey and have not received systematic inventory. The only known site within the city is the original location of the Risdon House off Michigan Avenue in Oakwood Cemetery.

The Nomination is the result of collaboration between the Saline Historic District Commission (established by City ordinance in 1973) and the Michigan Bureau of History (BOH). The initial architectural survey which formed the basis for this Multiple Resource Nomination was completed in 1975. Volunteers from both the community and a University of Michigan preservation class did the fieldwork and preliminary research after participating in special training workshops on local history research, architectural history and field survey methods. The survey encompassed all pre-1926 structures located within the City limits. Collected data included inventory sheets--listing location, general style, condition, alterations, and incidence--and data sheets with historical information as available.

In 1976, the Historic District Commission appointed a review board to evaluate the survey results and make recommendations. The board consisted of experts in the fields of architectural history and preservation, "chosen because of their knowledge and experience with historic preservation inventories elsewhere in the nation" (Historic District Commission 1976: 19). The 335 structures inventoried were evaluated according to the following criteria: example of period; extent of change; incidence; and physical condition. Historic significance was not a primary consideration. The review board established five categories of preservation value; these included buildings of national importance, those of local significance, those of special value, those of background quality, and buildings not evaluated (more recent than 1926 or without significance).

Based on their evaluation, the review board suggested creation of a Multiple Resource Nomination composed of five districts, 10 individual structures rated as nationally significant examples of style (including the currently listed Davenport Curtiss House, 300 E. Michigan) and 11 buildings of greatest local significance. The results of both survey and evaluation process are documented in the Historic District Commission publication, Saline Has a Past in Its Future (1976).

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Following completion of the review phase, the Historic District Commission hired Rita Walsh to complete a Multiple Resource Nomination. In 1983 Michigan History Division (now BOH) staff reviewed the nomination, and after further on-site inspection, reduced the number of proposed districts to three and the number of individually-nominated buildings to 16 so that the entire nomination would better meet National Register criteria on integrity. The Bureau of History's (BOH) suggested list of individual structures includes some of the originally designated structures as well as key structures from the deleted districts. The Bureau also requested that the City provide additional historic data to bolster the statements of significance. During the period 1983-1984 City staff members Sharon Compton and Jean Fuccella did complete additional research, but no revisions were made in the actual nomination.

In August, 1984 the Bureau of History contracted preservation consultant Laurie Sommers to re-photograph the affected properties and complete the Multiple Resource Nomination. Sommers worked with BOH staff member Robert Christensen and with City officials. In the present nomination, final boundary revisions included the addition of one property (217 E. Henry) to the E. Michigan Avenue Historic District, and, in the interests of coherence and architectural integrity, the reduction of the Barnegat area from a district encompassing both sides of W. Michigan Avenue to a complex which includes only the mill property at 555 W. Michigan. Although City officials preferred the original districts and boundaries, they are anxious for federal designation and support the revised boundaries.

The research for this nomination has been severely hampered by the loss of tax records for the period 1872-1930. The period 1872-1890 is particularly problematic, since newspaper records also are missing. Only one tax volume, that of 1892, is available for this crucial interim when a number of structures, particularly those in the North Ann Arbor Historic District, were constructed. Plat maps which show some structure locations are available for 1856, 1864, 1875, 1895, and 1915, and these have assisted in identifying, dating, and researching various Saline buildings. In addition, an 1872 Bird's Eye View has been used in the research process, but location and dating of buildings from this townscape, particularly those that appear on N. Ann Arbor Street, is not necessarily accurate, since the exact lot location of many buildings is unclear. Some structures may indeed be barns and not houses. Sanborn maps are also available for 1888, 1893, 1899, 1912, 1921, and 1912, but these do not show the entire town. Local newspaper records do exist for the post-1890 period; the Saline Public Library has a fairly complete run of the Saline Observer beginning with 1890, and the paper is a good

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source of building dates, obituaries, and various types of town news. Deeds were consulted where historic property owners were known, and some abstracts were provided by current property owners. Older local residents were also interviewed to determine building owners during the early twentieth century. Cemetary records were used to access obituries and trace family relationships.

The Saline Survey data forms have proved to be of mixed reliability; researchers rarely give citations for the sources of their dates and building histories. Where the researcher appeared to be quoting an abstract, this material has been included. Dates for buildings which are uncertain are all listed as "circa" dates in this nomination. Exact dates have been verified by tax records, deeds, cornerstones, or newspapers. The dating procedures for circa dates have been included in the nomination text where appropriate.

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Introductory Description

The City of Saline, population 6483 (1980), occupies roughly five square miles of flat to gently rolling agricultural land in southern Washtenaw County. The only significant hill in the City, located on the west side of town, once separated the industrial and residential area known as Barnegat, later Haywood's Addition, from the fledgling Saline Village. The City's chief natural feature, the Saline River, flows north/south through the western portion of the City. Three of the City's major green spaces, Curtiss Park, Mill Pond Park, and Oakwood Cemetary, are located near or adjacent to the impounded waters of the Saline River north of the Michigan Avenue (or U.S. 12) bridge and dam. Six additional park areas are scattered throughout the City. Of these green spaces, Curtiss Park and the Cemetary are most relevant to the Multiple Resource Nomination, since the individually-nominated Mausoleum is located within the Cemetary boundaries, and the Barnegat Historic Complex is located next to Curtiss Park.

