

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: George and Beth Anderson House

Other names/site number: 32CS02044

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 1458 S River Rd

City or town: Fargo State: ND County: Cass

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

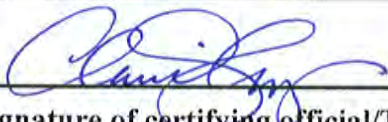
I hereby certify that this x nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

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 x statewide ___ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

x A ___ B x C ___ D

 _____ Signature of certifying official/Title: <u>NDSHPO</u> _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	<u>5-2-2017</u> _____ Date
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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

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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

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	_____	Total

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

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Modern Movement: Wrightian

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: brick, rubber membrane roof

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The George and Beth Anderson House, constructed in 1958-59, is a bi-level, brick, Wrightian style house, designed by Elizabeth Wright Ingraham and her husband, Gordon Ingraham of Colorado Springs, CO. Situated on a 75x300 feet deep wooded river lot in the middle-class Belmont Park neighborhood, it is the last remaining of the three homes they designed for Fargo/Moorhead clients.

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Narrative Description

The house is “L” shaped with bi-level overhanging flat roofs, which cantilever out in several areas. The concrete foundation on the street (southwest) side of the home gives rise to horizontal, light red smooth Norman brick courses, rising to clerestory windows running across the entry level, bedroom wing of the house. The Norman brick, with the horizontal joints throughout raked to ¼” depth and the vertical joints flush, accentuates the horizontal appearance of the home. Extensive use of large windows across the back of the house provides access to a large deck and patio area and expansive views of the river. The exterior view of the house from the northwest is of a 76 foot long solid brick wall topped again by clerestory windows, belying the compact nature of the 1800 square foot interior of the house. The front entry is a step up from the sidewalk which runs alongside the attached garage.

To the right of the stone tiled entry level foyer is the carpeted bedroom wing. Ahead and to the left, up four steps, is the carpeted dining room/living room level, with the kitchen just off to the right of the dining area. The low ceiling in the foyer opens vertically to the dining room/living room area on the upper level, the far end of which comes to a point, not unlike the prow of a ship, overlooking the wooded lot. A two-sided fireplace juts out into the far end of the room. A glassed-in stone tiled porch acts as a gateway from the dining room/living room area to the outside deck and patio. Off the foyer there is a ½ bath and an exterior door. Steps down from the foyer lead to the lower level carpeted bedroom suite, which includes a two-sided fireplace, and utility area below the dining room/living room. The lower level, ending in a point mirroring the upper level, opens through double doors to a concrete pad below the deck, and originally out to the wooded lot. The interior of the perimeter walls are the same exposed horizontal bricks as seen on the exterior. Interior partition walls are either painted or veneered in horizontal Weldwood prefinished 3/8” plywood (mahogany finish) paneling with redwood trim. Storage closets in all areas of the house are built-in custom millwork of mahogany finish 7/8” plywood and redwood trim.

The house is in excellent condition, with original masonry walls and woodwork throughout, but with updated kitchen, bathrooms, bedrooms, and exterior deck and patio areas. From the street and the back of the house, it looks nearly identical to its original appearance in 1959.

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Entrance area showing Wrightian details, taken July 13, 2008.



Looking northwest with the plantings in bloom, taken June 14, 2008.

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Patio area on the east side with southern exposure, taken May 27, 2006.

Alterations to the House-

There have been no significant alterations to the house. The exterior is essentially unchanged from its original appearance in 1959 except for updating of paint colors. Remodeling of interior spaces was done in keeping with the integrity of the original Wrightian design. In 2003, giving her blessing to the kitchen remodeling project in the house, Elizabeth Wright Ingraham said, "Houses are breathing things. You have to keep maintaining them or they grow stale."¹

1970s-Screens removed from porch and replaced with double pane glass

1985-Central air conditioning added, oil-burning furnace removed.

1987-Exterior and interior "storm windows" installed.

1995-Wall between 2 small bedrooms removed, converted to a den, with original wood cabinets and closets retained.

1997- Downstairs remodeled to create a second bedroom, new bathroom and remodeled laundry and furnace room.

¹ Elizabeth Wright Ingraham. "The Wright Stuff." From House to Home[Fargo]. Aug./Sept. 2003:22.

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1999- Sidewalk on north side of house removed. Clay brought in to tie into flood protection to the north.

