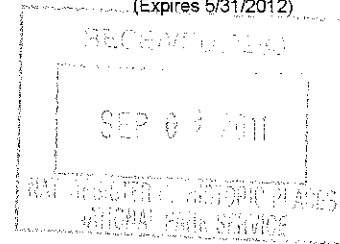


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



915

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 if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Read Dunes House
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 1453 Tremont Road not for publication
city or town Chesterton vicinity _____
state Indiana code IN county Porter code 127 zip code 46304

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 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property ___ 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 ___ local
Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____
In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____
Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register
 determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain:) _____
Signature of the Keeper Coral D. Skell Date of Action 12-8-2011

Read Dunes House
Name of Property

Porter County, IN
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(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
2	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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic: Single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th & Early 20th Century American
Movements: Prairie School
Other: Dunes Rustic

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE
walls: STONE: Limestone
WOOD: Weatherboard
roof: SYNTHETICS: Fiberglass
other: _____

Read Dunes House

Porter County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

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

See continuation sheets

Narrative Description

See 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

CONSERVATION

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1952-1961

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Read, Herbert P.

Read Dunes House

Porter County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

Period of Significance (justification)

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

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

See continuation sheets.

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

See continuation sheets.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

See 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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Read Dunes House
Name of Property

Porter County, IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>16</u>	<u>496020</u>	<u>4610080</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.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Pia Lopez
organization N/A date 1 September 2011
street & number 1529 - 3rd Street telephone (916) 501-5725
city or town Sacramento state CA zip code 95814
e-mail pialopez@comcast.net

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.)

Read Dunes House
Name of Property

Porter County, IN
County and State

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive 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:

City or Vicinity:

County:

State:

Photographer:

Date Photographed:

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1 of ____.

See continuation sheets.

Property Owner:

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

name National Park Service, Midwest Regional Office

street & number 601 Riverfront Drive

telephone

city or town Omaha

state NE

68102

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Name of Property	Read Dunes House
County and State	Porter, IN
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)	

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

7. DESCRIPTION

Summary:

The 1952 Read Dunes House was commissioned by Philo Benham Read (1882-1961) and Irene Martin Read (1902-1981) of Chicago and designed by their architect son, Herbert P. Read (b. 1926).

The two-acre property is located in Tremont, the historic "Gateway to the Dunes" from the early 1900s. It lies 1,000 feet inside the southern boundary of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, which was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on Nov. 5, 1966. The site is one-and-one-half miles south of the Lake Michigan shoreline.

The Read Dunes House is a compact 58' x 29' rectangular one-story house with low-sloped gable roof and a partial, below-grade basement that includes a garage. The interior is an open floor plan with a large living room, fireplace as focal point, multitude of windows and minimal separate rooms. Locally quarried, rough-cut limestone stonework unites the exterior and interior.

As described by George D. Livingstone of Bentley & Livingstone in 1957, the Read Dunes House "was designed as a plan to be a living room with attached house. Rooms other than the living room are just large enough for use, and the entire focal point is the living room itself since the Reads entertain their club groups of between 40-50 persons at a time. Yet the house is not large. The architect calls the house a perfect example of a home built for a specific site and a specific family and their needs."¹

The design and location of the home came out of the Reads' long relationship to dunes preservation efforts, dating from the early 20th century, and heralded a new era of dunes preservation activism for the Read family, along with a core of volunteers who sought to create a national park in the Indiana dunes.

Site:

The Read family chose the site to be within walking distance of:

- The historic Tremont Station of the South Shore Line, the electric interurban railway running between Chicago and Dune country from 1908.² The site is one-quarter mile south of the old station. That station was demolished and replaced by the Dune Park Station in 1985 (three-quarters of a mile from the Read Dunes House).
- Wilson Shelter, the hiking trail system and the three Tremont high dunes (Mount Tom, Mount Jackson and Mount Holden) in the Indiana Dunes State Park, which was established in 1923. The Read Dunes House is one-half mile south of the shelter.

The Read family also chose the site for its short driving distance to:

- Highway 12, the Dunes Highway, a 25-mile segment of the historic east-west highway that parallels the Lake Michigan shoreline. The Read Dunes House is one-quarter mile south of Dunes Highway.
- Areas that became part of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. North and east of the property are the Furnessville and Beverly Shores sections of the National Lakeshore. North and west are the Porter Beach, Cowles Bog, Dune Acres, Bailly Homestead and Chellberg Farm, Inland Marsh and West Beach sections of the park.

¹ George D. Livingstone of Bentley & Livingstone. 1957. Letter to Pat Dalton of the *Chicago Daily News*, dated 3 September. Read Papers. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana.

² See 1925 poster "Visit Duneland: Tremont, The Gateway to the Dunes, 100 minutes from Downtown Chicago via South Shore Line," Ronald D. Cohen and Stephen G. McShane, eds. *Moonlight in Duneland: The Illustrated Story of the Chicago South Shore and South Bend Railroad* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1998), 59.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Name of Property **Read Dunes House**

County and State **Porter, IN**

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

The Read family chose this site, away from the lakeshore dunes, to be among the oldest dune ridges formed on the earlier beaches of what 11,000 to 14,000 years ago were the Calumet and Glenwood Beaches of ancient Lake Chicago, the predecessor of Lake Michigan. The house is nestled atop the gentle slopes of these oldest glacial beach dunes, surrounded by a characteristic mature oak forest (black oaks, white oaks). Also surrounding the site is the unique plant diversity of the dunelands; within a stone's throw of almost any spot are plants of the desert and plants of woodlands, plants of the pine woods and plants of swamps, plants of oak woods and plants of the prairies.

Today, the Read Dunes House lies centrally within the national lakeshore between the Lake Michigan shoreline, key park units and the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center, which opened in 2006 outside park boundaries near the intersection of Indiana Highway 49 and U.S. Highway 20.

The northern boundary of the two-acre Read Dunes House property lies 87 feet from and parallels the Li-Co-Ki-We Trail, a hiking trail within the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. The western boundary is Tremont Road (a north-south road within the park between U.S. Highway 20 and U.S. Highway 12). The southern and eastern boundaries abut wooded areas within the park.

Style:

The Read Dunes House draws from the Prairie School heritage of 1900 to 1925, but the home's influences come more from the artists and naturalists of the early Dunes movement of the 1910s-1920s and the natural landscape than any particular architectural school.

Author J. Ronald Engel describes this in *Sacred Sands: The Struggle for Community in the Indiana Dunes*: "A recurring image in the life and work of those who participated in the Dunes movement is the image of building a fire and constructing a home at the center of the Dunes...There is remarkable similarity among the 'pictures' of the various camps, huts, cottages, lodges and houses that the leaders of the Dunes movement have established (or imagined establishing) over the years in the Dunes."³ These structures have three main elements: harmonious dwelling with nature, fellowship around a fire, an open community of friends. The Read Dunes House is the last remaining physical structure that bears an intimate relationship to this history.

Philo Read's ideas for a dunes home were drawn from specific examples. The Prairie Club, the Midwestern counterpart to the Sierra Club of California and leading organization promoting the value of the Indiana Dunes, built its Beach House along the Lake Michigan shore in the Tremont area in 1913. Philo Read helped to construct the building, with a floor plan radiating out from a central fireplace, and later served as the Beach House committee chairman in the push for a park.⁴ Another was his own small cabin, among the cluster of shoreline cottages near Mount Tom, featuring floor-to-ceiling windows.⁵ Another was artist Frank Dudley's 1921 shoreline Tremont cottage/studio, which he designed to "bring the dunes indoors" -- with six windows in a gabled front facade, a large central

³ J. Ronald Engel, *Sacred Sands: The Struggle for Community in the Indiana Dunes* (Wesleyan University Press: 1983), 185.

⁴ "Construction of Prairie Club Beach House," photograph by Arthur E. Anderson. 1913. Read Papers. See also "The Year Book of the Prairie Club" (Chicago, 1921). Read Papers. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana.

⁵ The Prairie Club had marked off plats that members could lease. See "Beach Camp-Cabins." Series 6-6-3e photographs, Prairie Club Archives, Thomas Library, Chesterton, Indiana. The Prairie Club Beach House and the cottages were demolished in the years after the creation of the Indiana Dunes State Park in 1923.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Name of Property **Read Dunes House**
County and State **Porter, IN**
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

fireplace and open ceiling vault.⁶ Yet another was the home of poet Carl Sandburg, 20 miles north of the Indiana state line on a shoreline dune; the Read family rented a cottage from the Sandburgs in summers during the 1930s and were regulars at the Sandburg home known for its windows in all directions.⁷

Significant features of the Read Dunes House:

1. An open, spacious, free-flowing Great Room with a high-vaulted ceiling -- discarding an elaborate floor plan by combining living room and dining room focused on a central fireplace. This room comprises 57 percent of the interior space.
2. A broad, generous fireplace and tapered chimney of locally quarried, rough-cut limestone as the center of the design and most vital part of the house -- a gathering place for warmth, connection and storytelling, linked with nature.⁸ Low walls in the west entry (including a foyer bench) use the same rough-cut limestone. The stonework is of superior craftsmanship by a local stonemason.
3. No attic over the Great Room; the drywall ceiling is attached directly to the underside of the roof rafters. This enables the gently sloping roof to lie low when seen from the exterior, while creating a sense of spaciousness in the interior Great Room. Over the bedroom/kitchen areas, the drywall is attached to the bottom chord of the roof trusses, creating a low attic space above the ceiling.
4. Kitchen opening to the Great Room, separated by built-in cabinets and book shelves, providing easy flow of traffic to the social gathering place.
5. Windows in the Great Room on the south, west and east capture generous amounts of light and connect the interior with the outdoors. The south wall has a floor-to-ceiling bank of 12 windows (two-wide, stacked six-high, with the top two window panels trapezoid-shaped to follow the gabled roof line). The east and west walls have horizontal sliding-style windows. The east wall also has large sliding glass doors, each leaf 5' x 7'.
6. Indirect lighting hides and diffuses artificial light, creating a warm glow. The Great Room has eight exposed roof tie-beams; lights sit on top of three of the roof ties shining light up. The west and east walls in the Great Room have lights concealed behind wooden trim above the windows.
7. Vertically placed 9 1/2-inch redwood boards cover the walls in the Great Room and entry, stained in natural hues. The interior also has built-in redwood cabinets and bookshelves stained in natural hues.
8. Incorporated as part of the design of the Great Room were dunes paintings and etchings by the Reads' artist/dunes preservationist friends, bringing the dunes landscape into the home. These included two Frank Dudley paintings given to the Reads, one of which was a wedding gift in 1925, etchings by Earl Reed, Sr., and others.
9. Minimal number of separate rooms -- two isolated bedrooms and a bathroom comprising 20 percent of the interior space -- encourage family and friends to gather in the Great Room.

⁶ "Plan Indiana Memorial to Honor Dunes Painter," *Chicago Sunday Tribune*, September 3, 1967. Despite efforts to save the house, the state of Indiana demolished it in 1967. The Dudley Guest Books show that Philo, Irene and Herbert Read visited frequently in the 1930s and 1940s. See James R. Dabbert, editor. *Indiana Dunes Revealed: The Art of Frank Dudley* (University of Illinois Press, 2006), 53, 65.

⁷ Carl Sandburg had said: "I was foolish about windows...I was hungry for windows." Lillian Sandburg designed the house so it was lined with a multitude of panes facing in all directions. See Helga Sandburg, "The Walking Hills," *Chicago Sunday Tribune Magazine*, June 10, 1962.

⁸ Philo Read, chairman of the Prairie Club's Beach House Committee, was known as a builder of mountainous campfires at the beach near Mt. Tom, a meeting place for conversation, storytelling, linking people and nature. Philo Read's paintings for his father Opie Read's novels emphasize fire and light. For example, see "His sword was hanging near the mantelpiece," illustration in Opie Read, *Turk: A Novel* (Chicago, Laird and Lee: 1904).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Name of Property	Read Dunes House
County and State	Porter, IN
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)	

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

10. Locally quarried, rough-cut limestone wainscoting surrounds the exterior of the house, matching interior stonework. Limestone retaining walls on the east side of the house extend from the basement garage, following the lines and curves of the dunes. Another low wall, also curved, is on a terraced level between the garage and a flagstone patio outside the Great Room.
11. Redwood paneling (vertically placed 9 1/2-inch boards) on the exterior matches the redwood paneling on the interior, except that it is painted rust-red instead of stained.
12. Wide roof overhangs shade the windows and provide a sense of shelter.
13. Partial basement under the northern 43 percent of the house holds a one-car garage, utility area and bathroom with shower, sink and toilet.
14. The structural system is a concrete/10-inch reinforced concrete block foundation with wood framing.

The Read Dunes House was described in 2009 by Virginia Phillips, of Marc T. Nielsen Interiors, as follows:

"The house is such a perfect inside/outside concept with large windows on three sides of the big room, welcoming the outside in. The materials, stone and wood, used both inside and outside, support that principle too. The high vaulted ceiling complements the proportion of this large room, unusual for a house designed and built in 1951-1952."

She continues: "The concept for the house was that it was intended to be used to entertain large groups. The house was designed by Herb Read for his parents, Philo and Irene Read, who had a strong interest in preservation of the Indiana Dunes. Their house was designed expressly to entertain sometimes large groups of people who were supporters and creators of their particular dunes preservation efforts. The house demonstrates this special effort of the Reads. The foyer is open to the unusually large gathering room, welcoming people in. The kitchen, open to the living room, shows the room was designed to entertain. The personal area consists of two small bedrooms and a bathroom, the minimal area which would support the lives of the family."

