**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. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

## 1. Name of Property

historic name McGill, Charles S. and Mary, House

other names/site number

## 2. Location

street & number 505 N. Washington Street ☐ not for publication

city or town Valparaiso ☐ vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Porter code 127 zip code 46383

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

**___ national ___ statewide X local**

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Indiana DNR-Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

McGill, Charles S. and Mary, House
Name of Property

Porter County, IN
County and State

## 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- [x] private
- [ ] public - Local
- [ ] public - State
- [ ] public - Federal

**Category of Property**
(Check only **one** box.)

- [x] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

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

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | buildings |
| 0 | 0 | sites |
| 0 | 1 | structures |
| 0 | 0 | objects |
| 1 | 2 | **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.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

## 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19th AND 20th CENTURY REVIVALS:
Tudor Revival

**Materials**
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE
walls: BRICK
STUCCO
roof: ASPHALT
other: BRICK
WOOD, METAL

## Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

### Summary Paragraph

The Charles S. and Mary McGill House, constructed in 1926, is a two-story Tudor Revival house with a somewhat "z"-shaped footprint. It has a gable-front and wing plan with a cross-hipped roof. The walls are clad in brick with areas of ornamental, false half-timbering with stucco infill. Russell Walcott of Chicago, Illinois, (1889-1959) was the architect of the house, and the builder was Byron Smith of Valparaiso, Indiana. The house faces east and is located on North Washington Street, a quiet, tree-lined residential boulevard which adjoins downtown Valparaiso, the county seat of Porter County, Indiana. Nearby are other homes of historic and architectural significance, including the 1906 Dr. David J. Loring Residence and Clinic at 102 N. Washington and the c. 1860 DeForest Skinner Residence at 208 N. Washington. Both are listed on the National Register. The nominated property consists of the Charles S. and Mary McGill House. To the rear of the house is a detached, two-vehicle carport which is without walls on the south and east sides. About 40 feet southwest of the carport and on the western boundary of the McGill property is a one-story, flat-roofed utility shed. The carport and the shed were built around 1950 and are considered non-contributing resources.

## Narrative Description

### Charles S. and Mary McGill House, 1926

#### Exterior

The McGill residence, designed by Chicago architect, Russell Walcott and completed in 1926, is a two-story, Tudor Revival, stucco and brick, solid masonry building topped with a steeply-pitched, composition-shingle, cross-hipped roof. The building rests on a poured concrete foundation on an 82-foot-wide lot and is 45 feet back from the curb.

The area between the house and the curb is a gently sloping grassy lawn crossed by a paved city sidewalk. A brick walkway winds from the street, past some small trees and ground cover, and up to a small brick patio. Like the walkway, the patio is laid in a herringbone pattern. The west edge of the square-shaped patio abuts the east or front façade of the house and its south edge abuts the gable-front wing. On its north and east sides, the patio is bordered by a short, brick privacy wall. Both the patio and wall are original to the house. Two original, copper, exterior lights, one to the north of the main entry and the other at the entrance to the patio, are attached to the house exterior (photo 1).

The detached carport behind the house is accessed from North Washington by a paved driveway that runs just inside the lot's south edge and curves north to the carport's south entrance. The narrow south yard transitions from grass to low bushes as one approaches the western edge of the lot. This western boundary of the lot is irregular and marked with a wooden fence that runs north from the southwest corner of the lot, behind the shed and then jogs to the east to meet the southern edge of the carport's west wall. At the northwest corner of the carport the fence resumes and runs north to the northwest corner of the property. The yard on the north side of the house is also narrow. A paved walkway extends along the length of the north façade of the house, north of which is a border of slim evergreen trees and low bushes. Between 1992 and 2007, a grandson of Charles S. McGill (Charles W. McGill) lived in the house with his family. At that time, areas close to the house were landscaped with trees and bushes which, now grown, obscure portions of the facades. Old photos of the house in the possession of David and Janet Smith, current owners of the Charles S. and Mary McGill House, indicate that Charles and Mary McGill kept landscaping to a minimum, preferring random, low bushes.

The main or east façade of the house is asymmetrical (photo 1). The walls are primarily clad with brick masonry in a running bond pattern, which is used on the other facades as well. A brick gable end with chimney projects forward to the south. Set back on the north half is a full two-story brick and stucco/half timber section.

The gable end is two bays wide and symmetrical in design, having a centered chimney that is flanked by two tall, round-arched windows with diamond-shaped glazing. The windows are original to the house. (Unless otherwise noted, windows in the house are not original but are replacements with interior grilles to resemble muntins. The original blueprints for the house show that the majority of the original windows were eight-light casements with muntins. Exceptions to this will be noted in the narrative. All the windows on facades with brick cladding have brick sills.) The massive chimney tapers as it rises above the steeply-pitched roof and culminates in two chimney pots. The flashing around the chimney, as well as the

house's gutters and downspouts, are original and are made of copper. The three downspouts on the east façade originally were buried and flowed into the common sewer under Washington Street. That drainage arrangement is currently only still true for the downspout at the north of the gable front end. On the south and north ends of the gable front, level with the roof's eaves, are two exposed and beveled beam ends.

The north half of the east façade is set back and is two bays wide (photo 2). It has brick cladding on the first story and false half-timbering with stucco infill on the second story. The main entrance to the house is on the south end and is recessed. On the second story are identical, double casement windows. They are located above the first floor openings, the southern one being framed by diagonally placed half timbers that extend above the eaves in a cross-gable projection. On the first floor below the north window is a semi-hexagonal, one-story bay window (photo 3). The roof above the north half of the east facade is steeply-pitched and finished in composite shingles. This hipped roof, together with the roof of the east-to-west wing of the house, form a cross hipped roof with the juncture centered above and between the two, second-story windows just described. As the roof ridge of the west wing is higher, however, the east end of this ridge is seen atop the east façade, creating an interesting notched projection which resembles a "gablet."

The north façade of the house is asymmetrical and has a hipped roof. The walls are clad with brick. Set back on the east half is a one-story section which is the north wall of the front gable end (photo 4). The two-story west half of the north façade projects forward (photo 5). The east half of the north façade is two bays wide and has only one opening, a double casement window that is off center to the east.

The west half of the north façade is four bays wide and is asymmetrical. A cement walk runs along the length of the west half of the façade adjacent to the base of the wall. Three basement window wells original to the house were situated here according to the blueprints. The first story has four openings placed off center. These are, east to west, a double casement window, a single casement (which the blueprints show had six lights), and a string of three casement windows (which the blueprints show each had six lights). The fourth opening, a small circular opening above the last window mentioned, originally allowed ventilation for the kitchen fan. While the brick framing remains, the opening was sealed off in 1992 with cement. To the west is a side door to the house. The second story of the west half of the north façade has four openings which are, east to west, a double casement window, a two-leaf glass door with hinged sidelights which open to a wrought-iron balcony supported by four wrought-iron brackets, a single casement window and a narrow, horizontal, double casement window (this last one being originally, according to the blueprint, a band of four, four-light casement windows). Not original to the house but probably added around 1950 is a steeply sloping roof that wraps around the northwest corner of the house (about 20 feet on the north façade and about seven feet on the west façade) to provide a sheltered pathway from the side door to the carport. This roof has composite shingles, is attached to the house at the one-story level, and is supported by simple wooden posts that match those of the carport.

The west facade is clad in brick. The north half of the facade is one bay wide, symmetrical, and projects forward (photo 6). The south half is symmetrical and is set back (photo 7). The north half also has a cement walk which is adjacent to the base of the wall and now covers one original basement window well. The first story has one window, a centered, double casement. The second story also has one window, a centered, tripartite casement with a metal awning. The hipped roof above has a centered, flat dormer with a double casement window.

