

German Park Recreation Club

Name of Property

Washtenaw, Michigan

County and State

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

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: German Park Recreation Club

Other names/site number: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing:

Historic and Architectural Resources of Northfield Township, Washtenaw County,
Michigan, 1824 – 1980

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

2. Location

Street & number: 5549 Pontiac Trail

City or town: Ann Arbor

State: MI

County: Washtenaw

Not For Publication: ☐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

X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A

___ B

___ C

___ D

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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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

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

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>5</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>8</u>	<u>3</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL – clubhouse
RECREATION AND CULTURE – music facility
RECREATION AND CULTURE – outdoor recreation

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL – clubhouse
RECREATION AND CULTURE – music facility
RECREATION AND CULTURE – outdoor recreation

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER – Vernacular

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: wood, brick, stone, metal, asphalt,
concrete, synthetics

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The German Park Recreation Club is located in Washtenaw County in southeastern Michigan. The nominated property includes a small complex of buildings, structures, and open spaces utilized for both members-only recreational activities and large public events. Primarily utilitarian in nature, the buildings are frame or concrete block with gabled forms, and they feature a two-toned, natural color scheme inspired by Bavarian architecture. Buildings are roughly arranged in a circle and include a 1938 Dance Hall, 1938 Beverage House, 1962-1963 Clubhouse and Dance Pavilion, and 1967 Kitchen, as well as associated picnic, restroom, and administrative facilities. The complex is set well back from Pontiac Trail and accessed by a long, unpaved driveway, and a chain link fence encloses the building complex. Landscaping is minimal and natural, with grassy lawns, wooded areas, and mature trees. The property retains high integrity and the extant buildings and surrounding landscape convey its early-to-mid-twentieth century recreational and architectural significance.

Narrative Description

German Park Recreation Club is located in northern Washtenaw County, in southeastern Michigan, about six miles northeast of Ann Arbor, the largest city in the county and the county seat. The topography of the county is typical of the rural Midwest with rolling hills, small

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streams, wooded areas, and meadows. Washtenaw County has historically been primarily agricultural, and the setting for the park is rural with large farms surrounding the property.

German Park Recreation Club is located in Northfield Township, which developed in the early and mid-1800s with primarily English, Irish, and German newcomers purchasing large tracts of land to establish farmsteads.¹ As Ann Arbor has grown throughout the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, the surrounding rural areas have been heavily developed, especially those east and south of the city. Northfield Township, north of Ann Arbor, on the other hand, remains remarkably rural. Development in this part of the county has been limited to the subdivision of former farm fields into large single-family residential lots. As a result, this area retains much of its early rural character.

The nominated property includes multiple contributing buildings and structures that form a clearly defined early-to-mid-twentieth century recreational complex. In 1938, the current ten-acre parcel was purchased jointly by five local individuals of German ancestry for the purpose of hosting German family picnics. Increasing discrimination against German immigrants in America following the world wars resulted in a growing need for mutual support and protection within the German community. German Park Recreation Club was established to provide opportunities to celebrate German culture through recreational picnics, at first among German families and later including the general public.

The complex is located on the north side of Pontiac Trail, just east of Earhart Road. The earliest buildings, the 1938 Old Dance Hall and 1938 Beverage House, are located near the center of the complex, encircled by newer buildings as the complex was expanded throughout the mid-twentieth century. The landscape features gravel and grassy walking areas, planting beds and mature trees, wood and concrete benches, wooden picnic tables, split-rail fences, and light poles. A historic gravel driveway leads north from Pontiac Trail to the south end of the complex, where it curves to the west then south back to Pontiac Trail, encircling the soccer field. The complex of buildings and structures is enclosed by a chain link fence, encompassing the northern half of the property. A historic sign is located at the end of the driveway, facing Pontiac Trail, and both ends of the driveway are protected by metal gates.

¹ "Map of Washtenaw County, Michigan," (Philadelphia, PA: Bechler, Wenig & Co., 1856), http://quod.lib.umich.edu/c/clark1ic/x-002745875/39015091184773_02, UM Clark Library Maps Collection, Stephen S. Clark Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (hereafter Clark Library); "Map of the Counties of Washtenaw and Lenawee, Michigan," (Philadelphia, PA: Bechler, Wenig & Co., 1864), <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/c/clark1ic/x-002745877/39015091197502>, Clark Library; "M.M. Dickson & Co.'s township and sectional pocket map of Washtenaw County, Michigan," (Ann Arbor, MI: M.M. Dickson & Co., 1896), <https://quod.lib.umich.edu/c/clark1ic/x-004978843/39015091184815>, Clark Library; "Chadwick's 1911 map and directory of Washtenaw County, Michigan," (Ann Arbor, MI: C.W. Chadwick, 1911), https://quod.lib.umich.edu/c/clark1ic/x-000074544/39015095414580_0001, Clark Library.

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Inventory

The following inventory includes all resources located within the nominated boundary. Contributing buildings original to the establishment of the park include the Dance Hall and Beverage House, both constructed in 1938, while a period of mid-twentieth century growth is illustrated by the 1953 Picnic Shelter, 1957 Soccer Field, 1962-1963 Clubhouse and Dance Pavilion, and 1967 Kitchen. Due to the property's use as a recreational site, the landscape includes a number of small-scale features such as benches, lighting, pathways, and picnic tables that are not significant individually but contribute the overall significance of the landscape and are therefore included as such in the inventory. Eight resources were constructed within the period of significance, 1938 to 1970, and the nominated property contains three resources that were built outside the period of significance and are therefore non-contributing. Construction dates and historical information were obtained from German Park Recreation Club records, historic plat maps, aerial photographs, and tax records. Each resource is given a number designation that corresponds to the attached site map.

1. Clubhouse & Dance Pavilion – 1962-1963, 1970, 1983-1984, 2011

Contributing Building

The clubhouse is a large building at the southwest corner of the building complex, constructed into a hill and built in multiple phases. The north part of the building was built in 1962-1963 and features an open dance pavilion on the upper level, covered in 1970, with a basement clubhouse at the lower level. In 1983, the kitchen, bar, and restrooms were built in the basement clubhouse. In 2011, a one-story, shed-roof lobby wing was added to the south end of the building, at grade at the bottom of the hill, and the basement kitchen, bar, and restrooms were renovated.

