

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1349



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Barker House
other names/site number _____ 091-406-21169

2. Location

street & number 444 Barker Street N/A not for publication
city or town Michigan City N/A vicinity
state Indiana code IN county LaPorte code 091 zip code 46360

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 36CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

J. C. St 10-25-01
Signature of certifying official/Title Indiana Department of Natural Resources Date D-SHP
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other, (explain:) _____

Edson A. Beall Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 12/7/01

Barker House
Name of Property

LaPorte IN
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)
Category of Property (Check only one box)

- private building
- public-local district
- public-State
- public-Federal
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
2	0	objects
7	0	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: Civic

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Shingle Style

19th & 20th c. AMER.: Prairie School

OTHER: American Four

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls WOOD: Shingle

WOOD: Weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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.)

Property is:

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c. 1900

Significant Dates

c. 1900

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3.7 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 509760 4614930
Zone Easting Northing

3 Zone Easting Northing

2 Zone Easting Northing

4 Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Christopher Baas
organization _____ date 08-01-2001
street & number 21116 N. Banbury Road telephone 317/877-7799
city or town Noblesville state IN zip code 46060

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Save the Dunes Conservation Fund
street & number 444 Barker Street telephone 219/879-3564
city or town Michigan City state IN zip code 46360

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications 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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 1

Barker House of Michigan City, LaPorte County, Indiana

The Barker House, constructed in c.1900, is a combination Shingle Style and Arts & Crafts wood structure located on Michigan City's south side. It is eligible for the National Register under Criteria C. The residence, three outbuildings, and a windmill and pump house exhibit the highest level of integrity.

The structures occupy a 4.41 acre wooded property that is bounded on the south by Barker Road, and the north, west, and east by Barker Woods Nature Preserve. Stone columns flank the entry drive.

The house is a two-story rectangular block clad in wood shingles. It sits on slightly raised brick foundation walls that are laid in a stretcher bond. The structure has an asphalt shingle hipped roof with wide boxed eaves, a hipped dormer on the main façade, and three chimneys. The dormer has paired windows with diamond shaped lights. A small frieze board with dentil molding wraps the juncture between the wall and the roof, and a plain sill with a rounded cap molding wraps the juncture between the wall and the foundation.

The house displays double-hung windows that are a variety of sizes, and irregularly placed throughout each façade. Whether single, paired, or in ribbons of three or four, the windows display similar characteristics. The lower story windows have a plain architrave, and a sill and cornice-like top molding that project slightly into the surrounding shingles. The upper story windowsills match the lower, but the tops abut the frieze that caps each wall.

The main, or south, façade is oriented parallel to Barker Road. Its entry porch is centered on the structure and is comprised of concrete steps and a covered concrete landing. The steps have brick sidewalls laid in a stretcher bond with a concrete cap. The landing has shingled sidewalls and a wood cap. Two pilasters with scrolled brackets rest on each shingled sidewall and support the porch's roof. The flat porch roof is comprised of a frieze embellished with dentil molding, and a cornice. A balustrade tops the roof. It is comprised of square end columns that support top and bottom rails, and plain balusters. The porch's ceiling is carboard siding. The front door has a single light over three horizontal panels. It sits between nine-over-nine double-hung sidelights, each over a single panel. Plain pilasters on plain bases border the door and each sidelight.

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Barker House of Michigan City, LaPorte County, Indiana

The main façade's basement has two windows west of the porch, and one east. The lower story has a ribbon of four twelve-over-twelve windows west of the main entry, a single eighteen-over-eighteen window east of the entry, and the porch windows at the east end of the house. The floor-to-ceiling porch windows are a ribbon of four four-over-four lights, each set below fixed two light transoms. A vertical molding separates each of the four windows, and a horizontal molding separates the transom lights from the ribbon. A wide frieze and cornice that wraps around to the house's east façade caps the window. The second-story has a ribbon of twelve-over-twelve windows west of the main entry. A ribbon of three arched windows is centered over the main entry. Each arch is divided into four lights, and they rest on an impost-like wood molding. A six-over-six light window is located east of the entry, and paired six-over-six windows are located over the porch.

