

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: Clark Equipment Complex Historic District

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: Roughly bounded by Redbud Trail (W), Dewey Street and former railroad (E), 3rd Street (N), and Front Street (S); note that Dewey Street extends into the district and turns north to form a portion of the eastern boundary.

City or town: Buchanan State: MI County: Berrien

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

<p>_____ Signature of certifying official/Title:</p>	<p>_____ Date</p>
<p>_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	

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In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<hr/>	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
<hr/>	
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
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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

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Structure

Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION: manufacturing facility

LANDSCAPE: parking lot

LANDSCAPE: park

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION: manufacturing facility

COMMERCE/TRADE: business

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: processing

LANDSCAPE: park

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN: Renaissance Revival

MODERN MOVEMENT: Moderne

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK

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 former Clark Equipment Complex is situated on the northeast corner of East Front Street and North Redbud Trail, at the east edge of Buchanan's historic downtown district. While the origins of the company/complex date to 1904, the earliest extant building (Building No. 2) was constructed by 1916 in a loosely-interpreted Renaissance Style. It served as the main corporate offices with manufacturing in the rear. Four more buildings followed, taking on the general character and style of Building No. 2, including three small guard houses (c. 1920-1940) and a more modern building (No. 42) constructed c. 1944. Combined with a park-like area through which McCoy Creek runs, tucked into the southwest corner of the complex, the Clark Equipment Complex has an unusual setting for an industrial district. This includes trees and historic street lights, manicured park, and proximity of the buildings to Dewey Street. The street forms the main spine through the complex from Redbud Trail on the west before it turns and goes north, forming the eastern boundary. The park and guard houses are located on the south side of Dewey Street, while Building No. 42 is on the north. Dewey Street turns north at the northwest corner of Building No. 2, located on the south side of Dewey Street. A circle drive and former parking lot on the east side of Building No. 2 served as a staging and demonstration area for the company and is included as part of the overall complex site.

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Narrative Description

The district was first utilized in 1904 by the George Rich Manufacturing who relocated from Chicago to Buchanan. A fairly ordinary brick industrial building was located at the site (no longer extant) prior to the construction of the complex's main building with offices built in 1915 (Building No. 2, photo 01). This was built on the south side of Dewey Street in the southeast corner of the complex. The building was expanded with second-story wings extending from an existing second floor in 1917 to its current configuration. Interior alterations were made up until about 1960. In 1916, the name was changed from Celfor Tool (a name adopted in 1906) to Clark Equipment. Over the years, Clark Equipment produced industrial machinery, tractor and truck equipment, engines and parts from its facilities.

Clark expanded northeast of the original complex location with several large manufacturing buildings into the 1940s-1950s. Many of these have been razed or are in deteriorated condition to the extent that the original complex appears to stand apart and well-isolated to the area first utilized in 1904. Three small guard houses were constructed c. 1920-1940 (photo 03) on the south side of Dewey Street. They occupy an area that was essentially set aside by Clark for a park through which McCoy Creek runs from the southwest to the north (photo 11). This area was maintained and landscaped for company employees to enjoy. McCoy Creek flows north, under Dewey Street and Building No. 42 before it emerges along the west edge of Dewey Street as the road turns and heads north near the east boundary of the district. Building No. 42, built in 1944 and used as the company laboratory (photo 02), has few alterations, mostly minor interior changes recently adapted for a restaurant/orchard market enterprise. Aside from the five buildings, the Dewey Street Bridge (1913) is considered a contributing structure and two historic street lights (c. 1915) flanking the entry to Building No. 2 are considered contributing objects. The park and the organization of the site with parking and circle drive are considered contributing sites (2).

The site was used for industrial purposes from 1904 through Clark's closure in the early 1990s, then used by FS Carbon until 1998 when the city of Buchanan purchased the property. In 2018, Building No. 2 and the guard houses were purchased by the current private developer. Building No. 42 is owned by a private restaurateur and the City of Buchanan owns and maintains the park through which their trail system is routed.

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BUILDING NO. 2. Renaissance Revival, 1916/1917. Contributing
324 Dewey Street. Photos 01, 05-08, 14-20

The long, cream-colored brick building is two-stories in its front (north) third and one-story with a raised center section, similar to a monitor roof. It has a concrete foundation and bays of windows divided by pilasters. The south part of the building was used for manufacturing and therefore is simpler in design with industrial-style steel windows while the north/front part was used for offices and features 12/1, 8/1, 6/1, and 1/1 vinyl configurations. The windows have concrete sills. The front part of the building will be described first, followed by the back manufacturing area.