2001-Walk-out basement blocked off with cedar wall and clay fill on the river side for flood protection.

2001-Tar and gravel roof removed, insulation added to roof deck and rubber membrane roof installed.

2002-Wooden deck off porch removed and replaced. Low railing designed with Wright's aesthetic of emphasizing the natural beauty of the setting.

2003-Kitchen remodeled in a way to take better advantage of the expansive views of the backyard and river afforded by the original windows.

2004-Master bedroom and bathroom remodeled. New front and side exterior doors with art glass inserts installed, replacing solid wood doors, allowing more natural light into the foyer.

2005-Concrete patio installed. Artisan-designed metal screening fence installed. Extensive plantings.

2012-Flood levee with gabions installed. Extensive plantings along levee.



Flood levee and plantings done in 2012, taken June 25, 2012.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1959

Significant Dates

1959

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Elizabeth Wright Ingraham

Gordon Ingraham

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

The significance of the George and Beth Anderson House derives from its distinct architectural qualities and the close association of its architects, Elizabeth Wright Ingraham and her husband Gordon Ingraham, to Frank Lloyd Wright, perhaps America's most famous architect. Elizabeth was his granddaughter, and Gordon was a former Taliesin apprentice. This house is the last remaining Wrightian home in the area, and one of only two in the state of North Dakota. The other, the Thompson House of Bismarck, was designed by Allen Lape Davison of Taliesin Associated Architects and completed in 1964.

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

Frank Lloyd Wright is considered by many to be the greatest architect of the 20th century. His buildings, commercial and residential, are viewed today as artistic treasures. The Organic Architecture theory he originated guided his work throughout his life. Among his most famous works are the Unity Temple (Chicago Ill 1906), the Frederick Robie House (Chicago Ill 1909), Taliesin (Spring Green WI 1911), the Imperial Hotel (Tokyo Japan 1915-1968), the Johnson Wax Building (Racine WI 1936), Fallingwater (Mill Run PA 1936), the Pope-Leighy House (Woodlawn VA 1940), the Guggenheim Museum (New York NY 1956).

In 1936, observing the changes in American families, Wright developed what he called Usonian houses, a term he used to describe buildings uniquely suitable to life in the United States. Smaller than his earlier Prairie Style homes, they were designed to be more affordable, with common themes that could be adapted to different sites and different clients. Typically built on inexpensive land far from crowded urban centers, they were usually single-story, flat-roofed structures with cantilevered overhangs, clerestory windows, radiant-floor heating, and included a carport (a term coined by Wright). They were often L-shaped, fitting around a garden patio.

After his picture was on the cover of Time Magazine on January 17, 1938, Wright found his business exploding. In 1940, the Museum of Modern Art in New York devoted the entire museum to Wright's work, including a full-size Usonian house built in the courtyard. The huge model for Broadacre City, his famous vision for Usonia, was also on display. At age 73, Frank Lloyd Wright, already a famous architect, was finally a commercial success. The Taliesin Fellowship he created in 1932 developed his designs into real homes, and his influence on future generations of architecture was assured. After WWII, with the trend toward larger homes, basic Usonian principles were adapted to fit the needs of the clients and the building sites, and these principles are considered to be the inspiration for ranch-style homes popular in the 1950s.

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George and Beth Anderson contacted Frank Lloyd Wright in 1955 about designing a house for them on a river lot they owned just one mile from downtown Fargo, ND. Wright told them he had perhaps 10 years of life left and 20 years of commissioned work ahead of him. He recommended his granddaughter Elizabeth Wright Ingraham and her husband Gordon Ingraham for the commission. Based out of Colorado Springs, CO, the Ingrahams designed two guest houses and 35 homes in 22 years together with their early work reflecting the forms of Usonian and Prairie Style houses that Wright designed at mid-century. Of those 35 homes, there were three on wooded lots backing to the Red River of the North: the Anderson house in Fargo and two in Moorhead, MN. The Anderson House is the only house designed by Ingraham and Ingraham in North Dakota, and the only one remaining in the area, as the two Moorhead homes were demolished due to flood damage.