The dance pavilion on the upper level of the north wing has square metal posts supporting the exposed metal roof structure, and a concrete floor. The vertical wood sheathing of the north wall of the lobby wing forms the south wall of the dance pavilion, which contains a recessed, slightly raised stage around which the lobby addition was constructed. The east and north elevations are open with wood railings, the latter facing the picnic shelter adjacent to this end of the building. The west elevation is sheathed with corrugated metal and contains two large wood sliding doors. The pavilion is decorated with wooden coats-of-arms for the areas of Germany represented by the ancestry of club members, hand-crafted by club member Norm Olmstead.²

Because the building was built into a hill, only the top portion of the concrete block east elevation of the basement clubhouse is exposed. The clubhouse interior features a large multi-purpose room with sheetrock walls, a dropped ceiling, a concrete floor, and round concrete support columns. The multi-purpose room features a small, raised platform on the north wall and a small storage closet in the northeast corner. Openings in the south wall of the clubhouse lead to the bar, kitchen, and restrooms at the basement level of the lobby wing.

² Toni Jarvis, "Our History Remembered," in *The History of the German Park Recreation Club: Celebrating 75 Years, 1938-2013* (Ann Arbor, MI: German Park Recreation Club, 2013), 10.

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The lobby wing is covered with vertical sheathing above a concrete foundation and is topped by a metal roof with deep eaves. A cross-gable entrance bay projects from the southeast corner is supported by square posts and contains a double-leaf metal door that serves as the main entrance to the building. A gabled service entrance at the west end of the south elevation contains a metal door and provides access to a short interior stair leading to the basement clubhouse. Heating and cooling equipment on the west elevation is screened by a wood fence.

The first floor of the lobby wing contains a small lobby with sheetrock walls and ceiling and a concrete floor. This room serves as a coat room and provides access to the lower-level clubhouse by an accessibility lift, located near the center of the north wall of this wing, and a set of concrete and wood steps with metal handrails at the east end of the north wall. The risers feature mosaic tile and have been hand painted by a member of the club with floral motifs and "GERMAN PARK EST. 1938 / THE ORIGINAL / OUTDOOR CAFÉ."

The basement level of the lobby wing contains a kitchen flanked by restrooms, a bar, and a storage room, all with sheetrock walls, dropped ceilings, and concrete floors. The kitchen contains modern finishes including wood cabinetry, granite countertops, and stainless steel appliances and fixtures. A bar adjacent to the east end of the kitchen is separated by a partial wall. It features an L-shaped bar sheathed with vertical wood and with a granite top, and there is matching vertical wood wainscot on the walls. A doorway in the south wall of the bar provides access to an unfished storage room spanning the south elevation of the clubhouse. A hallway at the west end of the kitchen provides access to the restrooms, as well as a short stair leading to the south. Openings in the north walls of the bar, kitchen, and hallway lead to the multipurpose room.

2. Picnic Shelter – 1953

Contributing Structure

A gabled, open picnic shelter with wood framing, a concrete and metal roof, and a dirt floor abuts the north elevation of the dance pavilion. The shelter was constructed using timber from a club member's farm and was built by club members.

3. Kitchen – 1967, 1981, 2000

Contributing Building

The kitchen, located north of the clubhouse and west of the beverage house, features a concrete block kitchen at its core with frame wings on the north and south elevations, the latter sheathed with vertical wood boards. The building has an asymmetrical side-gabled asphalt roof, deep eaves, and asphalt pent roofs on the east and west elevations. The south wing, facing the clubhouse, is enclosed with vertical boards below wood-framed screens, the interior accessed by wood-framed screened doors on the east and west elevations with exits at the center of the south elevation. The east end of the north wing is also enclosed with vertical boards below wood-framed screens. A wide overhang supported by square posts spans the north elevation, with the center section enclosed by vertical boards and containing a slab door, and the west end screened by a partial height wood slat fence accessed by a swinging gate. The south wing and east end of the north wing contain serving lines, separated from the kitchen by serving windows covered

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with plywood panels that can be opened to facilitate serving food. Small, sliding wood windows above the serving windows provide ventilation for the kitchen.

The kitchen facilities comprise the center of the building, constructed of concrete block and accessed by metal doors in the east and west elevations. The interior features plywood walls, wood sheathing on the ceiling, and a concrete floor. The kitchen contains modern fixtures, including wood cabinetry, laminate countertops, and stainless steel appliances and fixtures.

According to the German Park Recreation Club history, the kitchen replaced an earlier kitchen on the site. This building was constructed in 1967 with a single serving line and a flat roof. It was renovated in 1981 to add pent roof overhangs and additional serving lines, as well as the construction of interior storage rooms and installation of commercial kitchen equipment. Around 2000 the roof was renovated to its current appearance.

4. Men's Restroom – 1967-1970

Contributing Building

Located at the north end of the complex, the men's restroom is a one-story, front-gable, concrete block building with scalloped vertical wood sheathing in the gables, an asphalt roof, and a concrete foundation. Wood swinging doors on the south elevation are screened by a vertical wood wall. The west elevation contains four narrow windows under the eaves and four narrow vents at ground level. The east elevation is blind. This building is the first men's restroom to be built on the property.

5. Women's Restroom – 1979

Non-Contributing Building

Located at the north end of the complex, west of the men's restroom building, the women's restroom building is a one-story, front-gable concrete block building with scalloped vertical sheathing in the gables, an asphalt roof, and a concrete foundation. The south elevation contains two wood swinging doors screened by a vertical wood wall. A mural of German scenery has been painted on the west elevation. A storage room spans the north end of the building and is accessed by one-light metal doors with wood-framed storm doors on the east and west elevations. This building is the third women's restroom at the property and is non-contributing due to age.

6. Beverage House – 1938, c.1955, 1980, 1992, 1995

Contributing Building

The beverage house, located near the center of the complex, is comprised of two wings. The larger, west end of the building was built in 1938, then expanded and updated with refrigeration in the 1950s. It was renovated in 1980 with the addition of the rear serving lines and the construction of a gable roof. This wing is a one-story concrete block building with scalloped vertical board in the gables, a metal roof, deep eaves, and a concrete foundation. A wood bar spans the south end of the building with serving windows covered with plywood panels that can be opened to facilitate bar service on the east, south, and west elevations. The north elevation contains additional service windows. The north and south elevations are sheltered by a wide overhang. Most of the west elevation is screened by a vertical wood fence, providing an enclosed

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space for keg storage. The north end of the original east elevation is obscured by the 1992 pop stand addition. The interior of the building is accessed by metal doors on the east and west elevations and features plywood walls and ceiling and a concrete floor. The center of the building is a taproom with associated equipment for refrigerating, storing, and serving beer and wine. The south end is an unfinished bar room with exposed wall and roof framing, wood countertops and shelving, a concrete floor, and stainless-steel tap fixtures.