The City's major transportation arteries, U.S. 12 or Michigan Avenue and Ann Arbor Street, run east/west and north/south respectively. These roadways facilitate Saline's growing role as a commuter town. Although southern Washtenaw County is still primarily rural, Saline's proximity to both Detroit and Ann Arbor caused its population to triple between 1960 and 1980 as commuters sought out Saline's small-town atmosphere. This rapid growth has taken its toll on the City's historic character. The new development is scattered throughout the town, and landmarks often are separated from a strong sense of place by newer construction. The recommended districts are situated along the axis of Michigan Avenue and Ann Arbor Street, but are separated from each other by new, often commercial, intrusions.

"In terms of land use the City of Saline is primarily a residential community and secondarily an industrial community. Proximity to the Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti urban area is likely to be a major force in retaining the predominant residential character" (Saline Comprehensive Planning Team 1980: 19). As of 1979, 44.4% of the developed land was residential, 3.8% commercial, 24.1% industrial, with the remainder of other use.

Most of the industrial development occurs at the eastern and northern edges of town on the site of the Ford plant and new Industrial Park. In addition, the historic industrial area of Barnegat, the site first of a nineteenth century flour mill and then of Henry Ford's twentieth century "village industries" operation, is located at the western edge of town along Michigan Avenue and the Saline River (photos 21-23). The current appearance of the Barnegat Historic Complex belies its industrial origins. The 1845 Schuyler Mill (555 W. Michigan Avenue) and the related Extraction Plant/Carriage House and pumphouse (ca. 1938),

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located south of the highway adjacent to Curtiss Park, sit on a spacious site bounded on the west and south by a tree-covered ridge. The wide, grassy expanse of the grounds causes the property to blend in smoothly with the park to the east. Barnegat buildings are all clapboard in composition, although the Mill itself was covered with aluminum siding in 1978. The predominant Greek Revival architectural style is exemplified by the towering three-story Mill, the pivotal structure in the Complex. The two other buildings exhibit vernacularly-interpreted classical detailing.

Commercial land use is spread out along Michigan Avenue. Recent malls and other developments are most prominent in the commercial strips at the eastern and western edges of town. The historic four-corners at Michigan and Ann Arbor still remains; however, the street level facades of all but portions of the two individually-nominated Italianate blocks, the Union Block at 110-110 E. Michigan (c. 1875, photo #24) and the Wallace Block at 105-113 S. Ann Arbor (1887, photo #25), have been substantially altered. Because of these alterations, and the numbers of non-contributing post-1950s buildings, the downtown does not exhibit sufficient cohesion or integrity to warrant creation of a district. In the words of *Downtowns USA*, "Saline's downtown...has become suburbanized with many auto-oriented uses, curb cuts, deep setbacks, and suburban architecture. While the old downtown...is a reminder of Saline's past with several appreciatively restored historic buildings [the two blocks mentioned above], beyond these four-corners Michigan Avenue stretches in each direction as a commercial strip more reflective of recent development trends" (1980: 2). The 1970s restoration of the previously mentioned commercial blocks, combined with the planting of small trees, has considerably improved the downtown streetscape.

The three individually-listed church buildings at 117 S. Ann Arbor and 143 and 197 E. Michigan (photos #26, 27, 28) are located in zones of transitional land use between downtown and the surrounding grids of historic neighborhoods. With the exception of Trinity Lutheran, with its scattering of mature trees, the church lots have minimal lawns and landscaping and buildings are set quite close to the street. These churches were all built in the last quarter of the nineteenth century and feature aspects of the Romanesque Revival and Italianate styles.

The historic residential areas of Saline grew up around the downtown and in the area west of Schuyler Mill known as Barnegat, Schuylerville or Haywood's Addition. Surrounding, and occasionally encroaching into, the historic neighborhoods are newer suburban developments. Homes range from moderate to large in size, with the majority two or more stories high. Most houses in the central area have fairly wide setbacks, and are set in lots landscaped with mature conifer and/or deciduous trees. Large trees, predominantly maple, line many of the streets throughout the city. The residential streets are very similar to their original

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plan, with the exception of roads located near the changing course of the Saline River. Street plans are largely rectangular, although in the newer sections of the City the streets curve through subdivisions.