She highlights the home's lighting scheme: "The tie beams give an important opportunity for practical and effective lighting design. There are lights sitting on top of these tie beams shining up. Along with the indirect lights over the windows, this lighting afforded changing from living area to meeting room easily and quickly, with virtually no lamps to move...And in the inside/outside concept, lighting the landscape brings the outside right in again."⁹

Current condition:

The property has been subject to few changes since construction in 1951-1952 and retains a remarkable level of integrity.

Exterior: The only change is that original cement board soffit has been replaced with vented aluminum soffit.

Interior: The only change is replacement of wall tile, flooring and fixtures in the bathroom in the 1990s. Elsewhere in the house, the original materials, finishes and fixtures remain intact.

The house is in structurally sound condition, requiring routine maintenance and repair.

Additions: A non-contributing free-standing two-car frame garage was added in the driveway behind the east side of the house in 1985.

These alterations have not reduced the integrity of the Read Dune House's design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling and association. The house and oak-forest dune setting remain largely original and powerfully convey the movement to save the Dunes.

Occupancy history:

Eight months after President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Act, Irene M. Read wrote to the National Park Service offering up the property:

⁹ Virginia Phillips. 2009. Letter to Herb and Charlotte Read, dated 22 November. Read Papers. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Name of Property **Read Dunes House**County and State **Porter, IN**

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

"I understand the National Park Service has started purchasing some of the land in the Dunes National Lakeshore. My property is located within the boundaries of the Park. It consists of a house and two acres -- all wooded. As I am a widow with a very limited income, I must consider putting my property up for sale and have been 'holding on' as I would rather sell to the National Park if possible. Having helped fight for this park for many years as a member of the Save the Dunes Council and the Izaak Walton League, I am delighted to be included in the park area and wish it were financially possible to donate it. Hoping some arrangement can be made and assuring you of my cooperation in every way."¹⁰

The National Park Service purchased the property in September 1969, with a Reservation of Use and Occupancy of 25 years ending September 1994, requiring the seller to pay 1 percent of the purchase price per year during time she remained on the property after the sale. Irene Read received \$31,300 for the Read Dunes House, minus 25 years rent (\$313 per year, \$7,825 total), a total of \$23,475 and the right to remain in her home for 25 years.¹¹

With the park expansion bill of 1976, Herbert and Charlotte Read sold their home at 70 East State Park Boundary Road to the National Park Service in 1985 with a Reservation of Use and Occupancy of 25 years. The years reserved on that property were transferred, extending the reservation on the Read Dunes House until Sept. 30, 2010.

The Read family moved out of the Read Dunes House in September 2010. The house has been vacant since then. The Reservation and Use Policy of the park states: "Most of the houses are removed and the land is restored to its natural condition...If a building is determined to be historic, the NPS will not tear it down unless it is unsafe. If the historic structures are sound, the NPS will seek to find a use for the buildings. This might include use by visitors, by park partners, or for administrative use."¹²

Biographical Information

Philo Benham Read was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, on Dec. 25, 1882, the eldest son of novelist, journalist, lecturer and humorist Opie Pope Read (1852-1939) and Ada Benham Read (1856-1928). The family moved to Chicago in 1887. Philo Read was a graduate and instructor at the Art Institute of Chicago. After World War I, he formed Read Brothers Advertising Agency in Chicago with his brother Leslie O. Read, a firm they operated for more than 40 years. He died Nov. 21, 1961.

Irene Martin Read was born in Chicago, Illinois on Nov. 27, 1902, the eldest child of Dr. Eugene F. Martin and Hertha von Cotzhausen Martin. Her father died in the Flu Epidemic of 1918. Irene, a girl barely out of high school and a secretarial course, went to work. She met Philo Read in 1921, as she worked for several businesses that shared a suite of offices, including Read Brothers Advertising. They married in Chicago on Aug. 27, 1925. They had one child, Herbert P. Read, born June 22, 1926 in Chicago. She died on Nov. 21, 1981.

¹⁰ Irene M. Read. 1967. Letter to Allen T. Edmonds, Assistant Regional Director, National Park Service, dated 19 July. Read Papers. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana.

¹¹ "More Deeds Filed," *Chesterton Tribune*, Sept. 17, 1969: 8.

¹² U.S. National Park Service. "Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Land Acquisition" (August 2009). www.nps.gov/indu/parkmgmt/land-acquisition.htm.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Name of Property **Read Dunes House**
County and State **Porter, IN**
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

The Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, signed into law in 1966, was the culmination of 50 years of citizen effort to preserve dune lands on the southern shore of Lake Michigan, in the growing industrial and metropolitan complex from Chicago to Gary.

Preserving the Indiana Dunes as a national park was among Stephen Mather's first projects after becoming director of the newly created National Park Service in August 1916. After October hearings that year, he wrote, "In my judgment, a large section of this dune region should be preserved for all time. Its preservation would in no way interfere with the development of industrial enterprises in Indiana and it is needed for recreational purposes now and in the future." The problem was that the dunes were not public lands. Congress, he wrote, has "never made a practice of purchasing lands for park purchases; it has simply taken lands already in Federal ownership and dedicated them as parks."¹³

The Read Dunes House is historically significant for its association with citizen groups that over a period of 50 years sought to create a national park at the Indiana Dunes. This struggle took part in two phases -- the 1910s-1920s and the 1950s-1960s. The Read Dunes House, built in 1952, was a locus of activity in the second phase, culminating in the establishment of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore in 1966. The Read family was active in the leadership of the citizens' movement in both phases.

The Read Dunes House site is associated with the struggle for the preservation of the dunes in the history of the State of Indiana, the history of the national park idea and the U.S. conservation movement of the 20th Century. The Read Dunes House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for the long-term involvement of the Read family and association with events important to the conservation movement that led to preservation of the dunes and creation of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

The Read Dunes House is the only remaining structure in the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore that is intimately connected with the conservation movement that fought to create this mid-20th Century park.

The Indiana State historic preservation officer concluded that the property meets Criterion A "for its association with groups that were significant in the dunes ecological movement in northern Indiana. ... We believe the historical record leaves little doubt that the movement shaped Indiana's and other states' views about the natural resources of the area; the movement affected policy, land use, legislation and, negatively to some, issues of private property ownership. The tangible results of that movement are very much alive today."

He continues: "The Dune Acres Clubhouse (NR, 2007), Washington Park in Michigan City (NR, 1991) and properties in Dune State Park represent different aspects of the movement. The Read House had a more specific role, being one of several assembly places for various citizen-activist committees involved in the movement. ... It is clear enough that the work of the committees and groups that used the Read's house was crucial to the movement."¹⁴

¹³ Stephen T. Mather, *Report on the Proposed Sand Dunes National Park Indiana* (Washington, D.C.: Department of the Interior, Government Printing Office, 1917), 10-12.

¹⁴ James A. Glass. 2010. Letter to Constantine J. Dillon, Superintendent, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, dated 3 March.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Name of Property **Read Dunes House**County and State
Porter, IN

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

Activity at the Read Dunes House

The first brochure by the National Park Service on the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore credited two citizen organizations as decisive advocates in the final phase of citizen activism that won establishment of the national park in 1966:¹⁵

- The Save the Dunes Council, an independent, single-purpose organization founded in 1952 with women as the leaders and core membership;¹⁶ and,
- The Izaak Walton League of America, founded in Chicago in 1922 as the first national environmental organization with a mass membership, was the first environmental organization in Indiana.¹⁷ The Porter County Chapter was founded in 1958 at the Read Dunes House.

The Read Dunes House was a headquarters of Indiana Dunes preservation:

- The site, among other homes and locations, of formal monthly meetings of the core dozen to two dozen most active members of the Save the Dunes Council (particularly in the key period from 1957 to establishment of the park in 1966) and ad hoc meetings of the council's Engineering Committee. Of the Save the Dunes Council's 12 formal monthly meetings each year, one or two a year were held at the Read Dunes House (Aug. 20, 1957; Jan. 16 and Nov. 19, 1958; Nov. 16, 1959; July 18, 1960; Jan. 30, 1961; Feb. 19, 1962; Nov 18, 1963; April 20, 1964; Feb. 15 and Sept. 30, 1965; Sept. 30 and Nov. 28, 1966).¹⁸

¹⁵ Steven Higgs, *Eternal Vigilance: Nine Tales of Environmental Heroism in Indiana* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1995), 63.

¹⁶ Dorothy Buell "organized the Save the Dunes Council from scratch, without previously 'networking' with other established organizations concerned with preserving natural landscapes. All the more remarkable that she was able to do it and make it a lasting success, with the organization she founded surviving her and preparing, even as I speak, to launch a new effort to expand the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore." Herbert Read, "Some Untold Tales" (Paper present to the Polymathic Society, Chesterton, Indiana, 1988), Read Papers. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana.

¹⁷ David Stradling, "Environmentalism," *The Electronic Encyclopedia of Chicago* (Chicago Historical Society, 2005). <http://encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/431.html>.

¹⁸ Save the Dunes Council. Minutes. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana.
Jane Walsh Brown, Curator, Westchester Township History Museum. 2010. Letter to Herb and Charlotte Read. Dated January 11: As one of the sites of "the crucial formative and early meetings of the Save the Dunes Council and the Izaak Walton League," the Read Dunes House "stands as a reminder of the importance of citizen involvement in the creation, growth and protection of our state and national parks."
Sylvia Troy, president of Save the Dunes Council from 1966 to 1976. 2010. Letter to National Register of Historic Places. "The discussions and the decisions made on these matters took place in the Read's house. The Save the Dunes Council held their monthly meetings for years in the beautiful living room of the Read's house."
Ruth Osann, president of the Save the Dunes Council 1976 to 1977. 2009. Letter to Herbert Read. Dated December 15. "Especially during the early days of the Save the Dunes Council, we had many meetings in this house."

Congressman Pete Visclosky, D-Indiana. 2010. Letter to James Glass, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Indiana. Dated Jan. 13. Read Papers: "Many strategic meetings were held at this home by the Save the Dunes Council and the Porter County Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America, not to mention the individual discussions held to continue the fight on behalf of the unique ecosystem found along our south shore."

Joan M. Costello, President, Duneland Historical Society. 2010. Letter to Herb Read. Dated January 29. The society endorsed preservation of the Read Dunes House "not only for its outstanding dunes-appropriate architecture, but for its rich history in the saga of saving the Indiana Dunes for public use. Significant meetings took place in this house."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Name of Property **Read Dunes House**

County and State **Porter, IN**

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

- The organizing site and collecting point for several petition drives led by Irene Read urging the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and elected officials in the Indiana state capital and in Congress to preserve the dunes for public use.
- The site where Philo Read, the council's first publicity director and first male officer, drafted the key public relations campaign documents, monthly newsletters keeping members and friends informed of progress, notices to newspapers and magazines, fundraising appeals and strategy statements from 1956 until his death in 1961. The Save the Dunes Council Board decided to ask Philo Read formally to assume the publicity chairmanship at its November 1956 meeting. He would be the only male officer in the organization in the early years.¹⁹
- The site of letter-writing campaigns. The daughter of dunes activists Tom and Jane Dustin recalls, "The Read Home bore witness to late night letter writing and assembling of important communications, while hosting volunteers and calming the frayed nerves of weary activists."²⁰
- The staging site for dunes photography expeditions by John Nelson, photo director for the Save the Dunes Council, and Herbert Read gathering material for the council's film, "Indiana Dunes: Playground of Mid-America" and still photographs to send to members of Congress.²¹
- A gathering place for social events bringing together artists, writers, scientists, teachers, social workers, attorneys, historians, architects, elected officials, labor leaders and other conservation-minded friends, building a social community as well as a political movement around dunes preservation.

Context: The 1950s-1960s Dunes Movement

With the two world wars and the Great Depression, efforts to promote industrialization of the Lake Michigan crescent, a Great Lakes seaway and a new port for northern Indiana had gone into

¹⁹ Save the Dunes Council. 1956. Minutes, dated 20 Nov. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana.

²⁰ Mary Gustafson (daughter of dunes activists Tom and Jane Dustin). 2010. Letter. Undated. Read Papers. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana.

²¹ Nelson, John. 2010. Letter to Herbert Read, dated 10 January. Read Papers. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana: "Back in the early 50s when we first met, we both discovered our like of and for the dunes, and as camera buffs we got together to go out and shoot. But, not wanting to take random shots, we discussed the various areas of the dunes with your dad, Philo. I recall we always stopped at his house, sought Philo's opinion. He always offered opinions on our strategy. He wanted our quest to be fruitful. They didn't call him the "Sage of the Dunes" for nothing. Philo knew the dunes inside and out, and he would direct us to the various areas of the dunes. Philo became our principal authority on the subject. ... Our quest for photos always seemed to end up there. ... As I recall, your dad had a small (small?) corner of his house devoted to the stashing of our gear and reference books. In short, his house became our 'unofficial' headquarters for two dedicated photographers. It seems that we did this for weeks on end all during the mid-50s through the mid-60s. And, from time to time, after a session in my darkroom, I would bring my dunescapes to have Philo critique. Then, in the late 50s -- 1958, I recall -- we started production of that 16mm movie for the Save the Dunes Council. I would bring the weekly rushes over to his house for comments. There, we would edit the film, and even shoot titles. I think his house began to resemble a movie studio -- with all our cinematic equipment stashed in the house."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Name of Property **Read Dunes House**County and State **Porter, IN**

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9

dormancy.²² After World War II, those priorities reemerged as threats to the Central Dunes, the last undeveloped 3 1/2 miles of shoreline, a remnant of a native landscape in the heart of the industrial Midwest.

In 1949, two events brought citizens into action: The joint U.S.-Canadian Deep Waterway Commission decided to study the feasibility of a St. Lawrence Seaway and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers district office in Chicago issued a preliminary report favorable to a harbor at Burns Ditch, in the heart of the dunes. The push to build a deepwater harbor in the midst of the finest dunes, primarily for the benefit of two steel companies, was on.