The front (north) façade faces an extension of Dewey Street and has a symmetrical arrangement with seven bays divided by two-story pilasters with stylized capitals of brick (photo 01). A beltcourse of soldier brick wraps the front section of the building and forms lintels over the second story windows. A stone belt course tops the brick beltcourse above which rises an entablature topped with a simple brick cornice. The center three bays, which project slightly, were constructed originally as two-stories while the outer four bays were one-story wings that had a second story added c. 1930. The center/entry bay features a raised, one-story, projecting entry topped with a stylized cornice with dentils and end blocks capped with limestone. The entry is composed of a pair of aluminum storefront doors with full windows, side-lites, and tall transom. Small 4/1 vinyl windows flank the entry in the first story. The second story features a pair of 8/1 vinyl windows flanked by 6/1 windows. The bays flanking the entry bay features rows of three windows in the first and second story; the first story has tall 9/1 windows and the second story has 6/1 windows. Stone corbels that once carried window boxes are located between the first and second stories in the middle three bays. The middle three bays carry a low-pitched gabled parapet with simple brick cornice. The two bays flanking the center section (of three bays) feature two pairs of 12/1 vinyl windows on the first story and two pairs of 8/1 vinyl windows on the second story. The outer-most bays feature a row of 12/1 vinyl windows on the first story and three 6/1 vinyl windows, divided by narrow pilasters of brick, on the second story.

The east façade of the front section is divided into seven narrow bays by two-story pilasters (photo 05). Each bay features a pair of windows in the first story and a 1/1 vinyl window in the second story. The first story windows are wood with a bottom awning sash and the top part of the window covered with wood. The third bay from the south features an aluminum storefront door with full window in place of a window in the north half of its first story. The west façade is also divided into seven bays by two-story pilasters, but is more irregularly divided with less consistent fenestration. The bay second from the south is much wider than the other bays and features a steel door flanked by awning windows on its first story and an 8/1 vinyl window centered in its second story. The remaining bays feature first story windows matching, mostly, those on the east façade, with the north four bays with sliding vinyl windows in place of wood awning windows. The second story features an 8/1 vinyl window typically centered in the bay, except for the third bay from the north which features a pair of 8/1 vinyl windows, and the second bay from the north that has no window.

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Most of the south façade is covered by the one-story manufacturing section on the back of the building. Where the second story is exposed, the front section features 1/1 vinyl windows in openings with concrete sills and segmental arches.

The long, back section of the building features narrow bays divided by brick pilasters on the east and west facades (photos 06, 08). Full-width windows are between the pilasters and typically feature a pair of wood awning windows with a concrete sill topped by a pair of tall panels that extend to the eave. There are two wider bays on the west façade that feature metal garage doors (near each end) and three bays that feature steel entry doors. The east façade features a large metal garage door near its north end and three bays with steel entry doors.

The south façade, fronting Front Street, is divided into three parts with a tall, central part flanked by one-story wings (right side of photo 07). The central part features three tall windows divided by narrow pilasters of brick. The windows are divided by nine panels, all covered. The central part features a low-pitched gable with shallow eave with wood fascia. The taller section forms the end wall to a monitor-like roof that extends from the two-story front section to the south. The east wing features three windows divided by narrow pilasters of brick. Each window has two awnings at the bottom (near the foundation wall) and two tall top panels that are covered. The west wing has only two of these windows. The wings have parapet walls capped with concrete.

The interior of the building is organized with a front lobby with staircase (photo 14) off of which short corridors extend to the east and west, and a long central corridor extends to the south through the manufacturing section (photo 15). The first and second story of the front section has banks of offices on either side of the short corridors with windows in their exterior walls. The second story contained executive offices (photos 19-20) and a board room near the central core (photo 18). Men's and women's toilet rooms and an elevator are also in the central core near the staircase. Most of the finishes in this section of the building are modern, post-Clark's use of the facility. However, several important historic finishes have been retained including some of the wood-paneled walls of executive offices and the board room as well as ceramic tile in toilet rooms. The staircase, which has a midway landing with dual runs off to each side, features wood posts and board railings. These finishes/features date to a remodel campaign by Clark c. 1955.

The long, central corridor has a series of large rooms off each side as well as a bank of smaller rooms along its east side that were used for breakrooms and toilet room. A large mechanical room is off the west side and all of the larger rooms feature windows in their exterior walls and wood columns that support the roof (photo 16). The south end of the building features one large room at the end of the central corridor; it is the only area that maintains its taller ceiling which extends into the monitor roof (photo 17). Few of the manufacturing section's features have been modernized, though some later dividing walls were constructed of concrete block. Much of the exterior wall is exposed brick and many of the building's wood columns, chamfered, are exposed and support exposed steel trusses that carry the roof. Most of the floor throughout the back section is concrete.

