

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

1. Name

historic Monteith, Mark L. and Harriet E., House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 871 East Beardsley Avenue

N/A not for publication

city, town Elkhart N/A vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Elkhart code 039

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Richard and Glenda Russell

street & number 871 East Beardsley Avenue

city, town Elkhart N/A vicinity of state Indiana 46514

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Assessor's Office

street & number Elkhart County Courthouse

city, town Goshen state Indiana 46526

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Monteith residence was originally built c. 1908 as a two-story, frame, clapboard-sided residence in a simple vernacular style (see Photo #1). Early in the 1930s the Monteiths decided to remodel their home and they chose the English Tudor Revival style (Photo #2). The basic shape of the building was retained; however, extensive changes were made through two additions where porches had been previously, and through new materials and trim (Photo #3).

The plan of the house is T-shaped, a long gabled section with the end parallel to the street (Photo #4) and a gable section perpendicular to it (Photo #3). The steeply pitched, asphalt shingle roof is punctuated by shed dormers at the west (Photo #5) and east (Photo #6) corners, and has two chimneys, one located near the southwest corner and one on the northeast corner of the house. The house is faced with brick in combination with rough, stained siding and half timbering.

These materials are all displayed on the front (northwest) facade of the residence. Above the first floor, five-by-four light window is a slightly projecting pavilion supported by simple decorative wood brackets and lighted by casements with quarrels and comes. The opening is set in a stucco and half timbered wall and topped by rough, stained clapboard in the gable. The wood trim is used again as vertical board shutters at the window openings (Photo #2). On the right (west) side, the slope of the roof extends down over the one-story main entrance, a 1930s addition. The half timbering is repeated in this gable. The round arched wooden door (Photo #7) is trimmed with rough cut stone, which is repeated as quoins at both corners of the front facade (Photo #8).

The west facade repeats the rough, horizontal, stained siding in the gable, as well as the casement windows with quarrels and comes which are found in the shed dormer over the entry (Photo #5). A two-light, rectangular bay window is also clad with the rough siding. (Photo #3.)

The most striking feature of the west facade is the two-story porch which was added in the 1930s behind the side gabled portion of the house. The first floor is closed in with large windows outlined by heavy posts and beams with diagonal supports at the corners (Photo #9). A portion of the second floor, however, is open and serves as a balcony. It is supported by turned posts and decorative balusters, all in stained wood. The windows to the house at the second level consist of a band of leaded glass casements (Photo #10).

A band of casements also lights the southeast wall of the second floor but the leaded glass is of a different pattern (Photo #10). The first floor of this wall is a continuation of the southwest side and includes an entrance. The rest of the rear of the house projects slightly beyond the closed-in porch (Photo #11). The gable has the same rough siding as the other gables, but here it is contrasted with vertical board and batten siding on the second floor, ending in a scalloped design at the top of the first floor (Photo #12). The second level projects out over the first, which has canted corners forming a bay window with quarrels and comes. The second floor window is a triple casement with tall, narrow, double two-by-five windows, the center one topped by a pointed arch (Photo #12). The east slope of the gable of this section of the house is the location of the other dormer (Photo #6). In front (north) of it is a skylight which opens onto the second floor studio inside.

Other than the attached garage, the only features of note on the northeast facade are two leaded glass windows (Photo #13) and the exterior brick chimney. The garage, like the house, is faced with brick, with rough wood siding (Photo #14) in the side gable, on the front gable dormer, and on the rear shed dormer (Photo #15).

8. Significance

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

Specific dates c.1908, 1935

Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Although it looks like other Tudor Revival houses built in the Midwest in the early 20th century, the Monteith House is unique because of its own history as well as that of its occupants. The Monteith Residence is one of few Elkhart Period Revival houses done in English styles. It is also significant because it was originally a simple, frame, vernacular house which was remodeled by its owners in the 1930s, a project that won them national recognition through Better Homes & Gardens magazine. In addition, the house remained in the same family for 76 years, and for 51 years was the home of a nationally-known artist, who made her residence and other buildings on the property a celebration of her talent.

The Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory for Elkhart does not list any Tudor Revival style houses. Through a windshield survey of the older neighborhoods of the city, however, it was found that there are four or five residences from the early 20th century with English Cottage or Tudor Revival style features. Most of these houses are very large buildings along the river in upper-income neighborhoods. The Monteith House is the only known residence which follows the Tudor Revival style more strictly, and is a more modest dwelling.

Built between 1906 and 1910, when it first appears in the City Directory, the Monteith House was apparently owned by Ruben G. and Mary E. Ward. They must have rented the building because the city directories indicate seven different occupants between 1910 and 1922. In 1924, Mark L. and Harriet E. Monteith purchased the home from the estate of Mark's aunt, Mary E. Ward.

Mark and Harriet made plans to renovate the simple two-story, vernacular, frame house (see Photo #1) and began doing so in the early 1930s. This was also the time period during which the boathouse, deck and kiosk were built, all being done with recycled bricks and materials. With the help of workers from his plant, Mark completed the project by 1935 when he and Harriet decided to enter their renovation plan in the National Better Homes Contest, which they found advertised in a publication called, My Better Homes and Garden Helper.

The Monteiths received a Certificate of Merit from Better Homes & Gardens for their effort (Photo #28). Entries numbered 19,716 in the Home Improvement Division of the contest that they entered; the Monteiths were one of only 69 winners (20 prize winners and 49 Certificates of Merit). The 1936 Better Homes & Gardens article describing the contest and listing the winners indicates that the Certificate of Merit "is a genuine mark of distinction, as any entry had to be truly outstanding to survive the preliminary judgment in comparison with hundreds of others in the same class." The winners were selected if their home was made more comfortable, better served the convenience of the family, or if its architecture had been improved (wording taken from the Certificate of Merit presented to the Monteiths). The contest was judged by architects from Cleveland, Tennessee, Philadelphia, and the University of Chicago.

At this same time, Harriet was continuing her art studies which early in her life included courses in Wakarusa, her home town, and the Fort Wayne Art School. After moving to Elkhart with her husband, she studied with Emil Jacques, a noted Flemish artist who

9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Elkhart

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

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

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please see continuation sheet

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Karen L. Kiemnec

organization N/A date June 18, 1985

street & number 524 W. Grove St. telephone 219/284-9798--work
219/255-7427--home

city or town Mishawaka state Indiana 46545

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 11-15-85

For NPS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date _____
Keeper of the National Register

date _____
Attest:

date _____
Chief of Registration

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The interior of the house has many personal touches of its most prominent occupant, the artist, Harriet Monteith. She painted several of the switch plates and in the kitchen, and the wooden cupboard doors above the sink bear a large painting by her (Photo #16). It depicts a couple at a table, dining; however, the male figure on the left door is incomplete. The kitchen trim also includes a copper stove hood, heavy, rough-hewn beams at the ceiling and surrounding the bay window, and wainscoting (Photo #17).

Harriet and her husband, Mark, spared no expense when renovating the interior of the house, as is evidenced by the walnut paneling, wood ceiling with cypress beams, and wooden plank floors in the stair hall and dining room (Photo #18).

The northeast wall of the living room with its brick fireplace in the center is also paneled (Photo #19). An unusual feature of this room is the fact that there are two wooden entry doors, an interior and an exterior one (see Photo #5 for exterior door). The interior door is round arched with panels that echo that shape, and an elaborate Eastlake doorknob and plate (Photo #20).

There are three outbuildings on the Monteith property, which is sited on the St. Joseph River (Photo #21) and East Beardsley Avenue just southeast of the intersection with Howard Street. Along Beardsley, a brick wall built by the Monteiths parallels the sidewalk between the house and a studio at the northwest corner of the property. Completed in May, 1957, the studio is a one story, 16 x 24 foot frame structure, with brick veneer and a gabled, slate roof (Photo #22). Mrs. Monteith displayed her talent in the north gable where she did a painting on the stucco surface. The large, double casement, leaded glass window topped by transoms in that same wall came from the J. M. Studebaker mansion in South Bend, which was demolished in the early 1950s. The small, Gothic pointed arch window in the opposite end came from a church (Photo #23).

