

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of PropertyHistoric name: Byrne, Patrick E., HouseOther names/site number: 32BL00396

Name of related multiple property listing:

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)**2. Location**Street & number: 120 W. Ave. ACity or town: Bismarck State: ND County: BurleighNot For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national x statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 A B x C D

		<u>6-18-25</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:		Date
<u>ND SHPO</u>		
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		
In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.		
Signature of commenting official:		Date
Title :		State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Byrne, Patrick E., House
Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND
County and State

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

Date of Action

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 ☐

Byrne, Patrick E., House
Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

Byrne, Patrick E., House
Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19th AND EARLY 20th CENTURY MOVEMENTS: Prairie School

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation: concrete; Walls: brick and stucco;
Roof: timber frame and asphalt shingle

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The historic Patrick E. Byrne House, completed in 1912, is a 2.5-story Prairie Style residence designed by the Minneapolis-based firm of Purcell, Feick, and Elmslie. Located at 120 W. Ave. A in Bismarck, North Dakota (within Lots 7-9, Block 17, Northern Pacific Addition) within the Bismarck Cathedral Area Historic District, it is the best representative example of this firm's work in the state, and the first anywhere to carry the name of all three partners in the firm. The property consists of two contributing buildings (a house and garage), and a one site composed of a landscaped yard with architect-designed walkways and planters. One structure, a U-shaped concrete driveway, is a reconstruction of an original feature and is therefore considered a non-contributing resource within the site.

Narrative Description

LOCATION AND SETTING

The historic P.E. Byrne House is situated within the Bismarck Cathedral Area Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.¹ The neighborhood is characterized by

¹ The Bismarck Cathedral Area Historic District was originally listed in 1980. However, there have been two amendments to the District, in 1997 and 2010. All three submissions were recorded with distinct NRHP listing numbers (80002908, 97001142, and 10000138).

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Burleigh County, ND

Name of Property

County and State

its setting, on the crest and south slope of a hilltop overlooking Bismarck's downtown commercial core. Streets and avenues are aligned to the cadastral grid pattern and are lined with boulevard plantings, historically American Elms but in some places replaced with aptly named Cathedral Elms (a Dutch elm disease-resistant elm cultivar) or other species including maple and oak. Concrete sidewalks provide pedestrian access throughout the neighborhood.

Houses in the Bismarck Cathedral Area Historic District are primarily single-family dwellings of one to two stories. Most of the homes were built in the first two decades of the 20th century, though a handful of earlier houses can be found, and mid-century infill is present. The neighborhood therefore boasts an eclectic mix of architectural styles.

While there is a recurring flavor of Prairie School influence throughout the district, inspired perhaps by two residences (120 Ave A and 612 Raymond Street) designed by the firm of Purcell, Feick and Elmslie, examples of the Shingle Style (304 Ave A), Art Deco (the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, 520 Raymond Street), Colonial Revival (224 Ave A West; 204 Avenue B West), Tudor Revival (232 Avenue A West; 220 Avenue B West), and Bungalow in both the more traditional mode (529 North Mandan Street; 320 Avenue B West) and the "Tudor Mode" (515 North Washington Street; 210 West Avenue A), are also in evidence.²

The P.E. Byrne House is situated at the northeast corner of the intersection of N. Mandan Street and W. Ave. A. Bordering the property to the north and east are contemporaneous single-family residences. Across the street to the west are early 20th-century houses while to the south there is a mid-century three-story apartment complex.

The property is fairly level, with the exception of the front yard, which slopes south. A mature hedge lines the south and west boundaries of the property. Mature American Elms and conifers are planted throughout the property. Mixed grasses comprise the lawn, and flower beds line pathways to and from the front door, generally planted with a mix of blooming annuals including anemone and hydrangea.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS AND FEATURES

The P.E. Byrne House is a 2.5-story Prairie Style residence with a rectangular plan shape oriented on an east-west axis. It has a poured-concrete foundation and is wood-framed, built with platform framing. The exterior walls are clad in dark brick veneer on the first story and plaster over galvanized steel lath on the second story.³ The side-gabled roof is covered in asphalt shingles and has broadly overhanging eaves. The eaves along the south elevation are boxed and plastered. The soffits on other elevations are open, but also covered in plaster, tying seamlessly to the exterior cladding of the upper story. Triangular carved detailing is present at the south

² Frank E. Vyzralek and Louis N. Hafermehl, "Cathedral Area Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form (Washington, DC: US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1980), Section 7.

³ The dimensions of each brick are roughly 2-by-4-by-8 inches.

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Burleigh County, ND

Name of Property

County and State

corner of both the east and west gable ends. Two louvered and stone-capped brick chimneys pierce the roofline.⁴

The house is set back approximately 40 feet from the public right-of-way, with the primary façade facing south. The entry is centered on the façade, with a semi-circular front porch enclosed with a curved, solid brick “rail” or knee wall. Wood steps at the east and west sides of the porch provide access. The entry itself is slightly recessed, with a stone sill. It contains the original side-hung, quarter-sawn oak door and quarter-sawn oak storm door. The central panel of both doors contains a rectangular plate glass window.

To the east and west of the primary entry are a pair of wood-framed Chicago windows. The stone sills are of the same material, height, and dimensions as the cap on the curved brick knee wall encircling the front porch. From a distance, this appears to a viewer as one unified horizontal band across the center of the first story façade. Another unifying horizontal band is created by a “wood band” between the first and second stories, around all four elevations.

On the second story, the south façade is dominated by a prominent hip-roofed screen porch projecting from center and supported by two rectangular posts that terminate at the semi-circular retaining wall below. To the east and west of the screened porch are wide one-over-one-lite double-hung windows that align with the center lites of the first story’s Chicago windows.

The west elevation is a gable end, with a two-story nested-gable wing projecting along the north half. The first story contains a Chicago window centered on the projecting wing. Directly above it is a wide, one-over-one-lite double-hung window centered in the bay. To the south, along the main volume of the house, is a second one-over-one-lite double-hung window. In the apex of the gable is a pair of square box-head windows, illuminating the attic space. A three-lite basement window is present toward the south end of the elevation, with a brick-lined, grate-covered light well.⁵

The north elevation is the rear of the house. It is asymmetrical, with a transecting gable bay at center. The central gabled bay contains the secondary entry—a modern side-hung door and storm door, accessed by a shallow concrete stoop. To the west of the rear entry is a shoulder-height one-over-one-lite double-hung window. To the east is a side-hung, wooden ice door and a pair of shoulder-height one-over-one-lite double-hung windows. The second story contains a one-over-one-lite double-hung window and bank of three tall three-lite casement windows which correspond to a landing on the interior stairwell. The attic has a pair of box-head windows and, at the east of the elevation is a bank of four square stationary windows, with storm sashes. A three-lite basement window is present at the west end of the north elevation, with a brick-lined, grate-covered light well.

The east end of the north elevation is flush with a gable-roofed wing projecting from the west elevation. It contains paired eight-lite casements on the first and second story.

⁴ See Figures 3-11.

⁵ See Figure 14.

Byrne, Patrick E., House
Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND
County and State

The east elevation is a gable end, with an off-center two-story nested-gable wing projecting from the north half. Wide one-over-one-lite double-hung windows are on the first and second story, with a band of three box-head windows centered in the apex of the gable. The projecting wing contains a sunroom on the first story and a sleeping porch on the second. The north and south walls of the wing have paired eight-lite casement windows. An at-grade side-hung door is centered on the east elevation, flanked by two more pairs of eight-lite casement windows. In the upper story of the wing, the south and north elevations have two pairs of eight-light casement windows, while three pairs of 12-lite casement windows span the east wall.

NOTABLE DESIGN ELEMENTS

Defining features of the house that are characteristic of not only the Prairie Style, but other works by Purcell, Feick, and Elmslie, include the use of natural materials, neutral color palette, incorporation of organic motifs in the specially-designed carved panels for the gable ends, Chicago windows, paired and banked windows, and exaggeration of horizontal lines through manipulation of materials.⁶ An example of this latter design element is the intentional use of contrasting materials (stone) for both the first story window sills and capping of the front porch knee wall and planters. Another example is the scoring, or raking back, of the horizontal mortar joints in the first story brickwork, while filling in the vertical joints to be flush with the face of the brick. The vertical mortar joints in the brickwork are also tinted, to better blend in with the dark brick and further reduce the interruption of the horizontal lines.⁷ Even the landscaping elements are tied to the house in a way that emphasizes a sprawling, horizontality—the planters at the east and west ends of the south façade are connected to the house by a course of bricks which the current owner whimsically describes as “arms and hands clasping the earth and holding the house to the prairie so the winds can’t blow it away.”⁸

OUTBUILDINGS AND LANDSCAPING

To the north of the house is a detached garage. While it is not depicted in the plan drawings for the P.E. Byrne House, the garage is believed to have been part of the original design for the property. City assessor records list its date of construction as 1912, and it appears in the 1916 Sanborn Fire Insurance map.⁹ Further, its construction is consistent with the house, featuring the same dark brick veneer (over hollow clay tile), with the same horizontal emphasis in the mortar joints on three of the four walls.

The roof of the garage is hipped and covered in asphalt shingles. A shed-roofed, lap-board-sided lean-to is located along the south elevation, added by the Byrne family sometime in the mid-20th century. The primary façade of the garage faces west, containing a nearly full-width wood-

⁶ See Figure 12.