Known as the pop stand, the east wing of the building, built in 1992 and expanded in 1995, is much smaller in scale than the original building and set back from the original façade. The east wing is of frame construction covered with vertical boards and has a metal roof, deep eaves, and a concrete floor. Serving windows on the south, east, and north elevations are covered with plywood panels that open for serving soft drinks. The west elevation abuts the original 1938 building, through which the interior of the addition may be reached. The interior was not accessible.

7. Well House – 2020

Non-Contributing Structure

A small, frame and stucco well house with a side-gable metal roof and a paneled door is located immediately east of the ticket house. This structure is non-contributing due to age.

8. Ticket House – 1988

Non-Contributing Building

The ticket house, located east of the clubhouse and old dance hall, is a one-story, side-gabled building with vertical board cladding, an asphalt roof, deep eaves, and a concrete foundation. Oriented to face west, the ticket house is just north of the entrance gates and the northwest part of the building serves as the ticket office, accessed by a wood slab door with a wood-framed screen door on the west end of the north elevation. The north end of the west elevation contains ticket windows covered with plywood panels that can be opened to facilitate ticket sales for public events at the park. The remainder of this building serves as a garage and shop with sliding batten garage doors on the south and west elevations, and a metal overhead door on the north elevation. The east elevation of the building is blind. The interior was not accessible. This building is non-contributing due to age.

9. Old Dance Hall – 1938

Contributing Building

Located east of the clubhouse near the center of the complex, the old dance hall is a one-story, front-gabled building with vertical board siding, board and batten in the gables, a metal roof, and a concrete block foundation. The building faces north toward the beverage house, and the north elevation contains large batten swinging doors. Wood window panels open to create an open picnic shelter for public events. The interior is unfinished with dressed timber supports harvested from the property, exposed roof framing, and a concrete floor. One of the first buildings constructed at the park, this building served as the original dance hall and clubhouse until the 1960s when the current dance pavilion and clubhouse were completed. The building is now used as a picnic shelter and has not been altered for this purpose.

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10. Soccer Field – 1957

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Contributing Site

South of the building complex, the area within the circular driveway was cleared in 1957 to serve as a soccer field.

11. Landscape – 1938

Contributing Site

Due to the property's use as a recreational site, there are a number of small-scale landscape elements and historic circulation patterns that collectively contribute to the significance of the property. Within the building complex, grass is difficult to maintain, therefore this area is primarily packed earth and gravel. During much of the year, the open spaces adjacent to the buildings contain wood and metal picnic tables. Wood and concrete benches and metal light fixtures on wood poles are located throughout the complex, which is enclosed by a chain link fence originally installed in the 1950s and updated in 1977. The complex is accessed by a circular gravel driveway beginning at the east entrance and extending south from Pontiac Trail to the building complex where it turns west and curves back south to the exit at Pontiac Trail, west of the entrance. A wood and concrete bridge, built in 1938, spans the small creek flowing through the property and is known as the Sheila Bridge, named in honor of Sheila Sautter, the first child born to a club member that year.

Recently constructed landscape features reflect the park's ongoing use for public events and its continuing role in the local German ethnic community. A picnic area with wooden picnic tables and mature trees is located in the northwest corner of the complex. Several wooden sandboxes built by club members in the late 1990s were relocated to the picnic area from another area of the park around 2014. The northeast corner of the complex was partially cleared in 2014 for a smoking garden and additional seating. It is a grassy area shaded by mature trees with square, wooden cocktail-height tables. In 2023, a wrought-iron sign crafted by blacksmith John Gill of Ann Arbor was moved from the Old German Restaurant in Ann Arbor to the park and installed north of the picnic shelter. The sign features a long bracket with foliate motifs, which supports an oval sign with "Old German Restaurant" encircling a barrel of grapevines and topped with imagery of a horse-drawn wagon. The sign has been installed on a pair of wooden poles with an attached wooden planter. The Old German Restaurant was opened in 1928 and operated by German immigrants, serving traditional German food until it closed in 1995. While not directly associated, during these years, the restaurant and the park shared close relationships among members and patrons.³

Integrity Statement

German Park Recreation Club retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The 1938 Old Dance Hall and 1953 Picnic Shelter each

³ Grace Shackman, "The Passing of the Old German," *Ann Arbor Observer*, March 1995, via Ann Arbor District Library, <https://aadl.org/aaobserver/18265>; Personal Communication with Marlene Mead (German Park Recreation Club President) by Cheri Szcodronski, April 2024, at German Park Recreation Club.

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retain the form, massing, plan, materials, and fenestration present at the time of construction. The 1938 Beverage House, 1962-1963 Clubhouse and Dance Pavilion, and 1967 Kitchen also retain most of these characteristics, and the later additions to these buildings are modest, appropriately scaled or set back from the historic building, and compatibly detailed but clearly defined as additions, thereby not adversely affecting the overall integrity of the property. Non-contributing buildings, reflecting the ongoing use and growth of the property in the late twentieth century, are compatible in size, massing, materials, and detailing to earlier buildings, and therefore do not negatively impact the overall integrity of the property. The buildings remain in their original location on Pontiac Trail and in their original configuration. They are immediately surrounded by hard-packed dirt and gravel, grassy areas, and mature trees, and the broader landscape remains rural farmland, similar to the nineteenth-century setting.

Statement of Archaeological Potential

German Park Recreation Club is closely related to the surrounding environment and landscape. Since its establishment, the property has served both as a private club and as a site of public events with a full complement of social and recreational buildings, some of which were lost in the twentieth century. No archaeological assessment has been conducted at the property, however, the documentary record indicates the following resources were once present on this property and likely have left archaeological deposits: the original ticket house constructed near the site of the current ticket house around 1938; an entrance shed constructed at the southwest corner of the property and later enlarged (dates unknown); a music building constructed near the current ticket house in the 1950s; the original kitchen constructed around 1938 near the beverage house; and a women's restroom constructed around 1938 near the current women's restroom. Additional archival research or archaeological investigation may reveal additional resources.