The east façade's lower story is a porch that runs the width of the structure, and its distinguishing feature is the ribbons of floor to ceiling windows. While integrated into the structure's main block, it rests on brick piers. A wood lattice covers the space between each pier. The porch has a multi-paned door centered between six-over-six windows. A fixed two light transom is over the door and each side window. A ribbon of four four-over-four windows below fixed two light transoms flank the entrance. The top of the windows and entry door abut a frieze and cornice that runs the length of the wall, and wraps around to the north and south facades. A concrete stairs and landing ascends to the entry. It has brick sidewalls laid in a stretcher bond and a concrete cap. The second-story has three eight-over-eight windows evenly spaced across the length of the wall.

The north façade has the porch at its east end, two chimneys, access to the cellar, and a variety of windows. The lower story has the same ribbon of four porch end windows as the front façade. The lower story also has three square windows with diamond shaped lights, a square one-over-one window, a twelve-over-twelve window, and a door to the kitchen. The upper story has two six-over-six windows, paired six-over-six windows, a small single double-hung window, and a twelve-over-twelve window above the kitchen door. The basement has two windows and a basement entry. Concrete steps access the kitchen, and a wood landing. The landing and steps have plain square posts with wood caps, and plain square rails and balusters. The two chimneys are laid in a stretcher bond, and have plain stacks and stone caps. The easternmost chimney narrows at the second-story and has a stone weathering parallel to the wall. The western most chimney is a plain stack that serves a basement furnace.

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Barker House of Michigan City, LaPorte County, Indiana

The west façade has a chimney and several windows. The lower story has paired twelve-over-twelve windows, and a single twelve-over-twelve window. Paired fifteen light windows flank the chimney. The second-story has a single twelve-over-twelve window, paired twelve light windows next to a small eight light window, and paired eighteen light windows. The basement has four windows. The chimney size narrows in the middle of each story where stone weatherings are located. Its plain stack has a stone cap.

The house's plan is a variation of the American Foursquare whose ground floor plan typically has a living room, dining room, foyer/stairwell, kitchen, and a single story porch. In the example of the Barker House, a second-story is added over the porch, and both stories are incorporated into the main block of the house. The two rooms wide by two rooms deep plan of the four-square becomes three rooms wide by two rooms deep. The Barker House's formal entry is on the long side of the house, and into the living room. However, because of its relationship to the property's driveway, the porch entry probably experienced more use, and its design could be considered even more grand than the front.

The house's ground floor interior has modern carpet over the original wood floor, large metal floor grates, plain baseboards and cornice, and five horizontal panel wood doors. The family and living rooms have false beams. The windows have wood architraves and sills, and shelves are located between the windows and the floor. The living room's north wall has three arched openings with wood casings that have impost-like moldings. The easternmost arch leads to a small foyer and porch door. The central arch is to a raised sitting room and the main staircase. The westernmost arch is a window-like opening to the stair landing. It has a wood sill, and a balustrade encloses the opening's lower half.

The sitting room is raised two steps above the main floor level, and has the stairs, a small fireplace, and paneled walls. The stairs have paneled sidewalls, a paneled closed stringer, and plain square balusters. The upper story has a balustrade with plain square balusters that protects the stairwell. It has a paneled square newel with an urn-like finial.

The dining room has a fireplace flanked by paired windows over built in shelves. The brick fireplace is laid in a stretcher bond, has a segmental arch over the firebox, and a tile hearth. The mantel is a shelf supported by plain brackets. A wainscot and chair rail wraps the walls of the room where there are no shelves. A butler's pantry is located between the kitchen and the dining room, and a servant's stairway runs from the kitchen to the upper story.

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Barker House of Michigan City, LaPorte County, Indiana

The porch has a wood floor, carboard ceiling, and shingle clad walls. The column-like wall sections separating the windows have a baseboard, and a capital-like molding that supports an entablature that wraps its exterior walls. Glass storm doors, with a central horizontal division, cover each set of windows. The interior wall of the porch is clad in shingles, and the windows match the exterior.

The upper story is a collection of bedrooms assembled around a central and two smaller hallways. The bedrooms have been renovated for office use. A stairs accesses an unfinished attic.

