

ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES: DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION

INTRODUCTION

The R.T. Cann House (N-5013) at 306 Porter Road was surveyed in 1970. The house is no longer extant, and in its place is a subdivision of houses. (A copy of the original survey form for the R.T. Cann House can be found in Appendix A.) Today Porter Road is largely comprised of modern subdivisions with post-1960 housing (Plates 1 and 2).

In June 1994, the NCCDP completed a cultural resource Reconnaissance Level Update Survey of Pencader Hundred. One element of this survey included the completion of Cultural Resource Update Survey Forms for previously identified resources. The Planning Department completed Cultural Resource Update Survey Forms for three architectural resources located in the Porter Road project area: the W.B. Calhoun House (N-5012), the R.T. Cann House (N-5013, demolished), and the Comly Agricultural Complex (N-12420, outbuildings only) (Appendix A).

Six properties over 50 years of age were surveyed for this project (Figure 5). Below is a discussion of each property, including an architectural description, historical information, and an evaluation of National Register eligibility.

1. Russell Silicato House (N-13373)
Northeast Corner of Route 72 and Porter Road
Tax Parcel 11-033.00-112
(Plates 3, 4, 5, and 6)
(Survey form in Appendix A)

Description: This one-story frame Minimal Traditional style dwelling is clad in aluminum siding and has modern metal 1/1 double-hung sash windows with shutters. Constructed circa 1945, this house is situated on the northeast corner of the intersection of Porter Road and Route 72; it has a front-gabled roof covered in asphalt shingle and an interior brick chimney in the rear (east) roof ridge. The house, which faces west, is three bays across with a front-gabled first bay projecting forward and containing paired windows. The second bay features the main entrance, and the third bay contains a picture window. These two bays have a porch overhang which is supported by one metal post.

The south elevation has an exterior chimney, while the east elevation of the house has a shed-roof porch supported by three metal posts.

Outbuildings include a modern front-gabled garage situated north of the house which has a concrete foundation and is clad in aluminum siding. The garage door is metal and the roof is covered in asphalt shingles. East of the house there is a front-gabled shed with a concrete block foundation. The shed has corrugated metal covering its roof and walls, and may serve as a storage shed or as a chicken coop.