Archaeological deposits from remnant landscape features such as paths and fence lines; infrastructural remains such as filled-in wells; and structural remains of buildings can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the property. Information concerning the spatial organization of buildings and infrastructure in relationship to natural and cultural elements of the landscape can be obtained from the investigation of these features.

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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.)

ETHNIC HERITAGE – GERMAN

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1938 – 1970

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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.)

German Park Recreation Club is significant at the local level under Criterion A for German Ethnic Heritage, Recreation/Entertainment, and Social History. The park was established in 1938 by families of German heritage who settled together north of Ann Arbor, Michigan, during a period of anti-German sentiment in America. The park provided opportunities for members to celebrate German culture with picnics offering traditional German food, beer, and dancing. The Old Dance Hall and Beverage House remain extant from this period. These picnics were later

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opened to the general public, however, when anti-German sentiment increased in the 1940s, public picnics ceased while the club provided support and protection for its members. By the mid-twentieth century, the club returned to sharing and celebrating German culture, and the popularity of the club's public picnics resulted in the growth of the park with the construction of the Clubhouse & Dance Pavilion, Picnic Shelter, Kitchen, Soccer Field, and restrooms, and the expansion of the Beverage House. The park continued to grow in popularity both with a growing membership of local residents of German ancestry and with increasing attendance at the club's public picnics throughout the late twentieth century. The Ticket House and additional restrooms were constructed during this period, as well as expansions to the Clubhouse and Beverage House, providing continued social opportunities, cultural uplift, and recreation for members and visitors.

The period of significance begins in 1938 with the establishment of the park and construction of the earliest extant resources, extending to 1970 to incorporate the mid-twentieth century period of expansion. Although the late twentieth century period of growth is also significant to the nominated property, it does not meet Criteria Consideration G for exceptional importance of resources less than fifty years of age, and therefore is not included within the period of significance.

Historic context for German Park Recreation Club is provided in the related Multiple Property Documentation Form "Historic and Architectural Resources of Northfield Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan, 1824 – 1980," including "Early Northfield Township: An Agricultural Landscape (1824-1880)" on context pages E5-17, "Changes to Rural Life (1880-1945)" on pages E24-28, and "The Post-War Era (1945-1980)" on pages E28-33. The property falls under the property types "Civic, Commercial, and Recreational Buildings" on pages F38-39 and "Ethnic Heritage Properties" on page F39, including registration requirements, period of significance, and integrity assessment. Specifically, the club was established by the local German immigrant community that lived in the immediate vicinity, serving as a center of social and recreational opportunities celebrating German culture, as well as providing mutual support and protection for its members.

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

German Ethnic Heritage, Recreation/Entertainment, and Social History Contexts

Establishment of Washtenaw County and German Immigration

German Park Recreation Club is located in northern Washtenaw County, in southeastern Michigan, about six miles northeast of Ann Arbor. The earliest European settlement in Washtenaw County began with very small numbers arriving in the early 1820s, increasing dramatically after the Erie Canal opened in 1825. Most of the land in the county was first purchased by or granted to English settlers who came to the Michigan Territory from New York, Pennsylvania, and other New England states. Unlike the rest of Washtenaw County, in

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Northfield Township, English-speaking Irish settlers also initially owned much of the land, especially in the western and southern areas of the township. The land that comprises present-day German Park Recreation Club was owned by in the 1850s and 1860s by A. Tindall, who was of English descent; in the 1890s by Nathan Brundage from Canada; and by 1911 by Irishman William Burke.⁴

One of the primary groups arriving in the county by the mid-1800s were German-speaking Europeans hoping to find relief from the devastation caused by the Napoleonic wars, economic depression, and poor crop yields.⁵ About seventy percent of German immigrants to the county were from the Württemberg and Baden regions of southwest Germany and therefore shared a common dialect, Swabian.⁶ Preferring to purchase land near other German-speakers, most German newcomers settled southwest of Ann Arbor in Scio, Lodi, Lima, and Freedom Townships, where they formed large communities.⁷ The establishment of German Lutheran churches and Prussian Methodist churches throughout the county further strengthened these communities, typically offering services in German and teaching children German language, fables, and culture.⁸ It was common for German-speakers throughout Washtenaw County to marry within their own communities and, as a result, “many Washtenaw County families can count themselves as being of full German parentage, even after 5 or 6 generations. This fact attests to both the size and cohesiveness of this group of settlers.”⁹

In Northfield Township, a German community formed in the southern and southwestern sections, where German Park Recreation Club is located. Most of these settlers came from the city of Stuttgart or the Black Forest area of the Württemberg and Baden regions of southwest Germany, others from the Prussian areas of northern Germany. They established farms near one another and attended church at St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, established in 1869 and located on East Northfield Church Road, just over a mile northwest of German Park Recreation Club. The result was a stable, tightly-knit, and distinct German ethnic community, one that both maintained its identity through shared language and culture, and provided a sense of safety and mutual support.

⁴ “Map of Washtenaw County, Michigan,” (Philadelphia, PA: Bechler, Wenig & Co., 1856), http://quod.lib.umich.edu/c/clark1ic/x-002745875/39015091184773_02, UM Clark Library Maps Collection, Stephen S. Clark Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (hereafter Clark Library); “Map of the Counties of Washtenaw and Lenawee, Michigan,” (Philadelphia, PA: Bechler, Wenig & Co., 1864), <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/c/clark1ic/x-002745877/39015091197502>, Clark Library; “M.M. Dickson & Co.’s township and sectional pocket map of Washtenaw County, Michigan,” (Ann Arbor, MI: M.M. Dickson & Co., 1896), <https://quod.lib.umich.edu/c/clark1ic/x-004978843/39015091184815>, Clark Library; “Chadwick’s 1911 map and directory of Washtenaw County, Michigan,” (Ann Arbor, MI: C.W. Chadwick, 1911), https://quod.lib.umich.edu/c/clark1ic/x-000074544/39015095414580_0001, Clark Library.

