

FINAL

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 (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

Historic name Conrad and Catherine Bloch House

Other names/site number Valparaiso Hospital and Sanitarium

2. Location

street & number 608 Academy Street N/A not for publication

city of town Valparaiso N/A 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

James P. Jones, Deputy SHPO
Signature of certifying official

4/28/2011
Date

Indiana DNR, Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology
Title State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<u> </u> entered in the National Register	_____	_____
<u> </u> determined eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<u> </u> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<u> </u> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<u> </u> other (explain:)	_____	_____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal
- private

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- building(s)
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	1	buildings
1		sites
		structures
		Objects
		buildings
3	1	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

HEALTH CARE: hospital

DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: BRICK

walls: BRICK

roof: ASPHALT

other: STONE: Limestone

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 Italianate House at 608 Academy Street, Valparaiso, Indiana was constructed by Conrad and Catherine Bloch in about 1873. The double-pile brick house has a commanding presence on a double lot at the corner of Park and Academy Streets. It is situated on a beautifully landscaped site with old growth trees and two other accessory buildings. A brick woodhouse dates to about the same period as the house and a frame garage dates to about 1940. The house was converted to the Valparaiso Hospital and Sanitarium by Dr. Harvey Cook in about 1923. It has been converted back to a single family home by the current owners.

Narrative Description

Conrad and Catherine Bloch settled in Valparaiso and became early merchants of the city. They constructed their large brick home in the Italianate style. Luther Bloch Jr., a grandson, leased the building to Dr. Harvey Cook who turned the building into a hospital in about 1923. Dr. Cook was a resident of Valparaiso living just blocks from the hospital at Morgan and Chicago Streets. Architectural changes outlined in the description of the house occurred during the period it was converted to a hospital and apartments. The hospital closed in the early 1930s.

After the closure of the hospital the house became apartments and remained in the family until 1975. The purchaser owned the house only a brief period and initiated interior remodeling. He sold the house to the current owners in 1977. The current owners converted the house back to a single family home but continue to rent an upstairs apartment to local college students. The current owners are Walter and Cynthia Breitingner, who began the process of removing non-historic ceilings and returning them to the original height among other restoration activities. The house is in excellent condition.

Bloch House, 1873. Contributing Exterior, photographs 0001-0004

The two story home is located nearer the intersection of Park (once named Pearl) and Academy Streets with lawn and landscaping in the open areas of the property on its south and east sides. The home fronts Academy Street on its west side. The foundation and walls are constructed of brick with blended colors of salmon, red, orange and tans. Stone trim creates a water table approximately three feet above grade at the division of the basement and first floor. The front entry and window openings are arched with stone half-round trim surrounds and sills. The stone window arches rest on thin engaged stone columns. Several windows are paired together with two engaged columns between them. The south and north facades have slightly less elaborate stone trim around their windows than the detail on the front façade. The rear façade has no stone trim except for stone window sills. Windows are predominantly 4/4 wood windows with the upper sash having arched panes of glass but the sash itself having a flat top. Aluminum storm windows and a piece of wood covering the arched top are on the outside of the windows. A tall frieze board has pairs of scrolled wood brackets supporting the wide overhanging eaves of the roof. The roof is a very low-sloped hipped roof with wood soffits and fascia on its eaves. The roof is covered with fiberglass shingles.

The front façade is symmetrically arranged with a large center arched entry accessed by five stone steps that are the full width of the entry opening. The entry has engaged stone columns on each side supporting a stone arch. A pair of two-panel wood doors is located in the entry. Each door has a lower panel that is square and an upper panel with an arched top. A wood transom window is located over the pair of doors. It is a half-round window with mullions in a radiating sunburst pattern from a central half circle at the base of the window. Aluminum storm doors and a storm window are located on the outside of the entry doors and transom. A porch roof supported by large square wood braces extends over the entry steps and arched opening. The porch roof has a wood cornice with arched openings in a half ellipse centered on each face and a small circular opening to each side of the front half ellipse. The cornice has small pairs of scrolled wood brackets supporting the slight overhang of the porch roof. A pair of windows is located directly above the porch roof. To each side of the entry and centered in the remaining north and south walls of the front façade are pairs of windows on the first and second stories. The window sills on the front façade have stone corbels directly under the engaged columns that sit on the sills.

The south façade is also symmetrically arranged. Pairs of windows are centered in the east and west halves of the façade on the first and second stories. The south façade's windows have engaged columns between the windows in each pair, but not to the outside jamb of each window. In lieu of engaged columns on the outside jambs the stone arches of the window openings set on stone corbels. There are no stone corbels below the stone sills on the south façade. Centered below the west pair of windows on the first story is a short window opening in the foundation wall to the basement. It has a segmented brick arch and stone sill. The opening has a wood window. A matching opening was located under the east pair of first floor windows but was partially filled in with brick and a cast iron coal chute door in about 1910.

The north façade has a pair of windows centered in its west half on the first story with the same stone trim detail found on the pairs of windows on the south façade. Centered in the east half on the first story is a single window with a stone sill and a brick arch formed from two courses of brick. Two windows are located on the second story. One is centered over the pair of windows on the first story and the second is centered over the single window on the first story. The second story windows also have stone sills and brick arches formed from two courses of brick. The stone sills of the single windows are narrower than those of the pairs of windows.