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The following three buildings served as guard houses and are very similarly-designed and have a single room. They are positioned on the southwest corner of the intersection of Dewey Street and a south-leading private drive that connects to Front Street. Photos 03, 09-10.

SOUTH GUARD HOUSE. Renaissance Revival, c. 1920. Contributing
324 Dewey Street. Left side of photo 10.

The nearly-square, cream-colored brick building features a concrete foundation, tapered, and base course of soldier brick. The building has wide corner pilasters. The one-story building faces east and features a wood door with two panels in the bottom and a window composed of twelve lites in the top. The building features pairs of 4/1 wood windows with stone sills centered in its north and south walls. No windows are located in the west wall. The windows and door are trimmed with soldier coursing. The pilasters feature two rows of brick stacked vertically and a stylized brick capital. A short brick cornice tops the walls. The building's hipped roof is covered with red-colored Spanish tile with raised ridge caps and features a metal gutter on the eaves.

EAST GUARD HOUSE. Renaissance Revival, c. 1920. Contributing
324 Dewey Street. Foreground of photo 03, right side of photo 09.

The East Guard House is identical to the South Guard House except that it faces north (Dewey Street) and its paired wood windows have been replaced with a single 1/1 vinyl window in the east and west openings that once held two windows. The building's stylized capitals feature terra cotta panels and the brick cornice features terra cotta dentils. An extension of the building's concrete foundation on its northwest corner forms a tall, tapered, plinth for a concrete urn. This feature frames the east side of a concrete sidewalk between the East and West Guard Houses.

WEST GUARD HOUSE. Renaissance Revival, c. 1940. Contributing
324 Dewey Street. Right side of photo 03, middle of photo 09.

The West Guard House matches the South Guard Houses except that it has different fenestration treatment, possibly from a later construction date. The east, west, and south walls feature rows of metal casement windows on a concrete sill between the corner pilasters. Each casement is divided into six lites. The front (north) façade features a wood door with full window divided into multiple lites. It is flanked by steel casement windows with concrete sills.

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BUILDING NO. 42. Moderne, 1944. Contributing
204 N. Redbud Road. Photos 02, 11-13.

The one-story cream-colored brick building has a concrete foundation and rounded corners. The building's windows, in long rows, are a combination of large industrial steel sashes divided into multiple lites and glass block on concrete sills. The building has parapet walls capped with concrete. The building was constructed c. 1944 over McCoy Creek and was used as a laboratory for Clark Equipment.

The front façade, facing Dewey Street, is divided into three parts with its wide, central part slightly taller (photo 02). The east and west parts wrap around from the respective east and west facades. The west part features rows of steel sash windows, divided into multiple lites, on a concrete sill. The east part features three bays. The outer bays feature a large window divided into three equal parts on a concrete sill. The middle part is composed of a large steel sash divided into twelve lites and the flanking parts are composed of glass block. The middle bay projects slightly by one wythe and features an entry recessed by one wythe. The entry is composed of an aluminum storefront door with full window, side-lite, and tall transom composed of glass block. The central part of the façade features a row of tall steel windows divided into multiple lites on a concrete sill. A simple cornice board tops the central part, which extends the full-width between narrow parapet walls that extend north/south terminating the raised section in the middle of the building. A steel door is in the east end of the central section and an aluminum storefront door with full window is near the center.

The east façade (photo 12) features rounded corners composed of stacked courses of rowlocks and a full-width row of five windows, mostly composed of glass block, on a concrete sill. The wide middle window and outer corner windows, which are rounded, are fully-composed of glass block. The other two windows are divided into three equal parts with a middle steel sash divided into sixteen lites flanked by sections composed of glass block.

The west façade (photo 13), facing Red Bud Trail, features three large metal garage bay doors. The middle door is slightly taller and narrower than the other two. A steel door is between the middle and south garage doors. The façade features rounded corners composed of stacked courses of rowlocks. The façade has a parapet wall stepped up in the center to form the west end of the building's monitor roof. The parapet wall is capped with concrete.

The back (north) façade is divided into three parts with its wide, central part slightly taller. The east part wraps around from the east façade and features a metal storefront door with full window near its east end. The west end features a large window composed of steel sashes and concrete sill. Below this point, McCoy Creek emerges and flows to the north. The central part features a row of tall steel windows divided into multiple panes with a concrete sill. A narrow section in the east half is covered with metal. The west part of the façade features a wainscot of brick with concrete cap. The wall above the cap is covered with metal. A concrete loading dock and two metal garage doors are in the east half of the west part of the façade.

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The interior is divided into a warehouse section at its west end (photo 26), serviced by loading docks, and three large room in its central section (photo 24-25). The east end features a large tasting and dining room (photos 21-22) and is accessed by a short hallway off of which are toilet rooms and other support spaces (photo 23). Much of the east part of the building features buff-colored glazed block walls and glass block windows. The remainder of the building features concrete floors, brick or block walls, and ceilings of open framework.