Author J. Ronald Engel writes, "With the favorable report by the Corps of Engineers on a deepwater port, a new group anxiously sprang into life in 1949, the Indiana Dunes Preservation Council." It recommended preservation of seven miles of lakeshore. "But the new association had trouble getting started." Attending a meeting in early 1952, Dorothy Buell, remembering the efforts of women in winning the establishment of the 2,200-acre Indiana Dunes State Park in the 1920s, suggested, "Maybe the women could do it." After that meeting, ornithologist Reuben Strong, President of the Conservation Council of Chicago, pressed her to take up the task and she launched the Save the Dunes Council at her home on June 20, 1952, serving as the organization's president for 16 years.²³ The Reads were among the early members.²⁴

In the early years, the organization attempted to preserve the Dunes by buying land, a traditional philanthropic route for donating park lands. In 1953, the Save the Dunes Council bought 56 acres in Cowles Bog for \$1,730, hoping it would be the nucleus for a national monument or an addition to the existing 2,200-acre Indiana Dunes State Park.²⁵

That strategy lasted a few years: "The newly formed Council thought at first that it could raise money to buy the land, but it quickly became apparent that this was not practical. They explored the possibility of adding lands to the Indiana Dunes State Park, but the state of Indiana was becoming increasingly committed by that time to industrialization of the dunes and to a harbor at Burns Ditch."²⁶

Land speculation was driving land prices sky high. "The low point in the history of the Save the Dunes Council came in 1957 when Bethlehem Steel verified that it had acquired land in the Central Dunes through its undisclosed land-buying agent, Lake Shore Development Corporation. The second

²² Since 1929 Porter County business interests had been lobbying the federal government for a port subsidy at Burns Ditch. However, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reported unfavorably on proposals for a new harbor at Burns Ditch in 1931, 1935 and 1944, "citing as the principal problem that it would benefit only one or two private corporations, and existing harbor facilities at Chicago, Indiana Harbor and Michigan City were adequate." J. Ronald Engel, *Sacred Sands: The Struggle for Community in the Indiana Dunes* (Middletown, Conn.: Wesleyan University Press, 1983), 333. See also William Peeples, "The Indiana Dunes and Pressure Politics." *Atlantic Monthly*. February, 1963. 85. Despite a 1932 deep waterway treaty between the United States and Canada and a 1941 basin agreement, the two world wars and opposition of influential railway lobbyists prevented development of a seaway through the Great Lakes.

²³ J. Ronald Engel, *Sacred Sands: The Struggle for Community in the Indiana Dunes* (Middletown, Conn.: Wesleyan University Press, 1983), 254.

²⁴ Save the Dunes Council. General Membership List. 1954-1955. Read Papers. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana.

²⁵ J. Ronald Engel, *Sacred Sands: The Struggle for Community in the Indiana Dunes* (Middletown, Conn.: Wesleyan University Press, 1983), 256.

²⁶ Sylvia Troy, "Citizens Action for Preservation," *The Indiana Dunes Story: How Nature and People Made a Park*, ed. Joan Gibb Engel (Beverly Shores, Indiana: Shirley Heinze Environmental Fund, 1984).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Name of Property **Read Dunes House**
County and State **Porter, IN**
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 10

largest steel producer in the nation was now committed to the development at Burns Ditch...This not only made it impossible for the council to acquire further tracts but called into question the capacity of any government agency to purchase the area."²⁷

The next phase was to present "the aesthetic merits of saving the Dunes to the responsible government officials and legislators," hoping they would "promptly act accordingly."²⁸ In this phase came public awareness campaigns, petition drives and legislation. The Read Dunes House and the Read family were integral to this phase.

At their January 1957 meeting, the Save the Dunes Council took up the issue of the proposed harbor at Burns Ditch. Indiana's governor had thrown his support behind the port project and recommended that the Indiana Legislature appropriate \$3.5 million to buy 1,500 acres for a harbor near Burns Ditch. Irene Read noted that in working against the harbor bill in the Indiana Legislature, time was of the essence. By the June 1957 meeting, the Save the Dunes Council decided to organize a drive to petition the governor and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The August 1957 meeting, held at the Read Dunes House, was devoted to the petition drive. Irene Read was appointed to head the movement to collect signatures at the Indiana Dunes State Park, where most of the signatures ultimately were gathered.²⁹ A five-member delegation, including Irene Read, presented petitions with 5,423 signatures to the district engineer in Chicago for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that October. The Save the Dunes Council presented similar petitions to Indiana Gov. Harold W. Handley.³⁰

At the same time, the group decided to pursue the legislative process for a national park. Indiana's senators Homer Capehart and Albert Jenner turned them down. So the organization "appealed in desperation to Senator [Paul] Douglas [of Illinois] to intercede on their behalf."³¹

In May 1958, after Sen. Douglas introduced a bill (S.3898/H.R. 12689) to create a 3,800-acre Indiana Dunes National Monument in the Central Dunes, including acres purchased by Bethlehem Steel and some of the land proposed for the Burns Ditch port, the Save the Dunes Council launched a national petition drive with the goal of gathering 1 million signatures asking Congress "that the last three and a half mile portion of the undeveloped duneland on Lake Michigan to the west of the present Indiana Dunes State Park be acquired by the public for a National Park."

Irene Read organized the effort -- mimeographing and sending out petitions and collecting signatures. The petitions were gathered and counted at the Read Dunes House. Philo Read drafted appeals in the Great Room of the Read Dunes House: "We need your help in getting more signatures NOW. We want to to ship another 100,000 signatures as soon as possible. Won't you aid us to provide the needed recreational potential for future generations and at the same time save an irreplaceable bit

²⁷ J. Ronald Engel, *Sacred Sands: The Struggle for Community in the Indiana Dunes* (Middletown, Conn.: Wesleyan University Press, 1983), 260.

²⁸ Herbert Read. "The Indiana Dunes: A Case History." Presentation to the Save the Dunes Council. January 28, 1969. Read Papers. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana.

²⁹ Save the Dunes Council. 1957. Minutes, dated January 29, June 4, August 20 and September 19. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana.

³⁰ "Delegation Seeks to Save Dunes from Industry" (including photo showing Save the Dunes Council president Dorothy Buell, Irene Martin Read and three others presenting petitions to Col. John B. W. Corey). *Chicago Tribune*. Sunday, Oct. 6, 1957. Read Papers. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana. See also Richard Lewis, "Indiana's Sand Gold: What's Behind Dunes Battle." *Chicago Sun-Times*. Aug. 17, 18, 19, 1958. Read Papers. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana.

³¹ William Peeples, "The Indiana Dunes and Pressure Politics." *Atlantic Monthly*. February 1963. 87.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Name of Property **Read Dunes House**
County and State **Porter, IN**
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 11

of the American scene? We depend on you to canvass everyone in your acquaintance for this most important -- and perhaps last -- chance to save our beloved Dunes. A petition is enclosed which we ask you to have filled on both sides and return promptly to Mrs. Philo Read, M. R. 505, Chesterton, Indiana."³²

On July 6, 1958, Save the Dunes Council President Dorothy Buell and Irene Read met with Sen. Douglas. A news account notes that, "Mrs. Read presented Sen. Douglas with petitions bearing 100,000 signatures of backers of the senator's efforts [to make the Indiana Dunes area a national park]."³³

The next day, Sen. Douglas wrote to Philo and Irene Read: "I want to thank you for the magnificent work which you and your associates have done in collecting signatures for the campaign to save the Dunes. Your work is really beyond and above praise, but I do want you to know how much I appreciate having a chance to work with you all in this most worthy campaign. It was good of you to come into Chicago on the hot Saturday to present the petitions and I think we attracted sufficient popular attention through television and the press to make it worthwhile. The petitions are being sent to me parcel post from Chicago, and as soon as they arrive I will present them to the Senate and arrange to have Senator O'Mahoney, who is chairman of the appropriate sub-committee of the Interior Committee, receive them from my hands and I hope we can get a little added publicity for the venture."³⁴

Their efforts were rebuffed. "The corps eventually opposed park preservation, along with two of the nation's largest steel companies, various land speculators, certain citizens of the area, and, of course, all the Indiana state and federal legislators...The original strategy of the Save the Dunes Council was to put pressure on the Indiana governor and legislators to force them to change their policy toward the dunes. Half a million signatures were collected all over the country toward this end, all of which were ignored by the governor and members of the Indiana General Assembly."³⁵

But the effort to pursue legislation through Sen. Douglas changed the dynamic: "This countervailing pressure had its effect. The drive for the Burns Ditch port lost some of its momentum, and gradually the conflict came to a stalemate. At each session of Congress, the port backers pushed for approval of their project and their opponents countered with the Douglas bill."³⁶

The St. Lawrence Seaway opened April 25, 1959, intensifying the conflict.

As Indiana officials renewed their efforts for a harbor bill, the Save the Dunes Council established an engineering committee and Dorothy Buell named Herbert Read, son of Philo and Irene

³² Save the Dunes Council. 1958. Letter to "Member or Friend." Read Papers. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana.

³³ "Douglas Gets Dunes Plea." *Chicago American*. July 7, 1958. Read Papers. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana.

³⁴ Sen. Paul H. Douglas. Letter. 1958. To Mr. and Mrs. Philo Read, dated July 8. Read Papers. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana.

³⁵ Lynton K. Caldwell, Lynton R. Hayes and Isabel M MacWhirter, "Chapter 2, Case VI: Industry versus Environmental Quality: The Indiana Dunes," in *Citizens and the Environment: Case Studies in Popular Action* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1976), 63-65, 70-74.

³⁶ William Peeples, "The Indiana Dunes and Pressure Politics." *Atlantic Monthly*. February, 1963. 87.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Name of Property **Read Dunes House**

County and State **Porter, IN**

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 12

Read, chairman.³⁷ That committee pointed out that alternate sites were available. "We cranked up a public awareness campaign and one of the council board members, Ray Humpfer of Munster, set up an extensive schedule of meetings and presentations of our alternative harbor -- now renamed the 'Hammond-Whiting-East Chicago' or 'Tri-City' harbor," wrote Herbert Read. "I pursued the Tri-City Harbor and succeeded in gaining the full support of the mayors of Hammond, Whiting and East Chicago. I coordinated our efforts with the Lake County members of the Indiana General Assembly in opposing Porter County's drive to secure approval and funds for a Burns Ditch Harbor."³⁸

Author J. Ronald Engel wrote that "The principal weapon Douglas and the council had was persuasion. And the first and most effective form of persuasion, they agreed, was the persuasion of experience."³⁹

For that role, Philo Read was the ever-present scribe, the voice of the save the dunes movement, churning out pieces at the Read Dunes House. He had been active for nearly 20 years as a member and committee chairman in the Chicago-based Prairie Club's early efforts to create a national park in the 1910s, providing intergenerational continuity to the battles of the 1950s and 1960s. He brought to the cause his skills as a commercial artist and publicist, honed by his experience as a student and teacher at the Art Institute of Chicago and by work and connections forged with his Read Brothers Advertising Agency. Philo Read also was one of a small group of pre-World War II dunes activists who offered courses in the science, art and literature of the dunes tradition to a new generation of leaders and volunteers.⁴⁰

He wrote to key members of Congress to build support for the Douglas legislation: "The proponents for a port and steel mills in the Burns Ditch area of the Dunes constitute a well-organized coterie of promoters, including many big Indiana politicians, whose only purpose is to get rich quick.

³⁷ Ron Cockrell, *A Signature of Time and Eternity: The Administrative History of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Indiana* (Washington DC: National Park Service, 1988): "An important ally of Douglas was Save the Dunes Council member Herbert Read, son of artist and Council publicity director Philo B. Read. Read, a dunes advocate who worked for a Chicago architectural firm, became chairman of the Council's Engineering Committee after educating himself on harbors through reading a borrowed technical manual. The self-taught 'harbor expert' was able to decipher the Corps' of Engineers formula for calculating benefit-cost ratios. The Engineering Committee demonstrated the Council's resolve to take the offensive. Ogden Dunes resident George Anderson, a railroad research engineer, assisted Read in identifying various harbor alternatives and technical report errors. Channeling the information to Sen. Paul Douglas, the result saw the Corps agree to a series of restudies."

See also Herbert Read, "Remembrances of Dorothy Buell, founder and first president of the Save the Dunes Council" (Paper presentation, date unknown). Read Papers. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana: "The Indiana politicians were saying that they couldn't support our cause because Indiana needed a harbor and that the only place in the whole state that the harbor could be built was in the middle of the Indiana Dunes. Now, neither Dorothy Buell nor any of the rest of us knew anything about harbors...I went to Dorothy Buell and suggested that we get a 'harbor expert' to find out whether our opponents' claim was true and whether there were alternate locations..She said, 'I think that's a fine idea, Herbert. We'll set up an Engineering Committee and I know you'd be the perfect person to be chairman.'"

³⁸ Herbert Read, "Some Untold Tales" (Paper presented at the Polymathic Society, Chesterton, Indiana, 1988). Read Papers. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana.

³⁹ J. Ronald Engel, *Sacred Sands: The Struggle for Community in the Indiana Dunes* (Middletown, Conn.: Wesleyan University Press, 1983), 263.