In an interview in 1996, Elizabeth Wright Ingraham described the Anderson House as “derivative of Wright’s style. We used many of the forms Wright used.”² The home manifests many signature design themes of Frank Lloyd Wright: the very horizontal lines of the brickwork and flat-roof overhangs, the mysterious privacy evoked by the clerestory windows on three sides of the house, the use of natural light from those windows and skylights, the contrasting openness to the back of the house through extensive windows, and the custom built-in millwork cabinets, closets and storage areas. As with all “Wrightian” homes, this home was designed specifically to fit in with the naturally wooded river lot where it was constructed. Built into the elevated river bank, it was sited to take advantage of views and sun angles, with structural allowances for the unstable soils in the Red River Valley. Since Frank Lloyd Wright recommended the Ingrahams to the Andersons, it is quite likely that the Ingrahams consulted with him on the design of the home. Many of the original finishes in the house, bathroom fixtures, kitchen counter coverings, 6x6 red clay tile, and 8x8 cork tile flooring, were identical to those used in Wright’s Kentuck Knob house in Pennsylvania, constructed about the same time.

The Ingrahams closed their practice in 1971 and divorced in 1974. The body of their work together in the 1950s and 60s was primarily derivative of Frank Lloyd Wright’s forms. Gordon maintained a passion for Frank Lloyd Wright’s teachings, especially his Usonian house concept, during his career. Elizabeth was more influenced by Mies van der Rohe, with whom she studied at the Armour Institute (now the Illinois Institute of Technology), and by others who designed in the International Style. After their firm closed, Gordon worked as a draftsman in a series of architectural offices. Later in life he turned to drawing, and died in 1991. Like Gordon, Elizabeth backed away from architecture after their partnership dissolved, focusing instead on the Wright-Ingraham Institute that she founded in 1970 “with a mission of environmental sustainability and responsible land use. The institute operated programs in education and public policy, including field research, conferences, and classes.”³ She did not return to architectural design until 1983, when she opened her own firm, Elizabeth Wright Ingraham and Associates, in Colorado Springs. Her later work reflected a departure from her grandfather’s principles and a coming fruition of her own architectural ideas. Her notable later works include the Vista Grande Community

² Elizabeth Wright Ingraham. “The Wright Houses.” The Forum[Fargo]. 14 Jan. 1996:C10.

³ Elaine Freed. Modern At Mid-Century-The Early Fifties Houses of Ingraham and Ingraham. Colorado Springs Colorado: The Hubert Center Press 2003:68.

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Church (1985) in Colorado Springs, “La Casa” residence (1995) in Pueblo West, CO, “Solaz” residence (1997, featured in the Feb. 2001 Architectural Record) in Manitou Springs, CO, and the Fountain Branch of Pike’s Peak Library(2006). She taught at the University of Colorado Architecture School and was appointed to the State Board of Examiners of Architects. She founded Crossroads, an international exchange program, and co-founded the Women’s Forum in Colorado. She was named to the Colorado Women’s Hall of Fame in 2014.

The severe flooding of the Red River in 1997, 2009, 2010, 2011 caused little damage to the house, but precipitated improved protection in the form of a natural clay dike and rock-filled gabion structure across the back of the house. Exterior sump holes on either side of the house are designed to relieve any hydrostatic pressure on the foundation. The house is now protected to a level above the FEMA 100 year flood plain. Extensive plantings have enhanced the appearance of the dike, making it an extension of the backyard outdoor living area and the indoor-outdoor experience the home provides.

Owners

The house has had just three owners: George and Beth Anderson, Ralph and Melva Ivers, and John and Sherri Stern.

George Anderson was a notable Fargo businessman, President of American Life and Casualty of Fargo ND. He was very involved in civic affairs, including Kiwanis, Chamber of Commerce, St. Luke’s Hospital and United Way. He was elected to the Fargo Park Board. An amateur artist and musician, he also enjoyed sailing on Minnesota lakes. Land that he purchased for his purebred Arabian horse ranch in 1962 was later donated by the family for the Red River Zoo. His wife, Beth, was very interested in architecture and landscape design. She was very involved in the planning of the house and landscaping.

Ralph Ivers was the owner of Ivers Funeral Home and other businesses in Fargo. He served for a time as the Cass County Coroner. He purchased the home after George Anderson died in 1974.

