

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FINAL

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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Whitaker, William, Landscape and House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 472 South Main

N/A not for publication

city or town Crown Point

N/A vicinity

state Indiana

code IN

county Lake

code 089

zip code 46307

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Name of Property

County and State

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
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE: Garden

RECREATION/CULTURE: Work of Art

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE: Garden

RECREATION/CULTURE: Work of Art

DOMESTIC: Multiple Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

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

19th & 20th c. REVIVALS: Tudor Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other STONE: LIMESTONE

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1926- c.1929

Significant Dates

1929

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Jensen, Jens

Hess and Greenwood

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

University of Michigan

Whitaker, William, Landscape and House
Name of Property

Lake _____ IN _____
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property _____ < one acre _____

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	6	4	6	9	5	8	0	4	5	8	4	1	3	0
Zone	Easting						Northing							

3

Zone	Easting						Northing							

2

Zone	Easting						Northing							

4

Zone	Easting						Northing							

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Christopher Baas _____
organization _____ date 8-25-97 _____
street & number 8300 Mississippi St. Suite 2A _____ telephone (219) 769-7751 _____
city or town Merrillville _____ state IN _____ zip code 46410 _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name Linda Pace _____
street & number 472 South Main _____ telephone _____
city or town Crown Point _____ state IN _____ zip code 46307 _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

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

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1 *Whitaker, William, Landscape and House*

Section 7 - Description

The William Whitaker Landscape and House is a Prairie Style residential landscape with a Tudor Revival house located in the neighborhood south of the Crown Point, Indiana town square. The house was constructed in 1926 and the landscape in 1929. A two story addition was constructed in 1967 that transformed the garage into an apartment. The property is approximately a half acre in size, is generally flat, and extends from Main Street through to East Street.

The landscape, except for later variations from the planting plan and alterations resulting from the house addition, remains as designed by Jens Jensen. While several of the originally specified plants remain, over the years new plants have been added and weed species have crept in. The front yard has an open turf area defined by shrub masses along the south property line and around the house's foundation. A privet hedge along the north property line screens the drive from the neighboring yard. A red and gray slate walk connects the house's front entrance to the sidewalk. A smaller path connects the walk to the drive.

A hydrangea lined stone path through the south sideyard connects the front and back yards. The backyard is divided into three spaces. First, an open turf area immediately behind the house is defined by plantings of trees and shrubs. A second open turf area, formerly a tennis court, is located at the east end of the property. A linear planting bed, with a center opening framing a long view from the house to East Street, divides the two spaces. Hawthorns, Jensen's signature plant, are located throughout these two spaces.

The third space is a linear woodland with a winding path on the southeast corner of the property. At the woodland opening is a recessed bird pool. Its sides are lined with thin horizontal pieces of stacked limestone. Although not presently operational, the pool circulates water trickled in from its southern edge and out through a small drain on the bottom of the pool. At the end of the woodland path is a half circle council ring of thin horizontal pieces of stacked limestone set in a secluded clearing.

Comparing the historic planting plans with the current planting arrangement reveals that most of the vegetation that Jensen specified is not in place at this point. However, the general structure of the landscape, the location of closed areas to open areas, remains true to the plan. For example, the tennis court, likely of clay or grass surface, is now simply an open lawn. The critical areas for Jensen's plans were the council ring and path, and typically a water feature. These significant areas remain as intended. In terms of larger, more durable plant materials, two Hawthorne trees - a favorite species of Jensen's - remain alive. It is unknown but likely that Jensen called for placing the Hawthornes since no "as planted" plans or notes exist.

The house is an L plan with the entrance and the chimney located in the interior angle. It has brick walls laid in a running bond on a concrete basement foundation wall. The steep pitched cross-gabled roof has flared eaves, gable returns, and is covered in asphalt shingles. The casement windows have brick sills, and typically have six or eight lights divided by wood muntins. The flat roofed entrance projects at a 45 degree angle out

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from the house. The wood door has a single square window and large decorative hinges. It has a door surround of brick pilasters, entablature, and a low triangular pediment. Above the pediment is a brick band. The wall is capped in stone.

Each of the house's elevations shows a two story gable with wood returns, and a wing displaying the ground story beneath a steeply pitched roof. The ground story of the west, or street, elevation's gable end has a bay-like wood framed projection containing a ribbon of five windows below a row of five smaller windows. The projection has wood trim simulating half-timbering on its front and sides. Centered over the projection is a ribbon of four windows. The wing's ground story has a ribbon of three windows and a door. The roof has a shed dormer with a ribbon of three windows.

The north elevation's gable shows a single story decorative half-timbered addition with a bay window in the former garage door opening, a second story window centered beneath the peak, and a window located toward the back of the house.

A two story, decorative half-timbered, flat roofed addition is attached to the back of the garage. The north and south elevations have a single window on each story. The east elevation's ground floor has a door and window, and there is a window on the southeast corner of the second story.

The east elevation's ground floor displays a ribbon of four windows next to two smaller windows. Below the smaller windows is a stairwell with concrete steps descending to a basement entrance. The gable's ground floor has an entry door with a shed canopy and stone steps, and an interior screened in porch. The porch has windows that wrap around to the south elevation, are framed in heavy timbers, and have stone sills. The second story has two windows centered beneath the gable's peak. The roof has a large shed dormer with a ribbon of three windows.