⁴⁰ J. Ronald Engel, *Sacred Sands: The Struggle for Community in the Indiana Dunes* (Middletown, Conn.: Wesleyan University Press, 1983), 257.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Name of Property **Read Dunes House**
County and State **Porter, IN**
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 13

They would be the sole beneficiaries. The people of Indiana and the Nation would be the losers. The promoters' motto seems to be, 'anything for a buck...Those in Indiana in favor of saving the Dunes are not against more steel mills in Indiana, as has been trickily charged. They want more mills for the benefit of the State, and realize their great value as a source of additional revenue for the State. But not being biased by a promotion scheme, they are free to see that Indiana can have both mills and Dunes, each in its proper place. The weight of opinion among qualified engineers and commercial planners is for placing the new mills and seaway harbor between Indiana Harbor and the Illinois state line."⁴¹

He informed Save the Dunes Council members of progress with monthly newsletters drafted and mimeographed at the Read Dunes House: "True, we are up against a power set of get-that-buck promoters and propagandists," he wrote, "but the Save the Dunes Council is now powerful and influential, too, with a national reputation. Millions of people know all about our cause and are rooting for us...Our program now calls for intensive education of the public as to the fallacies in the plans for an industrial development in the Dunes."⁴²

The Save the Dunes Council also had to move in the legal arena. While the Douglas bill was being considered, the Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) was leveling the dunes. At the November 1959 meeting at the Read Dunes House, Philo Read moved to raise money to proceed with legal action. And within the next week, he had drafted and sent out a fundraising newsletter to support legal action: "It is imperative for us to start immediate legal proceedings toward establishing a permanent injunction against molesting this water area, by steel mills or any other development. What are our chances of success? Not bad, at all. Well worth the effort, when you consider that our backs are against the wall. Besides, pending legal action has a tendency toward slowing up the opposition. Any delay would work to our benefit, while we are waiting for our new bills in Congress to gain footing after the first of the year...Our proposed legal action should be started immediately, but -- oh well, let's bring it out: The whole deal is estimated to cost about five thousand dollars. Alas, the high cost of justice! We don't have the money...We are calling upon the fortunate, energetic people to help us in our cause...The time is short, please act fast."⁴³

He also drafted a five-point strategic policy document for the council, concluding, "We are unalterably opposed to LEGISLATION BY BULLDOZER. The current destruction of this irreplaceable land before suitable compromises can be made or considered is inexcusable...It is immoral and is a direct attack on the American principles of fair hearing and fair play...The Save-the-Dunes Council and the private citizens of which it is composed will fight efforts to undermine the American process with all legal means at its disposal."⁴⁴

At the same time, Herbert Read had approached the executive director of the Izaak Walton League of America, headquartered in Chicago, as a way to expand the citizen effort. The Read Dunes House was the site of the founding meeting of the Porter County Chapter of the Izaak Walton League in

⁴¹ Philo B. Read. Letter. 1959. To Sens. James Murray and Joseph O'Mahoney, dated July 8. Read Papers. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana.

⁴² Philo B. Read. Newsletter. 1959. To Member, dated 14 October. Read Papers. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana.

⁴³ Philo B. Read. Newsletter. 1959. To Members and Friends, dated 20 November and 25 November. Read Papers. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana.

⁴⁴ Philo B. Read. Draft. "Policy of the Save-the-Dunes Council" Dated 28 January 1960. Read Papers. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Name of Property **Read Dunes House**

County and State
Porter, IN

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 14

the fall of 1958, with 15 to 20 people in attendance. The chapter was granted a provisional six-month charter and its formal charter was issued in the spring of 1959, with more than 50 members.

Herbert Read was the founder and president. Philo and Irene Read were founding members and tapped their neighbors to join for that initial meeting at their home. Philo Read recruited Colonel Robert Murray, who owned Neumode Hosiery, then living at Sunset Hill Farm. That property later became the first unit in the Porter County park system. From the beginning, the Porter County Chapter, which met at the Read Dunes House and other locations, took on urban and regional planning, creation of a forest preserve district, pollution control laws and creation of a county park system -- in addition to preservation of the Indiana Dunes as a national park.⁴⁵

Where the Save the Dunes Council led efforts to create a national park at the local level, the Izaak Walton League focused on developing regional and national support, both within its own organization and among the national community of environmental organizations. "While the Indiana Division of the Izaak Walton League of America had resolved in 1952 that the remaining dunes should be preserved, it had not taken as active a role as the Save the Dunes Council," wrote Thomas Dustin. The creation of the Porter County Chapter changed that. "With the Council providing the bulk of local support and the League expanding the issue nationally, a coordinated citizens machinery was created."⁴⁶

By July 1960, the Save the Dunes Council was considering an overhaul. Meeting at the Read Dunes House, Irene Read was appointed co-chair with council Vice President Merrill Ormes to organize a strategic planning workshop "since we need to take a good look at the long haul before us."⁴⁷

By October 1960, Philo Read was writing about the importance of 1960-61 for the save the dunes movement: "With the new national administration coming in, this may be our year of decision, of victory."⁴⁸

At the same time, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued a report concluding that Burns Ditch, in the heart of the Central Dunes, was the ideal location for the Indiana Port (justifying a federal investment of \$25 million) and set the benefit-cost ratio at 5.66 to 1.⁴⁹

Herbert Read and the council's engineering committee set out to challenge the figures used by the Army Corps: "Okay, so it would have to be all-out war over the harbor," wrote Herbert Read. "So we had to fight the dunes battle in purely economic and engineering terms. We were probably the first citizen group -- certainly the first environmental group to force the Corps to withdraw their report and

⁴⁵ John Drury, "Meet Porter County's 'Mr. Izaak Walton,'" a feature on Herbert Read. *Gary-Post Tribune*, Sunday, Feb. 19, 1961. D4-5. Read Papers. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana.

⁴⁶ Thomas E. Dustin, "The Battle of the Indiana Dunes," in *Citizens Make the Difference: Case Studies in Environmental Action* (Citizens Advisory Committee on Environmental Quality, 1973): 35-42.

⁴⁷ Save the Dunes Council. 1960. Minutes, dated 18 July. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana.

⁴⁸ Philo B. Read. Newsletter. 1960. To Members and Friends, dated October 14. Read Papers. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana.

⁴⁹ U.S. Army Engineers District, Chicago, Corps of Engineers. "Great Lakes Harbors Study: Interim Report on Burns Waterway" (Chicago: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: October 1960).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Name of Property **Read Dunes House**

County and State
Porter, IN

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 15

'restudy' the whole thing. We went back and forth for several years with the Corps and finally they issued their final report with a barely acceptable benefit-cost ratio of 1.17 to one."⁵⁰

Shortly after President John F. Kennedy's inauguration and the Save the Dunes Council's January 1961 meeting at the Read Dunes House, Philo Read issued a long piece outlining the changes in the organization and the changes in Washington D.C.: "Entire climate in Washington changing in our favor. New Secretary of Interior Udall avows great interest in saving Indiana Dunes. Hopes to get action before it is too late...Still, it's going to be a hard fight for us to win. But we are fighters. The Save the Dunes officers, directors and committee members give tremendously of their work and time, often amounting to many hours a week. Considerable time is spent in giving talks and showing our films to clubs, schools, labor unions and various other organizations. Much time also is spent in conferences in various cities, in research and in preparation of tracts to combat our busy opponents' propoganda. These tracts and letters are mailed to hundreds of legislators and agencies, both Federal and State, by volunteer workers. For weeks the job of photographing various points in the Dunes has been going on to offset our opponents' propoganda claim that 'there are no Dunes left to save.'...One, two or three of such dollars from each of our members will provide us with operating funds for quite a while, perhaps until our cause is won. We have no other way of getting new operating funds for our legal actions, public relations service, printing, telegrams, stationery, postage, etc...We need new operating funds now."⁵¹

The year 1961 proved to be the decisive turning point for the Dunes movement. In March, President Kennedy in a "Special Message to Congress on Natural Resources" called for congressional approval of a "national lakeshore area in northern Indiana." In May, Sen. Douglas introduced S. 1797 to preserve 8,000 acres (amended in August to 9,000 acres) by purchase or donation.

A tour of the Dunes in July provided major momentum.⁵² It was attended by notable federal officials, including Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall⁵³ and National Park Service Director Conrad Wirth. Sen. Paul Douglas brought Sen. Alan Bible of Nevada, who as chairman of the Senate Parks and Recreation Subcommittee presided over "the greatest expansion of parks, historical monuments and recreation areas in American history."⁵⁴ Local officials included Indiana State Rep. Ray Madden of Lake County; Mayor Richard Daley of Chicago; and the mayors of Gary, Whiting, Hammond and East Chicago.

Earlier in the year, Philo Read had written a piece from the Read Dunes House encouraging people to attend and submit letters for key hearings in Indianapolis. He argued that, "Every community

⁵⁰ Herbert Read, "The Kennedy Compromise of 1963 (Paper presented at the 40th Anniversary of the Save the Dunes Council, Indiana, 25 October 1992). Read Papers. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana.

⁵¹ Philo Read. Newsletter. 1961. To Members and Friends, dated February 14. Read Papers. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana.

⁵² "The pilgrimage to the Dunes on July 23, 1961, was one of the high points of Douglas's legislative campaign...Both Bible and Udall were converted by the trip." J. Ronald Engel, *Sacred Sands: The Struggle for Community in the Indiana Dunes* (Middletown, Conn.: Wesleyan University Press, 1983), 265.

⁵³ Udall served as Secretary of the Interior under Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson from 1961 to 1969. Among his accomplishments: the addition of four national parks, six national monuments, eight national seashores and lakeshores, nine national recreation areas, 20 national historic sites, and 56 national wildlife refuges.

⁵⁴ Gary Elliot, *Sen. Alan Bible and the politics of the new West* (Reno, Nev.: University of Nevada Press, 1994), xvii.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Name of Property **Read Dunes House**

County and State

Porter, IN

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 16

that has turned its shoreline over to industry has lived to regret it. Such a course represents poor planning. Let's be good planners. Place the port where there is already logical industrial development and save the Dunes country as a natural beauty spot for the benefit of the exploding population to come...We are asking EVERY MEMBER, without exception, to write."⁵⁵

As the momentum shifted in their favor, Philo Read took on the issue of property rights, writing to Save the Dunes Council members that "OPPOSITION ALREADY BUSY ALARMING HOME OWNERS. 90 percent of the area is practically free of homes. Home owners have been given the false impression that homes will be taken forcibly from them. GOVERNMENT ACQUIRES LAND BY FRIENDLY NEGOTIATION. Plenty of time is taken. Parallel instances show that practically everyone selling land for a National Park is more than satisfied. Many are allowed to keep their homes within National Parks for many years."⁵⁶

Philo Read also took on the task of publicity for the July tour and worked closely with Sen. Douglas on a post-tour mass meeting to address the rights of homeowners. He published a telegram he received at the Read Dunes House from Sen. Douglas: "Park Service procedures for setting up National Parks in areas which include privately owned property are firmly established and protect the rights of the property owners. In establishing the park, the Park Service would give highest priority to purchase of undeveloped areas, so it might be several years before negotiation with individual homeowners would begin. It has been the policy of the Park Service in the acquisition of areas with private residences to permit property owners to retain a life interest or 25 years, whichever they elect. Acquisitions are made by paying fair market values as determined by non-Federal appraisers. Every effort is made to reach agreement amicably...With a choice of either life occupancy or a specified period of say 25 years, and with all the protection afforded, it would seem to me this is a much better choice than the one which will eventually mean the entire area will be consumed by smoke, dirt, grime, asphalt and all the rest."⁵⁷

After the July 23 tour, Philo Read wrote a piece from the Read Dunes House describing the event in detail, including the mass meeting on property rights attended by 400 people: "Senator Douglas explained that in most cases of converting land into a National domain, most of the persons whose homes were included objected to the change. But, he said, the objections of these comparatively few have not been allowed to prevent the establishment of our great National Parks for the millions of people. At the close of the meeting, no one was in doubt as to the rights and privileges of in-dwellers, and we all had a good lesson from our speakers on public rights and private rights."⁵⁸

President Kennedy signed legislation creating the Cape Cod National Seashore on Aug 7, 1961. A day later, he sent a message to Congress requesting a \$2.5 million supplemental appropriation that would begin the process of establishing the park.⁵⁹ Park historian Ron Cockrell noted that "Cape Cod represented a radical change in the Federal Government's land acquisition policy. For the first time

⁵⁵ Philo Read. Letter. 1961. To Member, dated April 17. Read Papers. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana.

⁵⁶ Philo Read. Letter. 1961. To Members and Friends, dated June 3. Read Papers. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana.

⁵⁷ Sen. Paul Douglas. Telegram. 1961. To Philo Read, dated July 15. Read Papers. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana.

⁵⁸ Philo Read. Newsletter. 1961. To Members and Friends, dated Aug. 9, 1961. Read Papers. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana.

⁵⁹ Donna Tunney, "Cape Cod National Seashore 50th Anniversary: The Great Debate, A look back to the establishment of the Cape's national park," *The Cape Codder*, Feb. 1, 2011.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Name of Property **Read Dunes House**

County and State
Porter, IN

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 17

Congress approved significant park enabling legislation which included the right to use Federal money to purchase national park land. The old 'beg, borrow, or steal system' -- where new park land had to be either already Federally owned or donated to the government -- was gone forever.⁶⁰ Philo and Irene Read wrote to the president comparing Cape Cod to the Indiana Dunes, and urging him to "hasten hearings on Sen. Douglas' bill, and get Federal action before it is too late."⁶¹

An exchange between Philo Read and Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall crystallized the issues at that time.