The set-back south half of the west façade is roughly two bays wide and faces a brick patio. The first story has a centered, four-leaf patio door. Each door has ten glass lights above a moulded wood panel. These doors originally opened onto the rear brick patio. Now the opening accesses a screened-in, wood porch which Charles McGill constructed about 1942 (photo 9). The porch has a shake-shingled roof and a side door on the south that opens to the patio. Above the porch on the second story is a centered, tripartite casement window.

The south façade is clad in brick. The west half of the façade is three bays wide, asymmetrical, and set back (photo 8). The east half is three bays wide, also asymmetrical, and projects forward (photo 10). The focal point of the west half of the south façade is another massive chimney, just west of center, which is crowned by four chimney pots that rise just above the roof ridge. On the first story to the west is a two-leaf sliding door installed in 1992 where originally was located, according to the blueprints, a double casement window. Directly above this door on the second story is a tripartite casement window with a metal awning. To the east of the chimney on the first story is a double casement window with an identical opening directly above it on the second story. A small, four-light, single casement window on the first story is the third and last of the original windows left in the house; this window is greatly obscured from sight by the wood porch. Farther east and midway between the first and second stories (to illumine the interior staircase) is a tall, double-casement window, topped with transom lights. A flat dormer on the hipped roof is situated midway between the last two double casement windows described.

The east half of the south façade is the juncture of the two-story core of the house (on a north-south axis) with the gable front wing (which projects to the east). Attached to the two-story unit and facing west is the one-story summer porch, already described. Three double casement windows, each topped by two transom lights, are evenly spaced across the first story of the full length of the east half. The sole opening on the second story is off-center to the west on the two-story elevation, directly above the westernmost double casement window on the first floor. The roof of the front gable end is steeply pitched.

The main entrance to the Charles S. and Mary McGill House is located on the north half of the east façade (photo 11). An archway, topped with a rough-hewn timber lintel, leads to a small alcove which shelters the front door. The floor of the alcove is of irregularly shaped masonry slabs and the alcove walls are of roughly finished stucco with pebble content. The door itself, behind a wooden frame screen door, is rectangular and of batten design with vertical wooden boards. It is embellished on the exterior with medieval-looking, wrought iron hardware: a door latch, two vertical hinge bars, and a horse-head knocker.

**Interior**

The main entrance leads into the front hall (photo 12). On the north side of the hall is a wide doorway into the dining room. On the south side of the hall is another wide doorway into the sunken living room. At the west end of the hall to the south is a stairway that leads to the second floor, and to the north is a narrow hall to a guest lavatory. This lavatory, containing a wide vanity with a two-faucet sink and a toilet (both of which are original), is tucked under the curving staircase and on its south wall is an original window, a small four-light single casement. Two roughly hewn square wooden beams embellish the bathroom's low ceiling, running east to west. Off the narrow hallway on the north side are a door to a coat closet and a door to the kitchen. All the doors on the first and second floors are original and have eight panels. On the south side of the narrow hallway, just east of the lavatory door, is a small built-in telephone nook, original to the house. The front hall has oak flooring, white plaster walls, and two original wrought iron wall sconces with faux candles.

The living room, designed to resemble an English "Great Room," is sunken 18 inches below the level of the first floor and is reached in its northwest corner by a five-foot-wide doorway from the front hall. The room is 32' long by 18' wide and has dark oak flooring, finished with a baseboard and quarter round moulding, and white plaster walls (photo 13). The focal point of the room is the large brick fireplace at the east end. The fireplace opening is 50 inches wide and 38 inches high and the brick hearth is 90 inches wide by 29 inches deep. Flanking the fireplace are two original, arched windows with diamond-shaped glazing. Below each of these arched windows is a replica 17$^{th}$ century chest with drawers. These reproduction pieces, along with a trestle table along the north wall and a hutch in the dining room, were part of the original suite of furniture purchased by the McGills from Marc T. Nielson, a local interior designer, and they have remained with the house. On the west end of the living room, the porch can be accessed by a double-leaved door with matching single door surrounds. These doors are matched by a second, identical set of exterior storm doors. The house is still heated by original radiators, four of which are located below the windows in the living room. These four window openings are all identical double casement windows: three of which are symmetrically set along the south wall and have transom lights above and the fourth window is near the east end of the north wall and is without transom lights. The ceiling in the west section of the living room is 114 inches high and is flat, and the ceiling in the east section of the living room is 198 inches high and is vaulted. The transition between the two ceilings is delineated by an archway of a horizontal wooden beam and two vertical wooden beams. The area above this archway is solidly filled with other vertical beams reaching to the top of the vaulted ceiling. This effect is mirrored at the east end of the vaulted room where other vertical beams fill the wall around the chimney above the two arched windows. Five exposed wooden beams transverse the vaulted ceiling at even intervals. A large circular, wrought-iron, faux candle chandelier hangs from the vaulted ceiling on chains in front of the fireplace. Three of six original wrought-iron wall candle sconces still decorate the walls.

The dining room, rectangular in shape, is accessed from the front hall through a five-foot-wide doorway. It also has dark oak flooring, a baseboard and quarter round moulding, and white plaster walls (photo 14). The semi-hexagonal, one-story bay is centered in the room's east wall. A double casement window is centered on the room's north wall with a radiator beneath. A bronze faux candle chandelier hangs from the eight-foot ceiling. A standard-sized door in the northwest corner of the room leads to a walk-through pantry which retains its original wood counters, drawers, and cupboards, and glass cabinets.

The west wing of the first floor contains the kitchen and family room in an open floor plan (photo 15). Extensive changes to this part of the house were made in 1992 to modernize the kitchen and provide more recreational living space. The walk-through pantry opens into the kitchen which has a sink and counter along the north wall and a work island with stove midroom to the south. South of the work island is a breakfast nook with a double casement window. To separate the kitchen from the family room to the west, a short kitchen counter with storage cupboards below and hanging cabinets

above create a partial barrier. A large two-sided fireplace which opens to both the breakfast nook and the family room is located along the south wall. The original kitchen did not have a work island but a north-south, floor-to-ceiling wall on the kitchen's west side where the pass-through counter now stands. Just beyond the kitchen counter along the north wall is a rear entry door and to its west are the enclosed stairs to the basement. These stairs now hug the north exterior wall and end in the northwest corner of the basement. The original stairs, located on the west side of the kitchen's west wall, ran north to south and began just south of the rear entry door. A storage closet was tucked in the west wall of the breakfast nook. The original kitchen counter and cupboards have been stored since their removal in 1992 in the basement of the McGill house.

The open family room has a sliding door at the west end of the south wall and a double casement window centered on the west wall. This space for a family room originally housed quarters for a servant. A full bathroom with a window was located just west of the breakfast nook on the south wall and just west of that (in the southwest corner of the current family room) was a closet. The bedroom was placed to the north and ran the length of the west wall. Like the kitchen, it had a pine floor.

The second floor is reached by means of the 15-step staircase through an archway from the front hall. The staircase is lit by means of a tall, double casement window on the south wall and by a wrought-iron, drop-pendant light fixture hanging from the ceiling above. The staircase makes a 90 degree turn to the north and opens through an archway into the upstairs sitting room (photo 16). Like the front hall, living room, and dining rooms downstairs, the staircase and main upstairs rooms have dark oak flooring, baseboards, and eight-panel doors. The upstairs rooms also have crown moulding. The sitting room and master bedroom have rough plaster walls. Evenly spaced along the south wall of the sitting room are three archways: the westernmost leads to the curved staircase between the first and second floors, the center overlooks the stairs and has waist-high, vertical, wrought-iron railings, and the easternmost leads to the southeast bedroom via a short hallway. In the southwest corner of the room along the west wall, near the top of the stairs, is a fourth archway that leads into the master bedroom suite. A door in the west wall, in the northwest corner of the sitting room, opens to a staircase to the attic. Centered on the north wall is a two-leaf glass door with hinged sidelights (beyond which is an identical exterior door with hinged sidelights) which open to a wrought-iron balcony. Covering most of the east wall is a continuous, floor-to-ceiling, wood bookcase which is not original. To the south of this bookcase along the east wall is a door to the northeast bedroom. A single-bulb, metal light fixture hangs in the center of the sitting room.