⁷ See Figure 13.

⁸ E-mail correspondence with Dick Gross, February 16, 2025.

⁹ City of Bismarck, Assessor’s Office, Property Assessment for 120 W. Ave. A, Parcel 0015-017-025, accessed October 8, 2024; The Sanborn Fire Insurance map collection did not depict Block 17 in 1912. Sanborn Map Company, Bismarck, 1916.

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND

County and State

paneled, sectional door. The garage door has a row of four fixed-lites at shoulder height. To the south, the west wall of the lean-to contains a wood-paneled, side-hung door. Windows are present on the north and south walls of the garage. The two windows on the south elevation are obscured by the lean-to; the north window has been covered in particle board. The window openings and sash remain intact, with stone sills similar to those seen on the house.¹⁰

Elements of the property's landscape known to have been designed by Purcell, Feick, and Elmslie include the terraced walkways to and around the house, the shallow concrete stairways, and concrete-and-brick planters at the southeast, southwest, and east ends of the house.¹¹

INTERIOR FEATURES

The interior layout of the P.E. Byrne House follows the typical open plan concept used by Purcell, Feick, and Elmslie. Flow between rooms is relatively unobstructed—a concept that was introduced to residential design by architects of the Prairie School. There is a prominent central fireplace, built-in furniture, and custom-designed stencil work, light fixtures, and ornament.

The living room features classic elements of the Prairie Style, including a brick hearth with an ornamental terracotta mantle and half-circle recess, along with built-in bench seating and bookcases. The dining room has a recessed, built-in sideboard monogrammed with an ornamental sawn-wood “B” in the cupboard door. Cove molding, baseboards, and built-ins are all made of matching quarter-sawn white oak.¹² Though carpeted now, the first floor has white oak flooring as well, with fir flooring in the rear porch. It once had maple flooring in the kitchen, which has been replaced with tile. The second floor has three bedrooms, a bathroom, hall, linen closet, and an office/nursery. All original had maple flooring, since replaced with tile or carpeted over. The sleeping porch and front porch originally had canvas floors that, according to a 1998 interview with Betty Byrne, were intended to be used for starting garden seeds in the very early spring.¹³ The east porch has been weatherized, and carpet laid over the canvas flooring. The walls are all original and no alterations have been made to the arrangement of rooms. Built-ins continue throughout, with special detailing in the treatment of the stairwell sides and handrails, screened from the downstairs hall by a series of squared oak spindles.

As originally designed, the basement contained a furnace room, a fuel room, and an ash pit beneath the living room hearth. It also had space for storage, laundry, a bathroom, and was equipped with a cistern, fed by drains at the base of each downspout. It has since been remodeled into a secondary living room/family room, laundry room, full bathroom, and storage. The third-floor attic is an unfinished space, with a small bedroom once intended for use by a maid or servant.

¹⁰ See Figures 15-17.

¹¹ See Figures 18-19.

¹² See Figures 20-23.

¹³ Ann Vadnie, “Distinctively American: Family’s home filled with history through its architecture,” *Bismarck Tribune*, February 8, 1998.

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND

County and State

ALTERATIONS AND INTEGRITY

The P.E. Byrne House has been meticulously maintained by two generations of Byrne family members and its current owners and retains all aspects of integrity: materials, design, feeling, location, association, workmanship, and setting. Most accounts of repairs, replacements or remodeling come from the current owners, Dick and Elizabeth Gross, who purchased the house at 120 W. Ave. A from Betty Byrne in 1978. However, additional information has been gleaned from city assessors' records and building permits. The majority of modifications have been made to the interior, the most extensive of which modernized the kitchen. No major alterations have affected the house's exterior.

The house has its original exterior siding, architectural details remain intact, and no additions to the main volume of the house have been made. The exterior paint color is not original—Purcell's writings indicate the plaster was, "a little more red than sand (very charming) and the wood was natural."¹⁴ Though much lighter, the current color is not outside the Prairie School's common palette of earth tones. The house contains all of its original wood windows, though some glass panes have been cracked and replaced over time. The rear door on the north elevation was replaced within the past ten years. Historical photographs indicate it was a side-hung door with a fixed lite.¹⁵ Storm windows affixed to the exterior of most windows are not original and were added sometime during the Byrne family's occupation.

The house has always had insulation issues, which most of the interior modifications have sought to correct. One of the earliest improvements the Grosses made after purchasing the property in 1978 was to add blown-in insulation throughout the house. In 1983, they added a forced-air conditioning system. The first- and second-story porches have been altered slightly for all-season use. For example, in the mid-1990s, the current owners replaced the interior window screens in the second-story sleeping porch with modern vinyl sliding windows and added electric baseboard heaters. The exterior divided-lite casement windows, however, remain in place. When they installed a new furnace around 1980, they extended ductwork up to the first story sunroom porch to provide additional heat there, too.

In 1979, the current owners began an extensive remodeling of the kitchen, located at the rear of the house. According to Elizabeth Gross, the maple floors had been covered by previous owners in several layers of linoleum and were not salvageable. The floor is now tiled, with matching tile extending into the attached sunroom porch. At the same time, an interior wall that separates the kitchen from the hall to the west was replaced, the kitchen ceiling raised, and new cabinetry and trim custom made. Bathrooms in the basement and second story have also been updated with modern fixtures, flooring, and wall coverings. The basement furnace room has been converted to usable living space with built-in cabinetry, knotty-pine wall covering, and a drop ceiling. Basement windows in the laundry room have been replaced with glass block. The ceiling of the second-story east bedroom was damaged, possibly from settling, and replaced sometime around

¹⁴ P.E. Byrne Residence job file #69, Box 1, Folder 50, William Gray Purcell Papers, Northwest Architectural Archives.

¹⁵ William Gray Purcell, George Feick, Jr., and George Grant Elmslie, "The Statics and Dynamics of Architecture," in *The Western Architect* 19, no. 1 (1913): 22.

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND

County and State

2005. The basement cistern is still present, but not in use. Water directed to the cistern from the exterior downspouts is now diverted to a floor drain.

Once functional amenities like the ice delivery box next to the rear door and the ash pit in the basement below the hearth, are still present, but are no longer in use. The exterior door of the ice delivery box is visible on the north elevation, but the corresponding void was filled during the 1979 interior kitchen remodel. Betty Byrne described a tin pipe used as a communication system that led from a downstairs room to a maid's quarters in the third floor. The pipe has been removed, but the mouthpiece is still on the wall of the attic bedroom.¹⁶

The garage has seen several modifications, as well. The Byrne family added a wood-framed, wood-sided lean-to along the south wall at an unknown date. According to the current owners, there had been a fenced-in dog trot extending south from the lean-to, which served as both garden shed and dog shelter. The wood window of the garage located on the north elevation has been covered with particleboard, but does remain intact.

A U-shaped driveway is believed to have been included in the original plans for the property's landscaping. However, when the Grosses purchased the house, the south half had been removed. Around 1980, they had the asphalt removed and a new concrete driveway poured. The concrete driveway conforms to the U-shape plan, as originally designed.

Plan drawings for the P.E. Byrne House also include features that were never realized. While they have no bearing on the integrity of the resource today, it is of interest to note the concrete paths to and from the front entry were intended to be brick, with a curbed flower bed.¹⁷

In assessing the integrity of the P.E. Byrne House, historical photographs, along with William Gray Purcell's own writings, confirm the property's continuity over time. The house, garage, and grounds all appear to a viewer almost exactly as they did in 1912 and the P.E. Byrne House retains the character defining features of its unique style, conveying a sense of its time and place in history, as well as its association with the architects Purcell, Feick, and Elmslie, and its original owners, the Byrnes.

¹⁶ Ann Vadnie, "Distinctively American: Family's home filled with history through its architecture," *Bismarck Tribune*, February 8, 1998.

¹⁷ Plan drawings are on file with the Northwest Architectural Archive in the William Gray Purcell Papers, Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota Libraries. As the full set of working drawings have not been digitized, the author referred to hard copies produced for the current homeowners.

Byrne, Patrick E., House
Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Byrne, Patrick E., House
Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1912

Significant Dates

1912

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Purcell, William Gray
Elmslie, George Grant
Feick, George Jr.
Parker, Marion Alice
Fournier, Lawrence A.
Haugen, Paul
Anderson, Fred
Hillstrand, Andrew

Byrne, Patrick E., House
Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The P.E. Byrne House at 120 W. Ave. A in Bismarck, North Dakota, is historically significant at the state level. It is one of a handful of residential and commercial buildings designed in the early 20th century by the renowned Midwest architectural firm of Purcell, Feick, and Elmslie. It stands out as the best representative example of their work in North Dakota and was a pivotal commission for the development of the firm.