On July 27, Philo Read wrote to Udall from the Read Dunes House explaining that a "compromise" dunes plan "excludes the finest natural duneland, where you did your climbing..." He explained this as an opposition tactic: "This is a TRICK. It was originated by the Steel Companies' board of strategy, or by the clever real estate interests in Porter County, Indiana." He continued: "They have sprung and almost got away with numerous tricks before, such as: 'There are no Dunes left to save,' and 'the save the Dunes project is just a scheme to provide a bathing beach for the negroes of Gary,' and 'the whole save the Dunes plan is just a plot by Senator Douglas to get the steel mills to build in Illinois.'"⁶²

Udall's reply to Philo Read of Aug. 21 indicated his thinking on future action after the tour: "My recent hike along the dunes convinced me of the urgent necessity of a concerted drive to move this issue off of dead center, where it has rested for so long. The final decision, however, will depend heavily upon the active support of individuals, individuals who will lose a great scenic heritage if this stalemate continues."⁶³

In the meantime, Save the Dunes Council Engineering Committee efforts, led by Herbert Read, resulted in the report by the Army Corps in favor of a port at Burns Ditch being sent back for restudy. The Corps called for a public hearing in Indianapolis. Philo Read fired out a newsletter urging people to attend to counter the tactics of national park opponents, who, he wrote, have the financial wherewithal to subsidize bus fares and meals to create the appearance of "masses of marching, jeering, sign-carrying minions trying to produce the impression that nobody except a few bird watchers wants a National Park." He pointed out that while Save the Dunes advocates will have plenty of "top talent" to speak at the hearing, what is most effective is having ordinary people long devoted to the park cause showing up themselves: "Now they are up to it again, and we need your help -- not in money, but in a little good service at this particular time to counter their machinations... We need numerical representation. We don't want the newspapers to carry the story that 'only a handful' of people were present for our side."⁶⁴

⁶⁰ Ron Cockrell, *A Signature of Time and Eternity: The Administrative History of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Indiana* (Washington DC: National Park Service, 1988).

⁶¹ Philo and Irene Read. Letter. 1961. To President John F. Kennedy, dated Aug. 10. Read Papers. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana.

⁶² Philo Read. Letter. 1961. To Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall, dated July 27. Read Papers. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana.

⁶³ Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall. Letter. 1961. To Philo Read, dated Aug. 21. Read Papers. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana.

⁶⁴ Philo Read. Newsletter. 1961. To Members and Friends, dated Aug. 21. Read Papers. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Name of Property **Read Dunes House**

County and State **Porter, IN**

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 18

Philo Read's last newsletter to the membership, dated Oct. 30, reported that "The climate in Washington continues to be very salubrious for our cause" and invited people to the Save the Dunes Council annual dinner.⁶⁵ He died Nov. 22, 1961.

In 1962 Congress reaffirmed the precedent of federal purchase by establishing Point Reyes National Seashore. In 1963, Secretary Udall's book, *The Quiet Crisis*, advocated use of the government's power of taxation as a creative force for scenic preservation.⁶⁶

During this period, neither side in the Indiana port versus park battle had the votes needed to pass legislation: "Douglas and his allies were able to thwart passage of port legislation in the public works committees of each house and block legislation in the Senate. The stalemate between the contending parties reflected in part the cleavage in the federal government between parks and public works projects. It also raised the possibility of a compromise."⁶⁷

Herbert Read's Engineering Committee had been able to get the Bureau of the Budget (forerunner of the Office of Management and Budget) to review their economic study of the port: "There followed numerous trips to Washington, D.C., in which George Anderson and I confronted the full force of the Corps of Engineers, including meetings with the Assistant Secretary of the Army and presidential staffer Lee White. Usually, the meetings were conducted in Sen. Douglas's office, but sometimes in the Old Executive Office Building. We argued not dunes or natural values, but dollars, tons and transportation savings in day-long meetings. Finally, we proved our case to the Bureau of the Budget and we had stalled the harbor. But neither could we get the dunes park bill passed...But with the elections coming up, President Kennedy wanted a resolution to the controversy. Hence, a compromise of sorts, in which the harbor was approved by the Bureau of the Budget and there was to be a National Lakeshore of nearly 14,000 acres."⁶⁸

Stephen Higgs has explained the significance of this achievement: "Herb and others in the Save the Dunes Council developed tactics and strategies that had never been used before. They challenged the cost/benefit analysis put forth by the U.S. Army engineers. Today such challenges are routine and fundamental to public land-use battles everywhere."⁶⁹

The Kennedy assassination interrupted further legislative progress. President Lyndon Johnson's 1964 conservation message proposed eight new national parks. In September 1964, Congress passed the Land and Water Conservation Fund, making substantial funds available for acquisition and development of park lands.

The Burns Waterway Harbor bill passed in 1965, before the park bill -- but made appropriation of funds for the harbor contingent upon both chambers having a chance to vote on a Dunes bill in 1966.

The park bill passed the Senate in June 1966, the House in October. A bill authorizing an appropriation for the Burns Waterway Harbor also passed. On Nov. 5, 1966, President Johnson signed the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Act. It came with a cost, however, writes Herbert Read: "As soon

⁶⁵ Philo Read. Newsletter. 1961. To Members and Friends, dated Oct. 30. Read Papers. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana.

⁶⁶ Stewart Udall, *The Quiet Crisis* (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1963).

⁶⁷ J. Ronald Engel, *Sacred Sands: The Struggle for Community in the Indiana Dunes* (Middletown, Conn.: Wesleyan University Press, 1983), 274.

⁶⁸ Herbert Read, "The Kennedy Compromise of 1963" (Presentation for the 40th Anniversary of the Save the Dunes Council, Indiana, 25 October 1992), Read Papers. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana.

⁶⁹ Steven Higgs, *Eternal Vigilance: Nine Tales of Environmental Heroism in Indiana* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1995), 187.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Name of Property **Read Dunes House**

County and State
Porter, IN

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 19

as the anti-park people got what they wanted, they backed down from the 1963 compromise and the National Lakeshore, as passed in 1966, was whittled down to 5,800 acres" (plus the 2,200 acres of the already existing Indiana Dunes State Park, if donated).⁷⁰

The first meeting of the Save the Dunes Council after President Johnson signed the bill into law was held at the Read Dunes House. The main issue was, "we must continue to be active since we only have the authorization for the park but no appropriations yet. We must try to get the deleted areas back in the park in a couple of years." Equally important was that Allen P. Edmonds, Assistant Regional Director of the National Park Service, would speak at the annual dinner on "next steps and answering the many questions related to the transition from privately owned property to a publicly owned Lakeshore."⁷¹

Thomas Dustin said one lesson from the experience was: "Authorization is only the start; beyond that is the appropriation of funds to buy the lands. No matter what has been 'authorized,' the wreckage that occurs after that but before actual purchase of the land can still defeat or impair a project."⁷² At the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, "Following authorization in 1966, progress in implementation through the purchase of land was slow. Six years later, however, 80 percent of the authorized land had been acquired; and a formal dedication was held on Sept. 8, 1972."⁷³

Irene Read sold the Read Dunes House to the National Park Service (with a reservation of use for 25 years) and continued to fight for expansion of the national park -- and creation of a county park system -- serving 10 years as membership secretary of the Porter County Chapter of the Izaak Walton League and holding meetings at the Read Dunes House. She received recognition of her efforts at an Interchapter Council dinner in September 1981 "for her long efforts on behalf of preserving the Indiana Dunes" and as a "founding member of the Porter County Chapter."⁷⁴ She died Nov. 22, 1981, exactly 20 years after Philo Read.

The park, following the 1990 congressional session, finally reached the 14,000 acres promised in 1963. At the 40th Anniversary of the Save the Dunes Council in 1992, Herbert Read said, "So you see, 25 years later, our expansion bills are just now enabling us to catch up to 1963."⁷⁵

Beginnings of a Dunes park movement

J. Ronald Engel writes, "Among the Dune Country patriots of the Progressive Era, roughly the period 1890-1930, the Dunes movement and its informing vision took shape. During these years the

⁷⁰ Herbert Read, "The Kennedy Compromise of 1963" (Presentation for the 40th Anniversary of the Save the Dunes Council, Indiana, 25 October 1992), Read Papers. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana.

⁷¹ Save the Dunes Council. 1966. Minutes, dated 28 November. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana.

⁷² Thomas E. Dustin, "The Battle of the Indiana Dunes," in *Citizens Make the Difference: Case Studies in Environmental Action* (Citizens Advisory Committee on Environmental Quality, 1973): 41.

⁷³ Thomas E. Dustin, "The Battle of the Indiana Dunes," in *Citizens Make the Difference: Case Studies in Environmental Action* (Citizens Advisory Committee on Environmental Quality, 1973): 41.

⁷⁴ *Hoosier Waltonian*. Fall 1981. Read Papers. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana.

⁷⁵ Herbert Read, "The Kennedy Compromise of 1963" (Presentation for the 40th Anniversary of the Save the Dunes Council, Indiana, 25 October 1992), Read Papers. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Name of Property **Read Dunes House**
County and State **Porter, IN**
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 20

personal, associational and geographic relationships that nurtured the movement for the rest of the century were initially formed..."⁷⁶

Those involved in the 1950s and 1960s "were but the latest generation of a movement that began among Chicago Progressives at the turn of the century."⁷⁷

Engel describes the dynamic: "At the turn of the century, a small band of Chicago reformers, artists and scientists, joined by a few sympathetic Hoosiers, began the struggle to save the Dunes... Together with public-spirited businessmen, labor organizers, politicians, civic leaders and plain citizens who joined them, they created a movement that lasted through World War I, the roaring twenties, the Great Depression and World War II, and culminated in the 1950s and '60s with what one urban geographer has called 'perhaps the most savage conservation-industry confrontation in history.' Those in the vanguard of the Dunes struggle never numbered more than several hundred. But what they lacked in numbers, they made up in commitment and the hours, weeks and years devoted to the cause. In some cases several generations within a single family were involved in one phase or another of the 80-year struggle to preserve the Dunes."⁷⁸

The Read family was a key element of the intergenerational continuity and leadership of that movement.

As Engel writes: "One example of the remarkable series of relationships that have characterized the movement over the generations is the Read family. Chicago novelist Opie Read was a good friend of Carl Sandburg, Lorado Taft and other notables of the Chicago Renaissance. His son, Philo B. Read, an artist, was a friend of Jens Jensen and an ardent Dunatic. Philo participated in the Dunes Pageant of 1917 and worked assiduously for the Indiana Dunes State Park in the 1920s. Thirty years later he was a leader of the Save the Dunes Council. Philo's son Herbert P. Read, an architect, took up the fight for the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore in the 1950s and continues to this day to be one of the Dunes' most outspoken advocates. Charlotte Johnson Read, his wife, became executive director of the Save the Dunes Council in 1976."⁷⁹

The park movement began in earnest with the Prairie Club of Chicago. As park historian Ron Cockrell notes, "The Prairie Club was the first group to propose that a portion of the Indiana Dunes be protected from commercial interests and maintained in its pristine condition for the enjoyment of the people."⁸⁰

And the geographical center of the Dunes movement was the south side Chicago neighborhood of Hyde Park. As Engel notes, "Hyde Park was ideally situated for Dune Bugs because of ready access by railroad lines to the Dune Country. For more than a century, Hyde Park has symbolized Progressive

⁷⁶ J. Ronald Engel, *Sacred Sands: The Struggle for Community in the Indiana Dunes* (Middletown, Conn.: Wesleyan University Press, 1983), 48.

⁷⁷ J. Ronald Engel, *Sacred Sands: The Struggle for Community in the Indiana Dunes* (Middletown, Conn.: Wesleyan University Press, 1983), xvii.

⁷⁸ J. Ronald Engel, *Sacred Sands: The Struggle for Community in the Indiana Dunes* (Middletown, Conn.: Wesleyan University Press, 1983), 4-5.

⁷⁹ J. Ronald Engel, *Sacred Sands: The Struggle for Community in the Indiana Dunes* (Middletown, Conn.: Wesleyan University Press, 1983), 80.

⁸⁰ Ron Cockrell, *A Signature of Time and Eternity: The Administrative History of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Indiana* (Washington DC: National Park Service, 1988).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Name of Property **Read Dunes House**
County and State **Porter, IN**
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 21

reform in Chicago, and no other community has contributed more leaders to the Dunes movement, or more of its own spirit to the Dunes vision."⁸¹

The Read family was among the community of writers, artists and scientists living in Hyde Park and Philo Read was an active member of the Prairie Club, founded in 1911. He helped build the Prairie Club Beach House 1913, which Prairie Club founder Jens Jensen conceived as a place "where the group could assemble and strategize."⁸²

Of Philo Read's early role, Herbert Read wrote, "There were great outdoor gatherings with giant campfires which were 'engineered' by my father. Sing-a-longs, storytelling, plays and pageants were common."⁸³ From 1913, dunes aficionados mounted plays and pageants to generate publicity for the Indiana Dunes. An annual open-air festival drew attendance from a few hundred to 1,500 people.

At the Prairie Club's annual picnic at the Beach House in 1916, park historian Ron Cockrell writes that the group "decided to take the offensive against the industrial interests despoiling the Indiana Dunes. They voted to form the National Dunes Park Association to promote the establishment of a national park on Indiana's lakeshore. On July 16, a mass meeting at Waverly Beach to inaugurate the effort resulted in three special trains from Chicago carrying 5,000 people to the dunes. With a theme of 'A National Park for the Middle West, and all the Middle West for a National Park,' a principal goal was to raise money to buy enough duneland to turn over to the Federal Government for a national park."⁸⁴

Stephen Mather, who had been a resident of Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood and was a member of the Prairie Club's conservation committee, became the first director of the National Park Service, created in August 1916.

Within two weeks of the National Park Service Act, Stephen Mather met with U.S. Sen. Thomas Taggart, D-Indiana, to draft a resolution authorizing a study of the "advisability of the securing, by purchase or otherwise, all that portion of the counties of Lake, LaPorte and Porter, in the State of Indiana, bordering upon Lake Michigan, and commonly known as the 'Sand Dunes,' with a view that such lands be created a national park."⁸⁵

The Senate adopted the resolution in September and Mather held hearings in Chicago in October.