DEWEY STREET BRIDGE. 1913. Contributing (structure)

N/A Dewey Street. Eastman & Most, contractors. Photo 11.

The filled-spandrel arch bridge spans McCoy Creek as it flows north under Dewey Street and continues north and flows under Building No. 42. The arch is parged with concrete on its south wall; the north wall is not exposed. A concrete railing, topped with a metal railing, is on the south side of the bridge. Dewey Street is a paved road with a concrete sidewalk along its south edge. The bridge appears in the 1917 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps and noted as "concrete." The railing appears to be a later, c. 1950, installation. No bridge, nor the extension of Dewey Street, appear in the 1911 Sanborn Maps.

MCCOY CREEK PARK, also known as McCoy Pond Duck Park. c. 1930. Contributing (site)

301 Dewey Street

The park is located on the southwest corner of the site, situated on the northeast corner of the intersection of Red Bud Trail and Front Street, south of Dewey Street and west of the private lane that extends south from Dewey Street to Front Street. The area features lawn and mature landscaping and has concrete walkways that extends through it, crossing McCoy Creek on a modern bridge. McCoy Creek, which flows from the west, extends through the park diagonally to the north before it flows under Dewey Street. Prior to about 1925, there were two channels of the creek that flowed onto the site before joining and flowing northeast to a mill pond. The channels were combined and the park developed for the enjoyment of company workers. The park serves the same purpose for the residents of Buchanan today and is owned by the city.

EAST PARKING LOT & CIRCLE DRIVE/DISPLAY LOT. c. 1920. Contributing (site)

N/A Dewey Street

Dewey Street terminates at its east end in a circle drive that was created by Clark Equipment as a verdant garden area that fronted the original buildings on the north, and the company's theater, like a large, landscaped lawn. A broad parking area once used for a display and demonstration area extends east from the east wall of Building No. 2, south of the circle drive, to the former alignment of the Michigan Central Railroad. It is covered with deteriorating asphalt, though sections are more intact closer to the building. Combined, this area is considered a contributing site.

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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.)

INDUSTRY

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c. 1913-1944

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Clark Equipment Complex is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places using criterion A under Industry as the area of significance. Clark Equipment traces its origins to a Chicago manufacturing firm, George R. Rich Manufacturing, established in 1902 and lured to Buchanan through city-inspired incentives to attract manufacturing. Rich relocated in 1904, buying the northeast corner of Redbud Trail and East Front Street. At that time, the company produced heavy-duty drills used in the railroad industry from the Buchanan plant. The company struggled, but with oversight and retooling by Eugene Clark, the company quickly turned around and started on a good trajectory by 1906. That year the name was also changed to Celfor Tool. With the company on solid ground, they paid their first dividends to stockholders in 1909 and expanded with the construction of a new building for both corporate offices and manufacturing opposite the original building on the south side of Dewey Street. That building, Building No. 2, was finished by 1916-1917 and set the standard for of architectural design for the remaining campus. It would serve as Clark's corporate headquarters through the early 1970s.

The Clark Equipment Complex is also eligible for listing using criterion C under Architecture as the area of significance. While the complex's greater significance is related to the history of Clark Equipment as an industrial manufacturer, the complex is also notable for its architecture. The building which served as Clark's corporate offices and manufacturing center during the 1910s-1960s, Building No. 2, has features of the Renaissance Revival style popular during the early 20th century. Clark seemed to be acutely aware of the image it wanted to project because not only did it provide a more formal façade with refined elements, it also incorporated a vast number of planters to give the building hanging gardens from its windows and terrace. This image was further enhanced on the campus when three guard houses were built c. 1920-1940 with matching attention to style, materials, and features in the southwest corner of the complex. The brick guard houses feature corner pilasters, matching those on Building No. 2, and tile roofs. When Building No. 42 was constructed c. 1944 on the north side of Dewey Street, spanning McCoy Creek, it seemed that Clark wanted to project a more modern image, with rounded building corners and glass block, sleeker than the plant's older buildings. However, it continued the use of the same cream-colored brick and banding that matched Building No. 2. This gives the entire campus from which Clark Equipment originated a unified, cohesive appearance.

