

**State Historic Preservation Office
Michigan State Housing Development Authority**

**Staff Comments, December 22, 2009
Elimination of 1585 South Livernois Historic District, Rochester Hills**

PA 169 of 1970, as amended, requires a description of the boundaries in writing and on maps (§3(1)(d)(iv)). No maps were included with this report.

Since the house underwent a major remodeling in the Neoclassical style around the time the Eddy's purchased the property in 1936, the report should concentrate on what occurred to the property from that time forward. According to Standard #4 of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, "Most properties change over time; those changes that have acquired historic significance in their own right shall be retained and preserved."

The report should contain more information about Mr. Wayne Eddy. What was his connection to Michigan's early automotive history? Was there a link between his work in the automobile industry and the Allen Cooler and Ventilating Company that he founded? He was able to purchase and remodel this property in the midst of the Great Depression so he must have been fairly successful. Also, what was occurring in Rochester Hills during the time period? Was he involved in community's development? Was it common for people to purchase and redo old farmhouses in this manner or was this unique.

The report states that the house is not a good example of the Neoclassical style because "the front porch columns are not typical of columns used in the style in that they are thin square columns with trim pieces added." However, the description of the Neoclassical style found on page 344 of Virginia and Lee McAlester's *Field Guide to American Houses* states, "After about 1925, very slender, unfluted (often square) columns began to be used, primarily on houses with full-façade porches." This house appears to be a local, vernacular adaptation of the Neoclassical style that is in keeping with trends common to the period when the work was undertaken.

Is there any information on the reasons the house was designated in the first place? If so, it should be included in the report.