

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received AUG 29 1985
date entered OCT 10 1985

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

1. Name: Union Block
2. Location: 100-110 E. Michigan Ave., Saline, MI.
3. Classification: building, private, occupied, unrestricted,
commercial
4. Property Owner: Dr. William C. Hu
P.O. Box 7366
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107

7. Description

Condition: good; altered; original site

This two-story, six-bay, rectangular Italianate block occupies less than one acre of commercially-zoned property on the southeast corner of the intersection of E. Michigan Avenue and Ann Arbor Street in downtown Saline (photo #24). The main facade of the predominantly red brick 132 x 60 foot building faces E. Michigan and fronts directly onto the sidewalk. Dentillated brickwork and an ornamental bracketed cornice, originally topped by cresting at the roof line, crown the structure. The second story recessed panels are divided by brick pilasters topped by decorative capitals. Differing fenestration and the differing levels of the secondary cornice line (the secondary cornice is now removed) distinguish the east four bays from the west two bays. Two rectangular windows topped by brick hoodmolds articulate each of the west four bays, while three rectangular windows, topped by brick hoodmolds with ornamental stone keystones, articulate each of the two west bays. A fire escape, windows, and entrances on both stories highlight the west facade. The rear of the building, which adjoins an alley, has two-story wooden porches extending along its length. Restoration activities in 1977 included repainting the cornice and woodwork and stripping paint from the bricks.

Although the building's lower story has undergone less alteration than most Saline commercial buildings of the period, few original design features remain. The original cast iron columns remain intact only in the western-most bay, which was renovated in 1977 in a period style that retains the nineteenth century facade rhythm of display windows flanking a central entryway. The adjoining three bays also were renovated in 1977, two with stained glass transoms and one with wood accents. The easterly two bays still exhibit intrusive twentieth century remodelling. The interiors of both floors are being renovated and remodeled for commercial use by the current owner. Little original

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building fabric remains.

8. Significance: period--1800-1899; 1900-
areas of significance--architecture; commerce
specific dates--1870s, 1970s

This handsome Italianate brick block has long served as a pivotal structure in the four-corners of Saline. While commercial development in downtown Saline as a whole has vitiated its historic character, the size, location, and recent restoration of this building and the neighboring Wallace Block preserve some of the historic ambience of this nineteenth century crossroads.

The lack of tax records and newspapers for the 1870s and 1880s make it impossible to provide exact documentation for this building. Architectural features and existing property abstracts suggest that the building was constructed by different owners at two different times. The 1872 Bird's Eye View shows wooden structures on this site. By 1882, the Village Council Minutes refer to the Union Block, thus indicating that one building (probably the east four bays) was completed sometime between the two dates. An 1880 abstract describes "the Miller Brick Block" on the corner, or the west two bays. Accordingly, this portion of the existing block dates from the 1872-1880 period, probably ca. 1877-80.

Henry J. Miller, land speculator and merchant, purchased the lot on which the west two bays are located in 1871. The abstracts for 105-113 S. Ann Arbor combined with the previously-mentioned 1880 abstract reference to "the Miller Brick Block" on the corner suggest that Miller constructed two blocks, one on the corner of E. Michigan which still stands, and an earlier structure on the site of 105-113 S. Ann Arbor which was destroyed in the fire of 1881. In 1879 Miller and Sherman Hinckley had a store in the bay next to the corner site. The east four bays may in fact have been the original Union Block, although the whole building now is known by that name. This portion of the structure was purchased by Sherman Hinkley in 1877 and owned by him through 1891, at which time his will describes "five stores on Michigan Avenue." The Union Block was probably built in the late 1870s during Hinckley's ownership. Throughout the years the building has housed a variety of commercial enterprises, among them a harness shop, jewelry store, drug store, post office, general store, meat market, and Salvation Army. Commercial uses continue into the present with apartments and office space in the second story.

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9. Major Bibliographical Sources

(see General Bibliography section for full citation)

Abstract, 100-110 E. Michigan.

Bird's Eye View, 1872.

Proctor, Old Saline Village, 1975.

Saline Historic District Commission, Saline Has a Past in Its Future
1976.

Saline Historic District Commission Survey Notebook, 1975.

Saline Village Council Minutes, 1870s-1880s.

Walsh, Rita, 1979 draft of the Saline Multiple Resource Nomination.

10. Geographical Data

acreage: less than one

Quadrangle: Saline, scale 1: 24,000

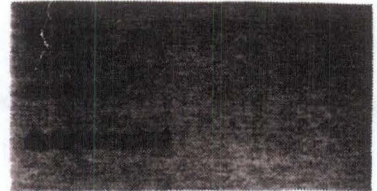
UTM References: 17/270280/4671790

Verbal boundary description: Lot 74, exc beg at SW cor of lot 72,
th e'ly 78.7 ft. in S/L lots 72 and 73, th s'ly to NE cor of lot
75, th w'ly 80.34 ft. in N/L of lot 75, th n'ly 22.5 ft. to POB,
Assessor's Plat 6.

Justification: This is the entire property associated with the
structure.

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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

Arlene Byers 10/10/85

Attest

13. Wallace Block—Old Saline
Village Hall

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Arlene Byers 10/10/85

Attest

14. Watson, Henry R., House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Arlene Byers 10/10/85

Attest

15. Zalmon Church House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Arlene Byers 10/10/85

Attest

16. Aldrich, Edgar, House

Substantive Review

for Keeper

Determined Eligible

Eligible Patrick Andrus 10/10/85

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Attest

17. Saline Methodist Episcopal
Church

Substantive Review

for Keeper

Determined Eligible

Eligible Patrick Andrus 10/10/85

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Attest

18. Barnegat Historic Complex

Substantive Review

Keeper

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Attest

19.

Keeper

Attest

20.

Keeper

Attest

25

REF #
85002962

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Union Block (Saline MRA)
Washtenaw County
MICHIGAN

~~Administrative~~ review

Working No. AUG 29 1985
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-3-87
Date Due: 9/26/85 - 10/13/85
Action: ACCEPT 10-10-85
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

architecturally & historically significant - late 19th century Italianate style block, served as one of the most important commercial buildings in town

Recom./Criteria accept A&C
Reviewer Patrick Andrus
Discipline Historian
Date 10/10/85
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category Ownership Status Present Use
Public Acquisition Accessible

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed unaltered altered original site moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

Union Block (State House)
Washington County
Maine

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

85002962

24

PHOTO: UNION Block



GIFTS DRUGS

LEFT
TURN
LANE

#25

8/22a

- a. Saline Multiple Resource Nom.
(100-110 E. Michigan, 105-113 S. Ann Arbor)
- b. Saline, Washtenaw Co., MI
- c. Saline Historic District Commission
- d. fall, 1983
- e. Mich. Bureau of History
208 N. Capitol
Lansing, MI
- f. facing SE
- g. photo #24 of 40

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000333