The master bedroom suite is west of the sitting room and it accessed through a curved archway. Beyond the archway is a short hall and on the south side of the short hall is the door to the master bath which has been extensively remodeled. Along the eastern two-thirds of the north wall of the hall are two original, built-in, three-level storage cases. West of them is a closet. At the west end of the hall is the door to the master bedroom. The master bedroom is rectangular (running south/north) and simple in design (photo 17). A tripartite casement window is centered on the south wall, and a similar window opening is off center on the west wall. A short, horizontal, double casement window is centered high on the north wall. An original radiator is located on the south wall. A door leading to a cedar-lined closet is in the northeast corner of the room on the east wall.

The northeast bedroom is roughly square in shape. It has two double casement windows: one off center on the north wall and one centered on the east wall. There is a radiator below the north window. A door in the southwest corner leads to a closet and a door in the southeast corner leads to a shared bathroom.

The southeast bedroom is oblong, running north to south. The bedroom door is in the northwest corner on the north wall. To its east is a storage closet with a door and east of that, in the northeast corner of the room, still on the north wall, is the door to the shared bath. The bedroom has two windows: a tripartite window off center on the west wall and a double casement window off center on the south wall with a radiator below.

Between the northeast and southeast bedrooms, and accessible to each via private doors, is a bathroom which still retains original fixtures (sink, toilet and bath) and black and white floor tiles. Interestingly this bathroom does not show on Walcott's blueprints though it is original to the house.

The attic is accessed by means of a curving staircase from a door in the northwest corner of the sitting room. The stairs open into the western half of the attic (photo 18). Originally the entire attic was unfinished and used for storage. In the 1940s Charles and Mary McGill finished the western half completely with knotty pine as a new bedroom for their son, James. The room has two dormer windows: one on the west end and one near its southeast corner. It has a simple single bulb ceiling light in the hipped ceiling. The room is currently used for storage.

The finished basement of the Charles S. and Mary McGill House contains, west to east, a laundry room, a furnace/boiler room, and a "rec" room. In the northeast corner of the basement is Charles S. McGill's original workroom with his initials carved in the work bench. Next to the workroom in the southeast corner of the finished basement is the McGills' fruit room; notations on the door frame record annual quantities canned in the 1930s. To the south of the fruit room is the entry to the semi-excavated area under the sunken living room.

The two exterior structures on the property of the Charles S. and Mary McGill House are a utility shed and a two-car carport. Both structures are thought to have been built about 1950. The shed is a small, one-story, flat-roofed wooden structure with an entry door and one window facing east (photo 20). The carport is detached from the house (though connected to it by a sheltered walkway). The carport is open on the east and south sides and has wooden walls on the west and north sides (photo 19). The south edge of the carport roof is finished with a wood, latticework fence.

McGill, Charles S. and Mary, House
Name of Property

Porter County, IN
County and State

## 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.
- [x] 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

### Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

### Period of Significance

1926

### Significant Dates

N/A

### Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Walcott, Russell S. – architect

Smith, Byron – builder

Trump, Charles – local architect

### Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance is the year in which the house was constructed.

### Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Charles S. and Mary McGill House meets National Register Criterion C because it is an outstanding example of Tudor Revival residential architecture. Built in 1926, the Charles S. and Mary McGill House is a two-story residence with a dominant front gable wing, massive chimneys, brick and stucco solid masonry wall cladding, and other elements distinctive of the Tudor Revival style. Designed by Russell S. Walcott, a prominent Chicago architect who specialized in the revival style popular in early 20th century domestic architecture, the Charles S. and Mary McGill House is a rare high-style example in Valparaiso and Porter County of Tudor Revival architecture, a style that dominated suburban housing across the United States in the 1920s and 1930s.

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

**Criterion C**

The Charles S. and Mary McGill House, which was rated an outstanding example of Tudor Revival architecture in the *Porter County Interim Report*, compares favorably with other Tudor Revival residences in Valparaiso and Porter County. The *Porter County Interim Report* lists just ten Tudor Revival residences in the county (compared to 36 in La Porte County). Of these ten, only three earn the rating of outstanding. Two of these examples are in Valparaiso, and they are the Charles S. and Mary McGill House at 505 North Washington and a nearby residence at 406 North Washington.

The house at 406 North Washington, c. 1936, is located on the east side of North Washington, one-twentieth of a mile south of the Charles S. and Mary McGill House. A well-maintained two-story residence, the house has red brick wall cladding and an asymmetrical, cross gable plan. The main façade faces west and is four bays wide with windows on both floors. The northernmost bay consists of a gable front that projects forward and has decorative half-timbering above a string of second-floor windows. The windows on the house are tall, narrow, and double-hung with multi-pane glazing. On the first story, cement surrounds for the three windows and the front entry create a quoin-like effect. The four windows on the second story of the west façade are capped with gables, and the window directly above the front entry is embellished with a vergeboard. The house has two massive chimneys, without chimney pots, that rise well above the eaves to about even with the ridge of the steeply pitched roof. One chimney is off center on the west façade and the second chimney is centered on the north façade. The main entry to the house is a recessed, board and batten door. Similarities between this house and the Charles S. and Mary McGill House are the brick wall cladding, massive chimneys, small sheltered entries with board and batten doors, multiple front gables, and strings of multi-paned windows. Both homes are excellent and appealing examples of the Tudor Revival style.

The design that Russell Walcott created for the Charles S. and Mary McGill House in 1925 is a pure and faithful example of the Tudor Revival style. When constructed in 1926, the house included (as it still does today) most of the style's distinctive elements: steeply-pitched roof, front-facing gable, false half-timbering, brick and stucco wall cladding, massive chimneys, semi-hexagonal bay, and multi-pane glazing in casement windows. While a high-style example and constructed of solid masonry, it is more modest in scope than most of Walcott's North Shore designs. And as such, being truly a suburban dwelling, it is arguably a better model of the Tudor Revival residential architecture that dominated American architecture in the early 20th century. The alterations that have been made since the house's construction in 1926 do not affect the significance of the property. The additions of a porch, carport, and shed have neither added to nor detracted from the resource's ability to convey the feeling and association of the Tudor Revival style. The Charles S. and Mary McGill House retains more than enough of its original design to easily convey its architectural significance. An outstanding example of Tudor Revival architecture – a major early 20th-century residential style – and designed by Chicago's leading architect of Tudor Revival homes, the Charles S. and Mary McGill House contributes greatly not only to the architecturally significant Washington Street neighborhood in Valparaiso but also to the architectural record of all of Porter County.

**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (if appropriate)

**Historic Context**

Valparaiso, Indiana, originally known as Portersville, was created by county commissioners in 1836 as the county seat of Porter County. Attractively situated in the middle of the county on the ridge of a moraine which divides the Great Lakes from the Valley of the Kankakee, the pioneer settlement grew slowly but steadily. By 1850, the year of Valparaiso's incorporation as a village, the population had reached 520. Just 15 years later, when the community became a city, the population had increased to roughly 2,300. The town's growth was further accelerated by the arrival in 1852 of the railroad in Porter County. The town's hotels, stores, and other businesses increased in number to cater to the needs of a growing community. Also instrumental to the town's growth was the founding by Methodists in 1859 of the Valparaiso Male and Female College, one of the first coeducational colleges in the United States.

The town's economy in the early years, however, was not broadly based; its manufacturing concerns were modest and few, consisting only of woolen and paper mills. City fathers lamented this lack of substantial industry. In 1905 this situation improved when James H. McGill relocated the Crescent Company to Valparaiso from Chicago. A supplier to the nascent electrical industry, this firm produced such items as lamp bulb guards, card spools, and drop cord adjustors. The Crescent Company, which incorporated in 1910 as the McGill Manufacturing Company, grew steadily in its new location and, about two decades later, Charles S. McGill, son of James H. McGill, joined his father at McGill Manufacturing.