The east (rear) façade is less formally organized. In the south half of the façade, on the first story, is a single window south of center on the façade. South of the window is a door opening with a segmented brick arch. The door is a wood door with two panels in its lower half and a window in its upper half. There is an aluminum storm door fixed to its outside. In the north half of the façade, on the first story, is a single window north of center on the façade. The second story of the rear façade has a door opening aligned with the first story door opening and with the window on the north half of the first floor. The openings on the second level were converted from window openings to door openings at the time the building was first converted from a single family use to the hospital in about 1923. The openings have brick arches formed from two courses of brick and stone thresholds that were the sills of the former windows. Doors on the second story are wood with two panels and a window with six panes of glass. Aluminum storm doors are on their exterior. A rectangular wood transom is located in the arches above the doors with some wood infill around the windows. The rear façade also has a two story wood porch constructed of wood decking, posts for columns, and railing and a shed roof covering the second story porch floor. A wood staircase is on the south side of the two story porch and connects the second story to the first and to grade. This porch was added in about 1990 and replaced an earlier porch that was created at the time the building was converted to a hospital in about 1923. Ghost markings on the rear façade and on the woodhouse indicate that the original porch connected these two buildings. A basement opening with

wood steps is located on the south half of the rear façade. It has a segmented brick arch and a wood door.

Interior, photographs 0006-0014

The house has a basic floor plan of a central front foyer with five primary rooms on the first floor, two on each side of the house and one at the rear behind the foyer. The original layout of the first story plan likely included a central hall with staircase and rooms to each side. The foyer and winding staircase were likely changes from the original plan to accommodate the conversion to the hospital about 1923. The plan of the second story essentially follows the current first story plan.

The layout of the first story has the foyer and staircase in the front and center with the parlor on the foyer's north side and living room on the foyer's south side. The home office and dining room are east of the parlor and living room (respectively) with the kitchen and laundry/bath area between these two rooms.

Very few interior partition walls appear to have been added to the home on the first story, except in the area of bath/laundry and home office in the northeast corner of the house. The more public rooms (parlor, living, dining) appear to maintain their historic plans. The living room and parlor have closets off of their north and south walls (respectively); it appears these may have been constructed about the time the home was converted to the hospital in about 1923. The living room has plaster walls and ceilings. The dining room has plaster walls and a drywall ceiling lowered to just above the top of the window casings. The parlor has plaster walls but has square ceiling tiles over a lowered ceiling that is just above the top of the window casings. The kitchen has modern cabinetry installed but also maintains plaster walls covered in wallpaper. The kitchen ceiling is drywall and was lowered to a height just above the top of the window casings. The office area and bathroom/laundry also have plaster walls with some non-historic drywall and paneled partitions for closets and tub enclosure. Floor coverings vary through the first story. The living room and foyer have pine wood floors dating to about the 1920's. The other rooms have carpeting except for the kitchen which has vinyl sheet flooring.

The most significant interior feature is the intact woodwork. Baseboards, door and window casings, and most of the doors date to the original construction of the house. The woodwork is painted white throughout the house. Baseboards are tall with an ogee profile top molding. Door and window casings have a flat face with a perimeter ogee molding. Doors are mostly four panel wood doors. There is one two panel wood door to a closet off the parlor. This door is next to another door and both have simple board casings. These appear to date to about 1920. The full height of the window sashes is also visible from the interior of the house. The top sashes have glass panes constructed into an arched opening and the upper corners have small triangular recessed panels (seen in photograph 0012). Built-in casework with shelving and cabinets is located in the southeast corner of the living room and was constructed by the current owner's (Mr. Breitingger) father-in-law in 1975. There are also a few historic ceiling light fixtures that date to ca. 1930 in the house. Two are white porcelain with painted flowers with two or three bulb sockets; these are found in the parlor and home office. The dining room has a globe suspended from a brass chain. The front porch has a fixture with a circular glass shade.

The staircase leading to the second story is clearly an early replacement of the original (photograph 0006). The staircase is unpainted pine in a dark stain. The staircase is enclosed on each side except for a small portion of the handrail extending down to a square newel post with a simple cap on the north side of the staircase. The staircase goes up to the east about five steps before coming to a landing then turns north and continues up five steps to three winder steps that turn back to the west and ends at a central hall over the foyer below. The central hall has a bedroom on its north and south sides. The bedrooms have access doors and hallways leading to rooms behind (to the east)

of them. The two rooms at the rear of the house have exterior doors that access the second story porch.

The second story has had more introduction of partition walls than the first floor, to create kitchens and bathrooms. These second floor partitions were added after the 1930s, at the time the house was converted into apartments. The front (westernmost) two rooms appear to maintain their historic plan. Small closets are located off of these rooms and an access hall leading to the rear rooms.

The historic walls are constructed in plaster. Ceilings have square tiles installed over the plaster ceilings but have not been lowered to a significant amount, most maintaining several inches over the historic window casings. The floors are yellow pine and are covered with carpeting or vinyl flooring throughout the house, except in the living room where a later oak floor was installed. The woodwork again remains intact. Historic window casings match the style of those on the first story; however the windows extend nearly to the floor with no plaster between the sills and baseboards. Most doors and door casings also match the historic materials on the first story. The locations where closet and bathroom partitions were created for apartments have simple board casings and two panel wood doors. A plastered niche with a wood stool is located on the north wall of the southwest bedroom (photograph 0013).