Also on the property are two structures and a deck sited along the river wall and constructed in the early 1930s, when the house was remodeled. The boathouse (fair condition), on the southwest corner of the property, is a small, frame, flat-roofed, one-story structure covered with board and batten siding with scalloped edges like that on the rear of the house (Photo #29). Just east of the boathouse is a wooden deck extending out over the river. It is surrounded by a balustrade which matches that of the balcony on the south corner of the house (Photo #21). In the east corner of the yard is a kiosk (good condition) originally called a river house by the Monteiths, also a one-story structure. It is a rectangular building with a slightly gabled roof covered in rolled asphalt (Photo #25). It is of post and beam construction with brick walls (Photo #26). At the south end of the structure is a shed roofed projection lighted by three leaded, stained glass windows (Photo #27).

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headed the Art Department at the University of Notre Dame until his death, and then Robert Brachman, "one of America's foremost portrait painters" (Indianapolis Star Magazine, May 11, 1958, p. 24).

She began exhibiting in the 1940s and continued doing so until 1970, five years before her death. Over her more than 30-year career, she exhibited her paintings in Elkhart, South Bend, Hammond, Brown County, Fort Wayne, Angola, and Indianapolis, Indiana; Douglas and Saugatuck, Michigan; and Chicago, Illinois. In the latter city, her work was shown at McCormick Place, the First National Bank, the Hartford Life Plaza, the Ford City Plaza, and the University of Illinois. It was also in this city that, in 1962, she was voted to full membership in the Palette and Chisel Academy of Fine Arts, one of six women who were the first invited to join a group which, for 60 years, had been exclusively for males. She was also the first female living outside the Chicago area asked to join, and the first woman to win a first prize medal for her paintings. The members included artists who exhibited throughout the United States.

Harriet's awards and honors also included many from the Hoosier Salon in Indianapolis, called the biggest show in the state, the Knoezer-Fraider Award from the Northern Indiana Art Salon in Hammond, as well as awards from the South Bend Art Association, the Fort Wayne Art Galleries, and the Women's Club. In addition to those organizations, she was a member of the Indiana Artists Club, the Indiana Federation of Art Clubs, the American Artist Professional Leagues in both New York and Chicago, and the Brown County Artist Guild.

Some of her work can be seen in her home on the kitchen cupboards (Photo #16) and the light switchplates, and in her studio in the northwest gable. She used her home and later the studio to teach art classes. In 1982, seven years after Harriet's death, a retrospective exhibit of her work was done in Elkhart because it was felt that she was "one of Elkhart's best-known artists" (Elkhart Truth, April 17, 1982).

The Monteith family that Harriet married into was also well-known in the community and had been in Elkhart since the 1880s. John W. Monteith, Mark's father, was living in Elkhart in 1883, the first time his name appears in the City Directory. In 1921, Mark and two of his brothers started a business in Elkhart, the remanufacturing of automobile parts; Mark served as vice president. It was workers from this factory, the Monteith Brothers Company, that Mark hired to help him remodel his home in the early 1930s. Mark lived in the home until his death in 1984. The home was purchased by Richard and Glenda Russell in 1985, who intend to maintain its 1930s character.

The home is important not only for its architectural style, a style which won an award when completed and a style which is fairly uncommon in Elkhart, but also because of its occupants, Mark and Harriet Monteith, two significant members of the Elkhart community during the middle of this century.

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"Certificate of Merit." Better Homes & Gardens. 1935 National Better Homes Contest.

Elkhart City Directories, 1874 to 1930.

Elkhart Truth. 4-17-62, 11-19-64, 5-28-66, 11-5-66, 4-17-82. Articles owned by Russells.

Hittes, Alfred Carl, ed. My Better Homes & Gardens Helper. Des Moines, Iowa: Meredith Publishing Co., 1935.

Indianapolis Star Magazine. May 11, 1958, pp. 22 & 24.