The firm initially consisted of William Gray Purcell and George Feick Jr. but achieved greatest recognition with the addition of George Grant Elmslie, who signed on with the firm in 1910.¹⁸ These three men were devoted to what architect Frank Lloyd Wright would later term the *Prairie School*, an architectural movement influenced by the English Arts and Crafts Movement of the late 19th century. The Prairie School challenged earlier styles of architecture, creating an indigenous North American aesthetic suited to the progressive spirit that attended the turn of the century.¹⁹

Purcell and Feick began planning this residence for Patrick E. Byrne, private secretary to Governor John Burke, in September of 1909.²⁰ Byrne typifies their early clientele and the relationship they cultivated with him, and the process of design for this specific house, exemplifies the importance of their time in North Dakota to the evolution of their practice. The construction of this house was not begun until 1912, as they continued to develop and refine the design for over a year and a half. It is during this time that George Grant Elmslie became an official partner in the firm, bringing a level of experience, skill, and artistry that would characterize all of their subsequent works. As Feick would leave the firm in 1913, the P.E. Byrne House is not only the first project carrying the new partnership title, "Purcell, Feick, and Elmslie, Architects," but one whose development spans this relatively brief phase of the partnership, in which all three men were collaborators.²¹ It remains a private residence and has experienced very few alterations. The period of significance is defined simply as its date of construction, 1912, marking the culmination of the unique design elements that convey its historic associations under Criterion C.

¹⁸ "Firm's Name Changed," *Minneapolis Journal*, December 11, 1910.

¹⁹ H. Allen Brooks, *The Prairie School: Frank Lloyd Wright and His Midwest Contemporaries* (New York: W. W. Norton and Company, 1984), 7–8.

²⁰ Purcell, "Parabiographies," Volume for 1909, William Gray Purcell Papers, Northwest Architectural Archives. Purcell documented in year-by-year volumes, the firm's architectural work. His "Parabiographies" are a series of unpublished essays, some of which are early working drafts.

²¹ David Gebhard, *Purcell and Elmslie: Prairie Progressive Architects* (Salt Lake City: Gibbs Smith, 2006), 71; Purcell, "Parabiographies," Volume for 1909, William Gray Purcell Papers, Northwest Architectural Archives.

Byrne, Patrick E., House
Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND
County and State

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

The property on which the P.E. Byrne House stands was part of the congressional land grant to the Northern Pacific Railroad Company in 1864 and was platted as part of the Northern Pacific Addition to the City of Bismarck in June 1879.²² Just weeks later, the Bismarck Tribune reported that the Right Reverend Robert H. Clarkson, Bishop of Nebraska and Dakota, was raising funds for the erection of an Episcopal Church at this location.²³ In 1882, two years after the church was completed and providing regular services to the Episcopal community in Bismarck, the church purchased the property from the Northern Pacific, as well as three adjacent lots to the north, for the consideration of \$30.²⁴ As construction began, the church building and its setting were described in the Bismarck Tribune in 1879 as follows:

The site on the ridge back of Mr. Coykendall's residence is in keeping with the beautiful modern gothic architecture of the chapel. The windows of the chapel run into the curved roof similar to the dormer window, breaking it up into gables. There is a heavy cornice projection supported by brackets. There is a neat little tower or belfry... Altogether there will be no such chapel on the line of the Northern Pacific and as an addition to the architecture of the town will be a constant source of pride.²⁵

It is amusing to note that only thirty years later, architects of the P.E. Byrne House would envision an entirely different architectural style—one diametrically opposed to the Gothic—for the exact same site, also believing their approach to be particularly suited to the setting.

The church, which became known as the Bread of Life Church, remained at this site for only a brief period.²⁶ A history of the parish, which later became St. George's Episcopal, claims that there had been "considerable opposition" to building the church at this location because it was "too far from town to attract the many transients flocking to Bismarck in the boom days."²⁷ In 1899, the church building was moved to a new location at the northwest corner of N 3rd Street and Thayer.²⁸ The church sold Lots 7, 8, and 9, Block 17 to S.M. Pye in 1903 who, in turn, sold it to Nelson F. Boucher.²⁹

²² Northern Pacific Railroad Company, Plat of Blocks 1 to 24, Northern Pacific Addition to the City of Bismarck, 1879.

²³ *The Bismarck Tribune*, June 28, 1879.

²⁴ Burleigh County, North Dakota, Deed Book 1: 34; Northern Pacific Railroad Company to Rt. Rev. Robert H. Clarkson, Bishop of Nebraska and Dakota and his successors in office, September 8, 1882; Burleigh County Recorder of Deeds.

²⁵ "The Episcopal Church," *The Bismarck Tribune*, August 9, 1879.

²⁶ See Figure 24.

²⁷ Rev. Douglass H. Atwill and Rev. A.E. Smith. *St. George's Episcopal Memorial Church: A Memorial to the Pioneers of the Dakotas, 1873-1949* (Bismarck: Conrad Publishing Co., 1949), 7-8.

²⁸ *Bismarck Weekly Tribune*, November 3, 1899.

²⁹ Burleigh County, North Dakota, Deed Book 83: 148; The Bishop, Chancellor and Standing Committee of the Church in North Dakota to S.M. Pye, August 29, 1903; Burleigh County Recorder of Deeds and Burleigh County,

Byrne, Patrick E., House
Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND
County and State

Patrick E. Byrne purchased the lots from Boucher on June 15, 1909, for \$900. At the time, Byrne purchased this property, he, his wife Belle and their newborn son William were living with Belle's parents Joseph and Nora Dietrich at 210 Thayer Ave.³⁰ Planning and design for their new home would begin immediately and, in commissioning the Minneapolis-based firm of Purcell and Feick, he would prove to be an ideal client for the partners, developing a unique understanding of the Prairie School vision and the firm's approach to architecture.³¹

THE BYRNES

Patrick Edward Byrne was born in Arraghty, county Roscommon, Ireland in 1868.³² At the age of thirteen, upon the deaths of both of his parents, he emigrated to the United States to live with his older sister, Margaret Mary or "Maggie."³³ He settled with her and her husband Patrick R. Smith, a land speculator, and their newborn baby Edward, in Bismarck, Dakota Territory, in 1881.³⁴ Tragically, Maggie died on Christmas Eve that same year and in July of 1882, at just under eight months old, Edward Byrne Smith died as well.³⁵ Although his relationship with his brother-in-law Patrick R. Smith was later described as fatherly, while the family mourned the loss of Maggie and Edward, young Byrne was sent to be cared for temporarily by an uncle, Monsignor James Coyne, in Lanesboro, Minnesota. He returned to Bismarck in June of 1882 to enroll in high school.³⁶

Following his graduation in 1885, he began work in the office of the territorial secretary of Dakota.³⁷ He became known as a remarkable penman and his skills were in high demand in various offices of the Territorial capital. In 1893, he left his position and took a job working as a cashier at the Bismarck Bank, which was founded by prominent Bismarck businessman Isaac P. Baker and his partner T.C. Power of Helena, Montana in 1889.³⁸

North Dakota, Deed Book 86: 565; S.M. Pye to Nelson F. Boucher, August 18, 1904; Burleigh County Recorder of Deeds.

³⁰ Bureau of the Census, "Bismarck Ward 2, Burleigh, North Dakota," *Thirteenth Census of the United States: 1910*, roll: T624_1140: 15a; Enumeration District: 0031, <http://ancestry.com> (accessed January 8, 2025); see Figure 26.

³¹ It is interesting to note that the deed for the property was notarized by prominent and prolific area architect Arthur Van Horn. One is left to speculate whether this is any indication that Byrne was initially interested in soliciting Van Horn for advice or even a design for his new home. Especially considering that, according to the 1908 City Directory, there were 44 notaries to choose from, including Byrne, Boucher, and even E.M. Thompson with whom Byrne had worked at the Bismarck Bank. Burleigh County, North Dakota, Deed Book 96: 131; Nelson F. Boucher to P.E. Byrne, June 15, 1909; Burleigh County Recorder of Deeds; Northwestern Directory Company, *Capital City Directory* (Bismarck: The Bismarck Tribune Co., 1908), 16-17.

³² See Figure 25.

³³ *Bismarck Tribune*, October 25, 1901; *Bismarck Tribune*, December 9, 1935.

³⁴ *Bismarck Tribune*, March 16, 1911.

³⁵ Mrs. Maggie Mary Smith and Edward Byrne Smith, grave marker, St. Mary's Cemetery, Bismarck, North Dakota, viewed September 11, 2024.

³⁶ *Bismarck Tribune*, December 9, 1935.

³⁷ "Death Comes after Lingering Illness and Long Suffering," *Bismarck Tribune*, December 9, 1935.

³⁸ *Bismarck Weekly Tribune*, March 10, 1893.