Although many of the historic residences have since been covered with various types of siding, Saline is notable for its large numbers of relatively intact nineteenth and early twentieth century homes; the most outstanding of these are listed as pivotal District structures and individually-nominated buildings. The predominant facade material is wood, executed most frequently in Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, and Bungalow styles, although several brick homes (211 N. Ann Arbor, 113 N. Ann Arbor, and 218 Monroe--photos 32-34) are scattered throughout the town. The brick structures are generally bracketed Italianate cubes built in the late 1850s and early 1860s, with the exception of the Vernacular Forbes House at 211 N. Ann Arbor (1860). In addition, a few houses (306 N. Ann Arbor and 205 S. Ann Arbor--photos 3, 29), were covered with stucco in the early 1900s. A particularly significant aspect of Saline's historic residential neighborhoods is the large numbers of wooden barns and carriage houses, visual reminders of an earlier, more rural lifestyle (photo #39). Some of these buildings echo the design of the main house. The most striking examples are the two carriage houses associated with the National Register William Davenport home which face E. Henry Street (photo #15).

The E. Michigan Avenue Historic District (photos 11-20) and N. Ann Arbor Street Historic District (photos 1-14) encompass the greatest concentration of these historic city-center residences. Only two intrusions exist within the designated boundaries, both located in the N. Ann Arbor Street District. Alterations include siding, additions, and porch changes, but by and large these districts are fine examples of Midwestern residential architecture. As with much of the City, Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles predominate, although a scattering of bungalows (303 E. Michigan, photo #18, 313 N. Ann Arbor) and Vernacular homes (such as 318 and 320 N. Ann Arbor, photo #9) also are represented. The E. Michigan Avenue District is unusual in the presence of two large Second Empire residences (the Davenport homes at 300 E. Michigan and 302 E. Henry, photos 14-17). The large lots of these homes, particularly the entire city block of the William Davenport Home (300 E. Michigan), tend to distinguish the E. Michigan area from the rest of the City. Otherwise, setbacks and lot sizes in the two Districts are representative of the older City neighborhoods as a whole. Within the N. Ann Arbor District larger lots and bigger setbacks are found in the vicinity of the large Queen Anne Harper House at 319 (photo #7).

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 19th-20th C. Builder/Architect See inventory forms

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

See attached pages 7-14

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Architectural Overview

The City of Saline 1975 architectural survey identified buildings dating from the 1840s through the 1920s which represent a range of architectural styles executed in wood, brick, stucco, and stone. Since post-1926 structures were not inventoried, they have little bearing on the Multiple Resource Nomination. The pre-1926 buildings, however, include a number of buildings which are exceptionally fine examples of their period.

The Greek Revival style is the earliest style represented throughout southern Michigan. All along the Chicago Road one finds Greek Revival buildings, with their clapboard construction, broken pediments, rectangular plans, classical friezes, and Doric pilasters and porches; Saline is no exception. Because of their early date, however (the Risdon home, for example, was begun in 1829), many of these early buildings no longer exist, and of those still standing, all have undergone substantial alteration. Only five Greek Revival structures within the City limits are rated of national and highest local significance according to the Saline Survey; of these, only the 1845 Schuyler Mill at Barnegat (photo #23) still has any architectural integrity, and it, too, has undergone considerable alteration since its period of construction.

The Gothic Revival Style, the next to assume popularity in Saline, is also of comparatively rare incidence. Because the style drew its inspiration from religious sources, period churches frequently exhibit Gothic elements. The 1872 Trinity Lutheran Church (195 E. Michigan, photo #26), with its lancet windows, is no exception. The only other building to display the pointed arch is the Samuel Van Duzer House at 205 S. Ann Arbor (1858, photo #29). The remaining buildings, also residences, feature the steeply pitched roofs, picturesque arrangement of gables and wings, and the pointed eaves trim and bargeboards typical of the style. The detailing of the Louis Sturm House at 100 Russell (1873, photo #30) and 422 E. Michigan (Edgar Aldrich House, ca. 1870, photo #31) include particularly fine examples of roof line trim, gable ornaments and bargeboards.

The Italianate style in Saline coincides with the Gothic Revival. As with most Midwestern towns, Saline's Italianate commercial blocks executed in brick replaced earlier Greek Revival structures executed in wood. The least altered remaining examples include the Union Block at 100-110 E. Michigan (ca. 1870s, photo #24) and the similarly ornamented Wallace Block and Corporation Brick Building at 105-113 S. Ann Arbor (1887, photo #25). Both buildings contain the prominent, bracketed cornice and segmental-arched window openings diagnostic of the style.

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The elegant brick homes at 218 Monroe (Joseph Annin House, 1863, photo #34) and 113 N. Ann Arbor (Zalmon Church House, 1860, photo #33), with their cube-like plans, hipped roofs, and bracketed cornices, are particularly fine examples of Italianate residential architecture.

Saline is somewhat unusual in that it has two excellent residential examples of the Second Empire style, a style more common in public buildings. Both constructed by Detroit architects for members of the Davenport family, the homes at 300 E. Michigan (1876, photo #16) and 302 E. Henry (1873, photo #17) originally bore even greater resemblance to one another than they do today. The squared corner tower with its mansard roof has since been removed from the home at 302 E. Henry, while the tower of the William Davenport home remains. Among the two largest in Saline, the homes reveal the tall, vertical proportions, mansard roofs, boldly detailed trim, and multi-shaped dormers typical of Second Empire buildings. The characteristic slate roof which still tops the William Davenport home was removed from the Beverly Davenport home in the 1960s.