Charles S. McGill was born in Valparaiso on August 28, 1898, the oldest of James and Fanny McGills' five children. His mother was a native of Valparaiso, living at present-day 208 North Washington (a National Register listed property), and daughter of DeForest Skinner, a banker, and his wife, Rachel. Charles S. McGill was also raised on North Washington Street in his parents' Free Classic-style house at 411 North Washington (now razed). After serving in World War I, he returned to Valparaiso and by 1920 had joined his father at McGill Manufacturing. The firm thrived and by 1927 McGill Manufacturing employed about 225 people, had $1,000,000 in capital, and manufactured a broad product line of electrical parts for world-wide distribution. Also during the 1920s, James H. McGill diversified into precision ball and roller bearings and aluminum bronze die castings and founded the McGill Metal Company, a second manufacturing corporation. The McGill family had become one of the major employers in Valparaiso. By mid-decade, Charles S. McGill, who in 1922 had married Mary Crosby, was ready to acquire a home for himself, his wife and their young daughter.

In the 1920s, Valparaiso was a desirable community in which to reside. By now a bedroom community for businessmen working in Chicago, it had a reputation, according to *History of The Lake and Calumet Region of Indiana*, for its "neat attractive homes with well kept lawns, broad main thoroughfares and shady residential streets lined with beautiful trees." In fact, by 1926, most of the major streets in town had been paved and, better still, improved with sidewalks. One of the most appealing streets in this picturesque community was North Washington Street, the address of choice for many of the city's movers and shakers.

Charles and Mary McGill purchased the vacant lot at 505 North Washington, north of and adjacent to the James H. McGill property at 411 North Washington Street. The couple shared a deep fondness for old English architecture and decided to build their new residence in the Tudor Revival style. To design the plans for the new home, they hired prominent Chicago architect, Russell S. Walcott, a specialist in English and French revival residential architecture.

**Architecture Context**

Charles and Mary McGill could not have chosen a better time to build their "old English" home. During the 1920s and 1930s, the Tudor Revival style was extremely popular in domestic architecture across the country. One of several styles that comprised the post-World War I eclectic movement in architecture, Tudor Revival was a leading style for American suburban houses large and small. Highly romantic in appearance, the Tudor Revival style drew its inspiration from various late medieval English architectural traditions. Part of Tudor Revival's singular success as an architectural style was due to an advance in construction technology which was developed in the early 1900s. This advance, the ability to use stone and brick veneers instead of solid masonry, permitted homeowners to have the look of masonry-clad, Old World facades for a fraction of the cost.

Prominent Chicago architect Russell Smith Walcott (1889-1959) prepared the plans for the McGills' Tudor Revival home at 505 North Washington Street. A Chicago native, Walcott was educated at Princeton University and served in the armed forces during World War I. Like other budding architects of the late 19th and early 20th centuries who went abroad, Walcott was probably impressed with the architectural traditions he saw while in Europe. Upon his return to Chicago in 1920, he went to work in the office of his older brother, Chester, also an architect. Chester and his partner, Edwin Clark, designed residential architecture for wealthy clients in Chicago's North Shore suburbs in the early 1920s.Though Russell helped out with some of their projects, he was never really part of the firm, according to Walter T. Stockton, a draftsman at Clark & Walcott.

Russell Walcott established a thriving, independent practice in the 1920s, specializing in the revival styles so popular at that time. Whether the style was Shingle, French Provincial, Colonial Revival, or Tudor Revival, Walcott's designs were balanced, elegant, and showed an appreciation for fine craftsmanship. Despite his mastery of many of the eclectic styles in vogue, Walcott became most noted for his Tudor Revival designs. According to architect Robert Paul Schweikher who worked for Walcott in 1928, Walcott concentrated most on Tudor Revival architecture and had a great natural talent for it. According to Schweikher, "...Walcott took sort of a free swing at it." He also remembered Walcott as "...a remarkable man, lovely man to work for."

Like the firm of Clark and Walcott, Russell Walcott's practice received most of its commissions from well-to-do residents of Chicago who desired spacious homes and estates in the north suburbs. The period between 1890 and 1940 was the era of country house architecture. Country houses were large residences built on spacious grounds where owners could escape city congestion and be at one with nature. The builders of these homes were America's merchant princes, businessmen who were high-living evidence of the American dream come true. According to Clive Aslett, author of *The American Country House*, not all country houses had to be on vast estates. The property on which a county house sat only had to be big enough to create "the illusion of self-sufficient landed life" and "independence from the outside world." By the 1920s, the Chicago suburb of Lake Forest, in particular, was established as a national center for country house architecture. And Tudor Revival was certainly a popular style choice for these homes. Some of the homes which Walcott is known to have built during the 1920s were the David Dangler House in Lake Forest in 1924 (style unknown); the Belden-Congden-Joseph House in Lake Forest in 1925 (French Eclectic); the J.M. Dickinson, Jr. House in Winnetka (Shingle), the A.F. Millet House in Lake Forest (Tudor Revival), the Johnston A. Bowman House in Evanston (French Eclectic) in 1926; and the Charles Glore House in Lake Forest (Tudor Revival) year unknown.

Walcott's work earned him accolades. The acclaimed designer Buckminster Fuller in 1928 referred to Walcott as "...the best of residential designers in Chicago" and was appreciative that Walcott introduced him to the revolutionary philosophy of the Swiss architect, Le Corbusier. According to a biographical sketch on Walcott prepared by Ball State's Architecture Library, a number of his designs appeared in two prominent trade magazines, *American Architect* and *Architectural Record*, between 1923 and 1927.

The original blueprints for 505 North Washington in the possession of David and Janet Smith show that Russell Walcott designed the Charles S. and Mary McGill House in 1925. By that year, Walcott's reputation as an eminent Chicago designer of Tudor Revival architecture was firmly established, and it was probably this reputation which first attracted the attention of the McGills. According to James C. McGill, his parents were lovers of old English architecture, and it is a reasonable deduction to think that both their fondness for Tudor Revival and their financial means led them to Walcott, the best Tudor Revival architect in the Chicago area.

David Smith, the current owner, is the grandson of Byron Smith, hired by the McGills to be general contractor for the home's construction. Charles Trump, an employee of Byron Smith, served as the local architect. Byron Smith's firm, Smith Nuppnau, Company, is now owned by David Smith and named Smith Ready Mix. According to the blueprints, Walcott's business was located at 410 North Michigan Avenue in Chicago.

Russell Walcott retained an active practice in Chicago for several years after his work for the McGills. In 1928 he partnered with Robert Work, a former associate of David Adler, to form the firm of Walcott & Work. In 1936 Walcott moved from Chicago to Tryon, North Carolina, to enjoy an early semi-retirement. He died there in 1959.

Charles S. McGill followed in his father's footsteps at McGill Manufacturing. He became President in 1940 and, in later years, transitioned to Chairman of the Board. Charles and Mary McGill lived at 505 North Washington for the

rest of their lives, creating many happy memories. Friends fondly remember the beautiful parties which the McGills hosted there; James C. McGill recalls the fun of roller skating in the basement as a child and sneaking back into the house by means of the second-floor balcony and downspout after late nights with pals in later years. Mary McGill died in 1989, and Charles in 1990.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

American Revolution Bicentennial Committee of Porter County, *A Biographical History of Porter County, Indiana.* Valparaiso, IN: American Revolution Bicentennial Committee of Porter County, 1976.

Aslet, Clive. The American Country House, New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1990.

Cannon, Thomas, ed. *History of the Lake and Calumet Region of Indiana embracing the Counties of Lake, Porter, and LaPorte: An historical account of its people and its progress from the earliest times to the present.* Indianapolis, IN: Historians Association, 1927.

Coventry, Kim, Daniel Meyer and Arthur H. Miller. *Classic Country Estates of Lake Forest: Architecture and Landscape Design.* New York, NY: W.W. Norton and Company, Inc., 2003.