The carriage house is a one and a half story wood structure with an asphalt shingle gable roof. In plan it is a rectangle with a small wing projecting off the main block's north façade. The roof is steeply sloped and has a concave flare at the eave. The walls are clad in wood shingles, and a plain frieze and cornice wrap the building. Its main, or west, façade has a central double-door entrance. Each door has thirty light windows over a single large wood panel. The roof has a gabled dormer with a gable end pent, flared sides, and two square windows. The roof's gable ends have pents, and small windows are on the main block. The south facing gable has a door with a multi-paned window over a single panel. The door accommodates hay storage over the ground level, and a pulley is located over the door. The interior has a concrete floor, and wood stairs to the overhead storage. A metal framed windmill with a wood pumphouse is located behind the carriage house, and the remains of a concrete watering trough sits next to the south wall.

The dance studio is a small one-story, cubical wood structure with an asphalt shingle pyramidal hipped roof. It rests on a block foundation. It is clad in clapboard siding, and a wood band with a top molding wraps both the middle and base of the wall. The middle third of the north and south facades project out slightly from the main block. The roof has open eaves with exposed rafters, and the roof extends over the entry and side projections. The only entrance is on the east facade, which is a six light door between two six light sidelights. The sidelights are over single panels. The projections on the north and south facades have a pair of multi-paned windows, and a ribbon of three windows flanks each projection. The bottom of the windows rest on the middle horizontal band. The west facade has a chimney laid in a stretcher bond. The interior has a wood floor and an unfinished ceiling. Wood benches are integrated into each projection, and on each side of the fireplace. The fireplace jambs are panel-like stucco rectangles surrounded by horizontal and vertical brick stretchers. Strategically placed brick headers accent the design. The top of the fireplace has a stone mantel.

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Barker House of Michigan City, LaPorte County, Indiana

The Garage is a small, cubical one-story wood structure with an asphalt shingle hipped roof. It is clad in wood shingles, and a frieze board with a molding wraps the building. The south, or main façade is divided into three bays. The central bay is a multi-paneled wood door with a built in hinged door. A pair of multi-paned windows over four panels flanks the door. Small windows are located throughout the other three facades.

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Barker House of Michigan City, LaPorte County, Indiana

The Barker House is eligible for the National Register for its outstanding architecture. The impressive residence and outbuildings display an intriguing mixture of the Shingle, and Arts and Crafts architectural styles. Its plan is a modified version of the American Four-square house type. The house and outbuildings display a range of detailing and a high degree of integrity. The 1992 LaPorte County Interim Report gave the house an Outstanding rating.

The Barker House (c. 1900) is significant in the context of Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century architecture in Michigan City, Indiana. Michigan City was platted in 1833, and was the terminus for the Michigan Road. It became a city in 1836, and became a leader in manufacturing when the railroad was constructed in the 1850's. By the early Twentieth Century the city had flourished with manufacturing enterprises like the Haskell and Barker Car Company and the Zorn Brewery. The city's financial success was evident in its early century housing stock of Revival Styles, four-squares, and bungalows. Areas around the dunes experienced the construction of palatial estates, and the city's wealth was displayed in the construction of schools, churches, libraries, and post offices.

The house was constructed by Norton and Marjory Barker c.1900. Norton was the son of Wallace C. Barker who was involved in Chicago's steel industry. Following his fathers untimely death he moved to Michigan City and into the care of his uncle John H. Barker, President of Haskell and Barker Car Company. Marjory Clark was born in Orange, California in 1876 and moved to LaPorte in 1887. The two married in 1896. In 1898, Norton purchased forty wooded acres just south of Michigan City, and in c.1900 constructed a two-story Shingle and Arts and Crafts Style house. The couple ultimately divorced with Norton leaving the area, and Marjory living in the house until her death in 1974.

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Barker House of Michigan City, LaPorte County, Indiana

Marjory Barker was well regarded and active in the Michigan City community. During World War I she was director of the Junior Red Cross for Indiana, and later was a member of the Barker Foundation. An avid conservationist, she was a member of the Save the Dunes Council which was instrumental in establishing the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. In 1969, the thirty acres surrounding the house were included in Alton Lindsey's Natural Areas of Indiana and Their Preservation, and which were eventually designated a State Nature Preserve. Following her death, the thirty acres were donated to The Nature Conservancy, and her daughter Margery retained ownership of the house. Upon the daughter's death in 1980, the house was also donated to The Nature Conservancy who transferred the title to the Audubon Society for use as their Midwest headquarters. When the Audubon Society closed their offices, the ownership returned to The Nature Conservancy, and ultimately to the Save the Dunes Conservation Fund. It is presently used as offices for Save the Dunes Conservation Fund, Save the Dunes Council, and the Shirley Heinze Conservation Fund.