The south elevation's ground story displays the interior screened in porch, two windows, an attached screened porch, and another pair of windows. The attached flat-roofed porch has a low brick wall with a stone cap. The screened window openings are framed by heavy timbers, and a screened door is located on the east side. The second story has two windows located in the gable. The roof has a shed dormer with a window, a recessed door that opens onto the roof of the attached porch, and a recessed window.

Section 8 - Statement of Significance

The Whitaker Landscape and House is eligible for the National Register for its outstanding landscape architecture and association with noted landscape architect Jens Jensen. The half acre residential landscape is an excellent example of the Prairie Style of landscape design made famous by Jensen in the early Twentieth Century. It still displays the layout, council ring, bird pool, and several plant species shown in the original design. Together with the Tudor Revival style house, the landscaped property conveys the ideal early twentieth century suburban residential development.

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The landscape is significant in the context of early Twentieth Century (c. 1928) Midwestern landscape architecture in Crown Point, the seat of Lake County. Crown Point's courthouse square is surrounded by nineteenth century storefronts and a grid of streets lined with the types and styles of housing indicative of a Midwestern town. Post World War I Crown Point experienced a housing boom of bungalow and revival style architecture. Landscapes for these structures, treated as settings for the house, were typically manicured lawns with plantings of exotic shrubs and flowers.

At the same time, Chicago landscape architect Jens Jensen (1860-1951) was espousing the virtues of a design philosophy based on the use of regional ecology, materials, and native plants species. Jensen was a Danish immigrant whose ability to master plants and planting design helped him progress through the West Chicago Park District to become general superintendent and chief landscape architect. Inspired by America's Midwest landscape, Jensen was the banner carrier for the Prairie Style of landscape design where regionalism was the driving force behind design aesthetics. His designs, recreations of prairie and woodland plant communities, were embellished with features of water and stone. Native plants were grouped and massed in their ecological habitats that typically featured an overstory of trees and an understory of associated shrub and groundcover plantings. Plants controlled views that enticed users to move through the space. His "long view" encouraged the viewing, from one end to the other, of open linear spaces bordered by trees and shrubs. His landscapes displayed horizontal layers of stonework reminiscent of rock outcroppings, and large flat water features he termed "prairie rivers." His signature council rings were designed to encourage discussion and storytelling.

Having grown extremely popular, Jensen was commissioned to construct roadway, park, school, and estate projects throughout the Midwest. As a member of the Prairie Club, he took train rides to Indiana's dune landscape to study the many plant communities that converge on Lake Michigan's southern shoreline. In 1926, the club's interest helped establish the Indiana Dunes State Park. Jensen eventually retired to The Clearing, his school in Door County, where he taught his design philosophies.

In 1917, William E. Whitaker (1891-1955) moved to Crown Point from Hammond, Indiana to serve as Lake County's chief deputy auditor. A leader in the county's Republican Party, he was elected to two terms as County Auditor (1924 to 1932). From 1934 until his death, he was the controlling partner in Hammond's Sheffield Press.

Whitaker hired Hammond architects Hess & Greenwood to design a Tudor Revival house which was constructed in 1926. Hess and Greenwood designed several revival style houses throughout the county, and on his own Louis Hess designed George Rogers Clark High School, Woodmar Country Club, and was involved in the design of the Hammond City Hall. Whitaker hired Jens Jensen to design the house's landscape. It is believed that the two were acquainted while involved with the design of the ideal stretch of the Lincoln Highway. In December of 1928 Jensen submitted to Whitaker a landscape plan showing plant masses, stone walks, a fish pool, council ring, tennis court, and drying yard. Final plans were submitted February of 1929

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specifying plant species and quantities, and replacing the fish pool with a bird pool.

Jensen's plan for Whitaker was characteristic of his Prairie Style, but on the small scale of the residential city lot. Areas of turf were surrounded by mass plantings of native trees and shrubs. Stone paths connected the house to the sidewalk and defined walkways through native plantings. A sunken bird pool was lined with horizontal stones that seeped water through and over the stones. A half-circle council ring was located in a thicket of maples and plums. A long view, framed by native plantings, extended from the rear of the house to East Street.

Ownership of the house remained in the family until Mary Briggs, Whitaker's daughter, sold the house to the current owner in 1988. In 1967 a two-story addition to the house changed the garage into an apartment. While some of the landscape's vegetative features have disappeared, the historic design, scale, sculptural features, circulation, and feeling remain.

Section 9 - Bibliography

Christy, Stephan. "Jens Jensen" in American Landscape Architecture: Designers and Places. Edited by William H. Tishler. Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1989. P. 78-83.

Eaton, Leonard K. Landscape Artist in America: The Life and Work of Jens Jensen. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1964.

Grese, Robert E. Jens Jensen: Maker of Natural Parks and Gardens. Baltimore: The John Hopkins University Press, 1992. p. 211.

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory. Lake County Interim Report. Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, 1996. P. 385.

Verbal Boundary Justification

Part NW, SE, Section 8, T34 R8 (125' x 170'). Refer to sketch map for precise boundary.

Boundary Justification

The existing property boundaries were chosen because they include both the designed landscape and house.