Griffith, Clay. "Mill Farm Inn" National Register Nomination, 2009, Office of Archives and History, Department of Cultural Resources, North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh.

Hewitt, Mark Alan. *The Architect and the American Country House, 1890-1940.*New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1990.

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency website, http://www.state.il.us/hpa/PS/haargishi.htm

"Interview with Robert P. Schweikher" (rev. ed.) Chicago Architects Oral History Project. The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL.
"Interview with Walter T. Stockton" (rev. ed.) Chicago Architects Oral History Project. The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL.

Johnson, Tracey. "C.S. McGill Dead at 91." *The Vidette-Messenger*, March 15, 1990.

Lance, Loretta. "Buckminster Fuller: Dialogue with Modernism," *Part: Journal of CUNY PhD Program in Art History*, Part 7. http://www.web.gc.cuny.edu/dept/arthi/part/part7/about_statement.html

*LaPorte County Interim Report*, Indianapolis, IN: Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, 1989.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses.* New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1992.

Moore, Abby. "Eclectic Revivals" Chap. 5 in *The Houses We Live In: An Identification Guide to the History and Style of American Domestic Architecture.* Edited by Jeffery Howe. San Diego, CA: Thunder Bay Press. 2002.

Page, Eleanor. "A 'Sooper Dooper' English Tudor's Right Scene for Allendale." *Chicago Tribune*, March 7, 1968.

Personal conversations with David and Janet Smith, September 27, 2010, and January 1, 2011.

Personal conversations with James C. McGill, December 10, 2010, and February 21, 2011.

Personal conversation with Mary Babcock, December 8, 2010.

*Porter County Interim Report.* Indianapolis, IN: Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, 1991.

McGill, Charles S. and Mary, House
Name of Property

Porter County, IN
County and State

Somer, Robin Langley. *American Architecture: An Illustrated History*. New York, NY: Crescent Books, 1996.

Trowbridge & Beals Collection, Drawings and Document Archive, Ball State University Architecture Library, Muncie, IN.

Valparaiso University website, http://www.valpo.edu

*The Vidette-Messenger*. "Industries of Center Township." Aug. 18, 1936.

**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
__x__Other
Name of repository: **David and Janet Smith**

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 127-642-32050

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** Less than one acre
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 16 | 494892 | 4591224 | 3 | | | |
| 2 | | | | 4 | | | |

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

Parcel Number: 64-09-24-160-010.000-004

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This is a city lot which retains its original lines.

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cobie Ball

organization Partners in Preservation date May 16, 2011

street & number 717 Brandonbury Dr. telephone 219/477-2521

city or town Valparaiso state IN zip code 46383

e-mail cobieball@gmail.com

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

## Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: McGill,Charles. S. and Mary, House

City or Vicinity: Valparaiso

County: Porter State: Indiana

Photographer: Cobie Ball

Date Photographed: Jan. 1, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: East facade, #1

1 of 20.

Name of Property: McGill, Charles S. and Mary, House

City or Vicinity: Valparaiso

County: Porter State: Indiana
Photographer: Cobie Ball

Date Photographed: Jan. 1, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: North half of the east facade, #2

2 of 20.

Name of Property: McGill, Charles S. and Mary, House

City or Vicinity: Valparaiso

County: Porter State: Indiana

Photographer: Cobie Ball

Date Photographed: Jan. 1, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Bay on north half of east facade, #3

3 of 20.

Name of Property: McGill, Charles S. and Mary, House

City or Vicinity: Valparaiso

County: Porter State: Indiana

Photographer: Cobie Ball

Date Photographed: Jan. 1, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: East half of north facade, #4

4 of 20.

Name of Property: McGill, Charles S. and Mary, House

City or Vicinity: Valparaiso

County: Porter State: Indiana

Photographer: Cobie Ball

Date Photographed: Jan. 1, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: West half of north facade, #5

5 of 20.

Name of Property: McGill, Charles S. and Mary, House

City or Vicinity: Valparaiso

County: Porter State: Indiana
Photographer: Cobie Ball

Date Photographed: Jan. 1, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: North half of west facade, #6

6 of 20.

Name of Property: McGill, Charles S. and Mary, House

City or Vicinity: Valparaiso

County: Porter State: Indiana

Photographer: Cobie Ball

Date Photographed: Jan. 1, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: South half of west facade, #7
7 of 20.

Name of Property: McGill, Charles S. and Mary, House

City or Vicinity: Valparaiso

County: Porter State: Indiana

Photographer: Cobie Ball

Date Photographed: Jan. 1, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: West half of south facade, #8

8 of 20.

Name of Property: McGill, Charles S. and Mary, House

City or Vicinity: Valparaiso

County: Porter State: Indiana

Photographer: Cobie Ball

Date Photographed: Jan. 1, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: South side of porch, #9

9 of 20.

Name of Property: McGill, Charles S. and Mary, House

City or Vicinity: Valparaiso

County: Porter State: Indiana

Photographer: Cobie Ball

Date Photographed: Jan. 1, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: East half of south facade, #10

10 of 20.

Name of Property: McGill, Charles S. and Mary, House

City or Vicinity: Valparaiso

County: Porter State: Indiana

Photographer: Cobie Ball

Date Photographed: Jan. 1, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Main entry, #11

11 of 20.

Name of Property: McGill, Charles S. and Mary, House

City or Vicinity: Valparaiso

County: Porter State: Indiana

Photographer: Cobie Ball

Date Photographed: Jan. 1, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Front hall, #12

12 of 20.

Name of Property: McGill, Charles S. and Mary, House

City or Vicinity: Valparaiso

County: Porter State: Indiana

Photographer: Cobie Ball

Date Photographed: Jan. 1, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Living room, #13

13 of 20.

Name of Property: McGill, Charles S. and Mary, House

City or Vicinity: Valparaiso

County: Porter State: Indiana

Photographer: Cobie Ball

Date Photographed: Jan. 1, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Dining room, #14

14 of 20.

Name of Property: McGill, Charles S. and Mary, House

City or Vicinity: Valparaiso

County: Porter State: Indiana

Photographer: Cobie Ball

Date Photographed: Jan. 1, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Kitchen with family room beyond, #15

15 of 20.

Name of Property: McGill, Charles S. and Mary, House

City or Vicinity: Valparaiso

County: Porter State: Indiana

Photographer: Cobie Ball

Date Photographed: April 23, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Sitting room, #16

16 of 20.

Name of Property: McGill, Charles S. and Mary, House

City or Vicinity: Valparaiso

County: Porter State: Indiana
Photographer: Cobie Ball

Date Photographed: April 23, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Master bedroom, #17

17 of 20.

Name of Property: McGill, Charles S. and Mary, House

City or Vicinity: Valparaiso

County: Porter State: Indiana

Photographer: Cobie Ball

Date Photographed: April 23, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Finished attic, #18

18 of 20.

Name of Property: McGill, Charles S. and Mary, House

City or Vicinity: Valparaiso

County: Porter State: Indiana

Photographer: Cobie Ball

Date Photographed: Jan. 1, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: South side of carport, #19

19 of 20.

Name of Property: McGill, Charles S. and Mary, House

City or Vicinity: Valparaiso

County: Porter State: Indiana

Photographer: Cobie Ball

Date Photographed: Jan. 1, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: East side of shed, #20

20 of 20.