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND

County and State

By 1898, the year of the great fire that devastated downtown Bismarck, Byrne had entered the insurance business, maintaining an office inside the Bismarck Bank building. The Byrne Agency represented a number of national fire insurance companies, including the Fire Association of Philadelphia, Commercial Union Assurance of London, N.Y. Underwriters, and German Alliance Association of New York.³⁹

Around this time, Byrne left Bismarck, albeit briefly, for a job in a bank at Grand Forks. This sudden move in geography might be explained by the fact that his brother-in-law was in poor health and had moved to St. Paul for an unknown period of time, before seeking treatment in the state hospital in Rochester, Minnesota. In 1899, Patrick R. Smith, died of heart disease. His obituary reads, “he could have had no truer friend during all the years of his illness than his brother-in-law P.E. Byrne, who has done all for him that a son would have done or could have done.”⁴⁰

Smith had made some unsuccessful business decisions and lost much of his property in Bismarck. For many years, he also had been involved in a lawsuit against the Northern Pacific Railroad Company regarding possession of a large amount of land in their right-of-way.⁴¹ By the time of his death, he had little to his name, but his passing seems to have inspired something in Byrne. Byrne prioritized reconnecting with family, arranging a months-long trip to his old home in Ireland in 1901, making sure to spend several weeks on his way back in New York with an older brother, Andrew Byrne, and an aunt in Rhode Island.⁴²

Settled in Bismarck once again, Byrne launched an abstract business, which he eventually sold to G.W. Coates and William V. Kiebert in 1913 and simultaneously worked as a cashier in the Bismarck Bank, again.⁴³

Byrne had political aspirations, as well as in business. He served as City Treasurer and, in 1893, ran against Edward G. Patterson for the office of Alderman in the First Ward. Patterson won in a two-to-one landslide. Still, the press described it as a “hotly contested” and “carefully watched and fought” election.⁴⁴ Despite his loss, Byrne remained active in community affairs, earning an award for his service on the Fourth of July committee later that same year.⁴⁵ He was a founding member of the Growlers Club in 1902 for young, civic-minded professional men, and a charter member of the local Kiwanis Club.⁴⁶ In 1902, he was designated official abstractor of Burleigh County and elected county auditor.⁴⁷

³⁹ *The Bismarck Tribune*, November 19, 1898.

⁴⁰ *Bismarck Tribune*, March 22, 1899.

⁴¹ *Bismarck Tribune*, March 22, 1899.

⁴² *Bismarck Tribune*, October 25, 1901.

⁴³ *Bismarck Tribune*, April 25, 1901; *Bismarck Tribune*, September 30, 1901.

⁴⁴ *Bismarck Weekly Tribune*, May 26, 1893.

⁴⁵ *Bismarck Weekly Tribune*, September 7, 1894.

⁴⁶ *Bismarck Tribune*, December 9, 1935.

⁴⁷ *Bismarck Tribune*, January 31, 1902

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND

County and State

Politically, Byrne had been a member of the Democratic party from an early age. He served on committees advocating the party's progressive principles.⁴⁸ In 1904, he attended the democratic convention at Grand Forks as a delegate from Burleigh County, alongside other recognizable Bismarck leaders including I.P. Baker.⁴⁹ While serving as the chairman of the democratic county committee in 1907, Governor John Burke, the first Democrat elected North Dakota governor, appointed P.E. Byrne as his private secretary.⁵⁰ The Bismarck Tribune announced that, "Mr. Byrne is a democrat of the old school, experienced, discreet and well qualified for the place. The democratic governor would find it difficult to select a better man for the place."⁵¹ Byrne was sworn in on February 11, 1907.⁵²

Many consider Governor John Burke the most progressive politician in the state at the time; he instituted health and sanitation laws, child labor laws, and workers' compensation, and tried to reverse corrupt practices in elections.⁵³ Working alongside such a progressive spearhead, Byrne became an even stronger proponent of the Progressive Movement.

As his secretarial duties in the Governors' office came to an end in 1913, Byrne resumed his insurance business and became the local register for the U.S. land office (1913-1922).⁵⁴

It was during his term in Burke's office, however, that he married Roxie "Belle" Dietrich, and committed to building a life – and a house – in Bismarck.

Belle and Patrick Byrne had known each other most of their lives and, based on society news, traveled in the same social circles.⁵⁵ Belle Dietrich was born in Bismarck, Dakota Territory, on December 23, 1878.⁵⁶ Her father, Joseph Dietrich, was among Bismarck's earliest residents and foremost entrepreneurs. As Belle recounted in her later years, her father "came up the river in a rowboat" and stopped at Painted Woods, north of Bismarck, where he became a woodhawk, supplying fuel to steamboats on the Missouri River.⁵⁷ In 1870, he partnered with Charles Reynolds to hunt and sell game meat at Fort Rice, Fort Stevenson and, later, Fort Lincoln.⁵⁸

Joseph Dietrich settled in Bismarck, where he became a grocer and rancher. He married Honora Elizabeth Dietrich and raised three children, Roxie, or "Belle" as she preferred to be called, Mabel, and Joseph, Jr.⁵⁹

⁴⁸ *Grand Forks Herald*, August 26, 1912.

⁴⁹ *Bismarck Tribune*, July 26, 1904.

⁵⁰ *Emmons County Record*, January 17, 1907.

⁵¹ *Bismarck Tribune*, January 6, 1907.

⁵² *Bismarck Tribune*, February 12, 1907.

⁵³ Elwyn B. Robinson, *History of North Dakota* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1966), 268.

⁵⁴ *Bismarck Tribune*, December 9, 1935.

⁵⁵ See Figure 27.

⁵⁶ "Mrs. Patrick Byrne, Oldest County Native," *Bismarck Tribune*, May 4, 1974.

⁵⁷ "Pioneer Daughter Has Gay Memories," *Bismarck Tribune*, July 29, 1972.

⁵⁸ Lounsbury, Clement A. *Early History of North Dakota: Outlines in American History* (Washington, D.C.: Liberty Press, 1919), 522.

⁵⁹ "Mrs. Patrick Byrne, Oldest County Native," *Bismarck Tribune*, May 4, 1974.

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Burleigh County, ND

Name of Property

County and State

Belle attended school in Bismarck. She left several months before she was scheduled to graduate in order to pursue a career in teaching. She taught at Wogansport, a small town approximately 18 miles north of present-day Bismarck, along the east bank of the Missouri River. Her aim was to raise enough money to join her parents in Chicago, where Joseph Dietrich had been recently appointed to the Chicago Livestock Firm.⁶⁰

It is unclear how long Belle taught at Wogansport, but once she joined her parents in Chicago, she enrolled in the Chicago Musical College to study piano. "My teacher wanted me to study for concert performances, but I decided to get married instead."⁶¹

On June 19, 1897, Belle Dietrich married Patrick E. Byrne at her parent's home in Chicago.⁶² Local newspapers celebrated the union with a headline that read, "Wedding ends long courtship; Private Secretary to Governor of North Dakota married to Chicago girl after wooing her 12 years."⁶³

THE COMMISSION

In selecting an architect to design a house for 120 W. Ave. A, there were not many for the Byrnes to choose from who were local to Bismarck. Arthur Van Horn had established an important practice here in the 1890s, H.E. Winslow was based in Bismarck from 1908 to 1914, and most lumber companies offered plans and construction services. Fargo and Grand Forks both boasted a variety of architects willing to take on commissions in Bismarck, as well.⁶⁴ But instead, Byrne seized an opportunity through an acquaintance and commissioned the fledgling firm of Purcell and Feick out of Minneapolis.

Byrne's acquaintance was a cashier at the Bismarck Bank by the name of George Russ. Russ was originally from Brooklyn, New York and, following his service in the Spanish American War, attended Cornell University Law School. In 1905, he and his wife Susan Barns moved to Bismarck when her brother, I.P. Baker, had offered him a job.⁶⁵

Russ had recently introduced Baker to his friend and fellow Cornell alumnus, architect and engineer George Feick, Jr. His new architectural firm was eager for work, and Baker commissioned Purcell and Feick for a remodel of the interior of the Bismarck Bank and plans for a commercial building on Main Street (which was never realized).⁶⁶

⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² The Reverend F.A. Purcell of the Holy Name Cathedral officiated the wedding of P.E. and Belle Byrne. Current research has found no familial connection between Rev. Purcell and architect William Gray Purcell. *Bismarck Tribune*, June 25, 1907.

⁶³ *Chicago Tribune*, June 21, 1907.

⁶⁴ Barbara Beving Long, *The Evolution of Van Horn & Ritterbush, et al.* (Cresco, IA: Four Mile Research Co., 1991), 6-8.

⁶⁵ Emily Sakariassen, "Prairie Vision: The Architecture of Purcell, Feick, and Elmslie in Bismarck," *North Dakota History: Journal of the Northern Places* 81, no. 3 (Bismarck: State Historical Society of North Dakota, 2016): 16-31.

⁶⁶ Ibid.

Byrne, Patrick E., House
Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND
County and State

Russ was quite the promoter of his friends' work; he had also introduced the firm to Edward M. Thompson, a clerk at the Bismarck Bank, who hired them in May of 1909 to design his residence at 623 N 3rd Street.⁶⁷ According to Byrne's daughter-in-law Bette, Purcell and Feick had agreed to take on this fourth Bismarck commission with the understanding that Byrne would find them three more houses to design in the city.⁶⁸ Whether or not this informal agreement was ever struck, or if Russ had more to do with their connections here, the firm did get three additional contracts from Bismarck residents that Byrne would likely have known through his personal, professional, or even political life.⁶⁹ The Byrne house, however, was by far the most time-consuming and the most expensive. The total cost of construction was close to \$7,000.⁷⁰

In a letter Feick wrote to George Russ (on Purcell and Feick letterhead) on April 13, 1910, he shares news of their evolving relationship with architect George Grant Elmslie. "Purcell and a Mr. Elmslie of Chicago, with whom we expect to join forces for a Chicago office, were taking exams in Illinois last week for a lisencc [sic]."⁷¹ While earlier projects had benefitted from consultation and collaboration with the senior architect, Byrne's would be the very first to bear the name of Purcell, Feick, and Elmslie working together as one firm.