Monteith, Stanley (brother of the late Mark L. Monteith). Telephone interview, May 24, 1985.

"The Stories of the Prizewinners." Better Homes & Gardens Magazine, April, 1936, pp. 61, 64, & 66.

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Commencing at a point Four Hundred Thirty (430) feet South, Fifty-eight (58) degrees West of the intersection of the centerline of Dearborn Avenue (when extended) and the South line of Elkhart Avenue; thence South Fifty-eight (58) degrees West, One Hundred Ten (110) feet; thence South Thirty-two (32) degrees east to the low water mark of the St. Joseph River; thence South Sixty-five (65) degrees East, along the River to a point Thirty-two (32) degrees East of the point of commencement, and thence parallel with the western line of said tract to Elkhart Avenue, the place of beginning. Being a part of the West Half ($W\frac{1}{2}$) of the Northwest Quarter ($NW\frac{1}{4}$) of Section Four (4), Township Thirty-seven (37) North, Range Five (5) East.

ALSO: A part of the West One-Half ($W\frac{1}{2}$) of the Northwest Quarter ($NW\frac{1}{4}$) of Section Four (4), Township Thirty-seven (37) North, Range Five (5) East, in the City of Elkhart, Indiana, being more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at a point located on the southerly right-of-way line of East Beardsley Avenue (formerly known as Elkhart Avenue), said point being located South Fifty-eight (58) degrees West, Four Hundred Twenty-one (421) feet from a southerly extension of the centerline of Dearborn Street; thence continuing South Fifty-eight (58) degrees West, along the southerly right-of-way line of said Beardsley Avenue, a distance of Nine (9) feet to the northeast corner of a tract conveyed by Frank J. Treckelo, Commissioner, appointed by the Elkhart Superior Court of Elkhart County, Indiana, on petition of the Executor of the Estate of Mary E. Ward, deceased, in said Court, and as such Commissioner, by the order of said Superior Court of Elkhart County, in the State of Indiana, entered in Probate Order Book No. 14 of said Court, on page 111, conveyed to Mark L. Monteith and Harriet E. Monteith, his wife; thence South Thirty-two (32) degrees East, along the easterly line of said Monteith tract, a distance of One Hundred One and Sixty-seven Hundredths (101.67) feet to the face of a concrete seawall located at the water's edge of the St. Joseph River, said point being marked by a notch out on the top of said wall; thence North Twenty-six (26) degrees Fifty-six (56) minutes West, a distance of One Hundred two and Fifteen hundredths (102.15) feet to the place of beginning.

ALSO Attached Exhibit "A"

A part of the West One-half ($W\frac{1}{2}$) of the Northwest Quarter ($NW\frac{1}{4}$) of Section Four (4), Township Thirty-seven (37) North, Range Five (5) East, in the City of Elkhart, Indiana, being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at a point four hundred thirty (430) feet south fifty-eight (58) degrees west of the intersection of the centerline of Dearborn Avenue (when extended) and the south line of East Beardsley Avenue (formerly known as Elkhart Avenue); thence south fifty-eight (58) degrees west, along the south line of said East Beardsley Avenue, a distance of thirty-five and eight hundredths (35.08) feet to the place of beginning of this description; thence continuing south fifty-eight (58) degrees west, seventy-four and ninety-two hundredths (74.92) feet to the northwest corner of the tract conveyed by Frank J. Treckelo, Commissioner, appointed by the Elkhart Superior Court of Elkhart County, Indiana, on petition of the Executor of the Estate of Mary E. Ward, deceased, in said Court, and as such Commissioner, by the order of said Superior Court of Elkhart County,