⁵ Dale R. Herter and Terry Stollsteimer, “A History of the German Settlers of Washtenaw County,” 2007 (updated 2009), <https://sites.rootsweb.com/~miwashte/washtenawgermansettlerhistory.pdf>, 8-11; Wystan Stevens, ed., *Northfield Harvest: A Pictorial History of Northfield Township and the Whitmore Lake Area* (Whitmore Lake, MI: Northfield Township Historical Society, 1999), 65, 146.

⁶ Herter and Stollsteimer, “A History of the German Settlers,” 8-11; Stevens, *Northfield Harvest*, 65, 146.

⁷ Herter and Stollsteimer, “A History of the German Settlers,” 7.

⁸ Herter and Stollsteimer, “A History of the German Settlers,” 6, 13, 24.

⁹ Herter and Stollsteimer, “A History of the German Settlers,” 2.

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Additional historic context about the formation of Washtenaw County and Northfield Township; Indigenous peoples and early European settlement of the county; and the immigration of German-speaking Europeans to this area; and the formation of a German ethnic community in Northfield Township may be found in the associated Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Historic Resources of Northfield Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan, 1824-1980," context pages E6-12.

Establishment of German Park Recreation Club

By the 1920s, the German population in southern Northfield Township and northern Ann Arbor had grown substantially, and continued to increase; by that time, many German immigrants had the financial means to send for family and friends who had remained in Germany. German families often gathered together in each other's homes to share traditional German meals and enjoy music together. "The evenings would always end in song," recalled German Park member Toni Jarvis. "Oh how those Germans loved the songs of their homeland."¹⁰ They also met for larger lakeside picnics in the summer months, utilizing empty lots on Pleasant Lake (southwest of Ann Arbor) or Whitmore Lake (northeast of Ann Arbor). These gatherings became especially important during the years of the Great Depression. Jarvis recalled the Depression "affected everyone, not only the immigrants from Germany. But they all stuck together."¹¹ Many local German families took in those struggling the most with employment and housing, primarily young single men. Germans also found prohibition a challenging time. "Can you imagine a German without his beer or wine?" quipped Jarvis, recalling that his father made wine and hard cider in the basement of their home.¹²

The first iteration of German Park was a wooded lot on an Ann Arbor rented by a group of local German residents in 1934. The members built a wooden platform for dancing and a beverage stand serving beer and soft drinks. The success of this venture led the group to seek a permanent site. The current property "was a ten-acre area that reminded them of wood in their homeland," explained Toni Jarvis, "and a place where they could meet and have fun."¹³ Albert Duckek, Tony Vetter, Adolf Vetter, Carl Schamm, and Adolph Gress each contributed \$5.00 toward the \$25.00 down payment, then sold bonds to raise the \$500.00 needed to complete the sale. They purchased the property from William and Emilia Burke in 1938.¹⁴

Following the purchase of the property, the group immediately began clearing trees to build park facilities. Members dug the first well by hand (no longer extant), cleared a soccer field (no longer extant), and hauled gravel to create picnic areas. They also built a hall for dancing and club meetings, which was first named Thomsen Halle in honor of club members but is now known as the old dance hall (extant). This building was constructed using dressed timbers harvested from

¹⁰ Toni Jarvis, "Our History Remembered," in *The History of the German Park Recreation Club: Celebrating 75 Years, 1938-2013* (Ann Arbor: German Park Recreation Club, 2013), 5.

¹¹ Jarvis, "Our History Remembered," 5.

¹² Jarvis, "Our History Remembered," 5.

¹³ Jarvis, "Our History Remembered," 7-8.

¹⁴ Jarvis, "Our History Remembered," 7-8; Otto F. Moehrle, "Our History: Remembered by Otto F. Moehrle," in *The History of the German Park Recreation Club*, 12-13.

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the property.¹⁵ The first kitchen (no longer extant) was built near the current beverage house, though it lacked food preparation equipment.¹⁶ The beverage house (extant) was constructed near the center of the building complex, initially lacking refrigeration and therefore serving only bottled beer. Later, kegs were kept in a refrigerated truck.¹⁷ A ticket house and entrance shed were built on the south side of the complex, with the latter expanded in 1980. Both buildings were demolished around 1988 when the current ticket house was completed.¹⁸ A women's restroom (no longer extant) was also constructed on the north end of the complex near the current restrooms, and there initially was no men's restroom at all.¹⁹

The first public picnic was held on Sunday, July 17, 1938. Roasts were prepared at the Old German Restaurant in Ann Arbor, potatoes and cakes were prepared at members' homes, and beer was brought from the Ann Arbor Brewery. Ceramic plates, glass mugs and pitchers, and metal cutlery were used and required washing throughout the event. Following the picnic, these supplies were stored at members' homes for future use.²⁰ There was no entrance fee for the early picnics, but the sale of beer raised enough funds to cover the cost of food, drinks, and the club's property taxes.²¹ Music was provided by a house band of club members who performed at the old dance hall throughout the picnic.²²

Dancing has been an important tradition at the park since members first began to gather in the mid-1930s. Anton "Tony" Vetter, one of the park founders and leader of a similar group in Germany before emigrating to Michigan, formed the club's first dance group around 1935. The group met in the garage of Vetter's Ann Arbor home where they learned Schuhplattler dances. This type of dance, which includes about 150 different dances, involves either couples dancing in courtship together, typically a type of waltz, or men dancing together in competition, typically a type of slapdance. Vetter played guitar and his daughter, Toni Vetter Jarvis, played the accordion, the traditional instruments for Schuhplattler. Dancers wore Tracht, formal German dance costumes, a tradition that continues today. Women's Tracht includes a dirndl skirt, bloomers, stockings, slip, blouse, and apron, while men's includes shirt, leather shorts, suspenders, breastplate, tie, hat with special trim, and half socks.²³

Members of German Park Recreation Club explain, "When a club is founded by a group of men [and women] brought together by a love of soccer and German culture, social activities are sure to ensue."²⁴ Club meetings were held in the old dance hall and members were required to take part in work days to maintain the park. After these events, members gathered to enjoy refreshments, play cards, and socialize. Christmas and End of Season parties were also held in

¹⁵ "Picnics," *The History of the German Park Recreation Club*, 44-45; "The History of the Buildings and Grounds," *The History of German Park Recreation Club*, 47.

¹⁶ "The History of the Buildings and Grounds," 48-49.

¹⁷ "The History of the Buildings and Grounds," 59-60.