Just before the turn of the century, Chicago was known as "one of the most abysmally filthy cities in the industrial world. Most of its streets were unspeakably dirty, the horrible-smelling river remained its sewer, and thick gray smoke from locomotives, river tugs and factories discolored its new skyscrapers, stung people's eyes, clogged their lungs, and soiled their clothing -- and reduced visibility in the Loop to little more than a city block."⁸⁶

⁸¹ J. Ronald Engel, *Sacred Sands: The Struggle for Community in the Indiana Dunes* (Middletown, Conn.: Wesleyan University Press, 1983), 82.

⁸² Ron Cockrell, *A Signature of Time and Eternity: The Administrative History of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Indiana* (Washington DC: National Park Service, 1988).

⁸³ Herbert Read, "The Prairie Club and the Indiana Dunes," in *Dunebeat*. Vol. 11, Number 15. Oct. 30, 1986.

⁸⁴ Ron Cockrell, *A Signature of Time and Eternity: The Administrative History of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Indiana* (Washington DC: National Park Service, 1988).

⁸⁵ Stephen T. Mather, *Report on the Proposed Sand Dunes National Park Indiana* (Washington DC: Department of the Interior, Government Printing Office, 1917), 22.

⁸⁶ Donald L. Miller, *City of the Century: The Epic of Chicago and the Making of America* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1996), 423-424.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Name of Property **Read Dunes House**

County and State
Porter, IN

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 22

A key element in the public testimony was the need for a national park in the Midwest as an outlet for people of working class and moderate means in the metropolitan Chicago region and as a means to unify a diverse population that had neither the time nor the means to travel to the national parks of the West.

"What are we doing for the tens of thousands of people in this noisy, grimy, seething city, who need to revive their souls and to refresh the inner man as well as the outer?" asked Jens Jensen, founder of the Prairie Club.

The president of the Chicago Association of Commerce noted that in this city of 2.4 million, 1.7 million were of foreign birth or foreign extraction. "One of the problems of Americanization," he observed, "is to bring to the people an understanding of their connections with our national affairs. This applies not only to the foreign born but to the American born."

Another agreed: "I look upon this national park reservation as a great unifier of the diverse elements of our population. I think it will give each citizen who visits these dunes a sense of proprietorship in the national assets. I really was thrilled when I went under that legend written over the entrance to Yellowstone Park for the first time, reading, 'For the pleasure of the people.' I felt that I was one of the people. It positively gave a new impetus to my own patriotism."

A representative of the Hammond (Indiana) Chamber of Commerce noted that the center of U.S. population during the 1910 Census was in Indiana. "I have often wondered, however, that all of our Government parks should be located west of the Rocky Mountains."⁸⁷

Mather submitted his report recommending a national park of 9,000 to 13,000 acres to Secretary Lane in December 1916.

He described the uphill battle this would be: "The dunes are not public lands. Their owners do not offer to donate them to the Federal Government, and no individual or organization has undertaken to purchase them and convey them to the Government for park purposes. All parks that have heretofore been established have been carved out of the public domain. Land has never been purchased for reservation as a national park, and in only a few instances have private holdings in a national park been purchased for park purposes."⁸⁸

Mather estimated that a park of 9,000 to 13,000 acres would cost between \$1.8 million and \$2.6 million. National park historian Ron Cockrell writes: "The document represented a potential turning point for Federal land acquisition policy for the Park Service director proposed the government purchase the land for a national park from private interests, a practice hitherto verboten by Congress."⁸⁹

Secretary Lane endorsed Mather's recommendation and forwarded it to Congress in early 1917.

In the meantime, citizen activists took the Prairie Club's annual outdoor festival concept and expanded it to prepare a June 1917 historical pageant. The "Book of the Historical Pageant of the Dunes" notes the preservation goal of bringing thousands "into contact with the romantic beauty of this historic region for the first time, and thereby, with national publicity, giving great help to the movement to 'Save the Dunes' as a public park for all to enjoy."⁹⁰

⁸⁷ Stephen T. Mather, *Report on the Proposed Sand Dunes National Park Indiana* (Washington DC: Department of the Interior, Government Printing Office, 1917), 24, 34-35, 37, 73-74.

⁸⁸ Stephen T. Mather, *Report on the Proposed Sand Dunes National Park Indiana* (Washington DC: Department of the Interior, Government Printing Office, 1917), 11.

⁸⁹ Ron Cockrell, *A Signature of Time and Eternity: The Administrative History of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Indiana* (Washington DC: National Park Service, 1988).

⁹⁰ Thomas Wood Stevens, "Foreword," *Book of the Historical Pageant of the Dunes* (1917).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Name of Property **Read Dunes House**County and State
Porter, IN

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 23

Philo Read led the costumes and props committee for the 1917 pageant, which drew an audience of 25,000. J. Ronald Engel describes the significance of this event: "The Dunes Pageant of 1917 must occupy a central place in any effort to understand the larger meaning of the 80-year movement to preserve the Indiana Dunes. For those who participated, the pageant was a definitive expression of the purposes to which they were devoted. Its impact was felt for years... Six years later, the memory of the pageant was vivid in the minds of those who led the successful campaign for the Indiana Dunes State Park."⁹¹

Despite the citizen effort, the park movement suffered a series of blows. Mather suffered a breakdown in the spring of 1917 and was unable to lobby for the park. Sen. Taggart was defeated in the Nov. 1916 election, so the park lost its congressional champion. Then came U.S. entry into World War I, which ended in late 1918. By late 1920, Mather had given up on the cause. Assistant Director of the National Park Service Horace Albright recalled, "Mr. Mather was just too busy to get back to the Dunes Project and he gradually came to the conclusion that the only hope for them lay in the state park movement."⁹²

Dunes activists came to realize that any campaign to convince Congress to purchase land for a national park would be prolonged and "after that arduous process, there would be no dunes left to save."⁹³ They decided to focus on convincing the State of Indiana to create a state park. By then, the leadership of the dunes movement had passed to Bess Sheehan, who had been secretary of the National Dune Park Association and President of the Indiana Federation of Clubs.⁹⁴

From 1916 through the 1920s, writes Peggy Moran, "Philo [Read] lobbied, in and out of Indianapolis, on behalf of the State Park."⁹⁵ At the time, he was chairman of the Prairie Club's Beach House Committee.⁹⁶ The club held "Dunes Summer Camps" and "Summer Schools" at the beach

⁹¹ J. Ronald Engel, *Sacred Sands: The Struggle for Community in the Indiana Dunes* (Middletown, Conn.: Wesleyan University Press, 1983), 17.

⁹² Kay Franklin and Norma Schaeffer, *Duel for the Dunes: Land Use Conflict on the Shores of Lake Michigan* (Urbana/Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1983), 36.

⁹³ Ron Cockrell, *A Signature of Time and Eternity: The Administrative History of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Indiana* (Washington DC: National Park Service, 1988).

⁹⁴ She later wrote to Richard Lieber, the first director of the Indiana Department of Conservation, her thinking on the shift to a state park: "What did happen, as I have analyzed it, was, that the encouragement and interest then gathering momentum in state officials, state organizations and a few Indiana men and women of vision, induced the Indiana leaders to believe that it would be easier and quicker to create a state park, than a federal, and with the rapidly encroaching civilization, time was very precious." Sheehan, Beth. 1929. Letter to Richard Lieber, dated 5 September. Lieber Papers, DL90 Director's Correspondence 1919-1933, Department of Conservation, Archives Division, Indiana Commission on Public Records, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis.

⁹⁵ Peggy Moran, "The Dunes and Dune People," *Calumet Review* 3 (1969), 17.

⁹⁶ *Prairie Club Yearbook of 1921*. Read Papers. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Name of Property **Read Dunes House**County and State
Porter, IN

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 24

house. At these one- to two-week events, instruction was offered in the science, art and literature of the dunes. Philo Read was part of the leadership team offering these courses.⁹⁷

In 1920, Gov. James Goodrich and Richard Lieber, the first director of the Indiana Department of Conservation, were interested in creating a state park in the dunes. As he left office in January 1921, Gov. Goodrich endorsed the project in his final address to the Indiana Legislature. Incoming Gov. Warren McCray advocated purchase in his inaugural address.

A bill to establish a state park was offered in 1921, but failed.

In a 1922 *Prairie Club Bulletin* article, dunes artist Frank Dudley warned that "if some definite conservation action is not soon taken the Dunes will be lost forever. When that portion that lies between Dune Park and Michigan City is broken into and divided by corporate interests, the fate of the dunes will be sealed."⁹⁸

In 1923, another park bill was introduced and passed. On March 6, 1923, Gov. McCray signed the bill authorizing an Indiana Dunes State Park. "This provision was neither large, nor speedy, and did not insure the purchase of lands that might at any time slip away to other purchasers, but it was at least a definite step in the desired direction."⁹⁹

In May 1925, newly elected Gov. Edward Jackson took a dunes tour and authorized the Dunes Purchasing Board (a division of the State Conservation Commission) to use \$200,000 in tax revenue to buy 500 acres of duneland to spur private donations. On August 29, 1925, the deed for the first 110 acres was handed over at a ceremony on Mount Green -- renamed Mount Jackson. The state park opened in July 1926. The size had shrunk to 3 miles of shoreline and 2,182 acres -- one-quarter of the 8 miles of shoreline and 8,000 acres originally believed necessary by the Indiana Department of Conservation. Since the land acquisitions of 1925-26, no land has been added.

The *Prairie Club* sold its 56 acres and Philo Read gave up his beachfront cabin to the Indiana Dunes State Park. Asked by his young son why he would do that, Philo Read replied, "instead of being sole owner of several dune acres, you are now part owner of 2,200 acres of dunes."¹⁰⁰

With creation of the state park, "the activist phase of the [*Prairie*] club as the leading conservation group in Chicago ended."¹⁰¹

Not long after came the Great Depression and then World War II. Construction in the dunes came to a virtual halt. Dunes activism went into dormancy.

Historian Susan Schrepfer describes this pattern of 20th Century citizen conservation movements: "Strong if generally moderate from the 1890s into the 1920s, citizen activism was relatively

⁹⁷ J. Ronald Engel, *Sacred Sands: The Struggle for Community in the Indiana Dunes* (Middletown, Conn.: Wesleyan University Press, 1983), 83: "In 1922, for example, the Dunes Summer Camp, held at the *Prairie Club Beach House*, was chaired by Bess Sheehan, with Henry Cowles serving as faculty chairman and Richard Lieber and Philo Read helping in other capacities."

⁹⁸ Frank V. Dudley, "The Dunes from an Artist's Point of View," *The Prairie Club Bulletin*, Feb. 1922, No. 113. n.p.

⁹⁹ George S. Cottman. *Indiana Dunes State Park: A History and Description* (Indianapolis: Indiana Department of Conservation, 1930).

¹⁰⁰ Peggy Moran, "The Dunes and Dune People," *Calumet Review* 3 (1969), 17.

¹⁰¹ Ryan Chew, "100 Years of the *Prairie Club*: How 'Saturday Afternoon Walking Trips' became a force for conservation," *Chicago Wilderness Magazine*, Spring 2008.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Name of Property **Read Dunes House**
County and State **Porter, IN**
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 25

quiet during the 1930s and 1940s. Then in the mid-1950s the anger and influence of participants burst forth, to flourish in the 1960s."¹⁰²

The activities at the Read Dunes House and of the Read family are a prime example of this resurgence of citizen participation.

Conclusion

The 50-year citizen movement to preserve the Indiana Dunes has a number of unique characteristics:

- Seeking to create a national park in an area with no pre-existing publicly owned federal lands at a time when Congress had no precedents for buying lands for national parks.
- Relying not primarily on private philanthropy or state government to secure land donations, but on citizen activism by homemakers, teachers, social workers, artists, writers, scientists, lawyers, engineers, architects urging the federal government itself to use federal appropriations to acquire lands.
- Depending explicitly on women for leadership in the movement, as well as for nuts-and-bolt activity.
- Setting aside public lands close to major population centers, out of land poised for development and easily accessible to millions of urban residents of all backgrounds -- not out of sparsely populated open space in the West.
- Creating a national park in the Midwest, not the West or East.
- Acting over the objections of and in open confrontation with industry and the political establishment.
- Pursuing aggressive legislative advocacy, shepherding bills at every stage of the legislative process.
- Challenging government and private reports on the feasibility and benefits of industrial development and using litigation to delay or stop industrial activity as leverage in the legislative process.
- Retaining a core of intergenerational leadership and historical memory, providing continuity between the 1910s-1920s and 1950s-1960s.
- Relying on a core of willing sellers to build support for federal appropriations for private lands.

Ron Cockrell's history of the park begins: "The United States' Congress' 1966 authorization of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore represents the culmination of a movement which began in 1916 to establish a 'Sand Dunes National Park'...The ensuing 50 years spawned an increasingly bitter battle between the forces of conservation and development which did not abate with the Nov. 5, 1966 authorization of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore."¹⁰³

His history concludes that after the park was created, "Powerful, conservation-minded friends like the Save the Dunes Council and the Porter County Chapter of the Izaak Walton League proved to be invaluable partners. These friends were more than willing to take on the bureaucracy -- including the National Park Service itself -- in defense of dunes preservation."¹⁰⁴

The Read Dunes House was a key site for the Save the Dunes Council and the Porter County Chapter of the Izaak Walton League not only during the period from 1952 to park creation in 1966, but beyond. The Read family was in the leadership of the dunes movement from the beginning and has provided intergenerational continuity during the 20th century movement and into the 21st century. The Read Dunes House, designed as a clubhouse on an ancient dune ridge, was an integral part of Read family efforts to build a social community around dunes preservation.

¹⁰² Susan R. Schrepfer, *The Fight to Save the Redwoods: A History of Environmental Reform, 1917-1978* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1983).

¹⁰³ Ron Cockrell, *A Signature of Time and Eternity: The Administrative History of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Indiana* (Washington DC: National Park Service, 1988).