PLATE 1: Example of Post-1950s House, Porter Road



PLATE 2: Example of Post-1950s House, Porter Road

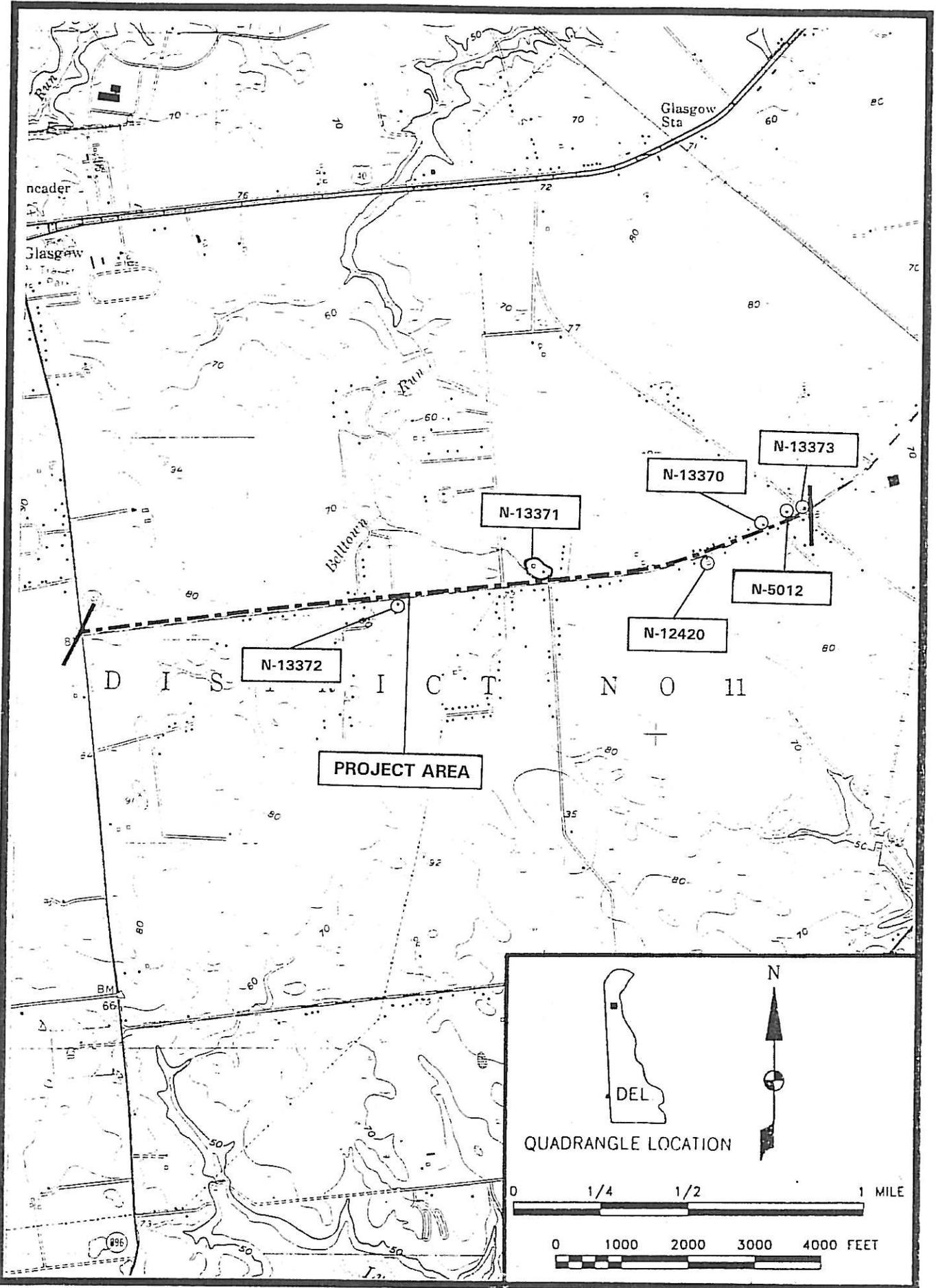


FIGURE 5: Architectural Resources Identified in Project Area SOURCE: USGS 7.5 Minute Series, Saint Georges, Del. Quadrangle (photorevised 1970)