THE PRAIRIE SCHOOL

William Gray Purcell, George Feick, Jr., and George Grant Elmslie subscribed to what Frank Lloyd Wright, undoubtedly the most celebrated American architect, would later term the "Prairie School" of architecture.⁷² Wright and other architects of Chicago including George Grant Elmslie, William Drummond, George Washington Maher, Marion Mahony, and Walter Burley Griffin, began to reimagine their Chicago School teachings that a work of architecture should grow from its use as an organism. Instead of form following function, now the two were thought to be inseparable. In perfecting an organic harmony between the two, architects of the emerging Prairie School would begin to exercise the same manner of observing and appreciating nature as did the transcendentalist writers, such as Emerson and Whitman, whom many of these progressive architects had grown up studying.⁷³

The characteristics of the Prairie Style of architecture are readily recognizable, particularly in contrast with the late Victorian era styles of building. Designs were intended to reflect a

⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁶⁸ Amy Sakariassen, Interview with Betty Byrne, Bismarck, ND, August 26, 1909.

⁶⁹ These are the T.R. Atkinson House at 402 W. Ave. B (1910), Carl O. Jorgenson House at 1022 N 5th Street (1911), and initial design work for the L.A. Schipfer House at 232 W. Ave. B which was rejected in favor of a design by Fargo architects Ashelman and Gage (1916). Sakariassen, "Prairie Vision," 27-30.

⁷⁰ This figure is based on a revised estimate dated March 28, 1911, within the P.E. Byrne Residence job file #69, Box 1, Folder 50, William Gray Purcell Papers, Northwest Architectural Archives.

⁷¹ Letter from George Feick, Jr. to George Russ, April 13, 1910. I.P. Baker Papers, Bismarck Bank Correspondence, MSS 10063, Box 28, State Historical Society of North Dakota, State Archives, Bismarck.

⁷² Elaine M. Holzschuh Harrington, *Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio, Oak Park* (Stuttgart: Edition Axel Menges, 1996), 6.

⁷³ Dixie Legler and Christian Korab, *At Home on the Prairie: The Houses of Purcell and Elmslie* (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2006), 22.

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Burleigh County, ND

Name of Property

County and State

building's organic setting. The open plains of the Midwest served as their primary inspiration. Repeated characteristics of the Prairie School designs include broad horizontal lines, low ceilings, cantilevers, and deep eaves. They experimented with new building technology, testing the limits of modern engineering. They embraced the open floor plan and sought framing solutions to allow natural light to penetrate interior spaces by way of curtain walls and expansive single-pane picture windows.

The Prairie School architects also emphasized the use of local materials such as native stone and wood. In the Midwest they generally focused on oak, pine, and limestone to create an honest and intimate relationship with region. Color and texture were also crucial to the organic aesthetic. Residential buildings were stained in earth tones or sometimes left unstained completely. Stencils were commonly designed for interior walls in place of busy, mass-produced wall papers, and the woodwork stained and waxed to enhance the natural grain and character of the material.⁷⁴ All of these elements are present in the P.E. Byrne House.

PURCELL, FEICK & ELMSLIE

William Gray Purcell was born in 1880 in Wilmette, Illinois, and was raised and educated predominantly by his grandparents, who lived in Oak Park, not far from Frank Lloyd Wright's home and studio. As a teenager, Purcell watched the construction of Wright's new architectural studio, and its design intrigued him. He witnessed the construction of a succession of Wright's residential projects in Oak Park and neighboring River Forest.⁷⁵ He was also keenly aware of the work of Louis Sullivan in Chicago, having attended events at the Sullivan-designed Auditorium Theater, where Adler and Sullivan kept their offices. Purcell also visited the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, where he saw Sullivan's Transportation Building, an organic design that stood in stark contrast to the neoclassical architecture that served as a central theme of the fair.⁷⁶

Purcell brought these experiences with him to Cornell University College of Architecture in 1899. He focused on studies of Renaissance and Roman architecture, but he soon developed his distaste for classical forms. Upon graduating, Purcell returned home to Oak Park and sought work as a draftsman with a Chicago firm. He met George Elmslie at a party in July 1903, where young Purcell's enthusiasm for progressive forms impressed Elmslie, and the two struck an instant friendship. Elmslie hired Purcell to work in Louis H. Sullivan's office in the Auditorium Building the very next day. He worked at the firm for only five months, however, before Sullivan and his colleagues began losing commissions, forcing him to leave in search of new work experiences.⁷⁷

⁷⁴ H. Allen Brooks, *Frank Lloyd Wright and the Prairie School* (New York: George Braziller, 1984), 10.

⁷⁵ Brooks, *The Prairie School*, 130.

⁷⁶ Legler and Korab, 22.

⁷⁷ Sullivan's inability to obtain commissions has been subject to speculation by a number of architectural historians. Likely factors contributing to his declining popularity include the economic recession brought on by the Panic of 1893, a slight shift in aesthetic preference in favor of more traditional styles influenced by the work of Daniel Burnham for the Chicago World's Fair in 1893, and Adler's fallout with Sullivan and subsequent abandonment of the firm in 1895. Hugh Morrison, *Louis Sullivan: Prophet of Modern Architecture* (New York: W. W. Norton, 1998), 152–53.

Byrne, Patrick E., House
Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND
County and State

In January 1906, Purcell's father encouraged him to take a grand tour of Europe. Purcell invited an old Cornell classmate, architect George Feick Jr., to join him, and together they sailed with a Bureau of University Travel tour lead by professional historians.

George Feick Jr. was born and raised in Sandusky, Ohio, where his father owned a construction business. According to the 1903 Cornell University class book, "George at the early age of seven developed a taste for beauty of proportion and it was but a mere step to choose architecture as his life's work."⁷⁸

Before they embarked on their travels across Europe, Elmslie gave Purcell a list of progressive European architects in Denmark, Norway, and Sweden he thought they should meet. In the Netherlands, they met architect H. P. Berlage. They viewed examples of modern buildings, as well as the classical sites. Their goal was to learn from their ventures, but not to apply the past to their present. Purcell reflected on their trip: "We were no better draftsmen, gained no further skills making patterns...we had stabilized our resolution to stay with the organic architecture and the view of life which Sullivan had outlined."⁷⁹

It was on this trip that Feick suggested the two young architects form a partnership of their own upon their return to the states.⁸⁰ Considering the increasingly competitive climate of Chicago, the two chose Minneapolis as the location to establish their architectural firm. The two set up an office on the tenth floor of the New York Life Building and began promoting their organic vision.⁸¹

Purcell later wrote of this time, that they "had spent the year 1906 in Europe, from Norway to Constantinople had discussed the basic principles of all building art." But "to now produce a building that would satisfy the conscience, not violate the integrity of the 'form and function' world, not 'copy' and do it all within an iron ring of fixed cost - that was not so easy." Their first year in Minneapolis was a challenge. A majority of the projects they took on in 1907 were never realized. In 1908, however, they were hired to design a small bank building in Atkinson Nebraska, (as well as a commercial garage in Minneapolis, a church in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and a handful of residences in Minneapolis and North Dakota). Purcell would later refer to the

⁷⁸ *The MDCCCIII Class Book: Cornell University* (Buffalo, NY: Hausauer, Son & Jones Printers, 1903), 61.

⁷⁹ Gebhard, 54.

⁸⁰ Mark Hammons, "Purcell & Elmslie, Architects: The Design of Destiny," https://organica.org/pemn1900_1.htm (accessed 2/5/2025).

⁸¹ Purcell describes their arrival in Minnesota in the winter of 1907: "It was twenty below zero. The thin lemon sunlight, as tight as frozen sailcloth, slatted past the soft flowing sleeping cars. Through the triple glazed Pullman windows could be seen the clustered dusty tubes of grain elevators. Black sheds along the river clattered away behind as if in tow by passing freight trains. Once outside the railway station, one felt tight and small; hurrying freezing gloved hands to yellow street cars; elbowing up gated platform steps; pressing into crowded car aisles. Between the people sitting or swaying on their legs all the various space was filled with frozen gray dust, with the gusty talk of Swedes going to work.... Then these architects spread their drawing paper...radiated enthusiasm, and wondered a little just how they were going to secure some business in a strange city where the partners each knew but one man." Purcell, "Parabiographies."

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND

County and State

Atkinson Bank as a “true grand-daddy of all our little country banks” and the firm would seem to have a foothold with the banking industry from then on.⁸²

In 1908, Purcell and Feick received four commissions in North Dakota. One of the first was for C.R. McHugh, a family friend and neighbor of the Purcell's in Oak Park.⁸³ McHugh was a very successful salesman for Sprague Warner and Co., one of the nation's largest wholesale grocers.⁸⁴ His brother-in-law, A. C. McGillvray lived in Dickinson, North Dakota, where he ran a mercantile business and also served as a legislator for Stark County. For a time, he also worked as the register for the U.S. Land Office at Bismarck, located inside the First National Bank Building.⁸⁵ He appears to have convinced both McHugh and Purcell's father, Charles A. Purcell, to become involved in the land speculation craze that swept western North Dakota at the turn-of-the-century. They acquired at least 16,250 acres near Dickinson and hired the young architects to map the property.