The basement is constructed in brick, a cement floor and some early wood plank covered partition walls, dating to the first half of the 20th century. A few primary support timbers have hand-ax marks on their surfaces. The house's walls are constructed in brick three withes thick at the base. The interior plaster is directly applied to the brick. There is a tall attic over the second story that is field framed with lumber. At one time there were four brick chimneys to the inside of the exterior walls; one in each primary four rooms. These have been removed and are no longer visible above the roof.

Brick Woodhouse, ca. 1880. Contributing (right side of photograph 0004)

The woodhouse is a unique accessory building on the property and dates to the approximate age of the main house, or about 1880. The building is a single story gabled brick building with its north gable fronting Park Street directly on the sidewalk line. It has wood soffits and fascia and its roof is covered with fiberglass shingles.

The north façade has a grouping of three 1/1 wood windows centered on its front. The middle window is slightly wider than the outside two. They have a sill made of brick rowlocks and date to about 1920. Above the group of windows is a segmented brick arch from an earlier, narrower opening. The west façade has a 1/1 wood window and brick rowlock sill in its north end and a smaller, nearly square window in its south end. These also date to about 1920. The east façade has a brick extension about four feet square with a hipped roof located just south of center of the façade. This extension has a four panel wood door in an arched opening on its south wall and a small wood louver in an arched opening in the upper part of its east wall. A 4/4 wood window with a segmented brick arch and a sill constructed of brick rowlocks is located south of the building extension. The south façade has a 4/4 window with a stone sill and segmented brick arch on its east side and a three panel wood door with window in its upper half on the façade's west side. The door opening has a segmented brick arch and metal storm door covering the wood door. Ghost markings from a former porch roof appear at the base of the gable wall just above the door opening. Other than specified, the windows, doors and building extension on the east and south facades appear to be original to the building.

The interior of the building is divided into halves with a room in the north and south halves of the building and a wide passageway between. The rooms' floors are covered in vinyl sheet flooring. Their walls and ceilings are plastered with walls covered in wallpaper. Door and window casings are wood and have a simpler profile than the main house; they date to the appropriate period of the window and door opening on which they

are located. The brick extension on the east side of the building also has plastered walls and ceiling, although the plaster has deteriorated. The building was purportedly used as a wood house originally but during the time the hospital operated from the main house the building housed the hospital's electric generating equipment.

Garage, ca. 1940. Non-contributing (photograph 0005)

A single story wood frame garage is located at the southeast corner of the property. It was constructed about 1940, most likely after the use of the house as a hospital and therefore after the period of significance. The garage was renovated with new siding, roof, and windows during the summer of 2010. The garage is covered in cement siding and has a mono-slope roof covered in a rubber membrane with wood fascia boards. There are three garage bays in a row with their doors facing west. The doors are aluminum. At the north end of the west façade is a steel door with a window in its top half. To the door's south side is a small rectangular window. Another window matching this is centered on the north façade of the garage. An asphalt parking area is located off the west side of the garage and connects to the alley along the property's south border. A 1 ½ story carriage house appears in a 1910 Sanborn map in this approximate location.

Site, ca. 1880 Contributing (photographs 0001-0005)

The site and landscaping is an important contributing feature to the Bloch House. The house's situation on a double lot and the mature landscaping adds to the grandeur of the architecture and feel of the property. The site is divided into essentially three parts: the south side yard, backyard, and its street yards. The street yards and south side yard are more formally organized and the backyard has informal gardens.

The street yards are narrow due to the closeness of the house to the street. A hedge of spirea bushes extends between the street sidewalk and lawn on the north and west sides. The hedge opens for the front sidewalk leading to the entry porch. Yew hedges are located on the front of the house behind the spirea and just below the first story windows on either side of the entry sidewalk. A tree lawn is located to the outside of the street sidewalk and has four large maple trees surrounding the house. A set of concrete steps leads from the front entry sidewalk to the curb on Academy Street. A concrete sidewalk leads from Park Street to the rear porch between the main house and woodhouse. A large lilac bush is located at the southwest corner of the house. The south side yard is more open with lawn and a few small trees and a large spruce in the southeast corner. The backyard is enclosed with a white wood picket fence and a spirea hedge along Park Street interrupted by a wood gate. There is a brick sidewalk buried beneath approximately 3" of soil leading from Park Street through this gate and to the garage. The owners indicate a few former brick sidewalks are buried beneath soil or new concrete. The backyard has a small vegetable garden, composting area, and clothesline on wood posts. Flower beds, lined with small rocks, have spring flowers that include crocus, tulips and daffodils. Ferns, periwinkle, and hostas are located in the flower beds and as foundation plantings. Several mature ornamental trees including redbud and magnolia are found in the backyard.

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

HEALTH/MEDICINE

Period of Significance

1873

1923-1934

Significant Dates

1873

1923

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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.

Period of Significance (justification)

One Period of Significance begins and ends with Conrad and Catherine Bloch's construction of the home in 1873 as a visible example of the wealth produced by early mercantile trade in Valparaiso. With Dr. Cooke's conversion of the building into the Valparaiso Hospital and Sanitarium in about 1923, the building became significant to the community as a place promoting the city's health. This ended in the early 1930s when Cooke closed the hospital just prior to his death. While the building was converted to apartments after 1934, the

property's distinct significance to the community ended with the hospital's closure, marking the end of the second Period of Significance.