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

INDUSTRY

Clark Equipment's origins were in Chicago where the forerunner of Clark, the George R. Rich Manufacturing Company, was founded in 1902 to produce boring bars. Between 1903 and 1904, the Rich Company was seeking new facilities for expansion. A company leader saw an advertisement placed in a Chicago newspaper by the Business Men's Association of Buchanan, Michigan, promoting the city's amenities and offered free rent and inexpensive power from the St. Joseph River Dam. Leaders from the Rich Company reached out to Buchanan who sent a two-man delegation of John Morris and Charles F. Pears to inspect the company in Chicago. In 1904, an agreement was made between the George Rich Company and the Businessmen's Association which included a guarantee payment of \$40 per month for space in the former Hatch Cutlery Company building, paid by the association for three years, and reduced rate for electricity produced at the dam by C. A. Chapin. The company would become synonymous with Buchanan during most of the remainder of the 20th century.¹

Buchanan's industrial base was practically non-existent at the time the Rich Company relocated from Chicago. Buchanan's mid-to-late 19th century industry was largely focused on milling and production of hardwood goods, particularly furniture and cabinetry. Thirteen mills had sprung up along McCoy Creek and/or the mill race by the late 1800s. Pears Mill in downtown Buchanan and the mill race remain as testaments to the town's early industry. Another important manufacturer from the town's early days was the Zinc Collar Pad Company, which produced padded zinc horse collars; its building is also extant. Buchanan's population had reached 2000 by 1880, surpassing or rivaling any other towns in Berrien County, and was evidence of the town's labor supply for industry and commerce. Other notable companies were Rough Brothers Wagon Works and Black & Willard Furniture Company. As hardwoods were depleted and the nature of industry changed, the community's industrial boom period had come to a close by the end of the 19th century.² The town's position, however, with ample supply of hydraulic power and water, labor, and its transportation network, including most importantly the Michigan Central Railroad, were all attractive features for the Rich Company in 1904.

The Rich Company struggled with issues concerning their drill product produced in Chicago, determined to be a metallurgy issue, and thus brought in the expertise of Eugene Bradley Clark. Clark, a Cornell University graduate, was employed as a mechanical engineer at the Illinois Steel Company. Clark's recommendations were taken by the board of directors who made him an equal partner and manager of the new Buchanan plant. This move proved to be the most consequential decision the company made because it set it on the trajectory of success and massive expansion in Buchanan, leading to further development of manufacturing plants in other Michigan cities and across the country. In 1907, the Rich Company was officially dissolved and

¹ Goodsell & Myers, pg. 181

² Hawes, pg. 165

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reorganized as the Celfor Tool Company. Shortly after, the company established the Buchanan Electric Steel Company to produce steel through an electric furnace process for which a new building was constructed by the company between 1910 and 1911. The transfer of title for the factory site between the town and Celfor Tool occurred in 1913, fulfilling a commitment of payroll and expansion.

The leading manufacturing company in Buchanan at the time of Rich's arrival was Lee & Porter Axle Works, producer of automobile axles. The company burned in 1913 and the decision was made not to rebuild leaving Celfor as essentially the only manufacturer in Buchanan. Celfor absorbed many of the employees of Lee & Porter, and eventually their lead developer, R. J. Burrows. Celfor began producing truck axles which it continued to produce through their axle division in Buchanan into the 1950s. The Campbell Transmission Company, established in Buchanan in 1921, closed just five years later. As these early 20th century industries closed their doors, Buchanan came to rely on Clark as its reason for existence.³

While yet operating under the name Celfor, the small Clark campus began to take shape. The original building into which the company moved, on the north side of Dewey Street, was expanded in the 1910s and Building No. 2 was constructed by 1916. Buchanan aided the company's expansion with ease of access to the complex through the construction of the Dewey Street Bridge in 1913 (right side of photo 11) and some rerouting of McCoy Creek to permit better land use. On December 27, 1916, Celfor and Buchanan Electric merged and became Clark Equipment Company⁴, named for Eugene Clark, the name it retained while it remained in Buchanan. The Clark Equipment Company rode the wave of American industrialization, partly fueled by population shift from agricultural production to manufacturing, but also fueled by America's entry into both World Wars.

The need for transporting parts around the Clark complex resulted in the development of a small three-wheeled buggy which became the inspiration for truck design that would follow.⁵ The company focused its efforts in industrial truck development, feeling that the automobile market was saturated and that industrial equipment was in demand. This culminated with construction of a large building in 1914 (no longer extant) and led the way for the company's biggest expansions in the remaining first half of the 20th century.