The Shingle Style was a relatively uncommon and short lived style. It originated in the wealthy eastern seaside resorts of Newport, Cape Cod, Long Island, and Maine. It was well publicized in architectural magazines to the rest of the country, but never reached a high level of popularity. The style is characterized by walls and roofs clad in wood shingles, free-form facades, steep roofs, extensive porches, classical references, and strips of multi-paned windows. The LaPorte County Interim Report does not identify any existing examples of the style.

The Arts and Crafts movement stressed "honest materials and construction," and encompassed both the Prairie and the Craftsman styles. The Prairie Style was characterized by low-pitched hipped roofs with wide overhanging eaves, an emphasis on horizontal lines, and ribbons of windows. The style originated in Chicago around 1900, but faded by World War I. While Michigan City has a few examples of the Prairie Style, the best examples are John Lloyd Wright's buildings in nearby Long Beach.

Low-pitched roofs with wide and open eaves, decorative beams and brackets, porches with tapered columns, and crafted interior woodwork characterized the Craftsman style. It originated in California around 1900 and spread throughout the country by magazines and pattern books. The style peaked with the Craftsman Bungalow, one story residences typically built by the middle and working classes. They are found throughout the United States, and Michigan City neighborhoods display a variety of carpenter-builder examples.

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Barker House of Michigan City, LaPorte County, Indiana

The American Four-square was a house type that occurred simultaneously with the Arts and Crafts movement. Four-squares were typically cubicle in form with a wide overhanging hipped roof, a hipped dormer, and a one story porch the length of the structure. The type displayed a variety of floor plans, typically with four rooms on each story. Michigan City has a variety of four-square examples constructed from a variety of materials. An excellent example of the style is the nearby Scott House on Joyce Avenue.

The Barker House and its outbuildings display a unique combination of these styles. The Shingle Style is most pronounced through the wall cladding on the residence, carriage house, and garage. It is also evident in the residence's strips of multi-paned windows, arched windows over the main entrance, and classical references. The carriage house is probably the best display of the style with its steep roof, dormer with flared sides, and gable pents. Arts and Crafts details are evident in the residence's low pitched roof, wide eaves, interior woodwork, and ribbons of windows. It is also evident in the garage's low pitched roof with wide eaves, and the dance studio's exposed rafters. The dance studio displays Prairie Style details with its squat form, pyramidal hipped roof, and horizontal banding. American Four-square characteristics are evident in the modified floor plan where a second-story is added over the porch, and both are integrated into the main block. The orientation of the Barker House is turned ninety degrees from the expected orientation for a four-square; and the main entry and dormer are located on the structure's long side.

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Barker House of Michigan City, LaPorte County, Indiana

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Roth, Leland. A Concise History of American Architecture. New York:
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Barker House of Michigan City, LaPorte County, Indiana

Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundary is a ± 3.7 acre box starting on the north boundary of Barker Road 150' east of the intersection of Barker Road and Cleveland Avenue in Michigan City, traveling 400' north, 400' east, 400' south, and closing 400' west.

Boundary Justification

The verbal boundary description is a ± 3.7 acre box within the 4.41 acre Save the Dunes Foundation property. The described box includes the historically significant house, carriage house, windmill and pump house, garage, dance studio, and entry columns. It does not include non-contributing buildings or structures.

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Barker House of Michigan City, LaPorte County, Indiana

Photographs (July 2001)

1. South façade looking north.
2. East façade looking northwest.
3. North façade looking southeast.
4. West façade looking east.
5. Living room wall looking north.
6. Living room wall looking east.
7. Dining room wall looking west.
8. Sitting room looking southwest at stairs.
9. Porch looking south.
10. Upper story hallway looking north.
11. Carriage house looking northeast.
12. Garage looking northeast.
13. Dance studio looking northwest.
14. Dance studio interior looking northeast.
15. View of windmill and pump house looking east.