Criteria Consideratons (explanation, if necessary)

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

The Conrad and Catherine Bloch House qualifies for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. The Bloch House was constructed by early, successful Valparaiso merchants representing a period of time when communities were realizing substantial wealth and their entrepreneurs were constructing elaborate homes in neighborhoods surrounding the downtown commercial district. The Bloch House meets Criterion A for its role as one of Valparaiso's early hospitals. The Bloch House represents a period of time when private hospitals and sanitariums were created, typically by doctors, to serve the health needs of the public. The Bloch House also qualifies under Criterion C due to its excellent representation and articulation of the Italianate style and due to the intactness of its historic features.

Narrative Statement of Significance (provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance)

Architecture

The Bloch House is an excellent representative of the Italianate style applied to residential architecture of Midwestern cities during the 19th century. The Bloch's had the Italianate style applied to the double-pile house plan form with simple hipped roof. Specific character defining features of the Bloch House's Italianate style are the tall narrow framed windows with full arch crowns. Another feature is the roof's bracketed cornice formed by the wide overhanging eaves with pairs of scrolled decorative brackets. The house has a very formally organized symmetrical front façade with elaborate articulation of its entry and window surrounds that are constructed of stone. Historic 4/4 wood windows and pair of four panel entry doors further enhance the significance of the house. The entry porch roof is elaborately constructed with carved woodwork and large wood brackets supporting it. The interior also has extensive historic wood moldings framing tall door and window openings.

The Italianate style was popular between 1850 and 1880, particularly in Midwestern towns where the expansion of railroads brought wealth to towns and created the building boom of the period. The style traces its roots to England as part of the Picturesque movement; the movement rejected formal classical ideas of art and architecture that were popular for 200 years.¹ The Picturesque movement emphasized rambling, informal Italian farmhouses but as the style entered the United States it was often modified and embellished into a truly Americanized style.² The first Italianate house was constructed in the United States in the late 1830s. The style was popularized by house pattern books by Andrew Jackson Downing during the middle part of the 1800s but its popularity began to wane as it began to be replaced by the Queen Anne style in the last decades of the 19th century.³

¹ McAlester, pg. 212

² McAlester, pg. 212

³ McAlester, pg. 213

The Italianate style was popular in Valparaiso and Porter County during their period of expansion that also followed the period of popularity for the style, but its use in the area continued into the 1890s. The style was one of the most popular styles in the county and several examples of residential and commercial architecture remain. Many of the residential examples are also constructed in brick like the Bloch House, but few follow the double-pile form or have the ornate detailing of the window openings. The most common application of the Italianate style was to L-plans and four over four plans. A few of the finest examples of the Italianate style in Porter County outside of Valparaiso include the Josephus Wolf House in Portage Township, the Weller Farm in Pine Township, the Martin Young House in Chesterton, the John Prentiss House in Center Township, the John Wallace Rigg House and Hazard Sheffield House in Porter Township. Most of these were also constructed in brick around the same period of time as the Bloch House with the exception of the Sheffield House which dates very early to about 1853. The Sheffield House appears to be the earliest example of the Italianate Style in Porter County and was applied to an I-House plan.

The style was also widely used in the City of Valparaiso. Some of the finest Italianate homes in Valparaiso include the A. J. Buel House and the Lorenzo Freeman House on Washington Street and the Haste/Crumpacker House constructed in the Italian Villa style on Michigan Street. Besides the Bloch House one other Italianate double-pile house is located at 204 E. Brown Street in Valparaiso. It was constructed about 1875. One other important example of the Italianate style in the City of Valparaiso to note is the historic Sheriff's residence. The building was constructed in 1860 also in a double-pile plan configuration. The building has paired full arch windows on the front of the building and paired eave brackets. The Sheriff's residence level of detail and general appearance are closest in similarity to the Bloch House than other Italianate examples found in Porter County.

Health/Medicine

The Bloch House is also significant due to its period of use as a hospital in Valparaiso between about 1923 and 1934. After the death of Catherine Bloch the house was passed down to her grandson. In about 1923 Dr. Harvey Cook leased the building from Bloch and converted it into the Valparaiso Hospital and Sanitarium. Cook became ill forcing the closure of the hospital in the early 1930s.

Harvey Samuel Cook, born in Gilman, Illinois in 1888 to James and Mary Cook, is best known for his contribution to medicine by his invention of the hypodermic syringe. Cook, while an Army-medical during World War I and in need of local anesthetic as quickly as possible, developed the idea for the syringe by drawing inspiration from the cartridges used by Army riflemen. Cook created brass syringes with double-pointed needles which locked into place; he cut glass tubes and rubber pencil erasers which were used for stoppers.⁴ Cook filed an application for patent of the hypodermic syringe on October 21, 1916 and it was patented on June 26, 1917. He branded it as the Cook "Carpule" System of Hypodermic Medication. At this time he was a resident of Worthington, Indiana.⁵ Later he moved to Chicago and established Cook Laboratories from which the syringe was produced.

Dr. Cook relocated to Valparaiso, Indiana and established the Valparaiso Hospital and Sanitarium in about 1923. Cook lived at Morgan and Chicago Streets, only a few blocks from the hospital; this home still exists. Cook graduated from the Kankakee Conservatory of Music at Kankakee, IL and later attended Valparaiso University for two years. He married Ida Mae Doty in Valparaiso in 1910. He entered the Chicago College of Medicine

⁴ Asbell, pg. 14

⁵ U.S. Patent Office #1,231,497

and Surgery and graduated in 1913. He began his medical practice in Gilman, IL, but entered World War I as a medic, receiving the rank of first lieutenant. Cook returned to Valparaiso in 1920 and established his hospital a few years later, but was "forced to give up the venture because of a health breakdown."⁶ Cook served as city health commissioner and city councilman, both positions he resigned from due to his illness. Cook was credited with extensive oversight of the city's health and was credited with helping the community avoid large scale illness during a major typhoid epidemic in 1933.⁷ His father, James Harvey Cook, was later appointed to the position of city health inspector of Valparaiso during the early 1940s.⁸ Harvey S. Cook is buried in Graceland Cemetery, Valparaiso with a Disabled American Veteran of WWI marker placed on his grave.