**Property Owner:**

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

name David and Janet Smith

street & number 505 N. Washington St. telephone 219-464-9945

city or town Valparaiso, IN state IN zip code 46383

McGill, Charles S. and Mary, House
Name of Property

Porter County, IN
County and State

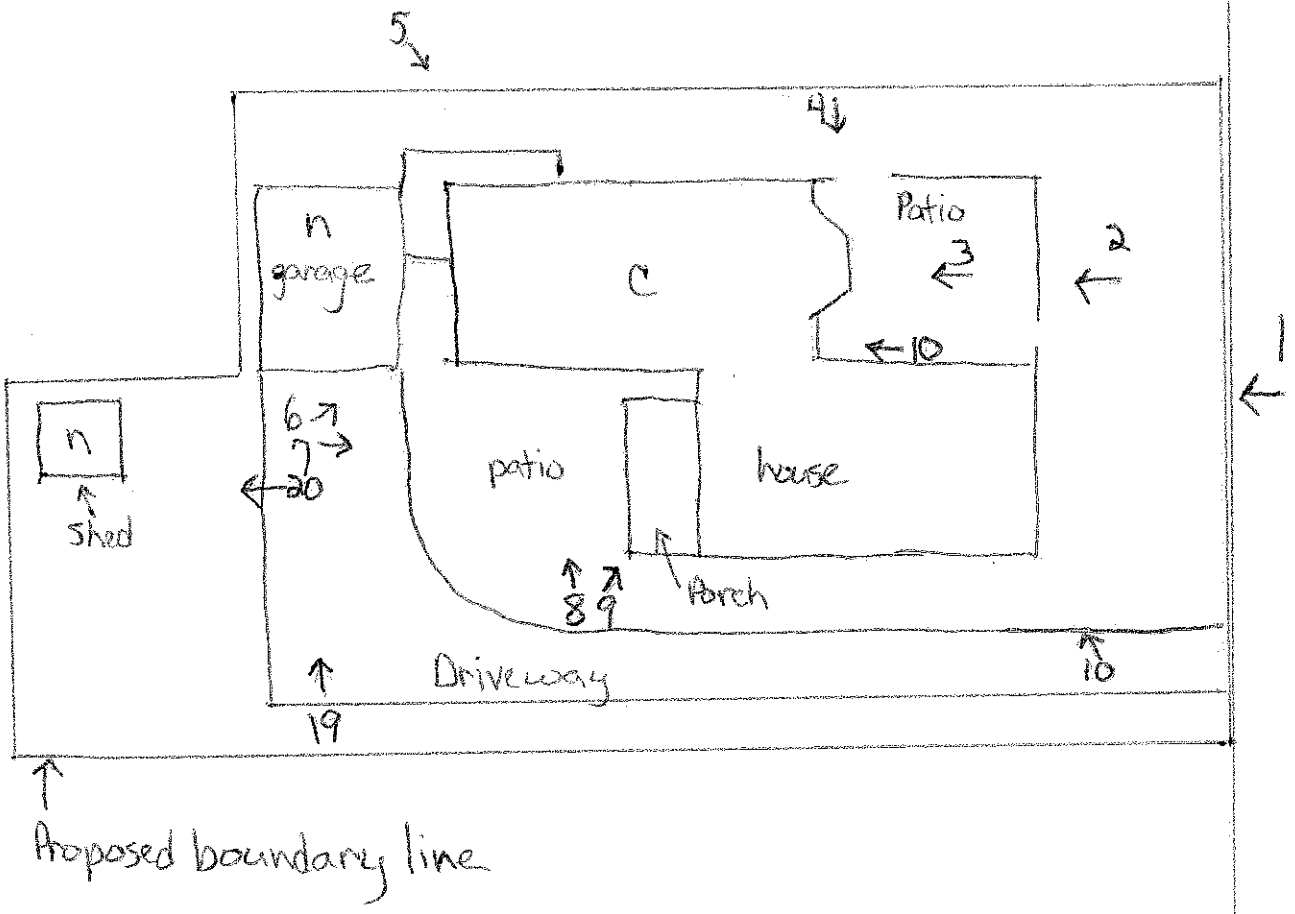
**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
**Estimated Burden Statement**: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Charles S. McGill House, 505 N. Washington
Valparaiso, Porter Co., IN