¹⁸ "The History of the Buildings and Grounds," 44-45.

¹⁹ "The History of the Buildings and Grounds," 50.

²⁰ Jarvis, "Our History Remembered," 8-9; "Picnics," 24.

²¹ "Picnics," 23-24.

²² "Schuhplattler Gruppe Dance and Music," *The History of the German Park Recreation Club*, 74.

²³ "Schuhplattler Gruppe Dance and Music," 65-67, 71.

²⁴ "Social Activities," *The History of the German Park Recreation Club*, 77.

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the old dance hall. Christmas parties included a ham dinner, homemade cookies, caroling, and a visit from Santa. The End of Season party is a gathering of adult members with catering from local German restaurants, entertainment by a German band, and dancing. Each of these traditions continues today.²⁵

Additional historic context about the growth and relative insulation of the German community in Northfield Township and Washtenaw County through the early 1900s may be found in the associated Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Historic Resources of Northfield Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan, 1824-1980," context pages E10-12.

Impact of World War II and Post-War Growth

During World War I, German-Americans across the country found their non-German friends and neighbors questioned their loyalties during the war. This was certainly true in Washtenaw County, where loyalty to the United States and to Germany fell on a broad spectrum. While the United States remained neutral, it was generally possible for Germans in Washtenaw County to maintain both loyalty to the United States and sympathy – and worry – for family and friends in their homeland, though this became increasingly difficult after Congress declared war in 1917.²⁶ "Germany was not an alien force but a familiar place inhabited by family and friends, a homeland of abiding memories," observed local historian Jonathan Marwil.²⁷

This suspicion and conflict toward German-speakers increased in Washtenaw County, and throughout the nation, during World War II when Germany was viewed as the primary cause of the war. German-born citizens were subject to rumors and slander, sometimes simply causing conflict among neighbors and other times resulting in arrest by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.²⁸ In spite of the challenges, German Park continued public picnics for a time. "We tried to have a few picnics, but the attitude towards the German people was strained," Toni Jarvis recalled. "At one picnic a huge fight broke out... there were lots of nasty slurs and accusations, calling us Nazis. So we had to close the park to the public for a few years."²⁹

By the late 1940s, this tension had begun to subside and German Park Recreation Club was incorporated as a nonprofit "to be a social and recreational club for members and their guests."³⁰ Once public picnics resumed, these events grew dramatically in popularity, each drawing well over 2,000 people. Picnics during the late 1940s and 1950s spanned two days, lasting from Saturday afternoon until Sunday evening. In the mid-1960s, picnics were scheduled the last Saturday of the summer months, and the club also hosted an Oktoberfest celebration each September.³¹

²⁵ "Social Activities," 77-79.

²⁶ Jonathan L. Marwil, *A History of Ann Arbor* (Ann Arbor, MI: The Ann Arbor Observer Company, 1987), 94, 97; Herter and Stollsteimer, "A History of the German Settlers," 26-28.

²⁷ Marwil, *A History of Ann Arbor*, 94.

²⁸ Marwil, *A History of Ann Arbor*, 126-127.

²⁹ Jarvis, "Our History Remembered," 9.

³⁰ Jarvis, "Our History Remembered," 10; Moehrle, "Our History," 14.

³¹ "Picnics," 23.

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To accommodate the increasing club membership and growing attendance at public picnics, a number of new buildings were constructed throughout the 1950s and 1960s, built by members of the club who donated materials and volunteered their labor.³² The dance hall became too crowded to house patrons, dancers, and the band, so a music house was built east of the dance hall in the early 1950s. The musicians, however, disliked being removed from the dance hall and the building was instead used for storage until it was demolished around 1988 to make way for the current ticket house.³³ A picnic shelter (extant) was built adjacent to the current dance pavilion in 1953 using timber donated from the farm of a club member.³⁴ A separate clubhouse building (extant) was constructed in 1962-1963 near the old dance hall, containing a basement meeting space with a concrete dance floor above. Soon after, a stage was built on the south side of the dance floor, elevated from ground level, and in 1970, a roof was constructed over the dance floor to create a sheltered dance pavilion.³⁵ A new, larger kitchen (extant) was built in its present location in 1967 and expanded with additional screened serving lines soon after.³⁶ Improved restrooms were built for women in 1967 (no longer extant), and the first restrooms for men were completed in 1967-1970 (extant).³⁷ In addition to the construction of new buildings, the beverage house was expanded with additional serving lines and commercial refrigeration in the 1950s.³⁸

The park also expanded recreational opportunities beyond the public picnics in the mid-twentieth century. In 1957, the center of the park, south of the building complex, was cleared of trees to build a larger soccer field, which was also used for parking during public picnics. A men's soccer club, named Germany 56, was formed among both club members and non-members of German heritage. The team played competitively in a Detroit league from 1959 until 1962.³⁹ In the late 1960s, a children's dance group was formed, teaching this central tradition of German heritage to the younger generation. "The discipline... The focus. The teamwork. The responsibility. These are the things that our youngest dancers are learning and being taught," recalled member and dance instructor Wally Jarvis. "We are doing it for the future of the children and the future of German Park."⁴⁰ During these years, the club also continued to gather socially following member meetings and work days, to host an annual Christmas party, and to gather at a local venue for the End of Season party.⁴¹

Additional historic context about the impact of the world wars on German-speaking residents of Washtenaw County, the assimilation of many German-speakers into mainstream American society, and the strength of German cultural organizations in Washtenaw County may be found

³² Jarvis, "Our History Remembered," 10.

³³ "The History of the Buildings and Grounds," 46.

³⁴ "The History of the Buildings and Grounds," 51.

³⁵ "The History of the Buildings and Grounds," 52-55.

³⁶ "The History of the Buildings and Grounds," 48-49.

³⁷ "The History of the Buildings and Grounds," 50.

³⁸ "The History of the Buildings and Grounds," 59-60.

³⁹ "The History of the Buildings and Grounds," 56.

⁴⁰ "Schuhplattler Gruppe Dance and Music," 67-68, 73.

⁴¹ "Social Activities," 77-79.

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in in the associated Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Historic Resources of Northfield Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan, 1824-1980," context pages E27-28 and E33.