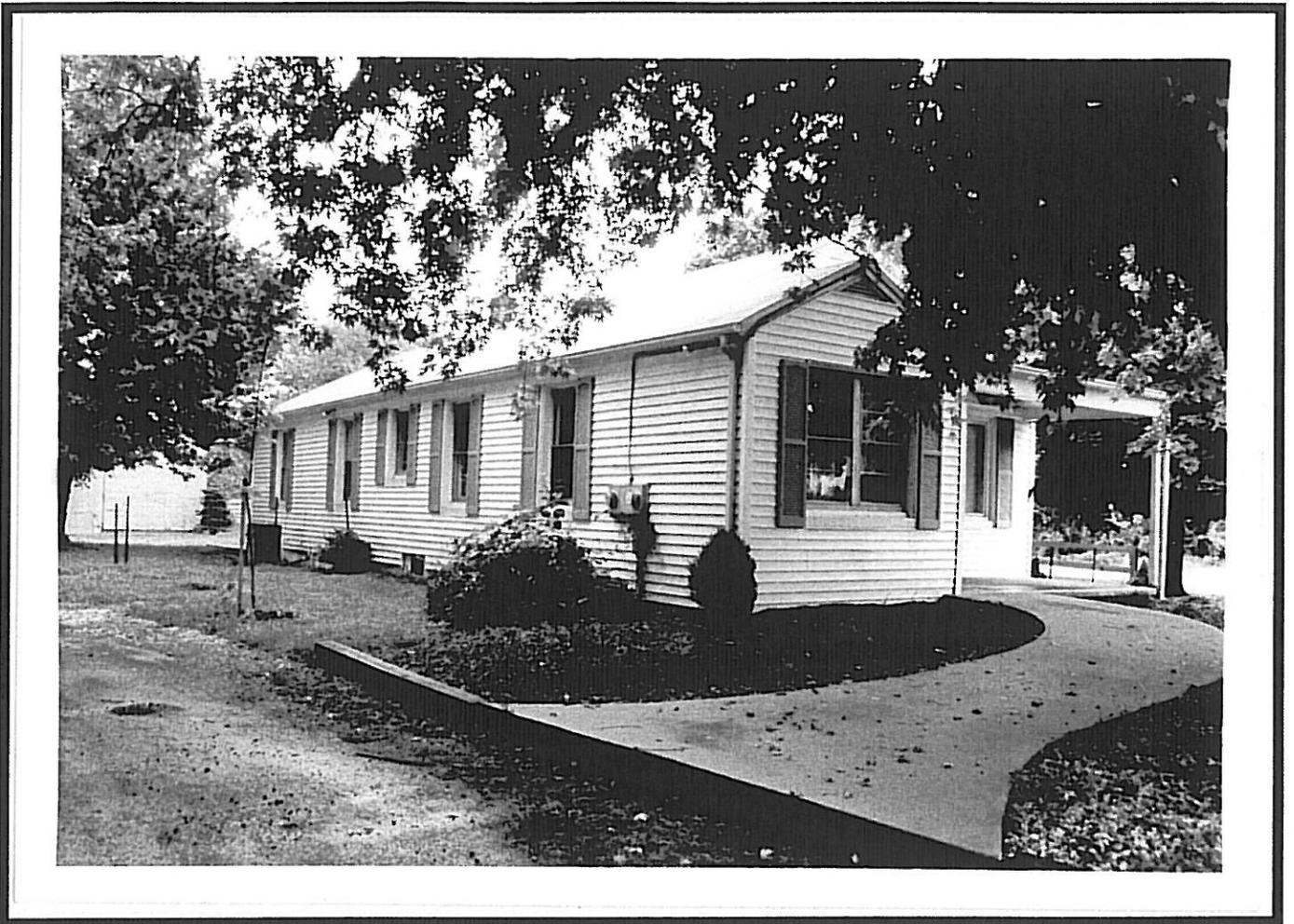


PLATE 3: Silicato House, View to Southeast

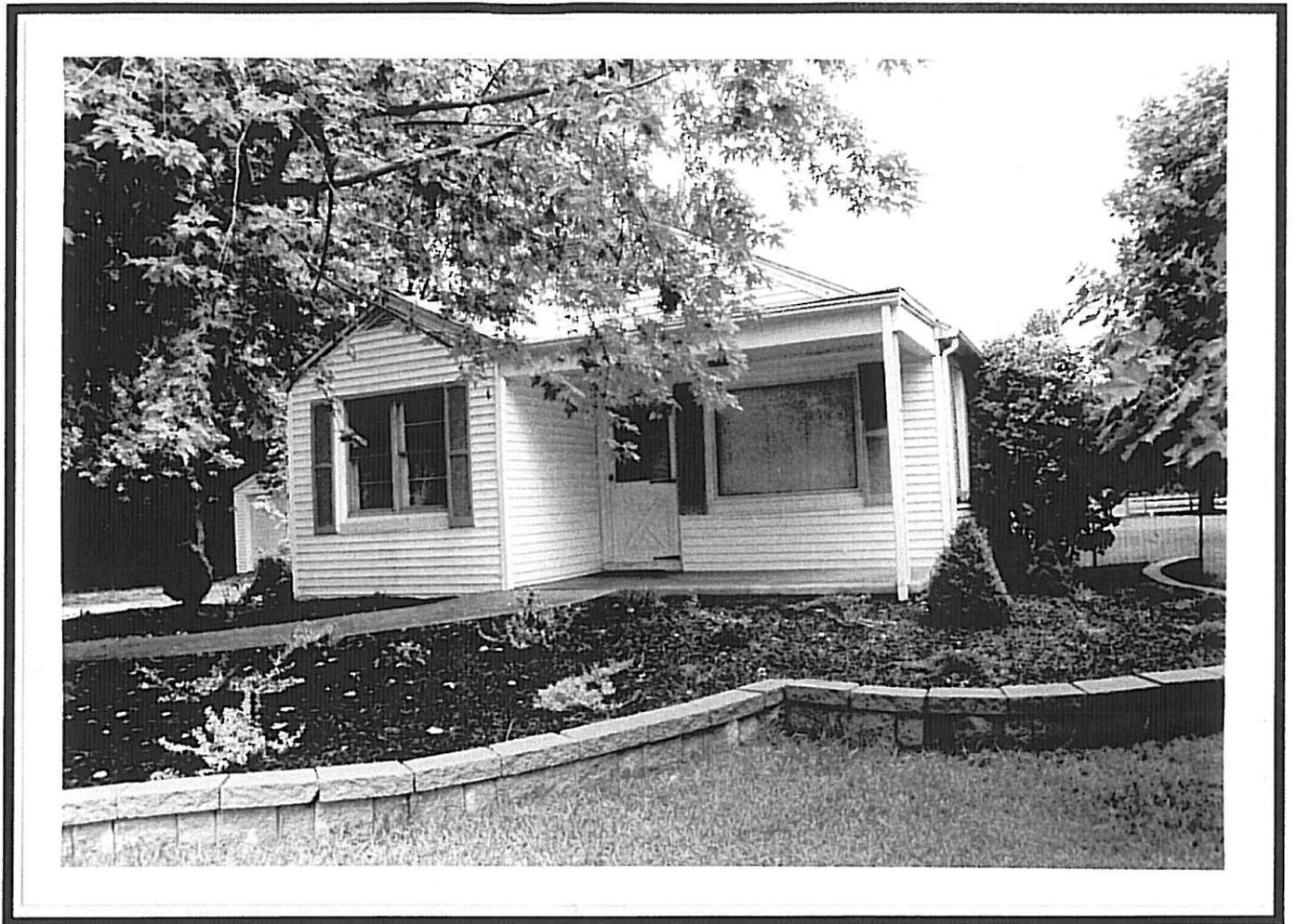


PLATE 4: Silicato House, View to East



PLATE 5: Silicato Garage, View to East

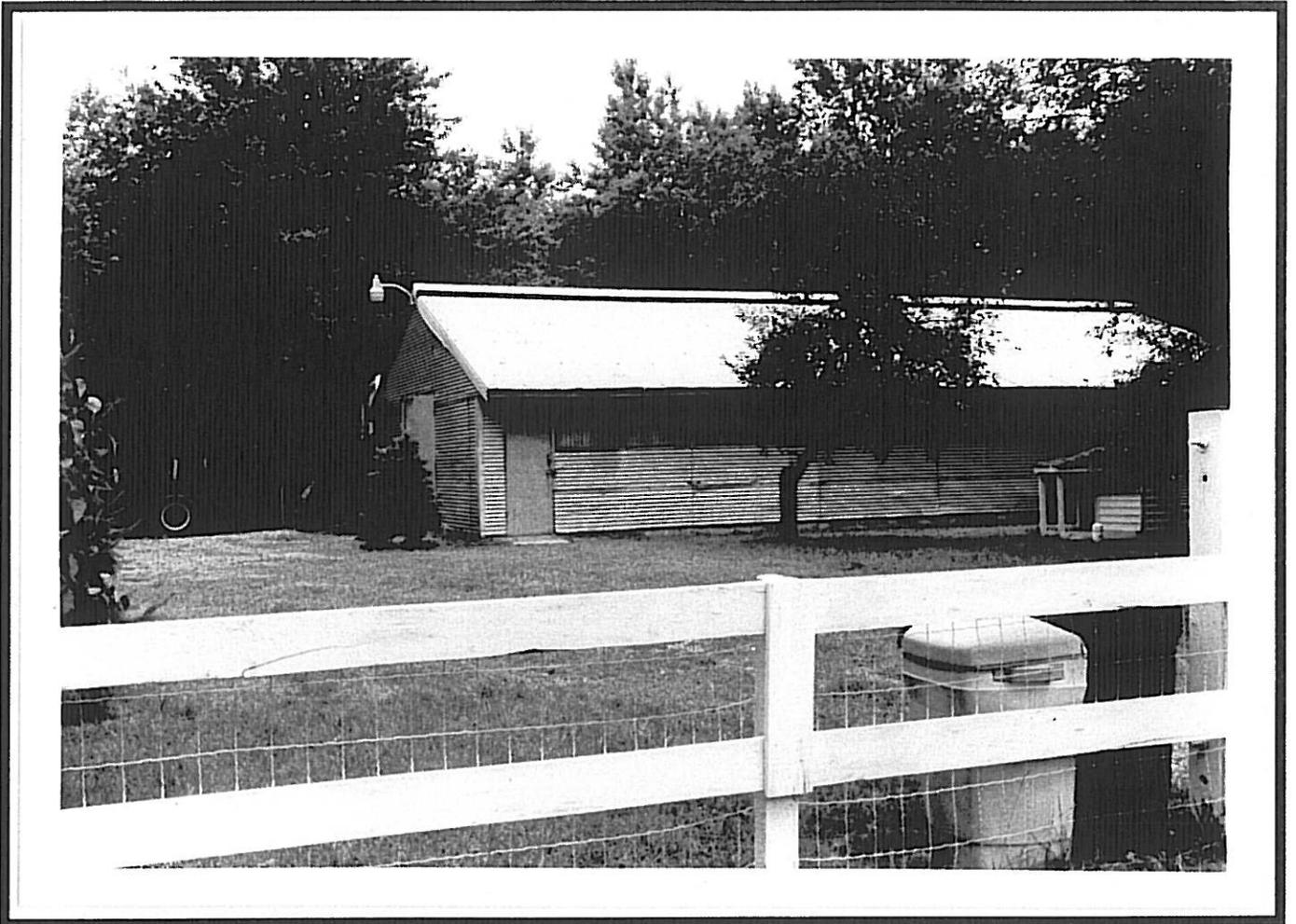


PLATE 6: Silicato Outbuilding, View to North

Applicable Historic Context: Upper Peninsula Zone, Urbanization and Early Suburbanization 1880-1940±. Architecture - Minimal Traditional property type.

Evaluation: The 1953 St. Georges USGS quadrangle shows the Silicato House in its exact location. The map, which was photorevised in 1970, shows the outbuilding associated with this dwelling as being recently constructed. This house is an unremarkable example of the Minimal Traditional house type which lacks attributes that would distinguish it among the innumerable other manifestations of this type in the Upper Peninsula Zone. The house also lacks integrity of materials due to the application of aluminum siding and the installation of modern window elements. As such, the Silicato House does not meet National Register Criteria for Eligibility.

2. W.B. Calhoun House (Beers 1868) (N-5012)
1803 Porter Road (formerly 292 Porter Road)
Tax Parcel 11-033.00-086
(Plates 7, 8, and 9)
(Survey form and survey update form in Appendix A)

Description: This house is situated on the north side of Porter Road, on the second parcel west of the intersection of Porter Road and Route 72. The corner parcel remains vacant. The house is an aluminum-sided two-story frame vernacular dwelling with some Classical-Revival influence. The massing and orientation of the east elevation of this house, which faces Route 72, suggest that this was once the main or "formal" entrance. This entrance appears to be no longer in use, suggesting that the function and uses of interior spaces have been altered. This elevation has a front gable roof with cornice returns and an attic window. It is two bays across, and has a wood panel door with four small lights, and sidelights only on the north side of the door. There is a molded lintel above the door.

