

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received NOV 5 1984
date entered DEC 6 1984

1. Name

historic Francis H. Morrison Residence

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 1217 Michigan Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town LaPorte N/A vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county LaPorte code 091

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Eugene R. Moore and Mrs. Georgiana M. Ely

street & number 1360 Normanna Road 248 Western Avenue
Westfield, Mass. 01085

city, town Duluth, MN 55803 N/A vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. LaPorte County Courthouse, Centre Township Assessor

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town LaPorte state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Francis H. and Maren Downing Morrison Residence is unique in that it blends a combination of styles commonly found in the early 1900's but not commonly used together on the same structure. The 2½ story frame house could best be categorized as an eclectic period revival style.

Built in 1904, it is situated in an area that was platted at a 45° angle to a north-south axis so that Michigan Street runs northwest to southeast. The lot extends from Michigan Street all the way through to Monroe Street behind it. Constructed in an irregularly-shaped plan, the building has had only two exterior changes—a two-story sleeping porch was added, probably in the late teens, and the brick porch piers and panels in the center of the balustrades were stuccoed over. The foundation of the house is also of brick; the front and two sides of the foundation were stuccoed when the house was originally built.

The asphalt shingled, hip roof is punctuated on three sides by dormers and topped by a tall, brick chimney which is capped with Bedford stone. The two side dormers are hip dormers with flared eaves, while the front dormer is much more ornate. Taking on the shape of the Palladian window which lights it, this dormer is trimmed with dentils, a molded classical frieze in the center arch crowned by an elaborate keystone, and sidelights flanked by pilasters (Photo #7).

The wide eaves of the roof, which are supported by boxed rafter ends, project over the stuccoed second floor. The stucco area between the windows is framed into panels decorated with curved corner pieces on the front and side facades, which allude to the Tudor Revival style half-timbering (the rear panels of the house do not have the corner pieces). Divided by a wooden sill course, the first floor is contrasted with the second in that the lower floor is sheathed in narrow clapboard with a wooden water table.

Like the variety of styles exhibited by the house, the fenestration includes a variety of window types. The main entrance is a Craftsman style door flanked by sidelights with leaded, colored, art glass (Photo #9). Both the dining room and the living room also have art glass windows (southwest and northwest walls, respectively). The majority of the windows are one-over-one, double-hung with thin, vertical panes along the frame of each upper sash. Double-hung windows light both bays on either side of the front entrance, while the bay window on the second floor has casements divided by quarrels and comes, again suggesting the Tudor Revival style. The oriel window of the southeast facade has decorative art glass panes in its double-hung windows, with framed blind panels below (Photo #4).

In contrast to the main house windows are those of the second story sleeping porch, which was added to the northwest facade probably in the second decade of this century (supposedly designed by the same architect as the house). These double window casements, topped by transoms, are trimmed with Gothic-like tracery (Photo #6). A projecting fascia separates the two floors of the porch, underscoring the narrow clapboards between it and the second story windows. A one-story porch spans the width of the front facade. Supported by large square brick piers which were stuccoed over sometime after the house was built (probably c. 1925), the porch has a classical balustrade and oversized, ornate brackets.

Like the exterior, the interior of the house has had few alterations. In 1954, the music room in the east corner of the first floor was changed to a bedroom. At that time, a closet was added in the room and the second accessway to the main staircase on the south-east side of the house was changed to a bathroom.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1904 **Builder/Architect** Charles Whitney Stevens

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Morrison/Moore Home is a fine example of LaPorte's residential architecture, an unusual blend of early 20th century Period Revival styles, and important to that city's history for several reasons. Not only was it built for Francis Morrison, the grandson of one of LaPorte's early settlers, Ezekiel Morrison, but the Morrison family played a significant role in the area throughout its history. The house is still owned by the same family, the great granddaughters of Ezekiel, and they have kept its original integrity intact with very few alterations. The fact that the house was architect-designed and by a Chicago architect is also significant in a small city like LaPorte, in which the majority of the early residences are generally carpenter-built. The eclecticism of the house is a perfect example of the early 20th century disdain for the excessiveness of the Victorian period which preceded it, and the attempt to look to much earlier styles for inspiration such as Classical, English, and Gothic, in combination with the attempt at simplicity and clean lines of the Craftsman style, all as a result of the Arts and Crafts movement in Britain and then America. It is the only residence in LaPorte to exhibit this unusual combination of stylistic features.