German Park Recreation Club Since 1970

As liquor regulations and health department requirements improved in the late twentieth century, the park made updates to the buildings accordingly. The kitchen was updated to its present appearance in 1981, with interior renovations including installation of commercial cooking equipment, ending the tradition of preparing the food in private homes; the addition of a large storage room; and the addition of a third serving line. Further updates in 2003 included the addition of rooms on the north side of the building to house a commercial refrigerator and the hot water tank.⁴² The clubhouse was also renovated in the 1980s with the construction of an elevated stage for the dance pavilion and a new entrance bay, as well as interior updates to the bar, restrooms, and kitchen, with further renovations in 2011 including construction of the lobby wing to add interior storage space, an accessibility lift, modern kitchen equipment, and new restrooms facilities.⁴³

Even though German-born residents in the county began to assimilate following the world wars, German Park Recreation Club has continued many of its early social and recreational traditions in celebration of German culture. The park hosts public picnics on the last Saturday of June, July, and August each year. Traditional German foods are served, including bratwurst, knockwurst, landjaeger, sauerkraut, potato salad, pretzels, and strudels, much of which is prepared at local Washtenaw County businesses.⁴⁴ Members prepare Spatzen, a traditional Swabian egg noodle, which is made on a machine purchased by club members from Germany.⁴⁵ Picnics also offer traditional German beers and wines, many imported directly from Germany.⁴⁶ The Schuhplattler dance tradition also continues at the park. A professional Schuhplattler Gruppe had formed by 1985 with individual age groups including the adults (over 21 years old), the youth (13 to 21 years old), and the Kleinekinder (3 to 12 years old). These groups perform at the park's public picnics; at public shows in Detroit, Grand Rapids, and Frankenmuth, Michigan; and for other local German groups in Ann Arbor, Detroit, and Kalamazoo.⁴⁷ "Dancing offers a special ambiance to the park," notes Wally Jarvis.⁴⁸

German Park Recreation Club also continues to offer important opportunities for members to socialize with others of German heritage through both members-only gatherings and the public picnics. Leading up to each picnic, preparations are made by club members who clean up the grounds, repair and set out picnic tables, clean the buildings, and clear the driveway and parking lots.⁴⁹ The club hosts regular membership meetings, which are followed by gatherings "ending

⁴² "The History of the Buildings and Grounds," 48-49.

⁴³ "The History of the Buildings and Grounds," 52-55.

⁴⁴ "Picnics," 26-33.

⁴⁵ Jarvis, "Our History Remembered," 10-11; "Picnics," 25-26, 33.

⁴⁶ "Picnics," 34-36.

⁴⁷ "Schuhplattler Gruppe Dance and Music," 69-70.

⁴⁸ "Schuhplattler Gruppe Dance and Music," 73.

⁴⁹ Jarvis, "Our History Remembered," 10-11; "Picnics," 25-26.

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the evening with refreshments and camaraderie.”⁵⁰ Members also enjoy an annual steak and corn roast, pig roast, Christmas party, and End of Season party, as well as group trips to the ethnic festivals and events of nearby German clubs, tourist destinations throughout Michigan, and Ontario, and to their ancestral homes in Germany.⁵¹ These events are similar to the early gatherings of the members’ forebearers, which were often held in the old dance hall around a wood-burning stove. “Everyone loved the coziness and comfort produced by that old stove, while dancing around it,” recalled Toni Jarvis.⁵² Today’s member events demonstrate the ongoing social support system provided by the club. “We all have one thing in common,” explained Jarvis, “the love of the German Park, and the interest in keeping the tradition alive.”⁵³

⁵⁰ Jarvis, “Our History Remembered,” 11.

⁵¹ Jarvis, “Our History Remembered,” 8-11; “Social Activities,” 77-91.

⁵² Jarvis, “Our History Remembered,” 8.

⁵³ Jarvis, “Our History Remembered,” 11.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Personal Communication with Wally Jarvis (German Park Recreation Club President) by Cheri Szcodronski. April 2021. German Park Recreation Club, Ann Arbor.

Personal Communication with Marlene Mead (German Park Recreation Club President) by Cheri Szcodronski. April 2024. German Park Recreation Club, Ann Arbor.

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Washtenaw County Register of Deeds. Ann Arbor.

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: _____

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Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 10.0 acres

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 42.357858 Longitude: -83.677066

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

The National Register boundary corresponds to Washtenaw County parcel B-02-36-200-007:

Starting at a point on Pontiac Trail, latitude 42.356522 and longitude -83.677337; then north approximately 115 feet to latitude 42.359297 and longitude -83.677831; then east approximately 475 feet to latitude 42.359226 and longitude -83.675985; then south approximately 780 feet to Pontiac Trail, latitude 42.357220 and longitude -83.675867; then southwest with Pontiac Trail approximately 470 feet to latitude 42.356522 and longitude -83.677337; then west approximately 60 feet to the beginning.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the current and historic parcel as of 1938, including the extant historic buildings and structures, as well as landscape features historically associated with the park that provide an appropriate setting for the historic buildings and structures. West of the park, a ten-acre parcel and a 24-acre parcel, though owned by the club, are not historically associated with the park and are therefore not included in the nominated property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Cheri LaFlamme Szcodronski, Owner & Architectural Historian
organization: Firefly Preservation Consulting, LLC
street & number: 58 Fox Hill Court
city or town: Chelsea state: MI zip code: 48118
e-mail: cheri@fireflypreservation.com
telephone: 615-604-5618
date: October 2024

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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.)

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 – Current Photos

Name of Property: German Park Recreation Club

City or Vicinity: Ann Arbor

County: Washtenaw

State: Michigan

Photographer: Cheri Szcodronski

Date Photographed: April 2021, April 2024, October 2024

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

Photo #0001: Clubhouse – Southeast Elevation
1 of 33

Photo #0002: Dance Pavilion – East Elevation
2 of 33

Photo #0003: Clubhouse & Dance Pavilion – Southwest Elevation
3 of 33

Photo #0004: Clubhouse Interior – Lobby – Facing Northwest
4 of 33

Photo #0005: Clubhouse Interior – Multi-purpose Room – Facing North
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Photo #0006: Clubhouse Interior – Kitchen – Facing Southwest

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Photo #0007: Clubhouse Interior – Bar – Facing Southeast