1/2011 Exterior photos only on this plan

Not to scale

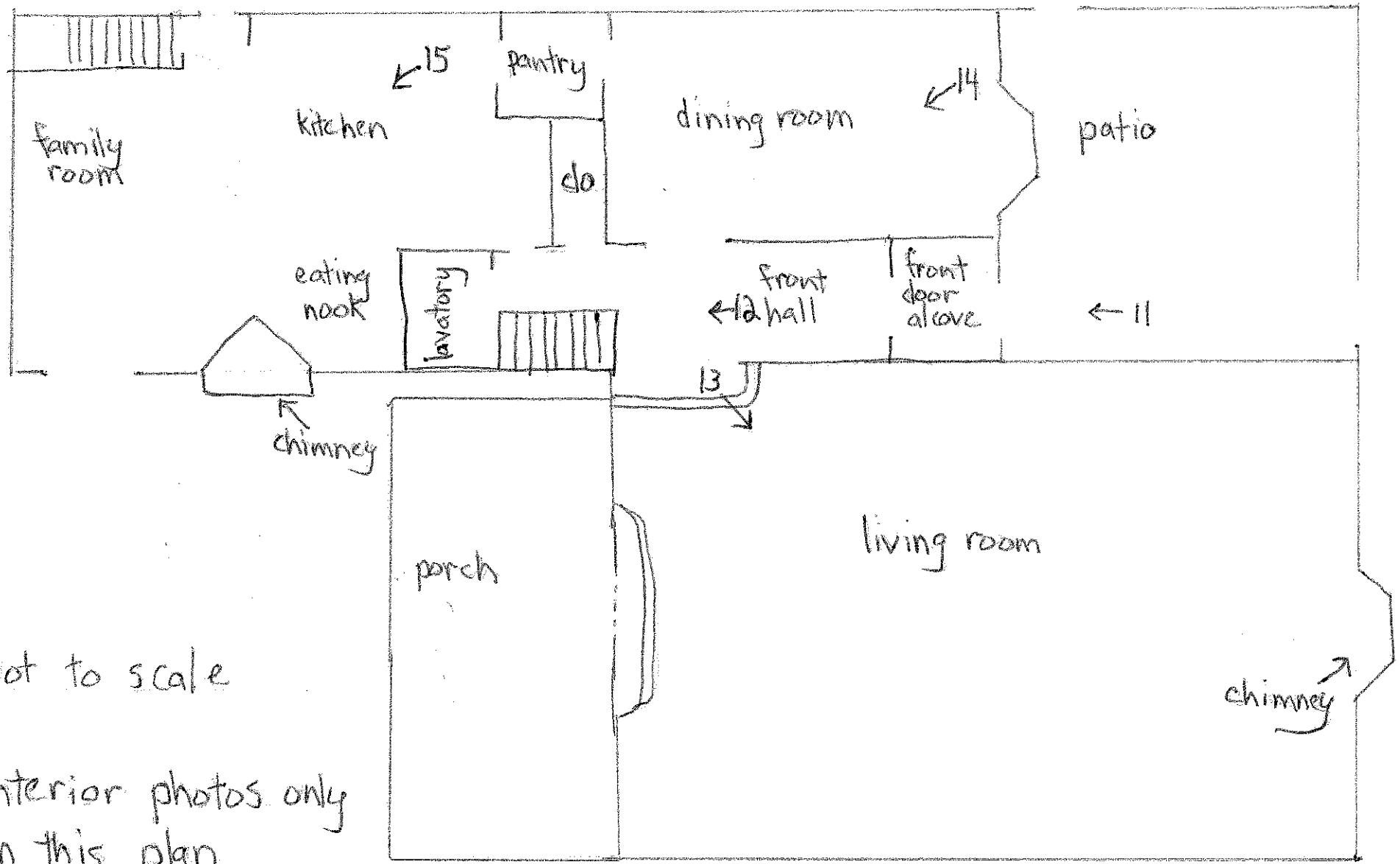
c = contributing
n = noncontributing



N

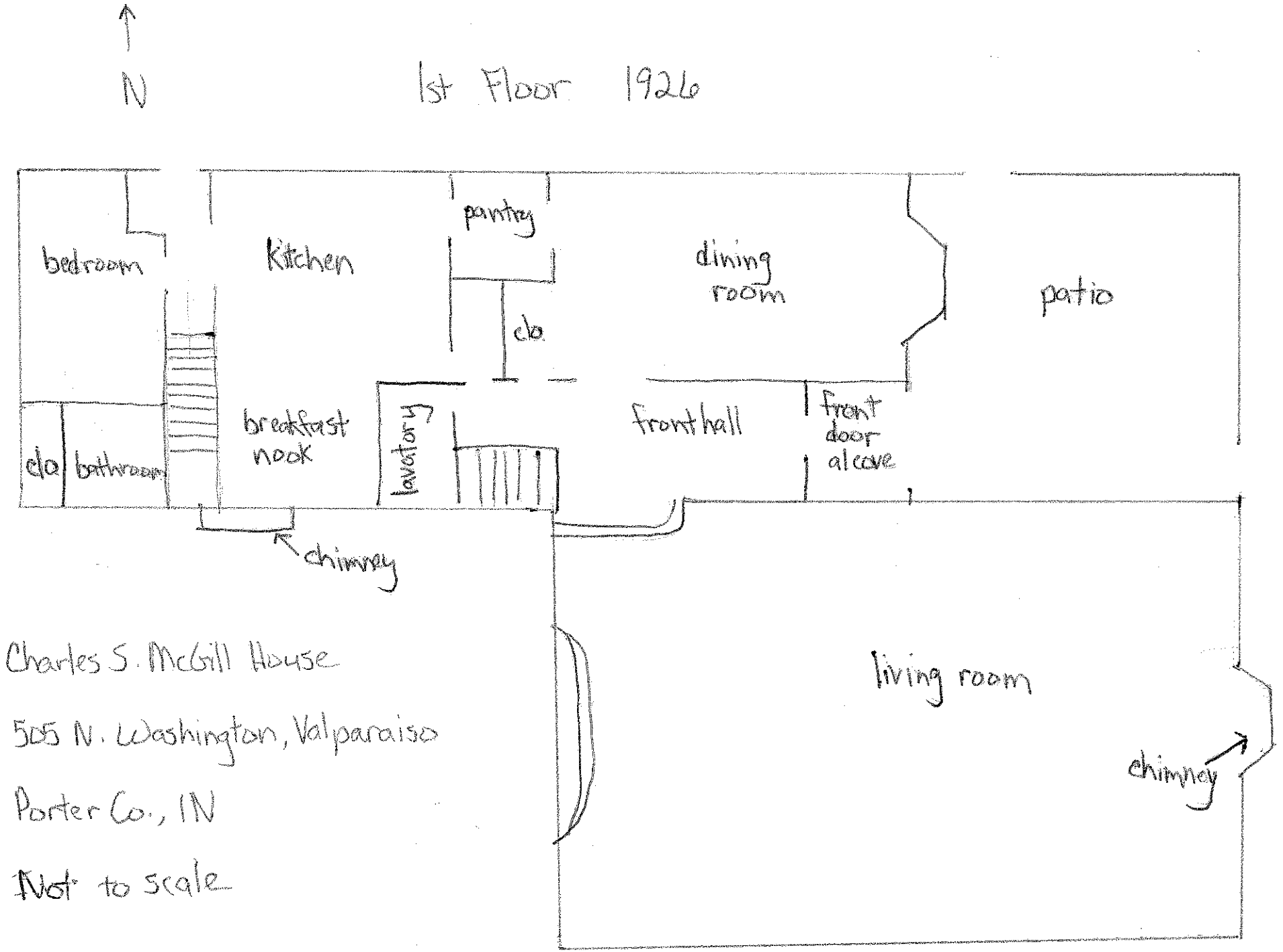
1st Floor 2011

Charles S. McGill House
505 N. Washington, Valparaiso
Porter Co., IN




Not to scale

Interior photos only on this plan

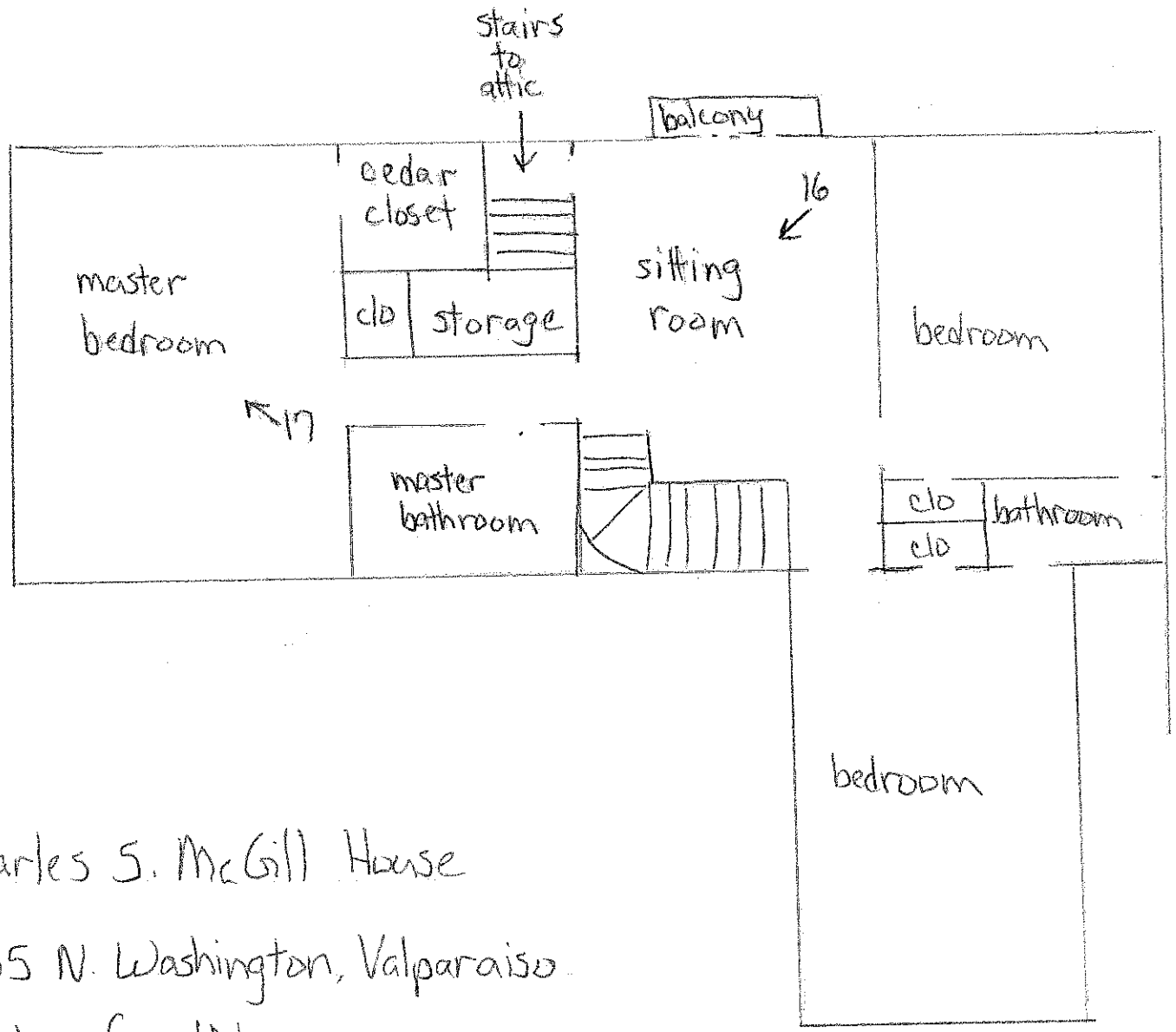



Charles S. McGill House

505 N. Washington, Valparaiso

Porter Co., IN

Not to scale




Charles S. McGill House

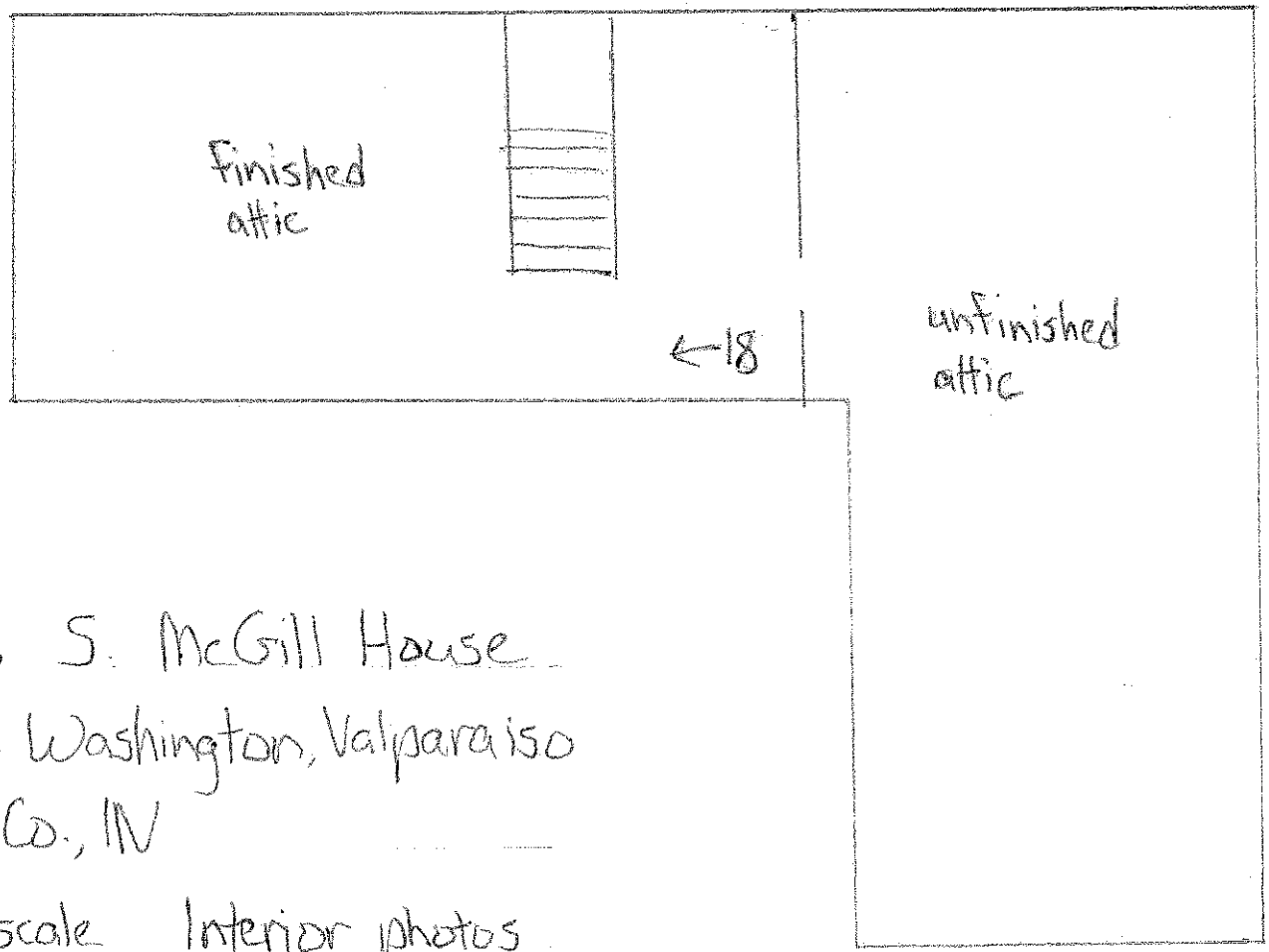
505 N. Washington, Valparaiso

Porter Co., IN