The house is clad in aluminum siding and is six bays across the south elevation. This elevation has two sections: a three-bay block situated west of a three-bay front-gabled, projecting addition. The western section has a one-story lean-to across the front. The other section has a diamond-shaped window east of the front-gabled projecting bay.

Windows are 1/1 modern metal variety. There is an interior brick chimney in the east roof ridge and a second interior chimney centrally located in the roof. The roof is covered in asphalt shingle and has returns at the cornice. The north elevation has a bulkhead entrance into the basement. Outbuildings include a modern screen-enclosed summer house and a one-story shed with a gambrel roof.

Applicable Historic Context: Upper Peninsula Zone, Urbanization and Early Suburbanization 1880-1940±. Agriculture - Rural Farm Site; Architecture - Late-Victorian.

Evaluation: Deed information for this parcel confirms that Thomas Calhoun, who died intestate in 1847, purchased the parcel from John James in 1843. The land passed to Thomas's widow Sarah and her six children, as the heirs of Thomas C. Calhoun. This property continued to be



PLATE 7: W.B. Calhoun House, View to West



PLATE 8: W.B. Calhoun House, View to North



PLATE 9: W.B. Calhoun House, View to East

held in Sarah Calhoun's name until she and her children conveyed the 132 acres of land to Henry Rowace in 1872 (NCCDB K5:464).

An 1853 Orphan's Court file for Sarah Caroline Calhoun, the 14-year-old minor child of Thomas C. and Sarah Calhoun, reveals that William B. Calhoun, the appointed guardian of Sarah Caroline Calhoun, occupied the farm which was owned by Sarah Calhoun, widow. On Beers's 1868 map, it is W.B. Calhoun's name that is associated with the subject property as well as two other properties further south of the present-day Route 72.