Ezekiel Morrison came to LaPorte in 1834, two years after the county was organized, and by 1841 was on the Board of Trustees of the LaPorte University (dissolved in 1851). He acquired the lot for 1217 Michigan Street in 1848. With James Ridgway (Francis Morrison's maternal grandfather), he organized the First National Bank in 1864, an institution which still figures prominently in LaPorte's commercial enterprises. Ezekiel later served as president and director of the bank.

Ezekiel's son, Henry Don, born in 1844, educated in Racine, Wisconsin, and later married to Mary N. Ridgway, also chose banking as his career. He served as director and vice-president of the First National, one term on the common council, and chairman for the Republican city committee.

Henry and Mary moved into a house at 1213 Michigan Avenue which had been built in 1882. At that time the site of 1217 next door was still natural and uncleared and Henry referred to it as his deer park. The house at 1213 has since been demolished.

Francis Henry Morrison was born in 1866. In 1891 he married Maren Downing, of Nebraska. He served as assistant cashier and later vice-president and director of the same bank as his father and grandfather before him. He was also a member of the Chamber of Commerce and the Elks. His wife was one of the founders of the Matinee Musicale, as well as the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (later served as vice-regent and regent). She also belonged to the Women's Literary Society.

In 1904, Charles Whitney Stevens, from Chicago, was hired to design the house. Very little is known about Mr. Stevens. He was born in Racine, Wisconsin, educated in architecture with the firm of Edbrooke and Burnham in Chicago, began private practice in 1900, and had his office at 1020 Schiller Building in Chicago at the time the house was designed. Mr. Stevens may have been a family friend of the Morrisons because his father and Frank's father were contemporaries, and Henry Don got his education in Racine, Wisconsin, where the Stevens family lived.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name LaPorte East, Ind.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	5	2	3	6	1	2	1	0	4	1	6	0	1	5	9	1	1	0
Zone			Easting						Northing										

B

Zone			Easting						Northing										

C

Zone			Easting						Northing										

D

Zone			Easting						Northing										

E

Zone			Easting						Northing										

F

Zone			Easting						Northing										

G

Zone			Easting						Northing										

H

Zone			Easting						Northing										

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please see continuation sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Karen L. Kiemnec

organization N/A date 9-84

street & number 524 W. Grove Street telephone 219/255-7427
219/284-9798 (office)

city or town Mishawaka state Indiana 46545

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *John T. Clatter*

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 10-18-84

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date 12/6/84

J. Allous Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet Morrison Residence

Item number 7

Page 1

Rich wood detailing, the majority of which is oak, adorns the entire interior of the house. Horizontal beaded paneling rises to a chair rail on the entryway and main hall and to a plate rail in the dining room (Photo #'s 2, 11 and 16). It forms a window seat in the bays of the former music room, the stair landing, and the middle upstairs bedroom (Photo #19). Classically-detailed built-ins of wood add to the decor of the living room and dining room. Bookcases are found on the west and south walls of the living room, while a built-in buffet lines the southwest wall of the dining room. The dining room also has a natural wood beamed ceiling.

Another prominent feature of the house is the use of art glass windows (locations mentioned in exterior description) which contrast with the opaque mottled look of the glass of the pocket doors between the entryway and the living room, as well as the living room and the dining room (Photo #12). Those doors and the rest of the doors throughout the house echo the Art Nouveau-inspired, undulating shape of the tracery of the main entry door.

