

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Orr, William, House

and or common Orr-Richter House

2. Location

street & number 4076 W. Small Road N/A not for publication

city, town LaPorte X vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county LaPorte code 091

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Richard H. and Connie J. Moore

street & number 4076 W. Small Road

city, town LaPorte X vicinity of state Indiana 46350

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. LaPorte County Courthouse

street & number 801 Michigan Avenue

city, town LaPorte state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1981  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Department of Natural Resources

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana

## 7. Description

Condition  
 excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

Check one  
 unaltered  
 altered

Check one  
 original site  
 moved date N/A

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The William Orr House, with its mansarded tower and lavish detailing and ornamentation, is an excellent example of Eastlake Victorian architecture, but with Italianate and Gothic overtones. Built of red brick, it is 2½ stories high, with a central tower rising to a height of 3½ stories. Each of the three principal elevations features a gable section, while two of the elevations feature bay windows and porches. In addition to the Eastlake detailing on the gables, bay windows, and porches, numerous windows with varying styles and treatments, several belt courses, and a number of panels of inlaid patterned brick create complex facades with a variety of textures and details.

The north, or main, elevation (Photo 1) displays a striking combination of heights and textures. A one-story porch stretches from the west edge of the elevation across two of the three bays on this facade. The porch roof is supported by square posts with scroll brackets, while brace beams and pendants add further detailing. The main entrance, sheltered by the porch, is located in the tower in the center of the elevation. The tower and entrance bay project slightly from the main wall. The main entrance consists of ornate double wood doors, with molded panels and carved designs, topped by a single light, linear transom. Above the transom is a smooth shouldered stone architrave, with a zig-zag pattern across the lintel, framed by a cyma recta label molding terminating in volutes. This architrave is repeated in a smaller version on the window west of the main entrance, and again on a secondary entrance on the east facade. A single, double-hung window appears at the second story of the tower. This window features a stone lintel with a more two-dimensional version of the architrave just described, with the volutes "clipping" the corners of the upper sash. Above the lintel is a stone Gothic arch, the tympanum filled with patterned brickwork.

The main roof of the house crosses the tower above the second story level, underscored by a bracketed cornice. The third story of the tower extends above the main roof. This level contains a pair of double-hung Gothic windows similar to the window below. Projecting bricks form a pattern above the windows, adding to the surface texture.

The wood cornice on the tower is supported by wood brackets. The mansard tower roof is hipped and has two tiers, both covered with slate. Each side of the lower tier displays dormer windows with pointed arches and carved wood pediments. The lower tier narrows at the top, and is capped by a wood curb, from which the upper tier rises. The upper tier also narrows toward its peak and is capped by a square wood ornament.

To the left (east) of the tower on the main facade is a gabled bay which projects even farther from the main structure than the tower section. This gabled section features a three-sided bay window on the first-story level. This window displays a carved wooden base, carved wood posts which divide the windows, and a decorative upper border with Eastlake-style detailing, and brackets like those on the porch. Above the bay window on the second story is a pair of double-hung windows, again Gothic-arched. At the third story level is a single, smaller rectangular, double-hung window. The gable, itself, features an elaborately structured Eastlake vergeboard, showing distinctive carved panels between the kingposts and beams, as well as pendants extending from each of the beams. The ensemble is supported by large brackets attached to the wall.

There are several belt courses on the principal facades of the house to add still more detailing and variety of texture to the surface. These belt courses appear at the sill and lintel levels of the windows on all three stories of the main elevations, as well as on the tower. There is also a stone water table.

## 8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1875

Builder Architect W.J. Edbrooke, Architect, Chicago

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The William Orr House is significant, primarily, for its architecture. The house takes its form from the Italian Villa style and its details from the Victorian Gothic and Eastlake. This unique combination of styles and the high degree of integrity make this one of the best examples of 19th century eclectic architecture in the state.

William Orlando Orr was born in LaPorte County in 1833, the son of General Joseph Orr, one of the county's most important citizens. William Orr lived nearly all his life on the land that his father purchased in 1832. Together with his father and brothers, he developed the surrounding land until the family owned over 4,000 acres.

William married in 1858, and in 1875 he built this elaborate home on his 1100-acre farm. He was considered one of the most knowledgeable farmers in the northern part of the state, specializing in blooded stock. He also became one of the first farmers to introduce Hereford cattle in LaPorte County. His trotting horses were also well known.