The Orphan's Court file described the estate of Thomas Calhoun as consisting of "162 acres, 122 of which was cleared, 2 acres which were taken for a new public road, 5 acres of inferior woodland and 33 acres of swamp." Buildings on the lot were listed as one log dwelling with "frame kitchen in middling repair, a frame barn and stable attached, also a corn crib all under the same roof in tolerable repair, two tenant houses (one log, one frame), an apple orchard with 45 trees and 200 panels of new fence" (New Castle County Orphan's Court RG 2840:1854).

The 1860 census for Pencader Hundred enumerates Sarah Calhoun (60 years old) living with her son John W. Calhoun. In 1872, Sarah Calhoun and her children conveyed 132 acres to Henry Rowace (NCCDB P9:324), who in 1879 conveyed 140 acres to James Erickson Jr. (NCCDB H11:509), who sold the same number of acres to Lewis Reimer, also in that year (NCCDB K11:351). Reimer owned this parcel from 1879 to 1899. In 1899, due to a judgment recovered by the Superior Court of Delaware against him, the mortgager, and for a debt of \$3,000.00, the land passed to Sheriff John Taylor. Lucy and George Pierce acquired the property, described as Thomas Calhoun's Estate, at a Sheriff's sale (NCCDB Z17:325). The Pierces held the land until 1901, when they conveyed it to David Ward. Ward held the land until 1914, when he conveyed it to Charles Hastings (NCCDB Z24:446), who that same year conveyed the land to William Brown (NCCDB I25:187). This land remained in the Brown family until 1950. At that time it appears to have been divided, with 25.50 acres, including the land on which this house is situated, being sold to William and Loretta Matwey (NCCDB N50:413).

Between 1950 and 1974, the house changed hands several more times. In 1974, the current owners, John and Barbara Schofield, purchased a total of 1.30 acres, which included this house (NCCDB F74:382). In 1979, when this property was surveyed for the State Historic Preservation Office, there were still two sheds with gabled, metal standing seam roofs. Today, no nineteenth-century outbuildings remain and the land is landscaped and devoid of signs of orchards or cultivation.

Due to the style and massing of this house, it is likely that Lewis Reimer, who occupied the property for twenty years between 1877 and 1899, was responsible for its construction. The period of significance for this dwelling can be attributed to the period identified as Urbanization and Early Suburbanization (ca. 1880-1940±). This was a period of agricultural change in Pencader Hundred. The common trend was the construction of new dwellings and the loss of agricultural buildings.

The W.B. Calhoun House property is an altered example of a Late Victorian rural farm site built by farm owners for themselves, or their tenants, in the mid-late nineteenth century in Pencader Hundred. This parcel lacks integrity of feeling, setting, and association due to the fact that the tenant houses, outbuildings, and orchards once associated with the parcel are no longer extant, whereby the agrarian uses historically associated with the property are no longer clearly conveyed.

The integrity of the house has been diminished due to alterations such as modern siding and windows. The house does not constitute a demonstrably noteworthy example of a vernacular dwelling with Classical-Revival influence for its place and time. As such, this property does not meet National Register Criteria.

3. William Alfred Ellis House (N-13370)

1835 Porter Road

Tax Parcel 11-033.00-088

(Plates 10 and 11)

(Survey form in Appendix A)

Description: This circa 1940s one-and-one-half-story, six-course common bond brick Minimal Traditional dwelling rests on a concrete block foundation. The house is situated on the north side of Porter Road, two parcels west of the W.B. Calhoun House. The Ellis House is three bays across with a two-bay breezeway on the east elevation, separating the house from the attached one-car brick garage. The east elevation also features an exterior end wall chimney.

The house has a central entrance, while the first bay features paired windows, and the third bay has a Chicago-style window. The main entrance has a wood panel door and sidelights, and is reached by a stairway with three brick steps and iron railings. All windows are 6/6 double-hung sash and have shutters only on the first floor. There are two frame gable dormers which are clad in asbestos shingle and have asphalt shingle covering their roofs.

The attached front-gabled brick garage is built in nine-course common bond. It is two bays deep and has windows that are 6/6 double-hung sash. The main garage door has six lights across the top.

Applicable Historic Context: Upper Peninsula Zone, Urbanization and Early Suburbanization 1880-1940±. Architecture - Minimal Traditional property type.

Evaluation: This house, constructed circa 1940, is an unremarkable example of a Minimal Traditional style dwelling. It lacks attributes which would distinguish it among the innumerable individual examples of this style of architecture in many communities and subdivisions throughout the Upper Peninsula Zone. Due to the large numbers of properties of this kind throughout the Upper Peninsula Zone, those properties deemed eligible for listing on the National Register must possess the highest degree of integrity of design, workmanship, and materials. Given these criteria, the Ellis House is not eligible for listing on the National Register.



PLATE 10: Ellis House, View to North



PLATE 11: Ellis Garage, View to Northeast

4. Samuel Lee Comly House and Outbuildings (N-12420)

1914 Porter Road

Tax Parcel 11-033.00-067

(Plates 12, 13, and 14)

(Survey form and survey update form in Appendix A)

Description: This lot contains a modern ranch dwelling and an older agricultural complex consisting of outbuildings. There is a group of three attached buildings. The building furthest to the west is clad in German siding and brick-tex. Its side-gabled roof is covered in corrugated metal and has exposed rafter tails, and its west elevation has a pent roof and a sliding wood garage-like door. On the north elevation there is a six-light fixed window.

The middle building has a shed-roof, exposed rafter tails, and is smaller than the two flanking buildings. The building which is furthest east has a front-gabled metal roof. This building is oriented perpendicular to the other two and is constructed of horizontally placed thin lathe-like material.