John Stern purchased the home from the Ivers in 1984. Owner with his brother of Straus Co, he was very involved in civic affairs, including the local and state Chambers of Commerce, the Boy Scouts, the FM Symphony, Rotary, and First Presbyterian Church. His wife, Sherri, was a small retail shop owner, mortgage banker, and NDSU Foundation fundraiser for the Division of Fine Arts, and had a life-long interest in design.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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Unpublished Biography

Arontson, Sarah. "The Wright Stuff." Photos by Michael Smith. From House to Home [Fargo].
Aug./Sept. 2003:20-23.

Eastman, Doris. "Balcony, Screened Porch Among Favorite Places in Anderson Home."
The Fargo Forum. 1 Nov. 1959: B-1.

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[Fargo]. March/April 2013: 34-36.

Freed, Elaine. Modern at Mid-Century-The Early Fifties Houses of Ingraham and Ingraham.
Colorado Springs, Colorado: The Hulbert Center Press, 2003.

Gunderson, Dan. "Learning the lessons of past Red River Floods." Minnesota Public Radio [St
Paul]. 9 April 2011.

Heilman, Wayne. "Famed Colorado Springs architect Elizabeth Wright Ingraham dies at age
91." The Gazette[Colorado Springs]. 24 Sept. 2013.

Ingraham, Elizabeth Wright. Interview. American Institute of Architecture Colorado. 21 July
2012. www.youtube.com/watch?v=2rnV_zFYcZU

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Raihala, Ross. "The Wright Houses." Photos by Dave Wallis. The Forum [Fargo]. 14 Jan. 1996:
C-1+.

Smithwick,Lyn. "The House That Wright Built." Prairie Homes [Fargo]. April/May 2001:18-21.

Tran,Tu-Uyen. "It took my breath away." Photos by Dave Wallis. The Forum [Fargo]. 5 Jan.
2017: 1+.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property less than one

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1. Zone: 14 Easting: 669052 Northing: 5191811

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

Parcel #01-2820-00180-000
Lot 21 and the North 25' of Lot 22 except park of Block 7, South Park Addition

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This parcel is the boundary of the land historically associated with the property.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: John Stern
organization: _____
street & number: 1458 S River Rd
city or town: Fargo state: ND zip code: 58103
e-mail john.sherri.stern@gmail.com
telephone: 701-235-6384
date: February 21, 2017

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

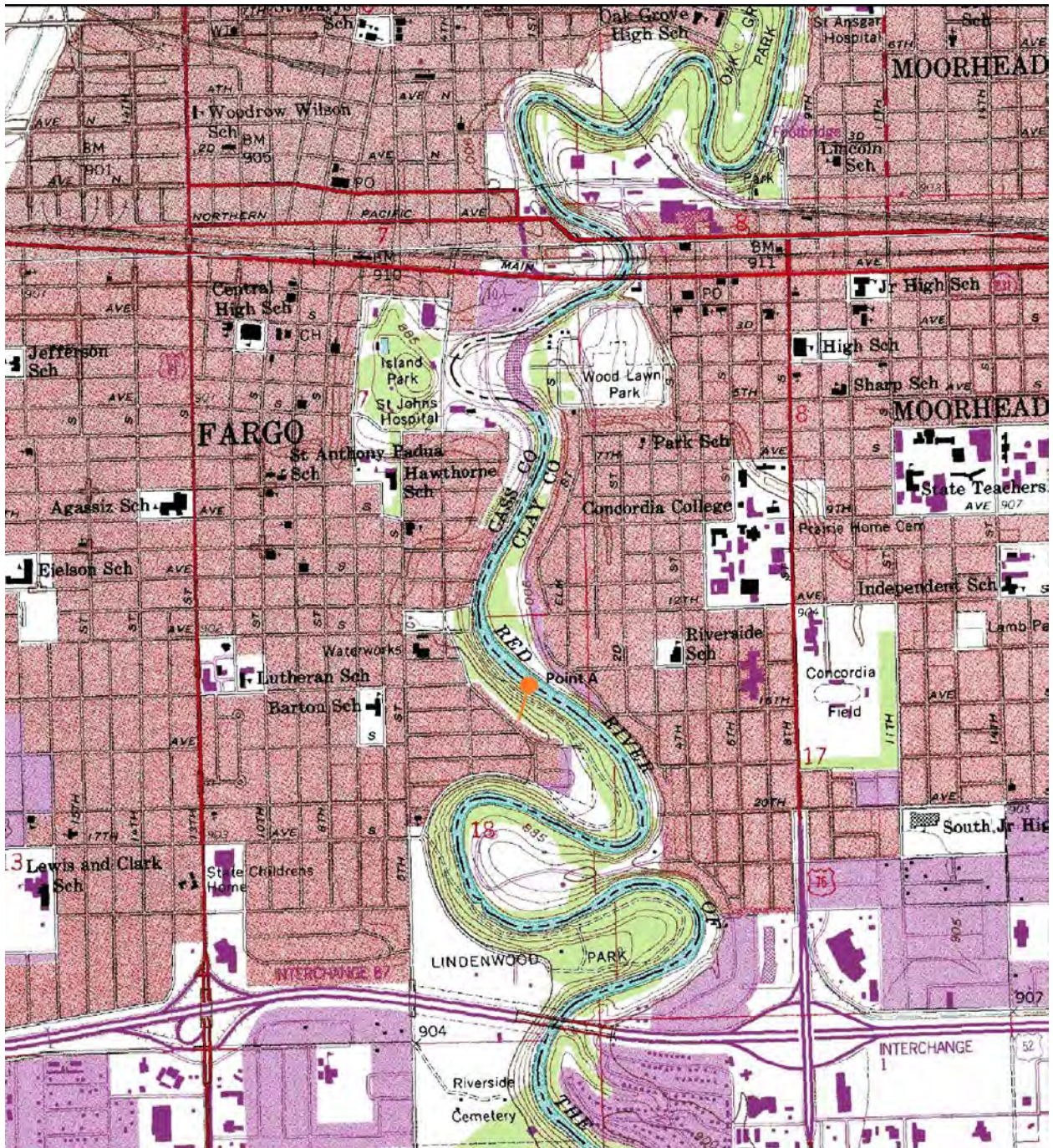
- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