Further original interior details include the two-way fireplace which opens onto the living room and the first floor of the sunporch (Photo #'s 13 and 14); the Tiffany-inspired dining room lamp; the wall mural in that same room; and the Art Nouveau frieze stencil in the entryway, main hall, staircase, and second floor hall (Photo #'s 17 and 18).

The only other structure on the lot is the garage, also built in 1904, which is a rectangular building with an asphalt shingled, hip roof.

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Continuation sheet Morrison Residence

Item number 8

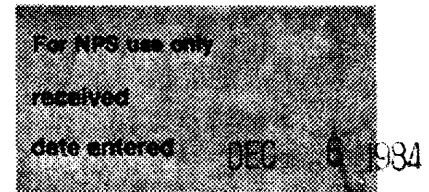
Page 2

The home is currently owned by Mrs. Maren Moore and her sister, Frank and Maren's daughters. According to Mrs. Moore, this is one of three houses designed by Stevens in LaPorte, and it was the first one built. The other two are at 1408 Michigan and 1417 Indiana. The house at 1408 Michigan has the same form (rectangular plan, hip roof with wide end parallel to the street) but its details are much simpler than 1217 and there is not the same blend of several styles. The building on Indiana, on the other hand, was obviously designed later and is a formal, brick Georgian Revival house with details only in that style.

The Morrison house is about four blocks southeast of the LaPorte Downtown National Register district, in a residential area. It is significant, architecturally, as a fine, unaltered, early 20th century Period Revival house which displays a unique blend of styles. This eclecticism is exhibited by the use of Classical, Tudor, and Gothic details which contrast with the Craftsman look of the stuccoed foundation and porch trim. This theme is carried through to the interior where the Gothic and Tudor window tracery contrast with the Classical and Craftsman detail of the wood trim and the Art Nouveau stencil. While there are a few other homes with the same basic form and profile in LaPorte, none exhibit the same profusion of elaborate detail or the eclectic blend of Period Revival styles.

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Continuation sheet Morrison Residence Item number 9 and 10 Page 3

Backus, Edith J., Ed. LaPorte, Indiana, History of First Hundred Years 1832-1932.
Planned by Dr. H. H. Martin.

Chicago Historical Society Library Archives. Family Record of Charles Whitney Stevens.

Daniels, E. D. A Twentieth Century History of Biographical Record of LaPorte, Indiana.
Chicago and New York: Lewis Publishing Company, 1904.

First National Bank and Trust Company of LaPorte 1863-1953. LaPorte, Indiana: 1953.

LaPorte Centennial. LaPorte, Indiana: 1932.

LaPorte Today 1904. LaPorte, Indiana: LaPorte Printing Company, 1904.

Stevens, C. Whitney, Architect. Original Architectural Specifications. Chicago.

Item Number 10

The South Eighty-two (82) feet of the land owned by Mary N. Morrison in her lifetime, being and lying and being a part of the West one-half ($W\frac{1}{2}$) of the Southwest Quarter ($SW\frac{1}{4}$) of Section Thirty-six (36), in Township Thirty-seven (37) North, Range Three (3) West, and the Northwest Quarter ($NW\frac{1}{4}$) of Section One (1), in Township Thirty-six (36) North, Range Three (3) West, which Eighty-two (82) foot parcel is described as follows: Commencing at a point of the East line of Michigan Avenue in the City of LaPorte, which point is Three Hundred and Thirty-two (332) feet, more or less, southerly from where the South line of Osborn Street in said City intersects the East line of Michigan Avenue, (formerly East Main Street), and which point is furthermore the Southwest corner of the parcel of land heretofore and on July 11th, 1902, conveyed to William E. Taylor, as evidenced by a deed duly recorded in Deed Record No. 93, at Page 311, of the records of said County, reference to which is hereby had; thence Southerly on the East line of said Michigan Avenue Eighty-two (82) feet; thence Easterly at right angles, Two Hundred and forty-two (242) feet to the West line of Monroe Street, in said City; thence Northerly on the West line of Monroe Street Eighty-two (82) feet; thence Westerly at right angles Two Hundred and forty-two (242) feet to the place of beginning.