7 of 33

Photo #0008: Dance Pavilion Interior – Facing Southeast

8 of 33

Photo #0009: Picnic Shelter – Facing Southwest

9 of 33

Photo #0010: Picnic Shelter, Dance Pavilion, Clubhouse – Facing East

10 of 33

Photo #0011: Picnic/Play Area – Facing Northwest

11 of 33

Photo #0012: Kitchen – Southeast Elevation

12 of 33

Photo #0013: Kitchen – Northeast Elevation

13 of 33

Photo #0014: Kitchen Interior – Serving Area – Facing West

14 of 33

Photo #0015: Kitchen Interior – Kitchen Area – Facing West

15 of 33

Photo #0016: Women's and Men's Restrooms – Facing Northeast

16 of 33

Photo #0017: Smoking Area – Facing Northeast

17 of 33

Photo #0018: Beverage House – South Elevation

18 of 33

Photo #0019: Beverage House – Northeast Elevation

19 of 33

Photo #0020: Beverage House Interior – Bar – Facing West

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Photo #0021: Beverage House Interior – Pop Stand – Facing Northwest
21 of 33

Photo #0022: Ticket House – Northwest Elevation
22 of 33

Photo #0023: Ticket House and Well House – Facing South
23 of 33

Photo #0024: Ticket House Interior – Facing South
24 of 33

Photo #0025: Old Dance Hall – Northeast Elevation
25 of 33

Photo #0026: Old Dance Hall - Southwest Elevation
26 of 33

Photo #0027: Old Dance Hall Interior – Facing Southeast
27 of 33

Photo #0028: Landscape – Facing Southwest
28 of 33

Photo #0029: Landscape – Facing West
29 of 33

Photo #0030: Landscape – Facing Southeast
30 of 33

Photo #0031: Landscape – Facing West
31 of 33

Photo #0032: Soccer Field – Facing South
32 of 33

Photo #0033: Landscape – Facing North
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Photo Log – Historic Photos

Name of Property: German Park Recreation Club

Repository: German Park Recreation Club

Historic Photo #0001: First Picnic at German Park

Date: 1938

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Historic Photo #0002: Advertisement for Public Picnic

Date: unknown

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Historic Photo #0003: Clubhouse Exterior – Entrance – Facing West

Date: c.1994

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Historic Photo #0004: Clubhouse Exterior – Entrance – Facing East

Date: 1994

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Historic Photo #0005: Clubhouse Interior – Multi-purpose Room

Date: before 1980

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Historic Photo #0006: Clubhouse Interior – Bar

Date: before 1980

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Historic Photo #0007: Clubhouse Interior – Multi-purpose Room

Date: 1980-1982

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Historic Photo #0008: Clubhouse Interior – Bar

Date: c.1985

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Historic Photo #0009: Clubhouse Interior – Multi-purpose Room & Kitchen

Date: 1985

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Historic Photo #0010: Clubhouse Interior – Kitchen

Date: c.1985

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German Park Recreation Club

Name of Property

Washtenaw, Michigan

County and State

Photo #0011: Dance Pavilion – Facing Southeast

Date: 1973

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Historic Photo #0012: Dance Pavilion – Stage – Facing Southwest

Date: 1984

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Historic Photo #0013: Dance Pavilion – Mural – Facing South

Date: after 1972, before 1997

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Historic Photo #0014: Dance Pavilion – Facing Southeast

Date: after 1972, before 1997

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Historic Photo #0015: Picnic Shelter – Facing Southeast

Date: 1973

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Historic Photo #0016: Picnic Shelter – Facing Southwest

Date: c.1987

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Historic Photo #0017: Kitchen Interior (first kitchen – no longer extant)

Date: before 1967

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Historic Photo #0018: Kitchen Exterior – Facing Northwest

Date: after 1967, before 1981

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Historic Photo #0019: Kitchen Exterior – Facing Northwest

Date: 1981

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Historic Photo #0020: Kitchen Exterior – Facing Northwest

Date: c.1981

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Historic Photo #0021: Kitchen Interior – Facing West

Date: 1994

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German Park Recreation Club

Name of Property

Washtenaw, Michigan

County and State

Historic Photo #0022: Kitchen Exterior – Facing Northwest

Date: 2000

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Historic Photo #0023: Kitchen Interior

Date: c.2000

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Historic Photo #0024: Kitchen Interior

Date: c.2000

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Historic Photo #0025: Kitchen Interior

Date: c.2000

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Historic Photo #0026: Kitchen Interior

Date: c.2011

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Historic Photo #0027: Men's Restroom – Facing Northeast

Date: c.1995

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Historic Photo #0028: Beverage House – Facing Northeast

Date: before 1980

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Historic Photo #0029: Beverage House – Facing Northeast

Date: 1983

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Historic Photo #0030: Beverage House – Facing South

Date: 1988

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Historic Photo #0031: Beverage House – Facing Northwest

Date: 1992

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Historic Photo #0032: Beverage House – Facing Northwest

Date: c.1992

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German Park Recreation Club

Name of Property

Washtenaw, Michigan

County and State

Historic Photo #0033: Beverage House – Facing Northwest

Date: 1995

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Historic Photo #0034: Beverage House – Facing Southwest

Date: c.1995

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Historic Photo #0035: Music Building (no longer extant)

Date: before 1988

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Historic Photo #0036: Entrance Shed (no longer extant)

Date: before 1980

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Historic Photo #0037: Ticket House (no longer extant)

Date: before 1988

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Historic Photo #0038: Ticket House – Facing South

Date: 1988

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Historic Photo #0039: Ticket House Interior

Date: c.1995

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Historic Photo #0040: Old Dance Hall

Date: before c.1960

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Historic Photo #0041: Old Dance Hall – Facing Southwest

Date: 1988

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Historic Photo #0042: Old Dance Hall – Facing Southwest

Date: 1988

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Historic Photo #0043: Old Dance Hall – Facing Northeast

Date: 1993

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German Park Recreation Club

Name of Property

Washtenaw, Michigan

County and State

Historic Photo #0044: Entrance Gates – Facing North

Date: 1959

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Historic Photo #0045: Landscape – Facing West

Date: 1993

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Historic Photo #0046: Landscape – Facing Northwest

Date: c.1996

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Historic Photo #0047: Landscape – Facing Northwest

Date: c.1996

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Historic Photo #0048: Landscape – Facing South

Date: 1996

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations 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.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
Tier 2 – 120 hours
Tier 3 – 230 hours
Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.