Romanesque styles influenced the design of the United Methodist Church by Clark and Munger of Bay City (117 S. Ann Arbor, 1899, photo #28) and the Presbyterian Church by Spier and Rohns of Detroit (143 E. Michigan, 1898, photo #27). The Presbyterian building shows more influence of the Romanesque Revival, with its largely monochromatic brick exterior resting on top of a stone base. The somewhat polychromatic brick and cut stone Methodist Church exhibits a more Victorian Romanesque flavor. Both buildings have the prominent towers and round-arched windows common to Romanesque buildings.

During the last quarter of the nineteenth century a number of richly textured Queen Anne homes were constructed in Saline, many with Eastlake detailing. Homes in these styles are among the more prevalent in the City. The residences at 117 W. McKay (Miller/Walker House, ca. 1880s, photo #36) and 7215 Ann Arbor-Saline Road (Henry Watson House, ca. 1882, photo #35) exhibit some Stick Style influence in their use of horizontal siding, stickwork in the porch railings, and in the case of the latter home, in the cross gables and diagonal braces. Saline's most noted example of pure Queen Anne, with turrets, eyebrow dormers, shingle and sunburst accents, and projecting bays, is the Egbert Harper House at 319 N. Ann Arbor (1891-93, photo #7). The Eastlake touches of spindle-and-spool-like balusters, lattice-like porch bases, carved panels, and scroll brackets are most noticeable at 103 W. Henry (George Lutz House, ca. 1900, photo #37) and 308 N. Ann Arbor (Peter W. Weienett House, 1892, photo #8).

Another quite common style is Colonial Revival. During the first

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decades of the twentieth century, local builder Elwood Rogers constructed a number of homes in this style, among them 101 Maple, 103 Maple, 315 E. Michigan (photos 13 and 19) and perhaps the most notable example, the Charles Cool House at 303 N. Ann Arbor (1900), with its characteristic Palladian window (photo #6). The use of Colonial Revival design elements is fairly subtle throughout Saline, although buildings of this style do reveal the usual classical pediments and rectangular or square plans. The profusion of roof shapes and varying window shapes of 315 E. Michigan, along with the shingle accents of 303 N. Ann Arbor reveal the lingering influence of the Queen Anne style on builders such as Rogers.

The Bungalow, also quite common throughout Saline, is represented by only two buildings within the Multiple Resource Nomination. Although a prevalent style, many bungalows have been covered with siding or have had significant alterations to porches or other features. This is the case of the two Sears catalog bungalows at 113 McKay and 213 E. Michigan (not included in Multiple Resource designation) and the house at 313 N. Ann Arbor. An outstanding example of this style stands at 303 E. Michigan (Fosdick House, 1918, photo #18) and features one-and-a-half story frame construction, a large full-pedimented dormer facing the street, and a roof overhang above the full-width front porch.

With the exception of two vernacular buildings, the 1914 fieldstone Mausoleum (photo #40) and the 1938-39 Ford Soybean Extraction Plant constructed in a Greek Revival mode (photo #22), the Bungalow is the most recent architectural style surveyed in Saline, and thus represents the latest construction dates in the Multiple Resource Nomination. The more recent one-story ranch-style homes at 305 and 325 N. Ann Arbor are listed as intrusions.

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Historical Overview

"The Saline River was named early by Frenchmen from Detroit and Monroe who had been active in the interior--not to settle, but to trade with Indians for furs. For hundreds of years, native Americans, the first possessors of these lands, had been attracted here by the salt springs which gave the river its name. Not only did the salt have intrinsic barter value, it also attracted ruminant animals to the 'licks,' as frontiersmen called the curious patches of salt-encrusted grounds...."

"...Recognizing the potential value of the area's saliferous assets, the new Territory of Michigan declared the springs a public reservation before opening Washtenaw County to settlement in 1822. In 1817, six sections of land had been conveyed by Chippewa, Ottawa and Pottawatomi Indians to the fledgling University of Michigan--then still in Detroit--in anticipation of future educational benefits to Indian children. Six years later, the institution's regents deputized two of their number to select the lands to be claimed under the treaty" (Saline Historic District Commission 1976: 3). In 1824, the committee of inspection found little of value in the "section upon the Saline" and opted instead for a salt spring upon the River Rouge, which they deemed a more likely area for early settlement.

One of the chief deterrents to pioneer settlement throughout Michigan Territory was the lack of interior roads. The Saline region lay at the convergence of some six Indian trails, including the Great Sauk Trail utilized by both native Americans and the French explorer La Salle, but these trails were hardly suitable for the wagons and horses of prospective white settlers from points East. Nonetheless, Leonard Miller, whose descendents Henry, Alfred, Charles, and Arthur all lived in Saline, followed the Tecumseh Trail from Tecumseh to Saline en route from Elizabethtown, New York, and built one of the first log cabins in Saline Township near the site of the salt works.