The Dickinson Press characterized Purcell's father as, “a multi-millionaire who has never been near the land, but has faith in this section of the country,” who “will be in no hurry to place the land on the market, preferring to hold it as an investment.”⁸⁶ Sadly, when William Gray Purcell reflected on this minor project for his father and his colleagues years later, he claimed that “in 1934, this land was sold back to Uncle Sam for about 3 cents on the dollar.”⁸⁷

At the same time, Purcell and Feick received a more substantial commission in Towner, North Dakota, designing a residence for a banker named Fred A. Larson. This project likely arose from personal connections in the banking industry though very little is known about their relationship with Larson. Regardless, both early projects helped the firm build a name for themselves outside of Minneapolis. Their other 1908 commissions in North Dakota were a remodeling of the Bismarck Bank and designs for a never-built storefront for Singer Sewing Machines. Ultimately, they would work on eleven separate projects in North Dakota resulting in two commercial remodels and five residences.

Shortly after Purcell and Feick began work on the Byrne project in Bismarck in 1909, George Grant Elmslie came on board as an official partner.⁸⁸ Elmslie was born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, in 1869 and immigrated to Chicago with his family in 1884. His interest in architecture stemmed solely from his parents' desire for him to become an engineer.⁸⁹ He began his career at the architecture firm of William LeBaron Jenney, a pioneer of the Chicago School, who

⁸² David Gebhard, *Purcell and Elmslie: Prairie Progressive Architects* (Salt Lake City: Gibbs Smith, 2006), 57-60.

⁸³ Douglas Kaarre, “Christopher McHugh House, 429-431 Forest Ave., Oak Park, Illinois,” Historic Resources Inventory Form, AICP Village of Oak Park (2015; updated by Glen Payne 2018), <https://www.oak-park.us/> (accessed January 10, 2025).

⁸⁴ Oak Leaves Co., Oak Park Directory: Including River Forest & Forest Park, IL (1910), 171.

⁸⁵ *Chicago Tribune*, February 25, 1899; *Bismarck Tribune*, June 5, 1907; *Dickinson Press*, January 24, 1903.

⁸⁶ *The Dickinson Press*, June 2, 1906.

⁸⁷ Purcell, “Parabiographies,” Volume for 1908, William Gray Purcell Papers, Northwest Architectural Archives.

⁸⁸ Purcell, “Parabiographies,” Volume for 1909, William Gray Purcell Papers, Northwest Architectural Archives.

⁸⁹ David Gebhard, *Purcell and Elmslie: Prairie Progressive Architects* (Salt Lake City: Gibbs Smith, 2006), 30.

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Burleigh County, ND

Name of Property

County and State

introduced him to the Beaux Arts style.⁹⁰ He then worked a year with the firm of Joseph Lyman Silsbee in 1887, where Elmslie was inspired to develop his own freehand technique of drawing, paying particular attention to the often romantic designs influenced by Silsbee's Victorian plans in the Queen Anne style, characterized by asymmetrical designs, machine-produced ornament, curved turrets and towers, and wrap-around porches.⁹¹

In 1889 Elmslie joined Frank Lloyd Wright at Adler and Sullivan on a recommendation by Wright himself. Here Elmslie's friendship with Wright deepened, though his quiet personality is said to have clashed with Wright's extroverted egotism.⁹² Wright described Elmslie as "a tall, slim, slow-thinking, but refined Scottish lad who had never been young." And yet Elmslie's experience and skill eventually earned him a position as Sullivan's chief draftsman, where he developed his own theories on design.⁹³

Elmslie's work is quite distinguishable from his fellow Prairie School architects. His designs pay particular attention to small, delicate ornament. Stencils, art glass, and wood carvings by Elmslie share a certain delicacy in either simplicity or the execution of curvilinear qualities. Elmslie defended his belief in the importance of ornament in a letter to American historian and critic Lewis Mumford:

Most of the designs I made, in relation to particular buildings and in attempting to visualize the entire expression of the building, were made, as the buildings themselves, in the open air of the spirit and miles away from a drawing board.⁹⁴

Elmslie's talent for ornamentation would eventually come to work in perfect architectural harmony with the more masculine form and broad focus of the business-minded Purcell.

In Chicago in 1910, Elmslie moved with his new wife, Bonnie Hunter, to Minneapolis to officially join Purcell and Feick.⁹⁵ The three partners worked together as a team, in democratic fashion, sharing responsibilities and extending acknowledgement for the efforts of other draftsmen in the office.⁹⁶ As Purcell would later reflect:

This new relation with Mr. Elmslie in the continuity of my architectural progress was a welcome step in advance for me, and a rapid one—too rapid at times—as I was unable wholly to digest and interrelate the new forms that were arising from Mr. Elmslie's method of approach...The laboratory work in architectural design and philosophy, which from small

⁹⁰ The Chicago School refers to a group of nineteenth century architects who developed a new architectural style intended to marry a "strict adherence to function and structure" with a contemporary approach to aesthetics, inspired by organic forms. Among the architects integral to the movement were William Le Baron Jenny, Dankmar Adler and Louis Sullivan, and Daniel Burnham and John Root. Carl W. Condit, *The Chicago School of Architecture* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1964), 1.

⁹¹ Gebhard, 30.

⁹² Ibid.

⁹³ Gebhard, 32.

⁹⁴ Ibid., 36.

⁹⁵ By 1912, Bonnie had died and Elmslie had moved back to Chicago. Legler and Korab, 21.

⁹⁶ Purcell, "Parabiographies," Volume for 1909, William Gray Purcell Papers, Northwest Architectural Archives.

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND

County and State

but sincere beginnings I had been doing on my own account for about ten years now, took on a different character as George Elmslie took over the creative work, and the increased volume for our business called for a large amount of my executive time, contact with the public, and travel. Mr. Feick continued to cover engineering and construction and divided with me the superintendence of specifications.

Such cooperation was required of me in establishing a liason [sic] between the client and his needs, George Elmslie's designing, and George Feick's preoccupation with the working drawings, made up an experience in which my view of the building world grew rapidly, and with great joy to me.⁹⁷

THE TEAM

The firm appears to have been enthusiastic about the commission to design a residence for P.E. Byrne and, based on Purcell's later writings, the experience of working together on it was formative.

This is the first project carrying the new partnership title, "Purcell, Feick, and Elmslie, Architects." While Mr. Elmslie's characteristic designing is in evidence in our work before this time, the Byrne house is the first building for which he developed the studies and presentation drawings. The working drawings made directly under his supervision in the office closely followed his design studies, and the building followed the working drawings without changes.⁹⁸

During the course of the Byrne house project, the firm had Purcell and Elmslie at the helm, Feick working on specifications, and a handful of draftsmen in the studio. While Purcell later characterized his partnership with Elmslie as a balance, "each could do something that the other could not do so well," David Gebhard asserts that, "in no sense were the designs of the firm architecture-by-committee... Each design and building project was under the personal direction of one of the partners, but everyone in the office was encouraged to contribute his ideas to the work under way."⁹⁹ Purcell's project notes list the number of hours spent on the Byrne house by various members of the firm. According to this note, Elmslie contributed 108 hours to the project and Purcell 173, while Marion Alice Parker logged 243 hours. Others listed were George Feick, Jr., Paul Haugen, and Lawrence Fournier.¹⁰⁰

Parker was the first regular employee Purcell and Feick had hired in 1908 and served as chief draftsman for the P.E. Byrne commission. One of the country's first female architects, Parker would later establish her own independent practice, leaving Purcell and Elmslie in 1915 as their commissions began to dwindle in the leadup to the first World War. In Nicole Watson's master's thesis on Parker, she describes Purcell, Feick, and Elmslie's office as atypical for its time, when

⁹⁷ Purcell, "Parabiographies," Volume for 1910, William Gray Purcell Papers, Northwest Architectural Archives.

⁹⁸ David Gebhard, *Purcell and Elmslie: Prairie Progressive Architects* (Salt Lake City: Gibbs Smith, 2006), 68.

⁹⁹ Purcell, "Parabiographies," Volume for 1910, William Gray Purcell Papers, Northwest Architectural Archives.

¹⁰⁰ P.E. Byrne Residence job file #69, Box 1, Folder 50, William Gray Purcell Papers, Northwest Architectural Archives.

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND

County and State

“most architectural firms supported a hierarchical (and highly competitive), rather than collaborative, working environment” and makes a compelling case that Parker’s presence there was less of an anomaly, “for she was considered a full collaborator during her tenure with this firm.”¹⁰¹

During Parker’s seven years with the firm, she made major contributions to their body of work, which likely set her up for her later successes. She maintained a lifelong friendship with Purcell and leveraged her experiences in his office to acquire her own commissions and develop her own relationships with their regular subcontractors.¹⁰²

The P.E. Byrne House is of special interest in understanding her solo career because, though Purcell’s parabiographies credit her work in several notable instances, the extent of her participation in each project with the firm is not often documented. However, her initials, “M.A.P.,” appear on a majority of the plan drawings for the P.E. Byrne House as both drafter and tracer. Watson speculates that similarities across the Carl O. Jorgenson and P.E. Byrne houses in Bismarck and the J.W.S. Gallagher House in Winona and Dr. John Adair House in Owatonna, Minnesota, may indicate Parker’s “upper hand in the designs.”¹⁰³ Regardless, Parker was given considerable opportunity with the firm to demonstrate her creative abilities and is one of the “few documented female members of the American progressive design movement.”¹⁰⁴

Paul Haugen, who also worked on the P.E. Byrne House project, began his career in Fargo, North Dakota as a carpenter and then a draftsman for Haxby & Gillespie.¹⁰⁵ By 1910, he had moved to Minneapolis where he became a member of the Minneapolis Architecture club, founding a “practical architectural school,” for the study of architectural history, design, water coloring, theory, and construction.¹⁰⁶ His time with Purcell, Feick, and Elmslie was brief. He moved on in 1912, but not before he recruited his own replacement, Lawrence A. Fournier.¹⁰⁷ Haugen only logged 14 hours on the P.E. Byrne House, and Fournier continued the work, contributing 34. Fournier stayed on with the firm until it eventually disbanded in 1921.¹⁰⁸

¹⁰¹ Nicole Watson, Marion Alice Parker: Pioneering Woman Architect and the Progressive Prairie School (Master’s thesis, University of St. Thomas, 2008): 9.