Behind the three attached buildings are two free-standing low frame sheds, clad in brick-tex.

Applicable Historic Context: Upper Peninsula Zone, Urbanization and Early Suburbanization 1880-1940±. Agriculture - Rural Farm Site property types.

Evaluation: An eligible rural farm site should consist of a main dwelling with outbuildings and/or farm buildings of a sufficient number and kind to clearly convey the agrarian uses to which the property was put during its period of significance.

This property contains outbuildings which are surviving vestiges of the types of agriculture-related buildings once prevalent in this vicinity. Although these outbuildings are unique examples of their type on Porter Road, they are no longer associated with a main dwelling but are rather juxtaposed on a lot with a modern ranch dwelling. The outbuildings are in bad repair, lacking architectural distinction or important historical associations and integrity of materials, association, and setting. As such, the Comly outbuildings do not meet National Register Criteria for Eligibility.

5. Hubert T. Hannagan House (N-13371)

2133-2135 Porter Road

Tax Parcel 11-033.00-257

(Plates 15, 16, and 17)

(Survey form in Appendix A)

Description: This one-and-one-half-story stucco dwelling is three bays across the front, with two gable dormers covered in aluminum siding. The windows are 3/1 double-hung sash, and those on the first floor are flanked by shutters. There is a stone east end wall chimney and a stone porch foundation. The roof is steeply pitched and is covered in asphalt shingle. The central entrance has a gable-roofed porch overhang, supported by two square wood posts. There is a



PLATE 12: Comly Outbuildings, View to Southeast



PLATE 13: Comly Outbuildings, View to East

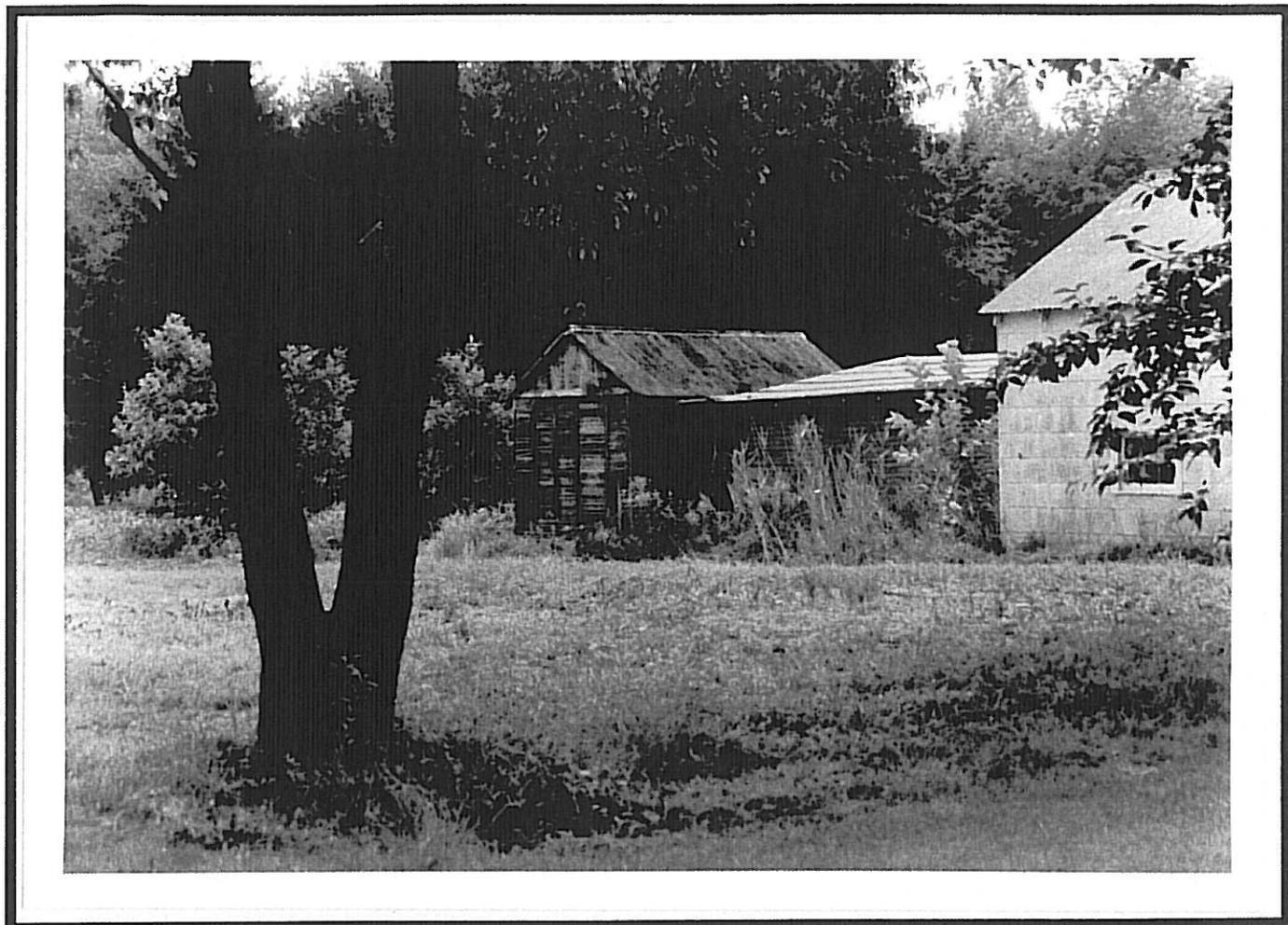


PLATE 14: Comly Outbuildings, View to South



PLATE 15: Hannagan House, View to North



PLATE 16: Hannagan House, View to South



PLATE 17: Hannagan Outbuilding, View to Northwest

one-story east addition with lean-to, and in the rear, a three-bay shed-roof dormer. Dormer windows are also 3/1 sash.