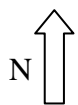
name/title: John & Sherri Stern
street & number: 1458 S River Rd
city or town: Fargo state: ND zip code: 58103
e-mail john.sherri.stern@gmail.com
telephone: 701-235-6384

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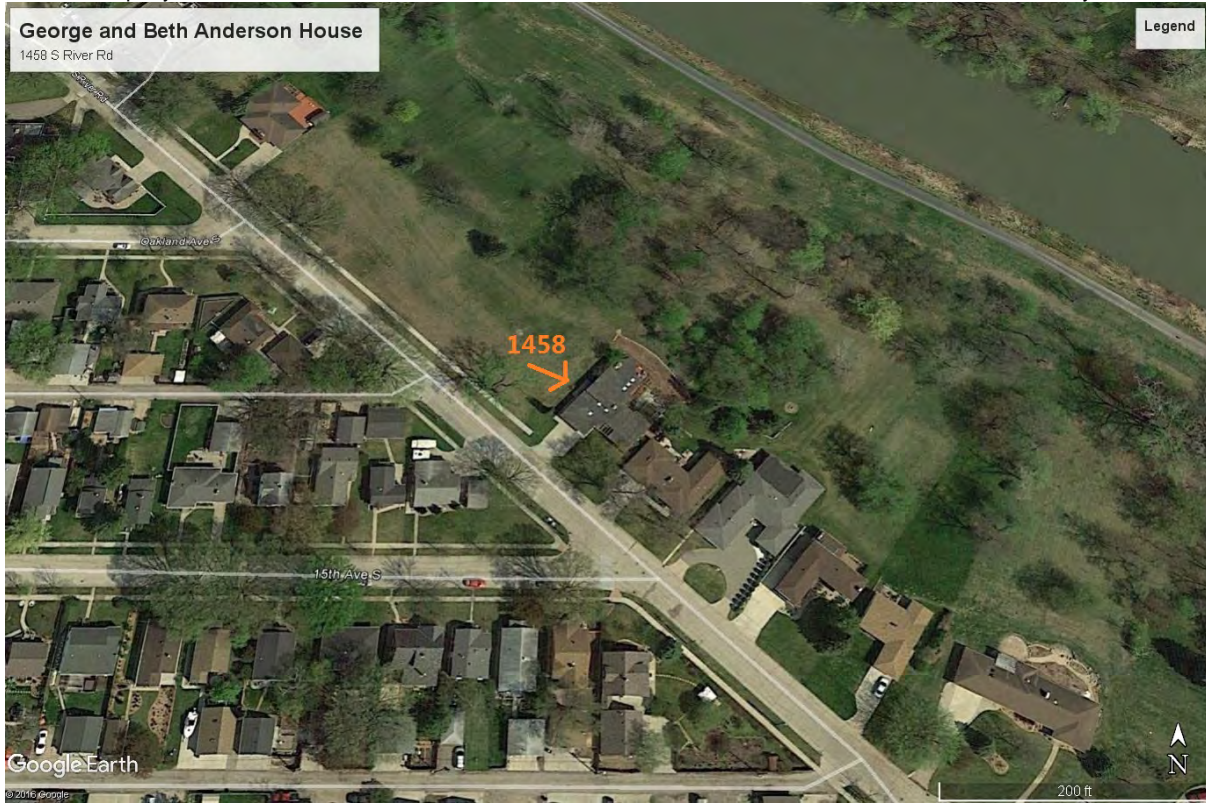