"Recognizing the strategic importance of roads in the Michigan Territory after the War of 1812, Congress authorized the Risdon survey in 1825" (Saline Historic District Commission 1976: 3). The surveyed route of the military road between Detroit and Chicago passed through what is now Saline and paralleled the Great Sauk Trail. Begun in 1827, the road served as a tremendous catalyst to pioneer settlement in southeastern Michigan.

Orange Risdon, the surveyor of the Chicago Road, became a major figure in the early history of Saline. In 1824 he was among the first persons to obtain a government land grant in Saline Township, and his property became the location of the original Village of Saline. Risdon's position as chief surveyor of the military road kept him from settling

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Saline Multiple Resource Area
Summary Significance Statement

Saline's historic resources date from the 1820s to the 1930s and are primarily significant in a local context. The historic period of the town's development may be divided into two broad periods: an early, settlement period beginning even prior to the arrival in 1829 of Orange Risdon, the area's first settler, and the period of most extensive growth, beginning in 1870 with the opening of the Detroit, Hillsdale & Indiana Railroad and ending with the Great Depression. The early period saw the founding of the town and its slow development about the intersection of the Chicago Road and Ann Arbor Street and also the establishment of the Barnegat Mill and its associated hamlet nearby to the west on the Chicago Road. Small numbers of Greek and Gothic Revival and Italianate structures survive from this period. The opening of the railroad spurred the rapid development of Saline as a shipping point for agricultural products, promoted the growth of agriculture in the area served by the town, and encouraged the establishment of small manufacturing interests. As a flourishing regional trade center, Saline saw its commercial district largely rebuilt with substantial brick structures, its early church buildings replaced with larger ones of masonry construction, and its residential areas expand in all directions beyond the early town center during the 1870-1930 period. The new structures represented a broad range of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century architectural styles and modes. Finally, the operation by Henry Ford of the old Barnegat Mill as a soybean extraction plant between 1937 and 1945 as part of his "village industries" experiment in southeastern Michigan represents a significant episode in Saline's history that falls outside of the community's primary period of significance.

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Expended Statement of Saline's Historical Themes

What is now Saline developed after 1829 at the intersection of the Chicago Road, the main highway between Detroit and Chicago, and roads to Ann Arbor, Tecumseh, and Monroe, Michigan. The village, located at the juncture of four townships, remained unincorporated until 1866. In that year it was incorporated as a village. In 1931 it became a city. The former village hall building, built in 1887 and now considered part of the Wallace Block, is the only public building in Saline dating from before 1920.

Saline's earliest institutions were its churches. Three existing congregations -- the Baptist, Presbyterian, and Methodist -- are significant for dating back to the early 1830s, when settlement in the area and Washtenaw County was in its infancy. All three congregations now occupy turn-of-the-century structures. Of the church buildings which represent these early established congregations, the Presbyterian and Methodist churches were selected for this nomination because the structures themselves are little altered and possess significance in the history of Protestant church design in Michigan and in the careers of their notable Michigan architects.

The central element in Saline's economy in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was agriculture, and the presence of the railroad was a major factor in promoting the business. Wheat was a major crop and three local mills produced flour and other products from it, much of it probably for shipment east. Following the opening of the railroad, Saline became a shipping point for cattle, hogs, and, especially, sheep from its stockyards. Business directories over the years record a great number of cattle, hog, sheep, and poultry breeders and dealers in grain and wool. The town supported a creamery and small foundries which manufactured windmills, fencing, and agricultural implements.

Today the Barnegat mill is virtually the only intact remnant of the early elevator, warehouse, and stockyard development associated with processing and shipping and the shops which manufactured products for farm consumption. Saline does, however, retain the homes of a number of citizens who were involved in the processing and shipping of the area's agricultural products, such as the homes of grain elevator operators Charles and Louis Cool at 303 and 314 North Ann Arbor Street and of John Hull at 311 North Ann Arbor Street. Number 319 North Ann Arbor

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housed at different times Egbert P. Harper and Arthur A. Wood, both of whom raised and dealt in sheep and wool. The adjoining houses at 315 and 317 East Michigan Avenue were the residences of wool warehouse partners Willis M. Fowler and Gay W. Harris.

Saline's other commercial development was also directly tied to the railroad, and to the town's role as a shipping point for the surrounding countryside. The Chicago Road (Michigan Avenue)/Ann Arbor Street intersection, the site of the earliest commercial development, was largely redeveloped in the 1870s to 1890s with larger brick blocks replacing modest, frame ones. By 1900, two banks and several large lumberyards and hardwares which carried such other things as stoves, paints, farm implements, and buggies, along with various other stores and shops and hotels, existed in the downtown. A number of late nineteenth-century blocks remain in the downtown, but most have been heavily altered. The Union and Wallace Blocks included in this nomination are two of the largest and best preserved of the city's early commercial blocks. The town's early commercial development is, however, more strongly represented by the surviving homes of important local businessmen such as bankers William H. and Beverly D. Davenport (300 East Michigan and 302 East Henry), lumber dealer Edwin W. Ford at 320 North Ann Arbor, and hardware dealer Charles Guthard at 211 East Michigan.