¹⁰⁴ Ron Cockrell, *A Signature of Time and Eternity: The Administrative History of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Indiana* (Washington DC: National Park Service, 1988).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Name of Property **Read Dunes House**

County and State
Porter, IN

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 26

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Caldwell, Lynton K., Lynton R. Hayes and Isabel M. MacWhirter. "Chapter 2, Case VI: Industry versus Environmental Quality: The Indiana Dunes," in *Citizens and the Environment: Case Studies in Popular Action* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1976).

Cockrell, Ron. *A Signature of Time and Eternity: The Administrative History of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Indiana* (Washington DC: National Park Service, 1988).

Drury, John. "Meet Porter County's 'Mr. Izaak Walton.'" *Gary-Post Tribune*, Sunday, Feb. 19, 1961. D4-5.

Dustin, Thomas E. "The Battle of the Indiana Dunes," in *Citizens Make the Difference: Case Studies in Environmental Action* (Citizens Advisory Committee on Environmental Quality, 1973).

Engel, J. Ronald. *Sacred Sands: The Struggle for Community in the Indiana Dunes* (Middletown, Conn.: Wesleyan University Press, 1983).

Franklin, Kay and Norma Schaeffer. *Duel for the Dunes: Land Use Conflict on the Shores of Lake Michigan* (Urbana/Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1983).

Higgs, Steven. *Eternal Vigilance: Nine Tales of Environmental Heroism in Indiana* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1995).

Lewis, Richard. "Indiana's Sand Gold: What's Behind Dunes Battle." *Chicago Sun-Times*. Aug. 17, 18, 19, 1958.

Mather, Stephen T. *Report on the Proposed Sand Dunes National Park Indiana* (Washington, D.C.: Department of the Interior, Government Printing Office, 1917).

Moran, Peggy. "The Dunes and Dune People," *Calumet Review* 3 (1969), 10-24.

Peeples, William. "The Indiana Dunes and Pressure Politics." *Atlantic Monthly*. February, 1963.

Read, Herbert. "The Indiana Dunes: A Case History." Presentation to the Save the Dunes Council. January 28, 1969. Read Papers. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana.

_____. "Remembrances of Dorothy Buell, founder and first president of the Save the Dunes Council" (Paper presentation, date unknown). Read Papers. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana.

_____. "The Prairie Club and the Indiana Dunes," in *Dunebeat*. Vol. 11, Number 15. Oct. 30, 1986.

_____. "Some Untold Tales" (Paper presented to the Polymathic Society, Chesterton, Indiana, 1988), Read Papers. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Name of Property **Read Dunes House**County and State
Porter, IN

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 27

_____. "The Kennedy Compromise of 1963 (Paper presented at the 40th Anniversary of the Save the Dunes Council, Indiana, 25 October 1992). Read Papers. Calumet Regional Archives, Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana.

Troy, Sylvia. "Citizens Action for Preservation," The Indiana Dunes Story: How Nature and People Made a Park, ed. Joan Gibb Engel (Beverly Shores, Indiana: Shirley Heinze Environmental Fund, 1984).

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

Name of Property **Read Dunes House**
County and State **Porter, IN**
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number ___ Page 28

PHOTOGRAPH, DRAWINGS, MAP LOG

1 of 24: Read Dunes House. Tremont (near Chesterton), Porter County, IN. Photographer: Arthur Anderson. Date Photographed: Fall, 1955.
East elevation. Camera facing southwest.

2 of 24: Read Dunes House. Tremont (near Chesterton), Porter County, IN. Photographer: Arthur Anderson. Date Photographed: Summer, 1955.
East elevation. Camera facing southwest.

3 of 24: Read Dunes House. Tremont (near Chesterton), Porter County, IN. Photographer: Herbert Read. Date Photographed: Winter, 1957.
South and west elevations. Camera facing northeast.

4 of 24: Read Dunes House. Tremont (near Chesterton), Porter County, IN. Photographer: Arthur Anderson. Date Photographed: Summer, 1955.
Great Room from entry. Camera facing southeast.

5 of 24: Read Dunes House. Tremont (near Chesterton), Porter County, IN. Photographer: Arthur Anderson. Date Photographed: Summer, 1955.
Great Room and fireplace. Camera facing northeast.

6 of 24: Read Dunes House. Tremont (near Chesterton), Porter County, IN. Photographer: Herbert Read. Date Photographed: 1961.
Irene Martin Read (1902-1981) and Philo Benham Read (1882-1961).
West entry. Camera facing east.

7 of 24: Read Dunes House. Tremont (near Chesterton), Porter County, IN. Photographer: Herbert Read. Date Photographed: Spring 2010.
East elevation. Camera facing west.

8 of 24: Read Dunes House. Tremont (near Chesterton), Porter County, IN. Photographer: Herbert Read. Date Photographed: April 2010.
East and south elevations. Camera facing northwest.

9 of 24: Read Dunes House. Tremont (near Chesterton), Porter County, IN. Photographer: Herbert Read. Date Photographed: January 2010.
South and east elevations. Camera facing northwest.

10 of 24: Read Dunes House. Tremont (near Chesterton), Porter County, IN. Photographer: Herbert Read. Date Photographed: December 2010.
South elevation. Camera facing north.

11 of 24: Read Dunes House. Tremont (near Chesterton), Porter County, IN. Photographer: Herbert Read. Date Photographed: January 2010.
South and west elevations. Camera facing northeast.

12 of 24: Read Dunes House. Tremont (near Chesterton), Porter County, IN. Photographer: Herbert Read. Date Photographed: November 2010. West and north elevations. Camera facing southeast.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Name of Property **Read Dunes House**County and State
Porter, IN

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number ___ Page 29

13 of 24: Read Dunes House. Tremont (near Chesterton), Porter County, IN. Photographer: Herbert Read. Date Photographed: December 2010.
North elevation. Camera facing south.

14 of 24: Read Dunes House. Tremont (near Chesterton), Porter County, IN. Photographer: Herbert Read. Date Photographed: October 2010.
Great Room and fireplace. Camera facing northeast.

15 of 24: Read Dunes House. Tremont (near Chesterton), Porter County, IN. Photographer: Herbert Read. Date Photographed: October 2010.
Great Room. Camera facing southeast.

16 of 24: Read Dunes House. Tremont (near Chesterton), Porter County, IN. Photographer: Herbert Read. Date Photographed: December 2010.
Great Room and hearth. Camera facing northwest.

17 of 24: Read Dunes House. Tremont (near Chesterton), Porter County, IN. Photographer: Herbert Read. Date Photographed: September 2010.
Great Room from west entry. Camera facing southeast.

18 of 24: Read Dunes House. Tremont (near Chesterton), Porter County, IN. Photographer: Herbert Read. Date Photographed: September 2010.
Great Room and hearth. Camera facing northwest.

19 of 24: Read Dunes House. Tremont (near Chesterton), Porter County, IN.
Architectural drawings. Architect: Herbert Read. Date Designed: 1952.
East elevation.

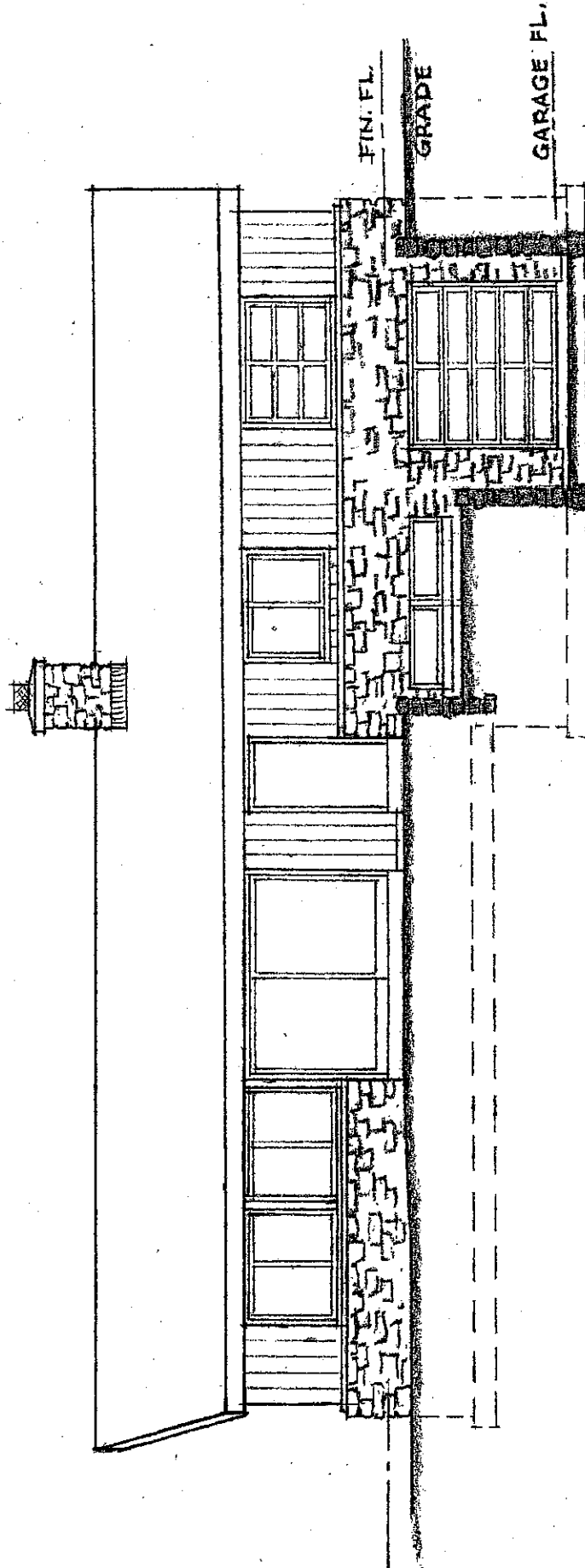
20 of 24: Read Dunes House. Tremont (near Chesterton), Porter County, IN.
Architectural drawings. Architect: Herbert Read. Date Designed: 1952.
South elevation.

21 of 24: Read Dunes House. Tremont (near Chesterton), Porter County, IN.
Architectural drawings. Architect: Herbert Read. Date Designed: 1952.
West elevation.

22 of 24: Read Dunes House. Tremont (near Chesterton), Porter County, IN.
Architectural drawings. Architect: Herbert Read. Date Designed: 1952.
North elevation.

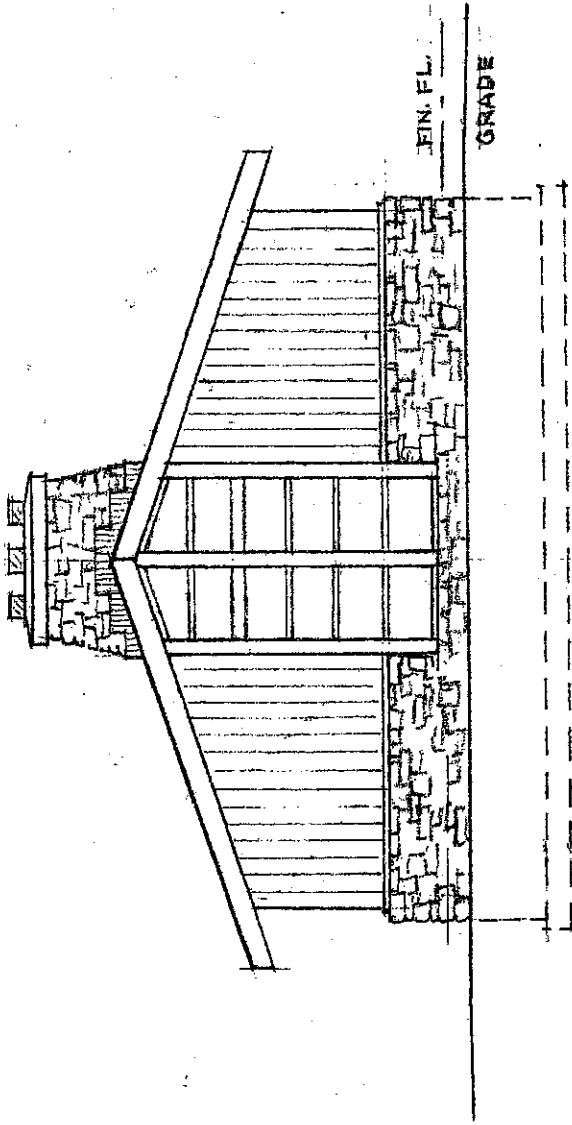
23 of 24: Read Dunes House. Tremont (near Chesterton), Porter County, IN.
Architectural drawings. Architect: Herbert Read. Date Designed: 1952.
Floor Plan. (Also shows photo numbers and locations.)

24 of 24: Read Dunes House. Tremont (near Chesterton), Porter County, IN.
USGS map. Dune Acres Quadrangle, 7.5 minute series, Scale 1:24,000. Showing Read Dunes House and UTM References: 16/496020E and 16/4610080N.