A demand for this truck equipment began just prior to America's entry into World War I. In 1915, employment at the plant included 400 men and a monthly payroll of \$25,000 resulted in the entire community "basking in prosperity."⁶ During the war, the company produced gas-powered buggies for the United States called "trucktractors" which were far superior to battery-operated buggies previously used. The company continued to improve the design of these trucks, including the addition of a lift platform to the vehicles, until it produced a truck with all of the new features combined to create the lift truck. Expansions to facilities in 1916 included a new building for the company's wheel division (photo 01) and an addition to the axle plant. By 1917,

³ Goodsell & Myers, pg. 160

⁴ French, pg. 33

⁵ Phillips, pgs. 15-16

⁶ French, pg. 31

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a second story was added for office expansion on the wheel building, constructed the previous year, to handle all of the company's new business associated with the war.⁷ By the close of the war in 1918, the company's employment had doubled to 800 and sales and profits had reached a six-year peak. The average production worker logged 59 hours and earned \$20.65 a week.⁸

Through the remaining 1920s, the company continued to expand by producing several other parts along with the Trucktractor. With its significant profits, the company survived the Great Depression despite losses. The company's expansion in the 1920s is evident from a 1925 appraisal map and a 1930 rendering of the complex which then included substantial development on both sides of Dewey Street (then Second Street) and two of the guard houses in the complex's southwest corner (photo 03). These include Building Nos. 1 and 2 on the south side of Dewey and Building Nos. 3 through 25 on the north side of Dewey. One other building was located on the south side of Front Street, opposite Building No. 2 and was designated Building No. 28. Of these, only about nine were of any substantial size used for manufacturing, offices, or storage. The Clark Equipment Company also placed heavy emphasis on beautifying its facilities, through development of an on-site greenhouse by 1920 and nurserymen to maintain exquisite gardens, planters, etc., throughout the complex.

Further development of truck and tractor undercarriages proved profitable as the United States entered World War II and their product was again used by the military. Average monthly production on the truck tractor division was 60 units in 1939 which climbed to 2500 units by the early 1940s. By that time, an additional guard house needed for the security of the plant, was built at the crossing of Dewey Street over McCoy Creek, located along the edge of the park developed for employees. The guard houses took their architectural cues from Building No. 2. Building No. 42 (photo 02), located on the north side of Dewey Street, was constructed c. 1944 and was used as the company laboratory. It stands as a testament of the company's important production role during WWII. The building's materials matched those of Building No. 2, but took a decidedly modern turn in their interpretation. During the war, the company's namesake and president, Eugene Clark, died in 1942 and was followed by Albert Bonner, who served only a few short years, taking the company through World War II before he died in 1945. By this time, the company's complex had grown extensively, expanding northeast from the original plant location and lining much of the area between Third and River Streets east of Redbud Trail.⁹

During World War II, many of Clark's employees left for military service, but the need for labor was even higher during this time to supply military contracts. Clark imported laborers from the deep South to solve their labor crisis. The company brought in 3000 workers to meet demand, which put an enormous strain on Buchanan's housing and utilities. The population of the community rose from 4000 in 1940 to 6000 in 1945. Clark had created the Liberty Heights Subdivision to help provide housing in Buchanan during the 1920s, and they were again engaged in solving the housing shortage in the 1940s. Through company efforts and the Federal Public Housing Authority, prefabricated home developments and mobile home parks such as "Moccasin

⁷ French, pg. 33

⁸ French, pg. 34

⁹ Clark Equipment Map, 1956

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Court” were created in the city to house workers. Many of these had their own community clubs or associations and governing rules. By 1943, it was estimated that two-thirds to three-quarters of Buchanan’s population were engaged in industry, largely at Clark’s. Another important introduction by the company during World War II was the creation of a magazine that featured many of the company’s employees, various activities at the company, and always led with information about company employees who were enlisted with the military. The first issue of “At Clarks” debuted in September 1943 and continued for many years after.

Through the late 1940s and into the early 1950s, Clark’s product line shifted and was largely geared toward the automobile with axle and transmission manufacturing. New company president, George Spatta, reorganized the company. A new factory was built in Jackson, Michigan where transmission manufacturing was consolidated between 1948 and 1949. The company also sold its drill division, which gave the original Rich Company its start, in 1949. In an effort to diversify, the company acquired another Michigan-based company, Ross Carrier Company, in 1953 which allowed Clark to expand into development of front-end loaders and other construction-oriented equipment. The corporate offices were also remodeled by the early 1960s, prior to the construction of the company’s new corporate headquarters further north on Redbud Trail overlooking the St. Joseph River (1974). Beginning with a plant in Bolivia in 1954, Clark began to look at international development of manufacturing plants and by the 1960s, Clark Equipment had essentially become a global company.

The economic recession of the 1980s led to most of the closure of the company’s Buchanan manufacturing facilities. Wages in Buchanan averaged about \$25.00 an hour, but the company’s facilities in North Carolina were about \$15.00 an hour. The closure of the company’s plants in Buchanan and Benton Harbor in 1982 left 700 people unemployed. By the early 1990s, all manufacturing by the company had ceased in Buchanan and its administrative headquarters closed.