William Orr died in this house in 1924.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Backus, Edith J. LaPorte Indiana: History of the First One Hundred Years, 1832-1932, n.p., n.d.  
 "Orr, William Orlando," Indiana Biography Series, Vol. I, pp. 182-183  
 Peat, Wilbur D. Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1962, plate 182.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 2.986 acres

Quadrangle name LaPorte West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	6
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5	1	8	4	9	0
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4	6	0	6	2	8	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

B 

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 Zone Easting Northing

C 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Connie J. Moore

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date November 14, 1979

street & number 4076 W. Small Road telephone 219/362-5308

city or town LaPorte state Indiana 46350

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature J. M. Redman

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date February 15, 1984

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



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Continuation sheet William Orr House

Item number 7

Page 1

The east elevation (Photo 2) is very similar to the main elevation, with a porch, three-sided bay window, and decorated gable as on the main elevation. The design of the west elevation varies slightly, however (Photos 5 and 6). The projecting gable section is located at the center of the elevation, and there is no bay window or porch on this elevation.

On the south, or rear elevation, there is a noticeable lack of ornamentation, in contrast to the elaborate detailing on the other three sides (Photo 7). The rear entrance is a single door with a single-light transom, located in a single-story wing. A brick relieving arch caps the door.

There are numerous double-hung windows on all elevations of the house. Their arrangement varies: some windows appear in pairs, while others are single windows. The windows on the gables and the tower are generally capped by the pointed arches already described.

First story windows on the west elevation, however, feature a slight variation, having two-cusped arches with carved detailing (Photo 5). On the east elevation, rear, second-story windows display yet another design: polychrome brick and stone Gothic arches (Photo 3).

Windows on the rear (south) elevation are fewer in number and smaller in size. Their treatment is very simple: they are capped by brick relieving arches or plain stone lintels.

Of the six original brick chimneys on the house, only three remain. Two chimneys are found on the gables on the east and west elevations. The third chimney is an interior chimney at the rear of the house. Of these three surviving chimneys, two have had to be rebuilt. Only one chimney remains with its original materials and construction.

In general, the exterior of the William Orr house is in very good condition, with its lavish detailing and generous wood ornamentation intact.

Inside, the magnificent staircase is walnut and in very fine condition. Nearly all of the woodwork in the home is poplar and was grained when installed. Just two of the rooms have been left unpainted and original. There were 20 rooms on the original floor-plan, containing approximately 5500 square feet on the first two levels. Many smaller rooms have been made larger by the removal of walls, probably sometime in the early 1930s.

The third floor attic is very large, running the full length of the house and having 20' ceilings. The tower staircase winds to the very top of the house and is in good, usable condition.

The sculptured plaster in four rooms of the house is in excellent repair. Much of the other plaster in the house is in need of some repair. There are several etched windows and one etched door. Most of the light fixtures original to the house are missing.

The rear, one-story wing of the house was converted into a kitchen, c. 1950.

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Continuation sheet William Orr House