The history of healthcare in Valparaiso was limited to physicians carrying doctor's bags to make house calls prior to the establishment of hospitals. While the first private hospital was reported to be founded about 1890, no official records have been found to substantiate this. Official records state that prior to 1891 Valparaiso and Porter County had no hospitals of any kind for treatment of persons outside the home. In that same year Dr. D. J. Loring opened a private hospital on East Jefferson Street with accommodations for twelve patients. The Loring hospital was purchased in the name of Christian Church Brotherhood and was operated as the Christian Hospital. The Christian Hospital continued in operation until the establishment of the Porter County-owned building, constructed in 1939.⁹ The original Loring hospital is no longer extant.

Loring sold his interest in the facility and erected a hospital/residence at the northeast corner of Jefferson and Washington Streets in 1906. The building became the Elks Lodge and later became the Valparaiso Woman's Club. This building is still standing and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. With the outbreak of the small pox epidemic a building was transformed into a detention hospital in 1899 for residents.¹⁰ In 1939 Porter County established a 48 bed hospital which has expanded into what is known as the Porter Memorial Hospital operating in Valparaiso today.

Cook's hospital was the last privately-owned facility to be opened in Valparaiso and operated from about 1923 through the early 1930s. In 1925 a report stated the hospital handled 28 emergency cases, performed 11 operations, provided 72 x-ray services, recorded two births and had posted one death. The same report stated that a total of \$26,000 had been spent in equipping the hospital with the latest technology.¹¹

Over the years of ownership by the current owners of the Bloch House several people have contacted them with information on the building while it was a hospital. According to these sources the small brick woodhouse behind the main building was used as both nurses' quarters and as a generating station for the hospital. One source indicated the first child was born at the "Cook Sanitarium" in 1923. A few other sources indicated also their family members were born at the hospital. One individual commented that there was a strong smell of ether in the upstairs of the hospital and another stated that the sick were housed downstairs while the ambulatory were cared for upstairs as well as it being the location where surgery was performed. Also during renovation work on the Bloch House the owners have uncovered a number of items from the period of its use as a hospital including pill boxes, medicine bottles, medical pamphlets and directions for remedies.

⁶ Vidette Messenger, 9/3/1934

⁷ Vidette Messenger, 9/1/1934

⁸ Letter of appreciation from Valparaiso mayor, dated 9/30/1941 for service

⁹ Vidette Messenger, 2/22/1958

¹⁰ Vidette Messenger, 2/22/1958

¹¹ Vidette Messenger, 2/22/1958

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

Brief History of Porter County and Valparaiso

The first European settler in Porter County was a fur trader named Joseph Baille who made his home in Westchester Township in 1822. Later, settlers to the county would come by a stagecoach line between Detroit and Fort Dearborn during the 1830s.¹² Portersville, what would later become the City of Valparaiso, was platted in 1836 and became the seat of government for Porter County.¹³ In 1850 the town's population was 520¹⁴, but with the construction of the Ft. Wayne-Pittsburg-Chicago Railroad in 1858 the town's population more than doubled by 1860 and grew to over 2,000 just five years later.¹⁵

Powell's addition was one of the earliest additions to Valparaiso and is where the Bloch House was constructed. It was platted and recorded on July 28, 1860.¹⁶ Valparaiso incorporated as a city in 1865¹⁷ and it was after this time the post-Civil War building began in earnest resulting in the construction of many of the old homes, brick business blocks, and public buildings.¹⁸

Bloch Family History

The Bloch name first appears in Valparaiso in 1858 when Conrad Bloch, a native of Germany, moved to the community. Bloch has a few spellings in historical documents including Block, which was a common use, and Black. Conrad Bloch was listed as a "manufacturer" in the city newspaper on October 14, 1858.¹⁹ Conrad married Catherine Summer on December 31, 1858 in Center Township, Porter County.²⁰ A newspaper excerpt from April 14, 1859 promotes Conrad Block as having a shoe and boot store manufacturing custom footwear.²¹

Conrad and Catherine first appear in Porter County censuses in 1860 under the surname of "Black". Conrad is listed as the head of household, age 24, native of Germany with the occupation of shoemaker listed. Catherine was 17 and listed as a native of Canada and they had one child, a son named Julius, age 2 months. There also was a man in the 1860 census of similar age to Conrad named Gottlieb Bloch, also a native of Germany, listed as a merchant.²² This man is believed to be a brother to Conrad and was also an active merchant of Valparaiso through the 1880s. The Conrad Bloch family appears again in the 1870 census with Conrad again as head of household.²³

Conrad Bloch's business flourished during the 1860s and 1870s. The elegant home he constructed at 608 Academy Street exemplifies the prosperity of his establishment. An advertisement in the newspaper in 1876 promoted Bloch as a dealer in shoes with his