The importance of Clark Equipment to Buchanan is without question. “Buchanan’s economic and social life revolved around Clark. Families and neighbors worked for Clark. People lived in Clark-built houses, played on Clark-sponsored sports teams (established by the 1920s), and enjoyed entertainment at the Clark Theater. The city and Clark grew together.”¹⁰ Clark Theater was constructed for company employees and the community in 1917 and featured a 600-seat auditorium. This was the center for performances by the “Clark Players” and events for the company, and community, for decades to come. The company also renovated a house in Buchanan into “Clark Hospital” for employees and town residents, and established a band for its employees by 1922. Sports teams included men’s and women’s basketball teams, bowling teams, and baseball teams. Clark bestowed a special honor on men who had worked for the company 20 or 30+ years with the introduction of bronze medals by 1939. The men, dubbed “Medal Men” received a sophisticated medal and certificate from the company. When the program was introduced, Harry E. Berry was the longest-serving employee having started with the company when it opened in 1904.¹¹

¹⁰ Goodsell & Myers, pg. 181

¹¹ Hawes (Medal Men), pg. 3

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Clark Equipment's departure from Buchanan in the 1980s proved to be devastating to the community and created a "void the city has only begun to fill."¹² Still, many Buchanan residents recall working for Clark, or have multiple generations of family who were employed by the company since it came to Buchanan at the beginning of the 20th century. Clark's legacy still looms large over the city.

ARCHITECTURE

Of importance is the unusual intention of the Clark Equipment Complex to compose a garden-like appearance of formality in design which is attributed to all of the buildings that compose the district (photos 01-03). As the company first began to grow, there was importance placed on the architectural style of the buildings that would shape the complex and provide an image to its customers. While Clark began in a fairly simple, utilitarian building on the north side of Dewey Street, through subsequent construction projects and remodeling, buildings were designed in the Renaissance Revival style, though simple in its application. Building No. 2 (photo 01) was the first to exhibit features of the style when it was constructed c. 1916. The organization of the façade, with bays divided by pilasters with stylized capitals and rows of windows, was punctuated by an unusual use of flower boxes and urns to give the impression of a hanging garden with terraces. The corbels that supported the flower boxes are extant in the center of the façade. The façade is further formalized with the tall, gabled pediment rising over the center section. While the style's features are simple on Building No. 2, the three small guard houses on the campus better reflect the company's desire to provide an attractive campus and fully embrace the Renaissance style with the use of corner pilasters with stylized capitals and hipped roofs covered with Spanish tile (photo 03). One extant relic of the garden-like atmosphere of the campus, besides the small park developed for employees, is the concrete pedestal and urn attached to the East Guard House, framing the east side of the sidewalk entering the park.

The Italian Renaissance Revival style was popular from about 1890-1935, though it was far less common than its contemporary Colonial Revival and Craftsman styles. The style was used even less often in more rural or smaller cities, like Crawfordsville. The use of the style in Crawfordsville is owed to Durham's selection of architect James F. Alexander & Son of Lafayette. The house, an early example of the style regardless of location, was designed in 1899 by Alexander who would no doubt have been familiar with architectural styles trending in the country at the turn of the century. The first buildings (Villard Houses) to be designed in this style in the United States were located in New York and designed by McKim, Mead & White in 1883.¹³ Architects and clients alike were more likely to have visited Italy during the late 1800s-early 1900s and became familiar with Italian precedents, which then led to better-designed buildings with more attention to the style's features. Still, the style's heyday seems more related to residential architecture of the 1910s-1930s, which were more modestly-scaled, with hipped, often tiled, roofs.

¹² Goodsell & Myers, pg. 181

¹³ McAlester, pg. 498

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Building construction near the original Clark Equipment campus declined during the 1930s, partly because the company's expansion required larger tracts of land which were found further to the northeast. However, when it came time to construct a laboratory building during World War II, the company required security for the building, and therefore used one of the last remaining open tracts of land near the original campus and administrative area. This required constructing a building across McCoy Creek on the north side of Dewey Street, northwest of the main offices. While the importance of having a unified appearance to the campus is evident in the continued use of cream-colored brick in the c. 1944 laboratory building, or Building No. 42 (photo 02), it is also evident Clark Equipment wanted to project a modern approach to building. They turned to a more streamlined appearance with a very long, horizontal design with ribbon windows of steel sashes and glass block. And instead of the rigidity of pilasters on corners, the building was designed with rounded corners to minimize the edge and have the appearance of motion. Clark Equipment turned from the Renaissance style to Art Moderne with ease.