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14 669052 5191811

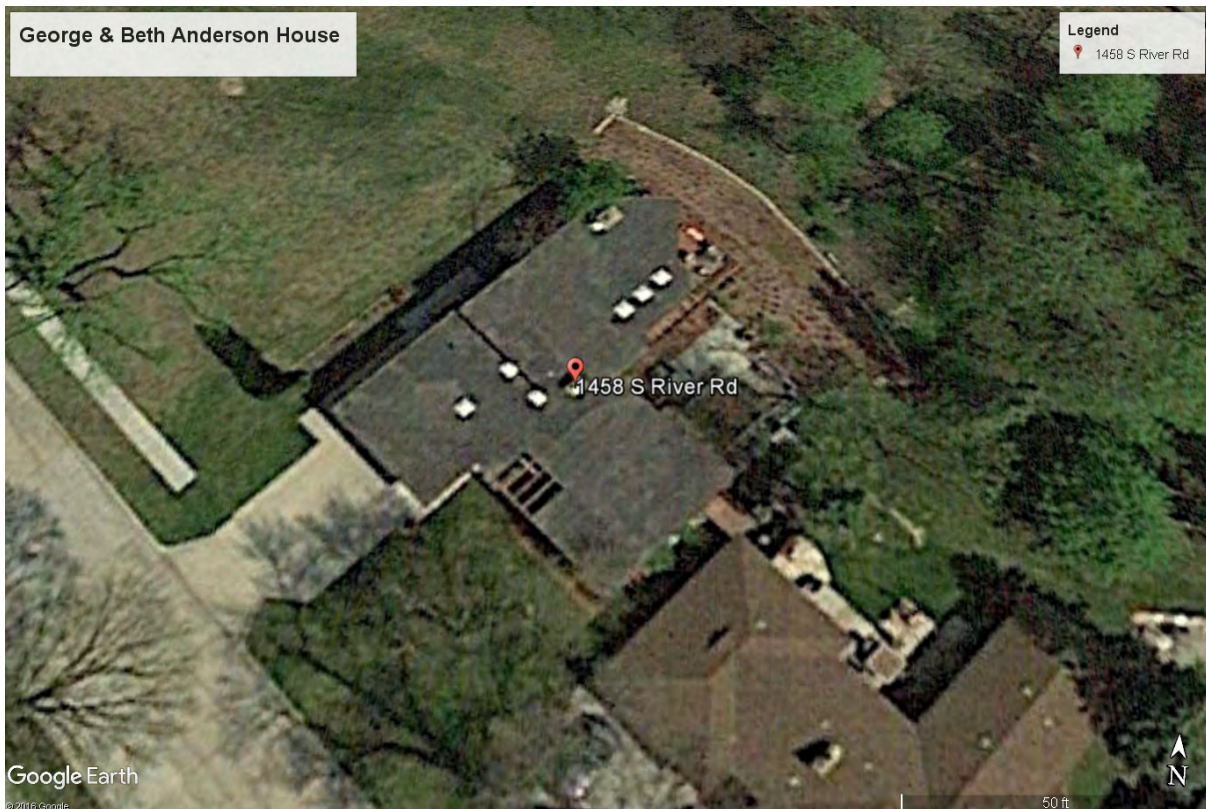