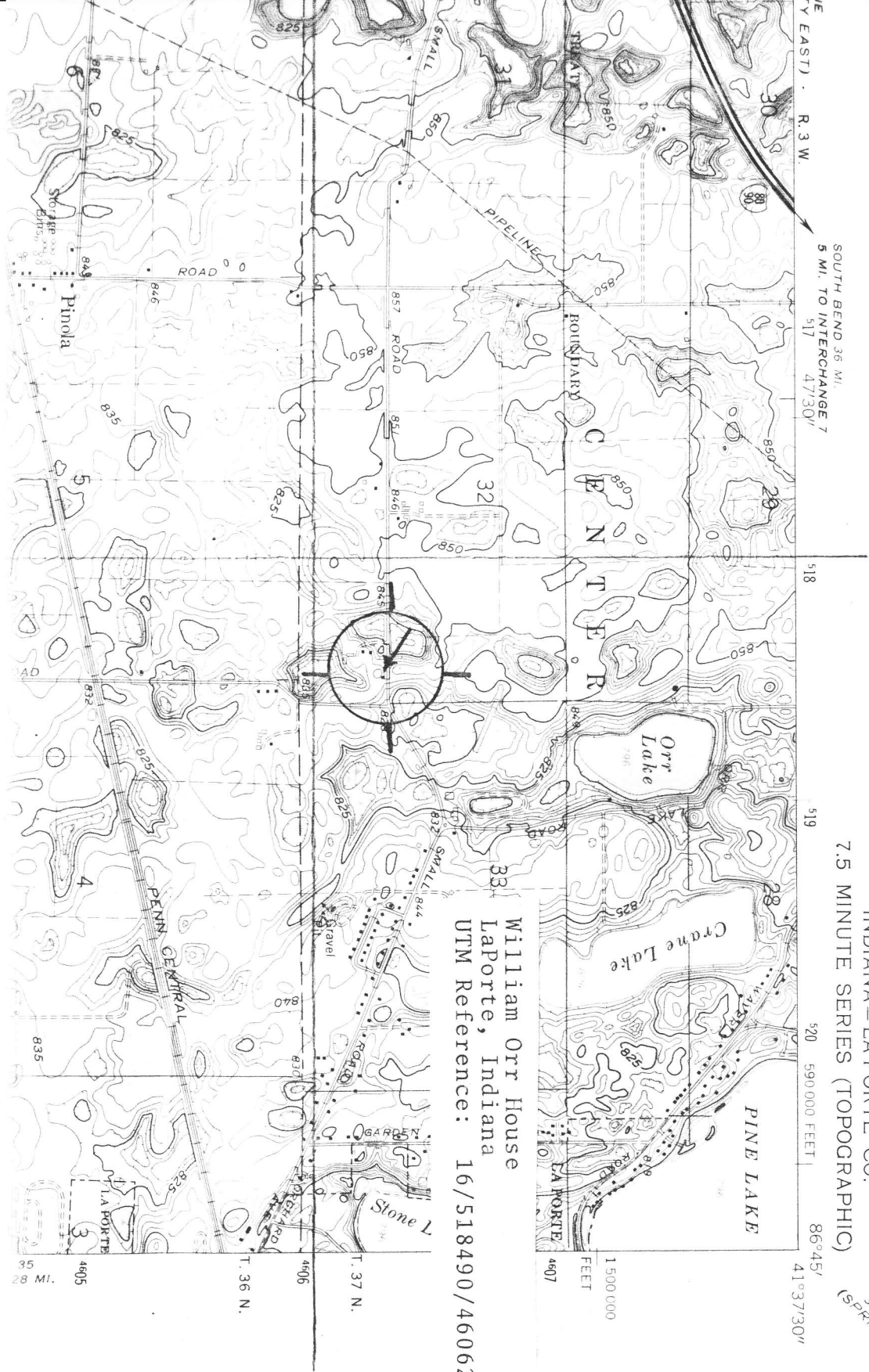
Item number 10

Page 2

A parcel of land situated in the Southeast Quarter (SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ) of the Southeast Quarter (SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ) of Section 32, Township 37 North, Range 3 West, LaPorte County, Indiana, lying South of Small Road, and being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at a Cast iron monument marking the Southeast corner of Section 32, Township 37 North, Range 3 West, LaPorte County, Indiana; thence N0°36'14"E, a distance of 806.64 feet to an iron pipe; thence N88°16'50"W, a distance of 107.95 feet to an iron pipe for the point of beginning; thence 88°16'50"W, a distance of 310.90 feet to an iron pipe; thence N3°42'44"W, a distance of 399.12 feet to a railroad spike on the centerline of Small Road; thence N88°33'10"E, along the centerline of Small Road, a distance of 328.50 feet to a railroad spike; thence S1°07'50"E, a distance of 415.99 feet to the point of beginning; containing 2.986 acres, but excluding the current right-of-way of Small Road.

Property location: 4076 West Small Road  
"Historic Orr Home" near intersection of  
Small Road and 400 West, in Center Township



5 MI. TO INTERCHANGE 7  
 SOUTH BEND 36 MI.  
 R. 3 W.  
 47°30'

518  
 519  
 520 590 000 FEET  
 86°45'  
 41°37'30"

LA PORTE WEST QUADRANGLE  
 INDIANA - LA PORTE CO.  
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

3657 11 NW  
 (SPRINGVILLE)

William Orr House  
 Laporte, Indiana  
 UTM Reference: 16/518490/4606280

1 500 000  
 FEET

35  
 28 MI.

T. 36 N.  
 4406  
 T. 37 N.  
 4407