The house is situated on the north side of Porter Road, deep on a landscaped parcel. A circular drive leads from Porter Road to the rear of the house.

One outbuilding is situated immediately northwest of the house. This one-story frame shed, clad in composite siding, has a corrugated metal roof, a lean-to addition, and two six-light fixed windows.

Applicable Historic Context: Upper Peninsula Zone, Urbanization and Early Suburbanization 1880-1940±. Architecture - Minimal-Traditional property type.

Evaluation: This house is an unremarkable example of a Minimal-Traditional style dwelling built circa 1940. The house lacks attributes which would distinguish it among the innumerable individual examples of this style of architecture in many communities and subdivisions throughout the Upper Peninsula Zone. Due to the large numbers of properties of this kind throughout the Upper Peninsula Zone, those properties deemed eligible for listing on the National Register must possess the highest degree of integrity of design, workmanship, and materials. Given these criteria, the Hannagan House does not meet National Register Criteria for Eligibility.

6. Alfred A. Sheats House (N-13372)
2322 Porter Road
Tax Parcel 11-032.00-319
(Plates 18, 19, 20, and 21)
(Survey form in Appendix A)

Description: The Sheats House is situated on the south side of Porter Road, one mile east of Route 896. The house and garage are located in the front of the lot, close to the road. Further behind the house are three sheds, a man-made pond, and some cultivated land.

The house is a one-story frame dwelling clad in composite siding with shuttered 1/1 double-hung sash metal windows. The house is two bays deep and has a rear addition with hopper windows. The roof is covered in asphalt shingle and the foundation is covered with formstone. The central entrance has a front-gabled porch which is supported by two metal posts.

Outbuildings include a two-car, front-gabled garage with a concrete block foundation, asphalt shingle roof, and aluminum siding. There are also two small rear sheds and a large shed with gambrel roof that is clad in aluminum siding.

Applicable Historic Context: Upper Peninsula Zone, Urbanization and Early Suburbanization 1880-1940±. Architecture - Minimal Traditional property type.