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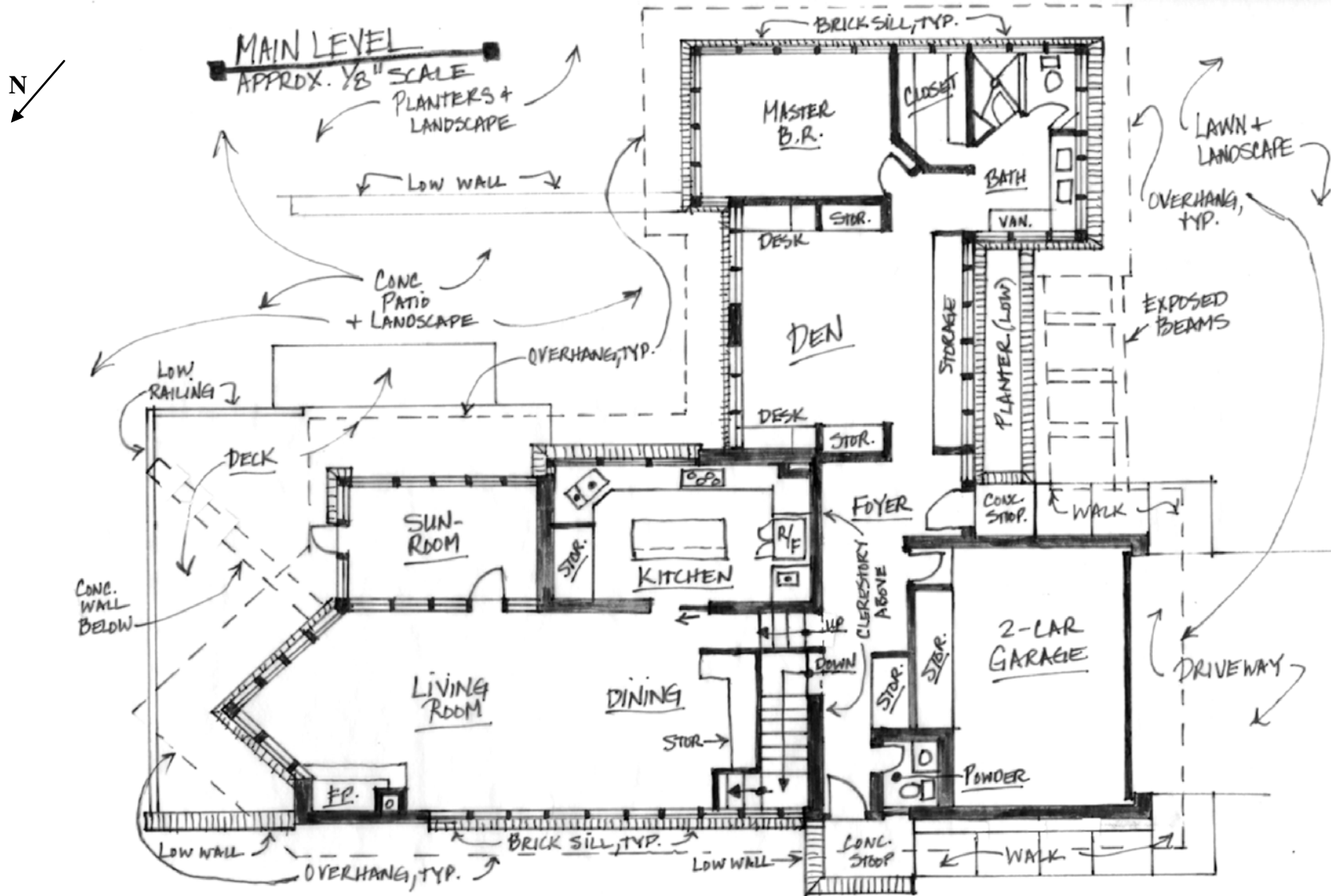