¹⁰² Nicole Watson, Marion Alice Parker: Pioneering Woman Architect and the Progressive Prairie School (Master’s thesis, University of St. Thomas, 2008): 40-41.

¹⁰³ Nicole Watson, Marion Alice Parker: Pioneering Woman Architect and the Progressive Prairie School (Master’s thesis, University of St. Thomas, 2008): 39.

¹⁰⁴ Nicole Watson, Marion Alice Parker: Pioneering Woman Architect and the Progressive Prairie School (Master’s thesis, University of St. Thomas, 2008): 59.

¹⁰⁵ Pettibone Directory Co., *Fargo and Moorhead Directory*, (Fargo, ND: Pettibone Directory Co., Publishers, 1907); Pettibone Directory Co., *Fargo and Moorhead Directory*, (Fargo, ND: Pettibone Directory Co., Publishers, 1909).

¹⁰⁶ Coincidentally, the announcement of the Architectural Club’s interest in forming a school appeared in the same issue of The Minneapolis Journal where Purcell, Feick, and Elmslie announced their new partnership on December 11, 1910.

¹⁰⁷ Mark Hammons, “Purcell & Elmslie, Architects: The Design of Destiny,” https://organica.org/pemnl900_1.htm (accessed 2/5/2025).

¹⁰⁸ Mark Hammons, “Purcell & Elmslie, Architects: The Design of Destiny,” https://organica.org/pemnl900_1.htm (accessed 2/5/2025).

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND

County and State

According to Purcell, “he made no mistakes and his judgement in construction and design was wise and sound.”¹⁰⁹

Practitioners of the Prairie School sought to transform a building to a total work of art through a unified aesthetic, and elements like sawed-wood ornament, stained-glass, and furniture are hallmarks of the style.¹¹⁰ While crafts jobs were often undertaken by the firm’s staff, it is important to note, as Mark Hammons writes in his 2003 web essay, “the concept of the team extended to encompass the many service professionals who contributed to design details, mechanical systems, construction, landscaping, ornamentation, and the myriad other aspects of bringing a building into existence.”¹¹¹

The firm was known to favor certain craftsmen in building custom furniture, cabinetry, and other interior decoration for their clients. Unfortunately, a list of contractors involved in the P.E. Byrne house project does not appear to exist and we may never be able to recognize all those who had a part in its design. The living- and dining-room electric chandeliers (or “electroliers” as they are sometimes described in the firm’s notes), for example, bear striking resemblance to other works by Chicago silversmith Robert Jarvie, who regularly executed metalwork designs for the firm. Comparable examples of his work include the light fixtures in the 1913 Edna S. Purcell House in Minneapolis, Minnesota. But associations like these have not been confirmed.

It is well documented that, for the overall construction work on the residence, Byrne hired local carpenters Fred O. Larson and Andrew Hillstrand. Per their contract, they agreed to perform:

all the carpenter work, brick work, and painting to be performed...according to the plans and specifications prepared by Wm. Gray Purcell, George Feick Jr. and George C. Elmslie [sic], Architects...to include all brick work, outside and inside, stone work, flue lining, iron work, the laying of the metal lath on the exterior for plaster and the painting and finishing throughout, as specified in the plans and specifications aforesaid.¹¹²

Little is known about Larson and Hillstrand. Around the same time that the Byrne house was under construction, both carpenters became involved in plans for the new Swedish Evangelical Church in Bismarck, now known as the First Lutheran Church (800 N 7th Street) working specifically to finish the building’s basement.¹¹³ It is not known if Hillstrand ever worked for another firm but, based on articles in the Bismarck Tribune’s society columns, Hillstrand’s sister-in-law took a bookkeeping job with Bismarck Construction Co. and it is likely he maintained professional ties there.¹¹⁴ Larson eventually became superintendent of the Aune

¹⁰⁹ Purcell, “Parabiographies,” Volume for 1912, William Gray Purcell Papers, Northwest Architectural Archives.

¹¹⁰ Nicole Watson, Marion Alice Parker: Pioneering Woman Architect and the Progressive Prairie School (Master’s thesis, University of St. Thomas, 2008).

¹¹¹ Mark Hammons, “Purcell & Elmslie, Architects: The Design of Destiny,” https://organica.org/pemn1900_1.htm (accessed 2/5/2025).

¹¹² Contractors’ Agreement between Patrick E. Byrne and Anderson and Hillstrand, dated May 2, 1912, Patrick E. Byrne Papers, MSS 202492, State Historical Society of North Dakota, State Archives, Bismarck.

¹¹³ “History of First Lutheran Church Coincides with Pioneer Struggles,” *Bismarck Tribune*, October 18, 1933.

¹¹⁴ “New Bookkeeper,” *Bismarck Tribune*, September 11, 1909.

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Burleigh County, ND

Name of Property

County and State

Glass and Carpenter Shop in Bismarck. Among his contributions to the architecture of Bismarck are the windows, millwork, and built-in cabinetry throughout the “Cairn”—an Arts and Crafts inspired native-stone house at 912 N. Mandan Street, built for poet and painter Clell Gannon in 1935.¹¹⁵

To some extent, the Byrnes were engaged in the design process, too. They appear to have taken an interest in architecture and embraced the tenants of the Prairie School. In 1911, Patrick Byrne placed an ad in the Bismarck Tribune selling some of the books from his personal library, including a collection of lectures by John Ruskin, whose writing had a profound influence on Purcell.¹¹⁶ That same year, Byrne ran for a seat on the advisory board for the Fortnightly Club—a study group for women—and Belle became a member soon after. It is interesting to note that a considerable number of Belle Byrne’s friends and acquaintances were members of Fortnightly during the 1908-1909 season, when the program series was dedicated entirely to the study of architectural history, from ancient Egypt to “Modern American Homes.” One might speculate that Belle would have been aware of the Club’s past programs and that the topic of architectural history may have entered discussion at other social events she attended.¹¹⁷

In a letter to George Russ, dated April 25, 1911, Purcell adds a postscript, updating his friend on the design work for the Byrnes: “We are having an interesting time with the Byrnes. They are going into the study of things in a way that we like to see clients do. Right down to rock bottom and a question wanting a reason for each point. So we are on our mettle and are sure to get something good.”

Among the specific requests the Byrnes made for their new home was a designated space for a grand piano. Belle, an accomplished pianist, had purchased a parlor grand piano in 1907, shipped from Chicago and considered “a beauty and one of the best instruments made.”¹¹⁸ The plan drawings depict the piano, to be placed at the south end of the living room with natural light from the south- and west-facing picture windows.

In Purcell’s parabiographies he writes that in their new collaboration he was, “suddenly faced with a situation where the designs produced by Mr. Elmslie rested in an understanding and a facility with constructional, functional, and poetical integrations which he had enriched and perfected into a brilliant and unique personal expression through many years of creative effort.”¹¹⁹ Some of Elmslie’s more “poetic” integrations include the sawn-wood monogram “B” which appears in the dining room and the custom stencil work designed to border the interior walls.

¹¹⁵ “Aune Glass and Carpenter Shop,” advertisement, *Bismarck Tribune*, September 13, 1935.

¹¹⁶ “Books for Sale,” *Bismarck Tribune*, July 29, 1911.

¹¹⁷ “Fortnightly Club, Bismarck,” 1908-1909, in the Edwin James Taylor Family papers, 1880s-1972, Box 3, Folder 20, State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismarck.

¹¹⁸ The Bismarck Tribune, November 12, 1907. Belle Byrne was once referred to as “Bismarck’s favorite pianiste,” in the Bismarck Tribune, February 16, 1908.

¹¹⁹ Purcell, “Parabiographies,” Volume for 1910, William Gray Purcell Papers, Northwest Architectural Archives.