¹² Bicentennial History Book, pg. 12

¹³ History of Porter County, pg. 195

¹⁴ History of Porter County, pg. 199

¹⁵ History of Porter County, pg. 203

¹⁶ History of Porter County, pg. 195

¹⁷ History of Porter County, pg. 201

¹⁸ Bicentennial History Book, pg. 13

¹⁹ Nault, pg. 6

²⁰ Porter County Marriages, Vol. 1-6, pg. 6

²¹ Nault, pg. 6

²² Jones, no page number

²³ Whited, no page number

business located at the "first door east of Gould House".²⁴ In the same year an excerpt from the newspaper showed the competitive nature of Bloch's business when he "swore out a warrant for C. H. Osgood's arrest" for selling boots and shoes too cheaply in front of his store.²⁵ On January 25, 1877 the city newspaper carried a notice that Mr. Conrad Block "has been quite ill but is now convalescent."²⁶ Later that year a notice was placed in the newspaper by Conrad Block to those owing him money to settle their accounts before he moved to California.²⁷ It is doubtful Conrad relocated to California; he died on May 29, 1877. A newspaper account reported that he had his life insured for \$15,000 and also had "handsome property which he accumulated by his industry."²⁸

In the 1880 census Catherine Bloch was listed as head of household.²⁹ The Valparaiso City Directory of 1885 listed Mrs. C. Block as a widow at 34 Academy Street (prior to renumbering) with her sons listed: John (clerk), Julius, and Lewis (student).³⁰ Catherine continued at the same address (becoming 608 Academy) until the last appearance in 1911. Catherine died on February 4, 1918 and was buried next to Conrad in Maplewood Cemetery, Valparaiso.³¹ It is unclear how long Catherine continued to live at the family home beyond 1911, but likely for some time since her son John also made his home at the same location. Conrad and Catherine had four sons buried in Maplewood Cemetery: Julius (1860-1906), John (1864-1920), Luther (1867-1926 & his wife Louise 1875-1906), and Martin (1871-1899). The sons were all buried next to each other in a family plot.³² Conrad and Catherine were buried in an older section of the cemetery next to three daughters: Nancy (died 1895, aged 33 years), Lillie (died 1872, aged 3 years), and Lillian (died 1895, aged 20 years).³³

Luther Bloch was a successful entrepreneur in his own right. Luther opened Block's Steam Laundry in 1886 having started in the laundry business at 12 years old; he also was a dealer in a "fine line of domestic and imported cigars and tobacco".³⁴ Luther advertised extensively in city directories and in Headlights Sights and Scenes along the Grand Trunk Railway his business was featured with a number of photographs and was noted as the largest steam laundry in northern Indiana with a branch location in Chicago.³⁵ Luther also employed his brothers in the business. In 1901 Luther and his wife opened the Calumet Hotel³⁶ which would later become the European Hotel and Restaurant under his son as it is listed in the 1921 city directory, on Lincolnway.³⁷ Luther Bloch's son, also named Luther, was born in 1897 and inherited the family home after his grandmother died. He leased the property to Dr. Cook for the Valparaiso Hospital and Sanitarium; in 1940 Luther Jr. converted the house into three apartments. The house continued in the family under the Bankert name until it was sold in 1975 by a great-niece of Catherine Bloch, with the exception of a brief one year ownership by Dr. Joseph Mathes (1950-51), after which time it returned to the family.

²⁴ Griffiths, pg. 3

²⁵ Griffiths, pg. 99

²⁶ Griffiths, pg. 111

²⁷ Griffiths, pg. 115

²⁸ Shook, pg. 39

²⁹ McCarron, no page number

³⁰ Valparaiso City Directory, 1885

³¹ Maplewood Cemetery records, pg. 19

³² Maplewood Cemetery records, pg. 4

³³ Maplewood Cemetery records, pg. 19

³⁴ Headlights, pg. 23

³⁵ Headlights, pg. 23

³⁶ Nault, pg. 24

³⁷ Polk's Valparaiso City Directory, 1921

9. Major Bibliographical 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: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 127-642-34046

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Conrad & Catherine Bloch House
Name of Property

Porter County, IN
County and State

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .3 acre
(do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>16</u>	<u>494610</u>	<u>4591120</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

Briefly described as Lots 133 and 134 of Powell's Addition to the City of Valparaiso. Beginning at the southeast corner of the intersection of Park and Academy Streets, continue in a line with the east curb of Academy Street south to the south boundary of 608 Academy Street. Turn east and continue in a line east to the southeast corner of the property known as 608 Academy Street. Turn north and continue in a line north to the south curb of Park Street. Turn west and continue in a line with the south curb of Park Street to the intersection of Academy Street, or the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

Within the described boundaries is the property known as 608 Academy Street which includes all buildings and landscaping of the property that contribute to the Conrad and Catherine Bloch House site.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kurt West Garner
organization Partners in Preservation, Inc. date May 28, 2010
street & number 12954 6th Road telephone 574-936-0613
city or town Plymouth state IN zip code 46563
e-mail kwgarn@kwgarn.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 black and white 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: Conrad and Catherine Bloch House

City or Vicinity: Valparaiso

County: Porter **State:** IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: April 26, 2010

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0001 **Front façade, facing east**

1 of 14.

Name of Property: Conrad and Catherine Bloch House

City or Vicinity: Valparaiso

County: Porter **State:** IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: April 26, 2010

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0002 **North façade, facing southwest**

2 of 14.

Name of Property: Conrad and Catherine Bloch House

City or Vicinity: Valparaiso

County: Porter **State:** IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: March 20, 2010

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0003 **West and South facades, facing northeast**

3 of 14.