PLATE 18: Sheats House, View to South

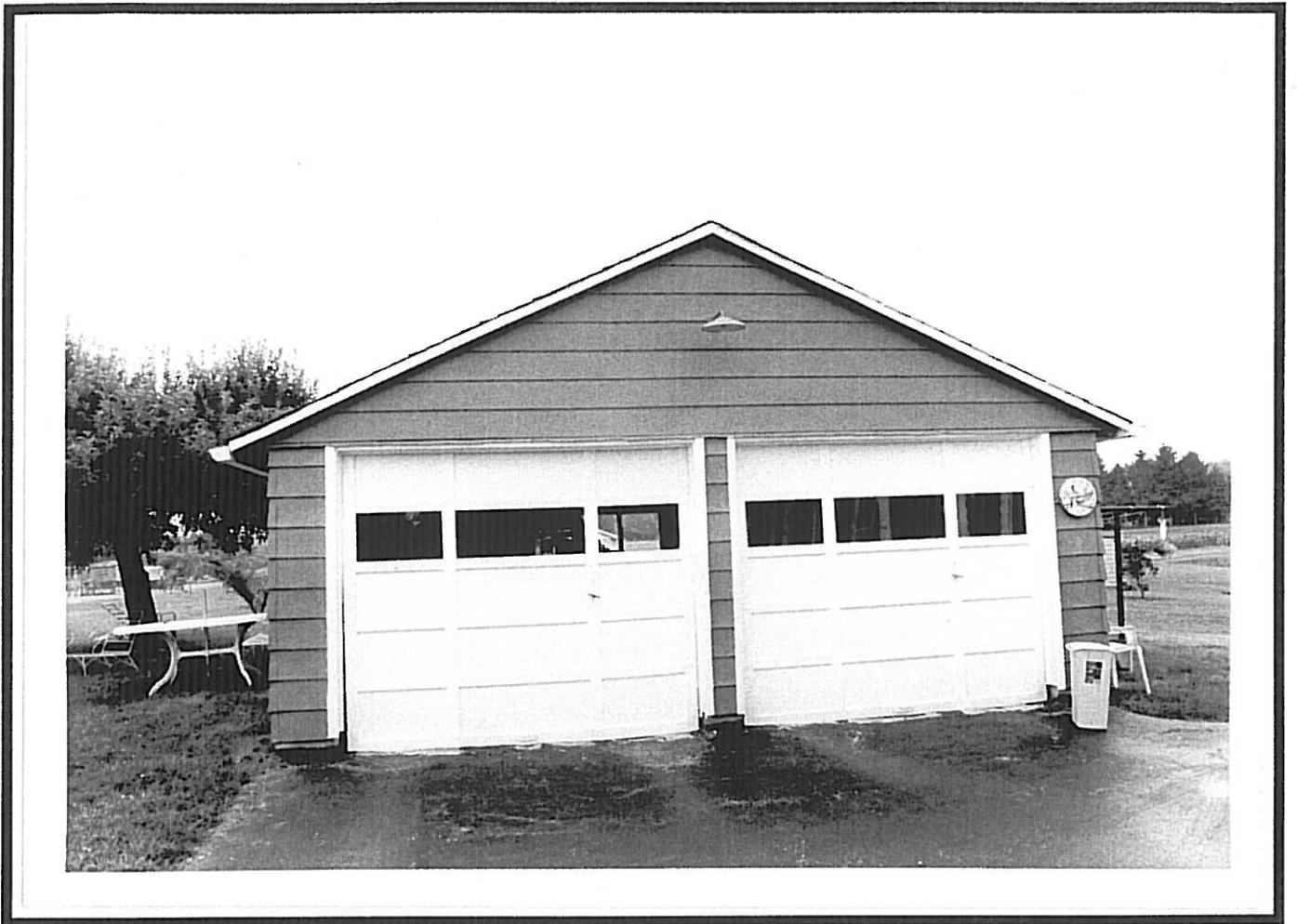


PLATE 19: Sheats Garage, View to South

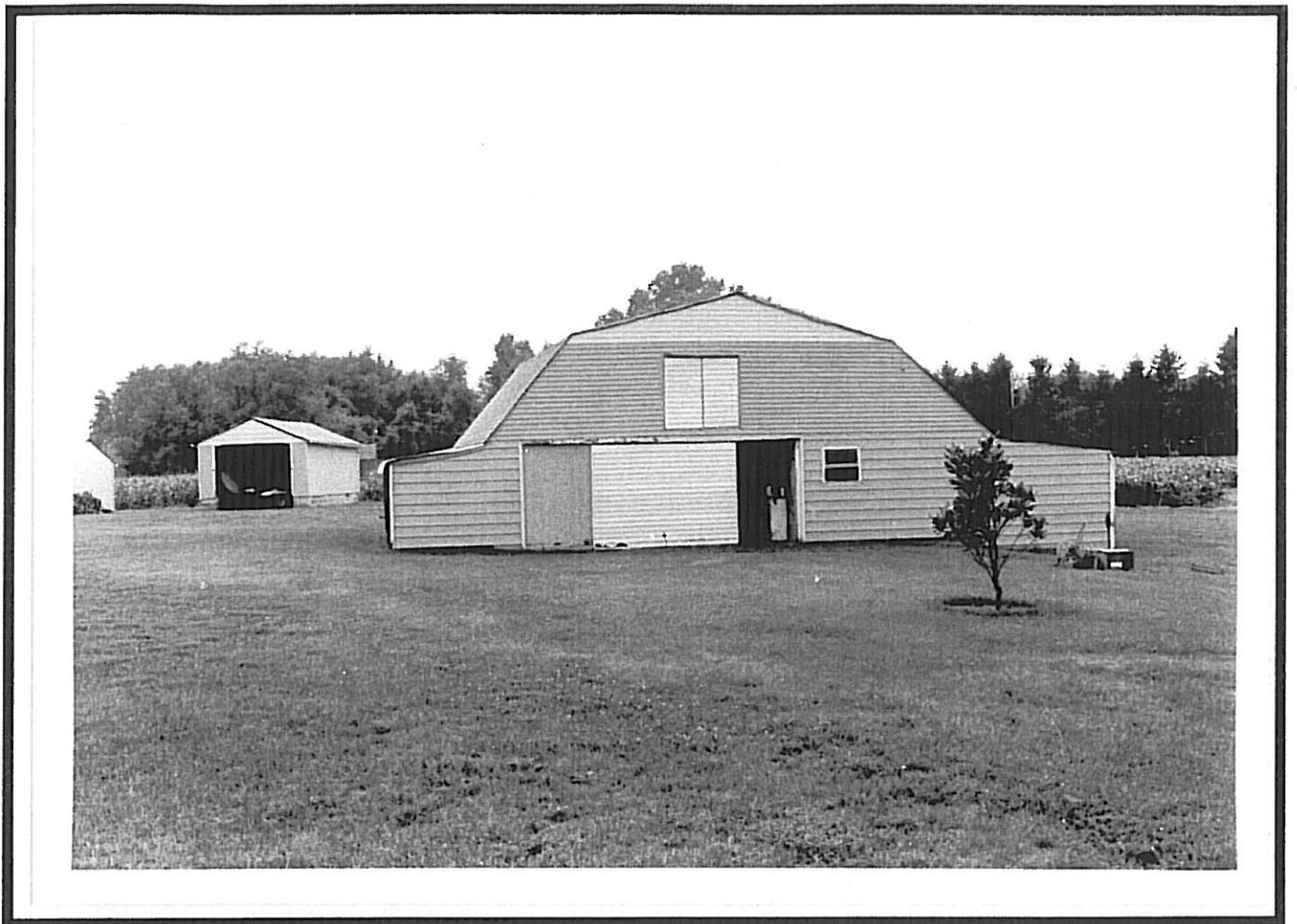


PLATE 20: Sheats Outbuildings, View to South



PLATE 21: Sheats Outbuildings, View to South

Evaluation: Alfred Sheats built this house circa 1945-1950. The house appears on the 1953 St. Georges USGS quadrangle. The outbuildings appear to have been built post-1950. This house is an unremarkable example of the Minimal Traditional house type which lacks attributes that would distinguish it among the innumerable other manifestations of this type in the Upper Peninsula Zone. This house also lacks integrity of design due to a rear addition, and lacks integrity of materials due to the installation of modern window elements. As such, the Sheats house does not meet National Register Criteria for Eligibility.