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his land immediately, and during the interim several other pioneers established homesteads and mills outside the present City limits. The first home within those limits was Risdon's. In 1829 he built on a hill at the western edge of his land grant property, in what is now the Oakwood Cemetary, along the Chicago Road he had surveyed. In 1832, he surveyed and platted Saline to be six city blocks, three north and three south of "Chicago Street," now Michigan Avenue. The plat was recorded in 1838. "The veteran surveyor later was to donate much of his land for schools, churches, and for the first cemetary in the village (now Oakwood Cemetary). His home...became the village's first general store, the first bank and at one time was used as a temporary inn for travelers. Throughout the 90 years of his life, Orange Risdon was acknowledged as 'Mr. Saline'" (Trembl 1981). The home still stands on its new site at 210 W. Henry. The oldest surviving building in Saline, it has been gutted on the interior, covered with siding, and lacks the integrity of its original site. For this reason, it is not listed as an individually-nominated building, despite its local historical significance.

Risdon chose an ideal spot for a city, located where the main north/south roads to Ann Arbor, Tecumseh and Monroe crossed his "military road." Beginning with the 1832 construction of Silas Finch's Greek Revival dry goods store, the crossroads rapidly developed into the Village "four-corners." The accessible water power provided by the Saline River also prompted the erection of various mills, including a flour mill in Haywood's Addition west of town. When this area, also known as Barnegat, became part of the Village in 1848, the Schuyler Mill became the only mill within the Village proper. Located where the Chicago Road crossed the Saline River, the 1845 mill and environs at Barnegat were the scene of a bustling little industrial and residential settlement during the 1840s and 50s.

At the time of the Village incorporation in 1866, Saline Township boasted a population of 2000. Sawmills and a local brickyard facilitated the construction of homes for these early settlers. Many original owners of the City's oldest surviving residences served in early Village posts, among them Zalmon Church, Jortin Forbes, and Samuel Van Duzer. Most of these individuals came from the eastern seaboard states, especially New York and Massachusetts. As pioneers from points east traveled the Chicago Road in search of land and a new life, inns to accomodate them sprang up along "Chicago Street." Alfred Miller, a first generation Salinean and son of Leonard Miller, ran the Exchange Hotel (opened in 1834), one of several inns along the Chicago Road.

The East Coast settlers were joined at mid-century by large numbers of

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German immigrants who established farms and businesses in the vicinity and also founded the Trinity Lutheran Church. Brothers Louis and Jacob Sturm, for example, arrived around 1860 and began a thriving harness shop on the Chicago Road. Louis built the home at 100 Russell and Jacob the home at 101 McKay. Other German immigrants and their descendents, such as Daniel Nissly, George Seeger, George Lutz, Charles Guthard, and John Klein, were among the many German Americans who contributed to the development of Saline. Papers of the 1890s onward describe German days, German social organizations, and church services in German, all attesting to the prominent German presence in southern lower Michigan.

Up until the 1870s, most growth in Saline proper had clustered around Risdon's original plat. The 1870 arrival of the Detroit, Hillsdale, and Indiana Railroad, however, stimulated a second major period of growth, and land speculation was rampant for both residential and commercial property. Henry J. Miller, for example, sold a number of lots and perhaps built homes as well on section 31 Pittsfield Township-- land just beyond the growing village limits. The Edgar Aldrich House at 422 E. Michigan appears to be a product of this speculation and is part of the so-called "Miller's Addition" (never platted), noted in the tax records of the time. The Village proper expanded northward into Lodi Township with the creation of additional plats along the railroad tracks as well as eastward into York Township along the Chicago Road. Houses in the Vernacular, Queen Anne and Stick styles sprang up throughout the newly platted additions, particularly in the Bennett and Mill's Additions north of town along Ann Arbor and Russell Streets. William Davenport and his son Beverly were among those to build homes in the A. H. Risdon Addition east along the Chicago Road. Saline's most famous mansion, the Second Empire William Davenport house at 300 E. Michigan (1876), occupies an entire block all its own. Davenport's son Beverly built a similar house on East Henry Street in 1873, also in the French Second Empire Style, with a tower and mansard roof" (Saline Historic District Commission 1976: 8). Businessman William Davenport was a key figure during this period, owning a general store and later founding the Citizen's Savings Bank.