Name of Property: Conrad and Catherine Bloch House

City or Vicinity: Valparaiso

County: Porter **State:** IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: March 20, 2010

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0004 East façade and woodhouse, facing northwest
4 of 14.

Name of Property: Conrad and Catherine Bloch House

City or Vicinity: Valparaiso

County: Porter State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: March 20, 2010

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0005 Garage, facing southeast
5 of 14.

Name of Property: Conrad and Catherine Bloch House

City or Vicinity: Valparaiso

County: Porter State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: March 20, 2010

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0006 Foyer, facing southeast
6 of 14.

Name of Property: Conrad and Catherine Bloch House

City or Vicinity: Valparaiso

County: Porter State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: March 20, 2010

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0007 Parlor, facing northwest
7 of 14.

Name of Property: Conrad and Catherine Bloch House

City or Vicinity: Valparaiso

County: Porter State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Conrad & Catherine Bloch House
Name of Property

Porter County, IN
County and State

Date Photographed: March 20, 2010

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0008 Office, facing north

8 of 14.

Name of Property: Conrad and Catherine Bloch House

City or Vicinity: Valparaiso

County: Porter State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: March 20, 2010

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0009 Kitchen, facing southeast

9 of 14.

Name of Property: Conrad and Catherine Bloch House

City or Vicinity: Valparaiso

County: Porter State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: March 20, 2010

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0010 Dining room, facing southwest

10 of 14.

Name of Property: Conrad and Catherine Bloch House

City or Vicinity: Valparaiso

County: Porter State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: March 20, 2010

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0011 Living room, facing east

11 of 14.

Name of Property: Conrad and Catherine Bloch House

City or Vicinity: Valparaiso

County: Porter State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Conrad & Catherine Bloch House
Name of Property

Porter County, IN
County and State

Date Photographed: March 20, 2010

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0012 Second floor northwest bedroom, facing west
12 of 14.

Name of Property: Conrad and Catherine Bloch House

City or Vicinity: Valparaiso

County: Porter State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: March 20, 2010

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0013 Second floor southwest bedroom, facing northeast
13 of 14.

Name of Property: Conrad and Catherine Bloch House

City or Vicinity: Valparaiso

County: Porter State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

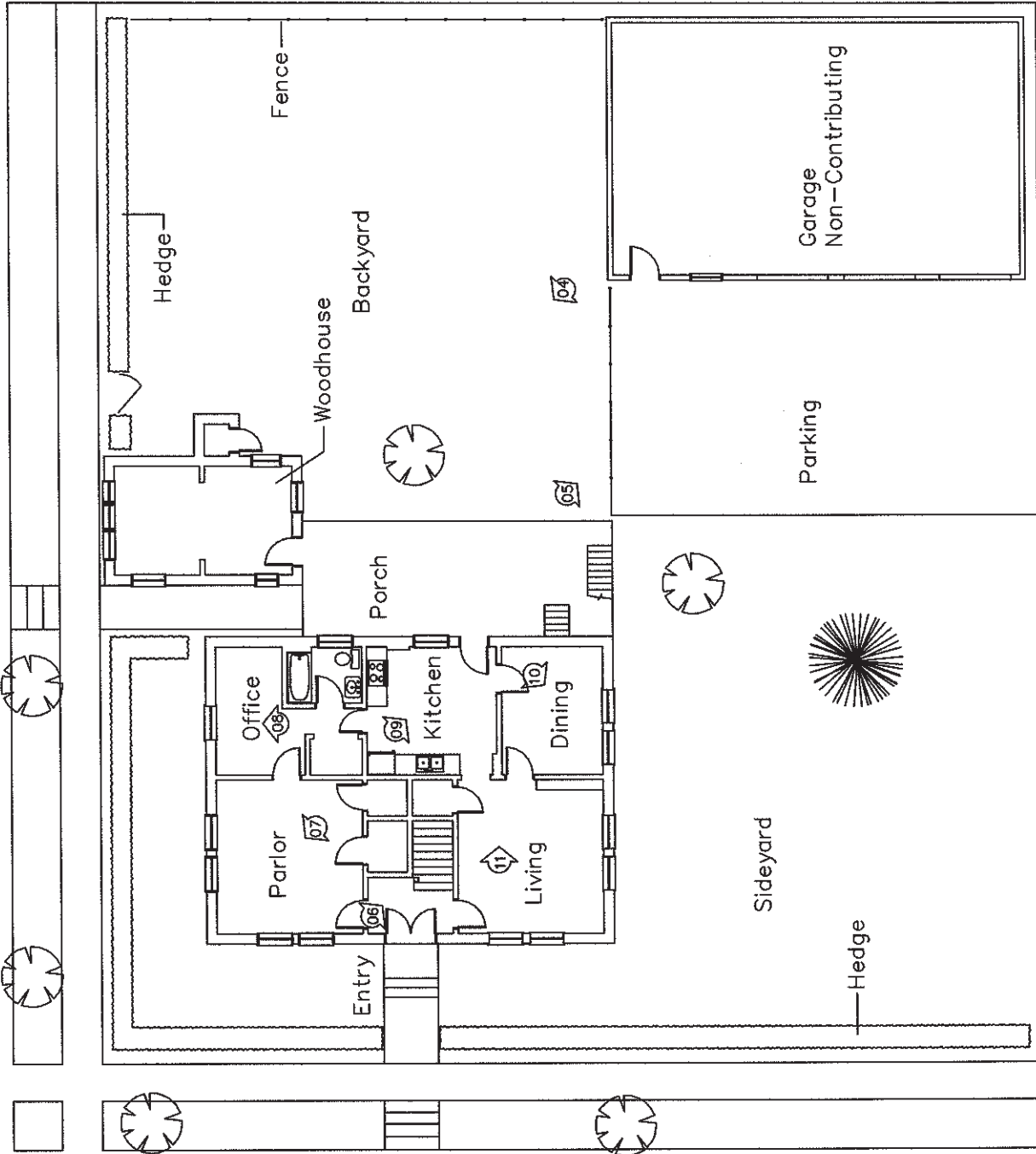
Date Photographed: March 20, 2010

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0014 Second floor hallway, facing west
14 of 14.