The American movement of modern architecture had its strongest push after the 1922 architectural design competition for the *Chicago Tribune* building in which the Finnish architect, Eliel Saarinen's modern design came in second to a Gothic Revival design. Saarinen's design popularized the modern movement in the United States which led to the use of the Art Deco and Art Moderne styles. The former was "decorated" with stylized features in the 1920s-1930s and the latter was stripped of decoration and used more aerodynamic lines for walls and roofs from the 1930s-1940s. The proliferation of the styles' use depended on two significant events in American history, the Great Depression of the early 1930s and World War II during the early 1940s. Significant numbers of buildings were constructed in the styles between about 1928 and 1931, then again between about 1935 and 1940. The styles, more so the Moderne style, had a brief resurgence in popularity in post-war America during the mid-to-late 1940s. By the 1950s, the country had turned its attention to more contemporary architectural styles including the International Style.¹⁴ Art Moderne came to symbolize sophistication and imagination, symbolic of Clark's growing corporation.

¹⁴ McAlester, pg. 581

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

“At Clarks” September 1943 Vol. 1 No. 1 (Buchanan: Clark Equipment Company).

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Clark Equipment Company Appraisal Map, 1925 (Coats & Burchard Co. Chicago). Buchanan Library Archives.

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Lysy, Peter, Buchanan District Library Local History Archivist. Private research related to construction of Building No. 42 and Clark’s corporate office relocation in 1974.

McAlester, Virginia. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2006.

Phillips, B. E. *—Plus Faith Unlimited: The Story of Clark Equipment Company*. Clark Equipment publication, 1978.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approx. 8 acres

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Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

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

Beginning on the northeast corner of East Front Street and North Redbud Trail, face north on the east side of North Redbud Trail and follow a line to the south side of East Third Street. Turn east and follow a line on the south side of East Third Street approximately 200 feet to the west side of the north extension of Dewey Street, then turn southeast and follow a line approximately 220 feet with the west side of the north extension of Dewey Street to a line extended southwest from the north boundary of the parcel incorporating the circle drive at the east end of Dewey Street.

Turn northeast and follow a line with the north boundary of aforesaid parcel approximately 360 feet, then turn southeast and follow the east boundary of aforesaid parcel 170 feet until it makes a gradual curve toward the southwest (the west boundary of the former Michigan Central Railroad spur). Follow the gradual curve approximately 350 feet to the north side of East Front Street, then turn west and follow a line approximately 585 feet to the west side of North Redbud Trail, or the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries described above incorporate the extant resources of Clark Equipment Complex's original campus on the northeast corner of Front Street and Redbud Trail near downtown Buchanan. Demolitions and ownership divisions have significantly separated geographically any other extant resources related to Clark Equipment, therefore the decision was made to focus on extant resources at the original campus complex that retain a high degree of integrity. Boundaries follow streets and/or property parcel lines.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kurt West Garner, K W Garner Consulting & Design
organization: City of Buchanan
street & number: 12954 6th Road
city or town: Plymouth state: IN zip code: 46563
e-mail: kwgarner@kwgarner.com
telephone: 574-780-1423
date: June 16, 2022

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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

Name of Property: Clark Equipment Complex Historic District

City or Vicinity: Buchanan

County: Berrien State: Michigan

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed:

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southeast at Building No. 2 from the center of the complex

1 of 26.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northwest at Building No. 42 from the center of the complex

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2 of 26.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest at the guardhouses from the center of the complex

3 of 26.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking west down Dewey Street from near the circle drive at its east end

4 of 26.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking west at Building No. 2 (east façade)

5 of 26.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest at Building No. 2 (east façade)

6 of 26.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking east at south end of Building No. 2

7 of 26.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking north along west façade of Building No. 2

8 of 26.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking north toward guardhouses and Building No. 42

9 of 26.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking north between guardhouses and Building No. 2 along access drive

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Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking north toward the Dewey Street Bridge from McCoy Creek Park

11 of 26.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest at Building No. 42 (east/north facades)

12 of 26.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking east at Building No. 42 (west façade)

13 of 26.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking south at lobby staircase in Building No. 2

14 of 26.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking south in long central corridor in manufacturing area of Building No. 2

15 of 26.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southeast in typical manufacturing bay off of central corridor in Building No. 2

16 of 26.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking south in end bay/manufacturing area in south end of Building No. 2

17 of 26.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest in company board room, second floor of Building No. 2

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Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest in open office area/reception at west end of second floor of Building No. 2

19 of 26.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking west inside of typical administrative office on second floor of Building No. 2

20 of 26.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northeast in tasting room of Building No. 42

21 of 26.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southeast in tasting room of Building No. 42

22 of 26.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking west in short corridor off of tasting room in Building No. 42

23 of 26.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest in one of the large reception rooms in Building No. 42

24 of 26.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northwest in one of the large reception rooms in Building No. 42

25 of 26.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking west in end bay/loading area of Building No. 42

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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.