"By 1875 Saline had become (a) principal agricultural shipping point in southeastern Michigan. Livestock, grain, silk, flour, wool, apples, and agricultural items of every description were shipped on the heavily laden trains every day" (Centennial 1966: n.p.). During the late nineteenth century, Washtenaw County was the leading wool producing county in the state. Many local farmers bred sheep and shipped to various markets, among them Henry R. Watson (7215 N. Ann Arbor-Saline Rd.) and Egbert P. Harper and Arthur A. Wood, owners of 319 N. Ann Arbor. Other individuals catered to the region's agricultural character by selling agricultural products and implements. Edwin Ford's lumber

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business across from his home at 322 N. Ann Arbor expanded to include agricultural implements, as did Charles Guthard's hardware store. Gay Harris and Willis Fowler, owners of homes on E. Michigan, operated a wool warehouse along the railroad.

Many industries and commercial enterprises flourished during the late nineteenth century. "As early as 1881 a published report claimed that 'the business center of the village presents a busy scene that bears a very favorable contrast with the commercial quarters of much larger towns, so that it may be truly said, Saline forms one of the most pleasant little centers of population in Michigan'" (Saline Historic District Commission 1976: 7). Earlier wood framed Greek Revival storefronts in downtown burned or were otherwise replaced with Italianate brick blocks during the 1870s and 1880s. A disastrous 1881 fire destroyed the first block of Adrian Street (now Ann Arbor Street) on May 21 and the Wallace Block and Corporation Brick Building (which housed the fire department) were erected on the gutted block in 1887. The 1893-94 Michigan Gazetteer described Saline, population 1200, as "a stirring village, located upon the river from which it takes its name....It is surrounded by a beautiful farming country, well settled and improved, and contains Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist and Presbyterian churches, a large union school building, a district library, an opera house, a bank, a windmill and farm implement manufactory, three flouring mills, a planing mill, a jelly and cider mill, a machine shop and engine works, a sawmill, a fire department, and a live weekly newspaper, the Observer. Grain, wool, and general produce are marketed here" (Gazetteer 1893-94: 1423-24).

From 1899 to 1923 Saline also boasted an interurban trolley line which connected with the main line at Ypsilanti. During this time, a third major period of construction occurred, with many businessmen and retired farmers erecting Queen Anne and Colonial Revival homes on Maple and the 300 block of E. Michigan. Willis Fowler, whose home stands at 315 E. Michigan, became involved in real estate in this block and elsewhere in the Village during the early 1900s. Merchant Steven T. Fairbanks, farmer Samuel B. Weienett, druggist Charles O. Woodridge, and hardware store owner George Seeger were among those to built homes on E. Michigan.

The advent of the automobile prompted the demise of Saline's role as a rail shipment center. Without the railroad, Orange Risdon's Detroit-Chicago Road once again became Saline's principal connection with the outside world. Saline achieved fifth-class city status in 1931.

On the heels of the Depression, Henry Ford brought new industrial vitality to Saline. In 1937 he purchased the mill building and water rights of the then vacant Barnegat complex and established one of his

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experimental "village industries" projects on the site. For the next eight years, Ford used the meal and oil from regional soybean harvests to make plastic parts and paint for Ford automobiles.

A new period of expansion began in the early 1950s with the arrival of several industrial concerns, among them the R and B Machine Tool and Universal Die Casting Companies. In 1976, the Ford Motor Company built a new general parts division on the eastern edge of town north of Michigan Avenue. Although the character of the town remained primarily residential, the population boom sparked by Saline's new industries and its growing role as a commuter community put increased pressures on the area's historic resources. In the early 1970s, concern over the commercialization of Michigan Avenue, and the demolition of several key landmarks, prompted the 1973 creation of the Historic District Commission. The subsequent survey and summary publication, Saline Has a Past in Its Future, were projects of the Historic District Commission. Following the survey, the city created an Urban Design Commission composed of representatives from the Historic District Commission, the Planning Commission, the Beautification Commission, the Recreation Commission, the Industrial Business and Development Commission, and the Civil Rights Commission. The city's general development plan, written in the same year as the survey, was approved and recorded by the Planning Commission, but not by the City Council.

In the wake of this increased interest in preservation, owners of the First Presbyterian Church (143 E. Michigan), and the commercial blocks at 100-110 E. Michigan and 105-113 S. Ann Arbor undertook architecturally sensitive renovations of their structures. In addition, many Victorian and Colonial Revival homes originally painted white have since been repainted in period browns, mustards, greens and rusts (for example, 211 E. Michigan--photo #38, 319 N. Ann Arbor--photo #7). Most recently, under the impetus of the National Mainstreet Center (of the National Trust for Historic Preservation), the City has initiated a downtown revitalization project called Uptown Saline intended to counteract the affects of recent mall development on the east side. The project will utilize an "on-going four-pronged method that stresses organization, promotion, design and economic restructure as the keys to bringing new life into downtown areas" (Saline Reporter Nov. 21, 1984: 1).