EAST ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

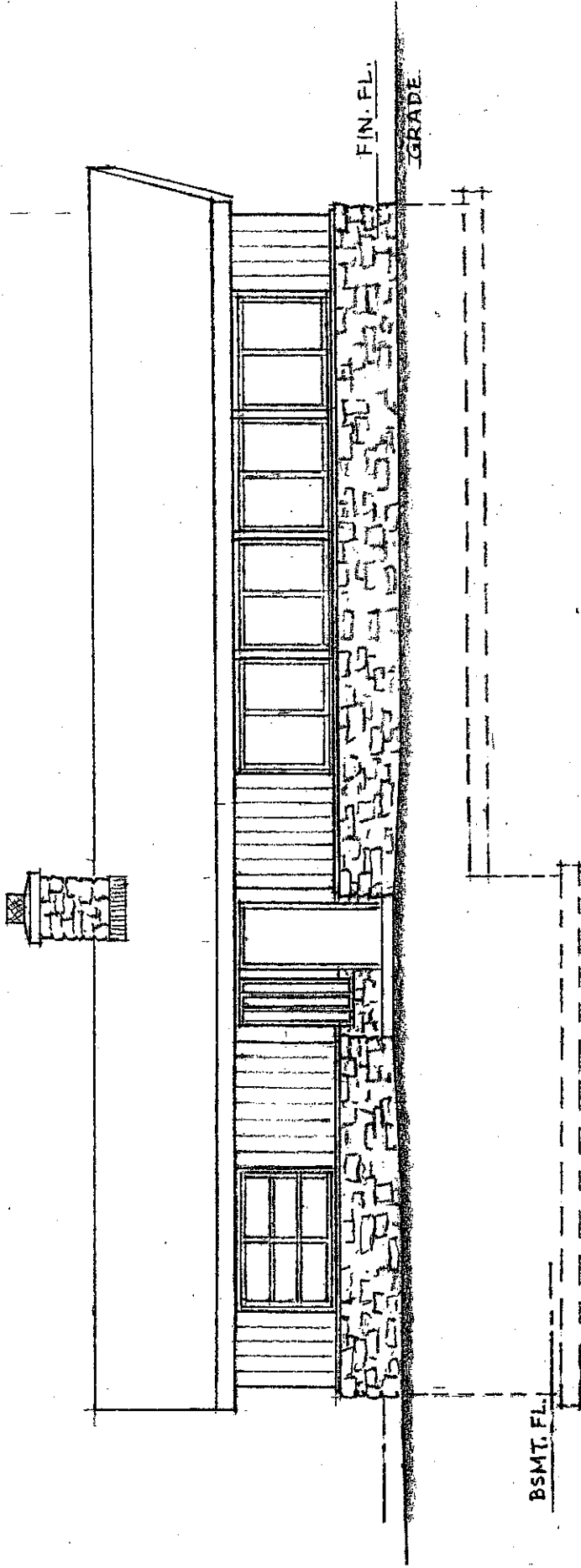
READ DUNES HOUSE
TREMONT RD., - PORTER COUNTY
(NEAR CHESTERTON, IN)
HERBERT P. READ - ARCHITECT



SOUTH ELEVATION

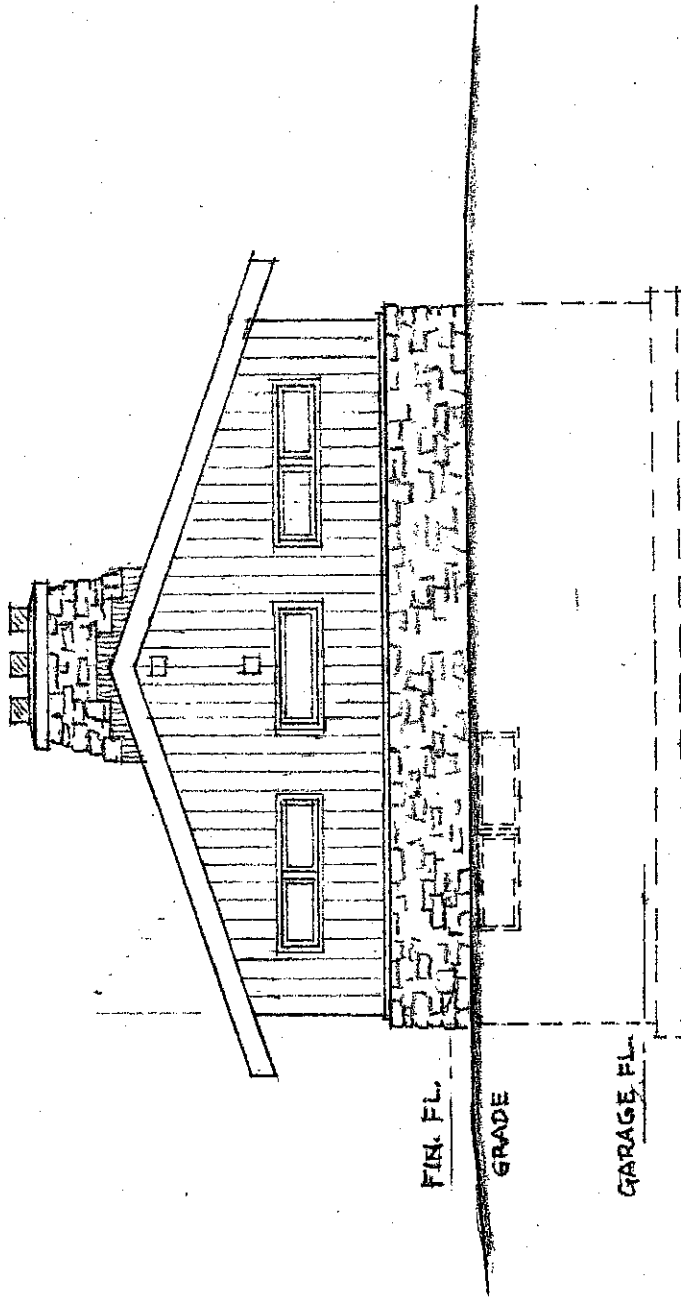
SCALE: $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'-0''$

READ DUNES HOUSE
TREMONT RD., - PORTER COUNTY
(NEAR CHESTERION, IN)
HERBERT P. READ - ARCHITECT



WEST ELEVATION
SCALE: $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'-0''$

READ DUNES HOUSE
TREMONT RD., - PORTER COUNTY
(NEAR CHESTERION, IN)
HERBERT R. READ - ARCHITECT

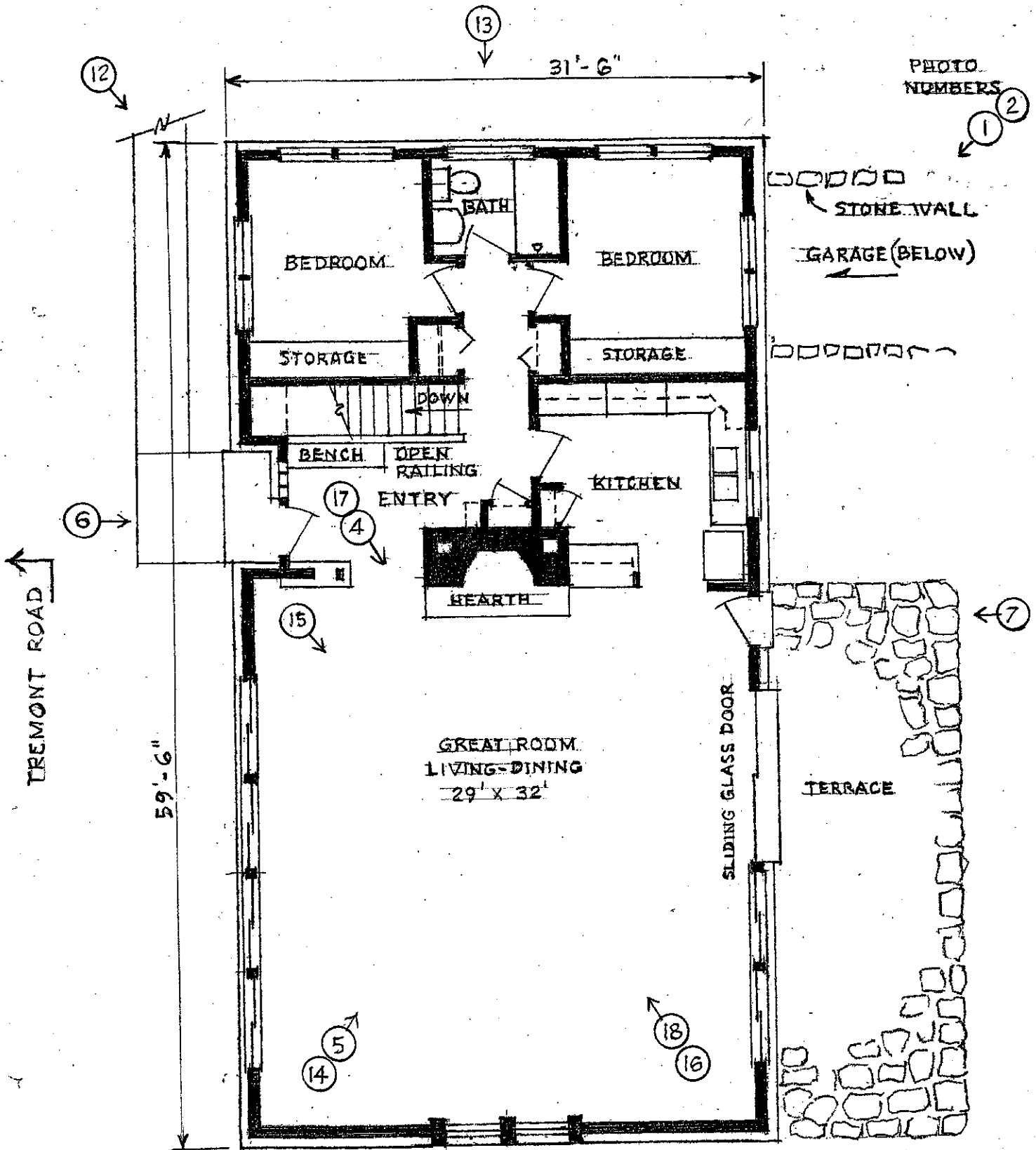


NORTH ELEVATION

SCALE: $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'-0''$

READ DUNES HOUSE
TREMONT RD. - PORTER COUNTY
(NEAR CHESTERTON, IN.)
HERBERT P. READ - ARCHITECT.

22



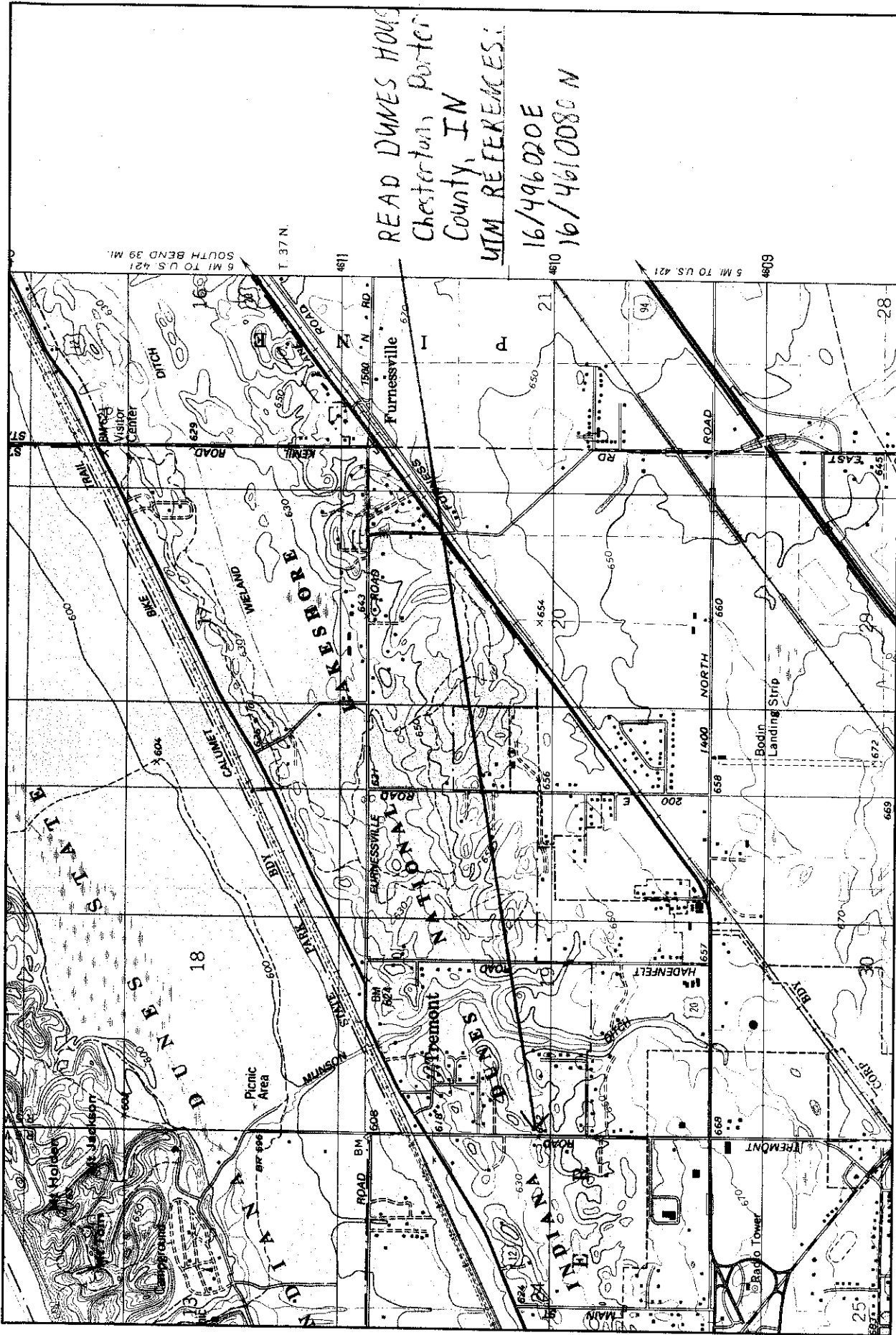
FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



#23

READ DUNES HOUSE
TREMONT RD. - PORTER, CT
(NEAR CHESTERTON, IN)
HERBERT P. READ - ARCHITECT



#24. Read Dunes House. Tremont (near Chesterton), Porter County, IN. USGS map. Dune Acres Quadrangle, 7.5 minute series,
 Scale 1:24,000. Showing Read Dunes House and UTM references: 16/496020E and 16/4610080N.