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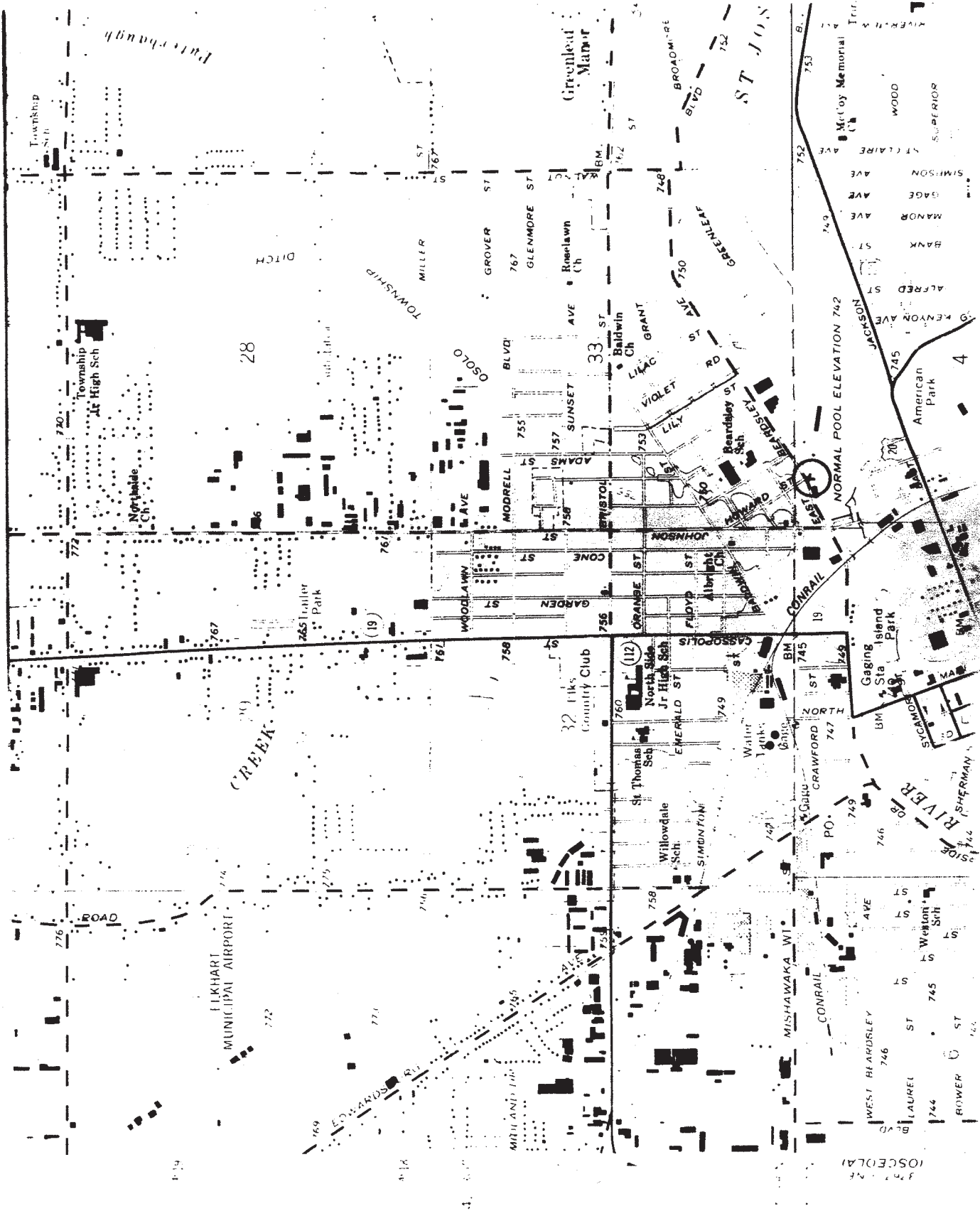
received

date entered

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in the State of Indiana, entered in Probate Order Book No. 14, on page 111, conveyed to Mark L. Monteith and Harriet E. Monteith, his wife; thence north thirty-two (32) degrees west, fifteen (15) feet to a point located on the south right-of-way line of said East Beardsley Avenue; thence north sixty-nine (69) degrees fifteen (15) minutes east, along the south line of said East Beardsley Avenue, a distance of seventy-six and thirty-nine hundredths (76.39) feet to the place of beginning.

North House
Elkhart, Indiana
UTM Reference: 16/586260/4616180



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