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Districts and Structures Currently Listed on the National Register

300 E. Michigan, The William Davenport House, Second Empire, 1876

Districts and Structures within the Multiple Resource Nomination

Districts

Barnegat Historic Complex, 3 contributing buildings

East Michigan Avenue Historic District, 18 contributing homes and 9 contributing outbuildings

North Ann Arbor Street Historic District, 20 contributing houses plus 11 contributing outbuildings, 2 noncontributing intrusions

Individual Structures

100-110 E. Michigan, Union Block, Italianate, 1870s

105-113 S. Ann Arbor, Wallace Block and Corporation Brick Building, Italianate, 1887

~~195 E. Michigan, Trinity Lutheran Church, Gothic Revival, 1872~~

143 E. Michigan, First Presbyterian Church, Romanesque Revival, 1898

117 S. Ann Arbor, United Methodist Church, Victorian Romanesque, 1899

205 S. Ann Arbor, Samuel Van Duzer House, Gothic Revival, 1858

100 Russell, Louis Sturm House, Gothic Revival, 1873

422 E. Michigan, Edgar Aldrich House, Gothic Revival, ca. 1870

211 N. Ann Arbor, Jortin Forbes House, Vernacular, 1860

113 N. Ann Arbor, Zalmon Church House, Italianate, 1860

218 Monroe, Joseph Annin House, Italianate, 1863

7215 Saline-Ann Arbor Road, Henry R. Watson House, Stick Style, ca. 1882

117 W. McKay, Miller/Walker House, Stick Style, ca. 1880s

103 W. Henry, George R. Lutz House, Queen Anne, ca. 1900

211 E. Michigan, Charles Guthard House, Queen Ann, 1907

Oakwood Cemetary Mausoleum, Vernacular, 1914-15

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property about 5 miles (city of Saline)

Quadrangle name Saline

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References See inventory sheets.

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Entire city of Saline.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Laurie Sommers, historic preservation consultant
Saline Historic District Commission

organization N/A

date April 1985

street & number 4292 Tacoma Blvd.

telephone 517/349-3192

city or town Okemos

state Michigan 48864

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Maurice M. Bigelow

title Director, Bureau of History

date 8/20/85

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

See Continuation Sheet for Listing
Keeper of the National Register

date

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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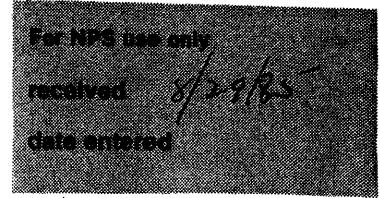
Treml, William B.

1981 "He Came for Freedom and Found Saline," Ann Arbor News, June
11.

1. I would like to give special acknowledgement to Rita Walsh, who prepared the original version of this nomination, and to the contributors to the Saline Historic District Commission report Saline Has a Past in Its Future, whose ideas have been liberally quoted throughout this Nomination and whose research forms its basis. Because of its contribution to this nomination, I have listed the Saline Historic District Commission as co-author in item 11 below. Jean Fuccella and Sharon Compton of the City of Saline have also provided research and assistance.

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Saline MRA
State Washtenaw County, MICHIGAN

Cover Form accept P. Andrews 10/10/85

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Annin, Joseph, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melrose Byers 10/10/85

Attest

2. East Michigan Avenue
Historic District

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melrose Byers 10/10/85

Attest

3. Forbes, Jortin, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melrose Byers 10/10/85

Attest

4. Guthard, Charles, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melrose Byers 10/10/85

Attest

5. Lutz, George R., House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melrose Byers 10/10/85

Attest

6. Miller--Walker House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melrose Byers 10/10/85

Attest

7. North Ann Arbor Street
Historic District

Substantive Review

Keeper

accept Patrick Andrews 10/10/85

Attest

8. Oakwood Cemetery Mausoleum

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melrose Byers 10/10/85

Attest

9. Saline First Presbyterian
Church

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melrose Byers 10/10/85

Attest

10. Sturm, Louis, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melrose Byers 10/10/85

Attest

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Saline MRA
State MICHIGAN

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- 11. Union Block ~~Substantive Review~~ *for* Keeper accept Patrick Andrus 10/10/85
Attest _____
- 12. Van Duzer, Samuel D., House Entered in the ~~National Register~~ *for* Keeper Delores Byers 10/10/85
Attest _____
- 13. Wallace Block—Old Saline Village Hall Entered in the ~~National Register~~ *for* Keeper Delores Byers 10/10/85
Attest _____
- 14. Watson, Henry R., House Entered in the ~~National Register~~ *for* Keeper Delores Byers 10/10/85
Attest _____
- 15. Zalmon Church House Entered in the ~~National Register~~ *for* Keeper Delores Byers 10/10/85
Attest _____
- 16. Aldrich, Edgar, House ~~Substantive Review~~ *for* Keeper Eligible Patrick Andrus 10/10/85
DOE/OWNER OBJECTION
Attest _____
- 17. Saline Methodist Episcopal Church ~~Substantive Review~~ *for* Keeper Eligible Patrick Andrus 10/10/85
DOE/OWNER OBJECTION
Attest _____
- 18. Barnegat Historic Complex ~~Substantive Review~~ *for* Keeper _____ *25*
DOE/OWNER OBJECTION
Attest _____
- 19. _____ Keeper _____
Attest _____
- 20. _____ Keeper _____
Attest _____