(above and below) Images from Google Earth, imagery date 5/4/2016



George and Beth Anderson House
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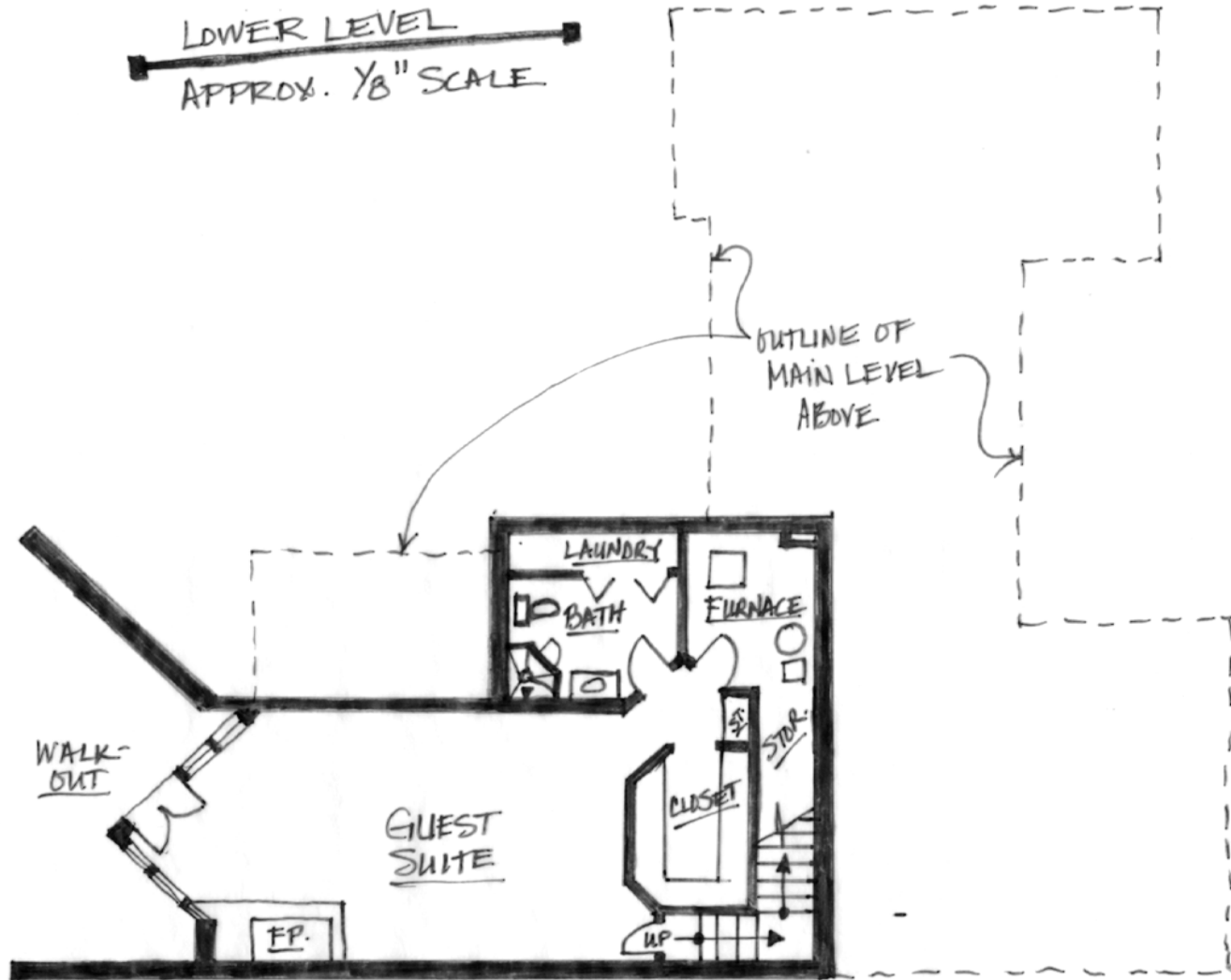
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Drawing by Krista Young, Assoc. AIA

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Drawing by Krista Young, Assoc. AIA

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Photographs



Taken by Jim Papachek, March 9, 2017
View from the southwest
Photo 1 of 10

George and Beth Anderson House
Name of Property

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Taken by Jim Papachek, March 9, 2017
View from the south
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Taken by Jim Papachek, March 9, 2017
View from the east
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Taken by Jim Papachek, March 9, 2017
View from the east-southeast
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Taken by Jim Papachek, March 9, 2017
View from the southeast
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Taken by Jim Papachek, March 9, 2017
View from the east
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Taken by Jim Papachek, March 9, 2017
View from the east-northeast
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Taken by Jim Papachek, March 9, 2017
View from the west
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Taken by Jill Ockhardt Blaufuss, March 8, 2017
Interior looking northeast
Photo 9 of 10

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Taken by Jill Ockhardt Blaufuss, March 8, 2017

Interior of music room

Photo 10 of 10

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 100 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.