Not to scale  Interior photos only on this plan  2nd Floor

N

# Attic




Charles S. McGill House

505 N. Washington, Valparaiso

Porter Co., IN

Not to scale

Interior photos only on this plan

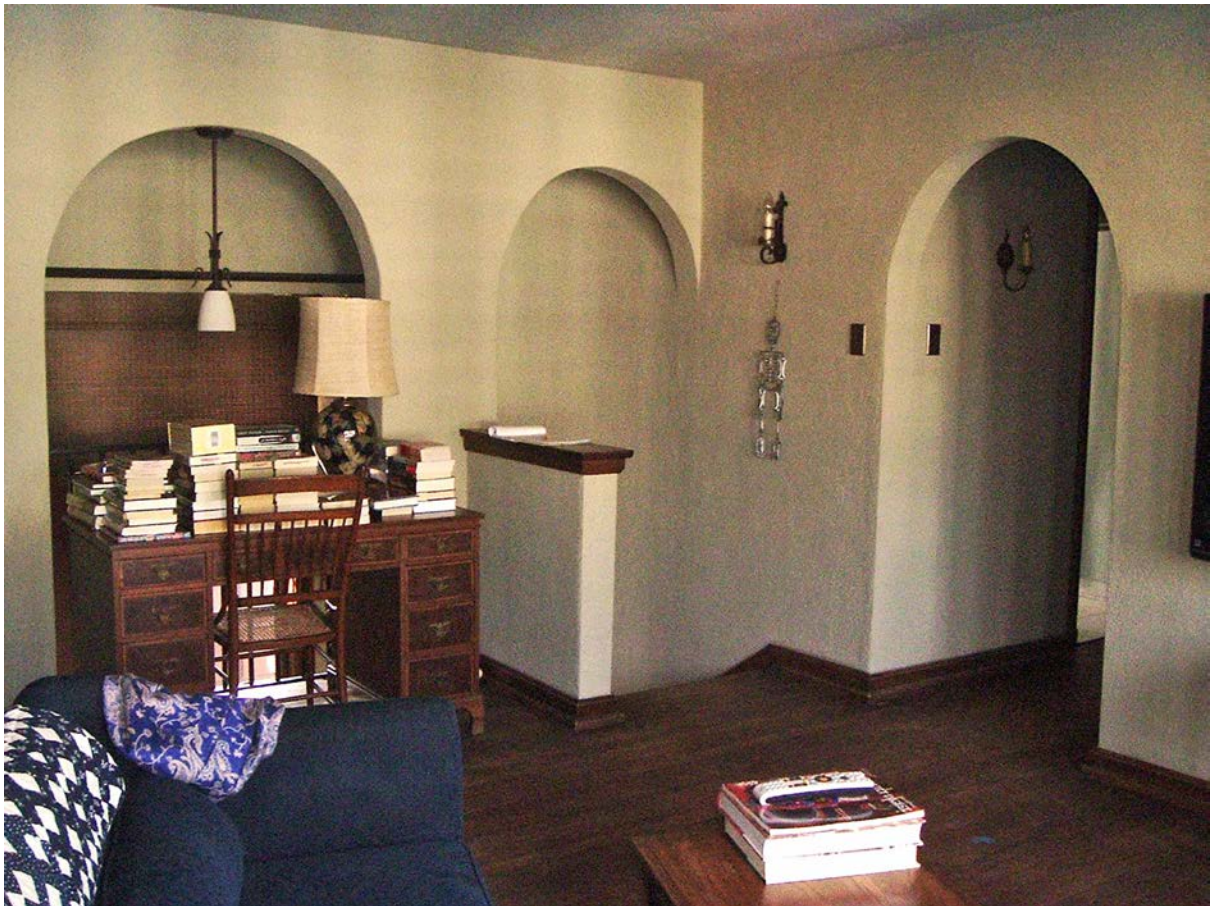
Charles S. and Mary McGill House, Porter Co., IN #001

Charles S. and Mary McGill House, Porter Co., IN #004

Charles S. and Mary McGill House, Porter Co., IN #005

Charles S. and Mary McGill House, Porter Co., IN #008

Charles S. and Mary McGill House, Porter Co., IN #013



Charles S. and Mary McGill House, Porter Co., IN #016