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.).
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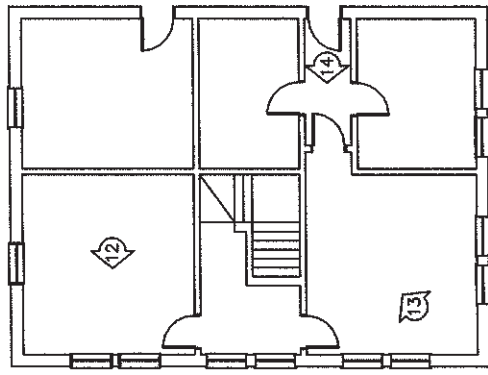
02

Park Street



Academy Street

03



Second Floor



00 = Photograph

Conrad & Catherine Bloch House
 Valparaiso, Porter Co. IN
 First Floor and Site Plan

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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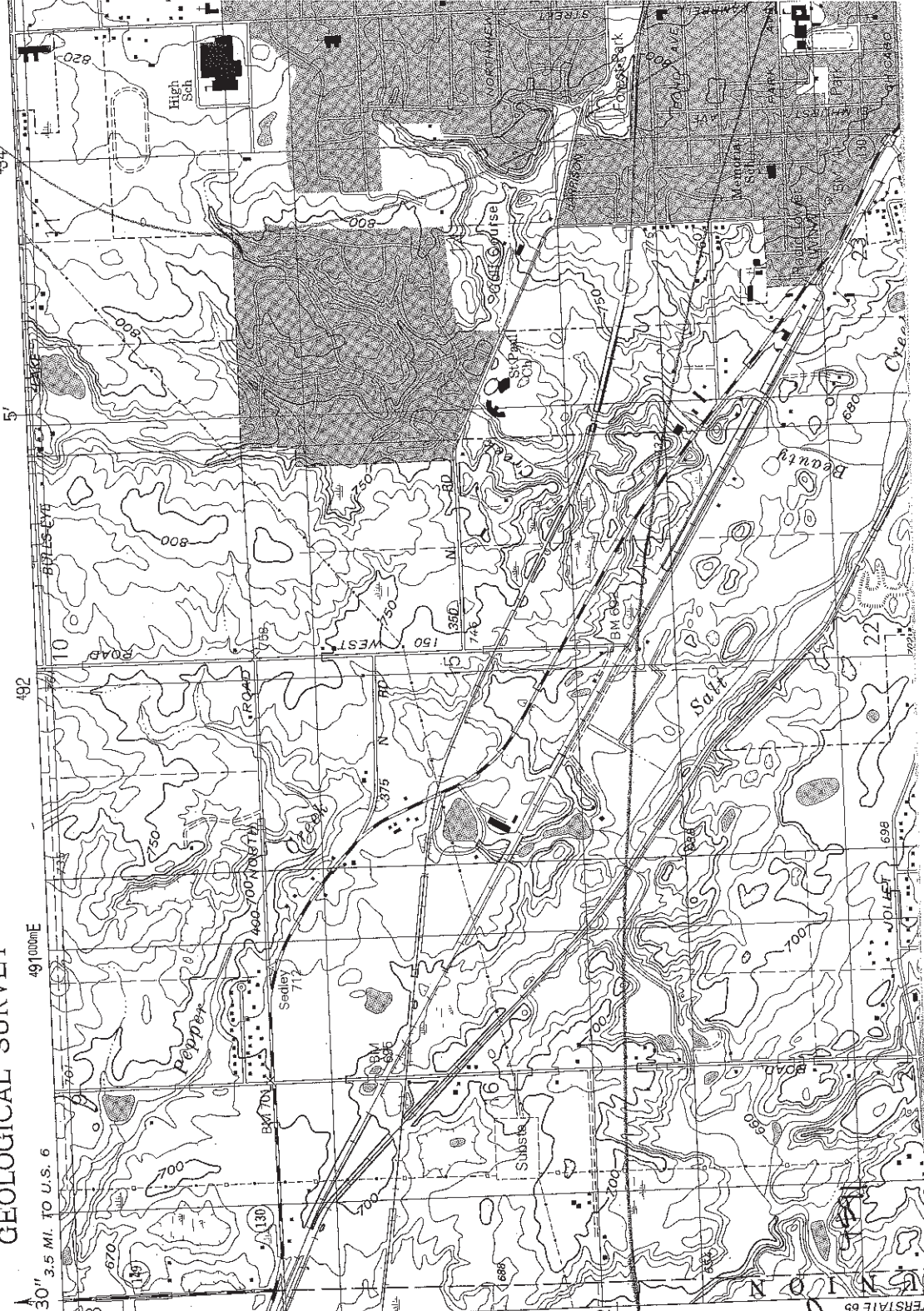
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