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND

County and State

But the Byrne house also provides an interesting example of the firm's more technical innovation. The construction was an early experiment in platform framing at a time when buildings were commonly balloon framed. Platform framing involves building one level on top of another, as opposed to framing the entire house at once. However, the engineering decisions for this project proved problematic. Purcell admits the fundamental error in the design's execution:

The exterior plaster envelope of the second floor was brought down to the window heads all around the house, with a wooden margin or skirting to finish its lower edge. Between the top of the brick envelope and the under side of the second floor joists which projected to bring the plaster line flush with the brick, there was a space which had to be furred out to carry the plaster and the skirting bands which were made rather like a picture frame of $\frac{3}{4}$ " boards. This space could easily have been, and should have been, thoroughly protected and insulated against the weather and the joint between plaster and skirting and skirting and brick should have been securely sealed against wind...and so it came to be that when "forty-below" weather, whipped by an eighty-mile gale, hit the North Dakota prairies, it blew right through these joints, forced its way between the floors up into the bedrooms, down into the living room, and created some pretty difficult days...the water would actually freeze in the bathtub when the room temperature in the bathroom was 71. And did a hot bath cool off quick!¹²⁰

Despite this error, which was discovered sometime later, the firm was pleased with the completed project. Purcell has written that, around this time, the engineering challenges the firm faced "grew farther beyond [Feick's] experience," and that they began to consult with other technical and equipment experts, paying them "for what George Feick was supposed to do."¹²¹ And while Feick pulled further away from the partnership, Purcell's relationship with Elmslie deepened. Through "intimate discussions and review" of their work, the senior practitioner instilled in Purcell "a clearer and perhaps more inclusive view of architecture" and Purcell began to seek opportunities to speak publicly on the merits of their organic architecture. The P.E. Byrne house was included in an article published in the January 1913 issue of *Western Architect*. The article, "The Statics and Dynamics of Architecture," introduced the firm to the broader profession and was the first major publication for the firm.¹²²

COMPARISONS

In their 1913 article in *Western Architect*, the firm writes of their commission for the Exchange State Bank in Grand Meadow, Minnesota, "the relation between form and function allows free expression both to the way the building materials belong together and to the way the men, the banking business, and the community belong together."¹²³ It is interesting to note that all of the firm's North Dakota commissions were commissioned by or through their professional and

¹²⁰ Unedited draft of Purcell's "Parabiographies," Volume for 1910, William Gray Purcell Papers, Northwest Architectural Archives.

¹²¹ Unedited draft of Purcell's "Parabiographies," Volume for 1910, William Gray Purcell Papers, Northwest Architectural Archives.

¹²² *The Western Architect* 19, no. 1 (1913).

¹²³ *The Western Architect* 19, no. 1 (1913): 5.

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Burleigh County, ND

Name of Property

County and State

social connections within the banking industry. There are only five examples of Purcell, Feick, and Elmslie's work extant in North Dakota today and all are residential.¹²⁴ They are the Fred Larson House in Towner (1908) and the E.M. Thompson House (1909), T.R. Atkinson House (1910), Carl O. Jorgenson House (1911), and P.E. Byrne House (1912) in Bismarck.

The P.E. Byrne House is arguably the highest style residential commission Purcell, Feick, and Elmslie had in the state. While modest designs for the upwardly-mobile was at the center of the firm's practice, Byrne's house was the most expensive of the North Dakota commissions and afforded them more opportunities to express their vision, and to a higher degree. It has also evaded the extent of alterations seen in the firm's other works here and thus retains a better degree of integrity.¹²⁵

The Fred Larson House cost \$3,000 at the time it was built.¹²⁶ Of the project, Purcell recalled that while they "tried to reduce this house to its net construction – to organize its parts and plan into a working mechanism, and finally to reevaluate [sic] the living requirements so as to disclose something happy and comfortable," their original plan was not necessarily executed. "Just what changes they made when they built it, I don't know, but we said 'Yes' and 'No' to numerous askings by letter."¹²⁷ The house as it stands today, is clad in stucco siding, with Classical Revival columns flanking the front entry. These exterior treatments, as well as fenestration, do not match the plan drawings drafted by Purcell and Feick in 1908. It is not known if these were deviations from the plan or post-construction alterations.

The E.M. Thompson House was completed in 1909 at an unknown cost. Purcell did not consider the project of much consequence, as he later wrote only "W.G.P. design. A direct little house without much emotional appeal. A gadgety plan, arranged for possible future expansion."¹²⁸ It has since been remodeled for use as a multi-unit rental property.

The T.R. Atkinson House, built in 1910, "had a lot of very conscientious study in mass and articulation," according to Purcell's writings. But "the owner's budget allowed no marginal funds for decorative items, and we made every part count for all its possibilities."¹²⁹ An art-glass desk lamp designed for the house was featured alongside the Byrne House in Purcell and Elmslie's January 1913 issue of *Western Architect*. The house was re-sided in asbestos shingle sometime in the mid- to late-20th century, and a two-story transecting wing was added to the west elevation.

Carl O. Jorgenson's house, completed in 1911, "was a nice little two-story cottage, the details conscientiously worked out by Marion Parker," according to Purcell. "The building was of no particular significance, but for an enthusiastic and appreciative man who was about to be

¹²⁴ The Bismarck Bank building suffered a disastrous fire and was razed in the 1970s. The First National Bank building has seen a series of remodeling over the years, and no trace of the efforts of the Prairie School architects remains. Sakariassen, 2016.

¹²⁵ See figures 28-38.

¹²⁶ Minneapolis Journal, February 16, 1908.

¹²⁷ Purcell, "Parabiographies," Volume for 1908, William Gray Purcell Papers, Northwest Architectural Archives.

¹²⁸ Purcell, "Parabiographies," Volume for 1909, William Gray Purcell Papers, Northwest Architectural Archives.

¹²⁹ Purcell, "Parabiographies," Volume for 1910, William Gray Purcell Papers, Northwest Architectural Archives.

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Burleigh County, ND

Name of Property

County and State

married. Those about to be married always made the most perfect and tractable clients. They were overflowing with good feelings toward all the world and were too preoccupied to give attention to disturbing irrelevancies.”¹³⁰ The Jorgenson House has had few structural changes since its construction. The kitchen and second-floor bathroom interiors have been renovated and, subsequently, rear windows have been replaced with modern casements. According to the current owners, it was in the course of one of these renovation projects that they uncovered a builder’s mark on the original lumber identifying J.L. Day as the local contractor.¹³¹

Mark Hammons has compiled a comprehensive list of commissions by Purcell and Feick (1907-1909), Purcell, Feick, and Elmslie (1910-1912), and Purcell and Elmslie (1913-1921). It places the P.E. Byrne House as project number 69. In consideration of the hundreds of projects these architects would complete across the U.S. (though mostly in the Midwest), the P.E. Byrne House stands out primarily because it is the first that bears the name of all three partners in an iteration of the firm that lasted two years. It was during this brief phase that a fledgling partnership between two idealistic young professionals grew into a fully formed practice with a clear architectural vision for their future. Though Feick did not continue on with Purcell and Elmslie after this project, were it not for him and his relationship with George Russ, these North Dakota commissions, including the P.E. Byrne House, would not have come to be.¹³² Upon closer examination, its documentation in the William Gray Purcell papers provides insight into the way these architects developed a rapport with their clients, and the mechanisms through which Purcell and Feick especially attracted their early commissions. As the first project with Elmslie as partner, the P.E. Byrne House tested the firm’s potential, ultimately bringing Purcell and Elmslie closer together and galvanizing their unique, meaningful, and prolific career together. Purcell and Elmslie, Architects would go on to work on more than 400 projects together before dissolving in 1921.

For the Byrnes, life in their Prairie Style house appears to have been both comfortable and productive. They raised three children in the home, William, Jane, and Joseph—who would eventually raise his own family there.

In 1926, Patrick Byrne published *Soldiers of the Plains* with the intent to offer a Native American perspective of the American Indian Wars on the Great Plains and refute the Custer myth. The study of the Plains Indian wars was an obsession of his, as indicated by numerous letters on-file at the North Dakota State Archives chronicling his efforts to balance the historical record, whether he was challenging the Northern Pacific to remove the name of “Chief Red

¹³⁰ Purcell, “Parabiographies,” Volume for 1911, William Gray Purcell Papers, Northwest Architectural Archives.

¹³¹ Emily Sakariassen, “Prairie Vision: The Architecture of Purcell, Feick, and Elmslie in Bismarck,” *North Dakota History: Journal of the Northern Places* 81, no. 3 (Bismarck: State Historical Society of North Dakota, 2016): 28.

¹³² George Feick Jr.’s role within the partnership of Purcell, Feick, and Elmslie is generally considered that of the engineer, primarily writing specifications for their early commissions. He based his departure from the firm in 1913 on the observation that his contributions were no longer necessary to the success of the practice, nor significant in the development of their design theory. Gebhard, 71.

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND

County and State

Tomahawk” from their line of sleeper cars or urging the Encyclopedia Americana Corporation to revise their biographies of Custer and Reno.¹³³

In 1972, Belle Byrne told the Bismarck Tribune that the first edition of *Soldiers of the Plains*, “sold like hotcakes.” Based on contemporaneous book reviews printed in newspapers across the country, it was well-received. Even once, when Purcell wrote to Belle after Byrne’s passing in 1935, he claimed to have followed the reviews of Byrne’s book in the newspapers “with much interest.”¹³⁴ However, Belle also recalled that, “General Custer had some very wealthy relatives, and because it gave an uncomplimentary picture of him, they went to New York and bought the rights from the Putnam Company.”¹³⁵ But Byrne found other ways to be heard.

In 1932, the State Historical Society of North Dakota published an article Byrne wrote in the *North Dakota Historical Quarterly* entitled, “When War Came to the Indian: A Chapter of Neglected Truth in American History.” In it, Byrne again challenges the dominant narrative surrounding the Battle of Little Bighorn. Having read it, North Dakota Senator Lynn Frazier sent a copy to John Collier, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and introduced the article in the form of a Senate document during the 73rd Congress. The Senate document includes a forward by Collier, in which he states:

For nearly two lifetimes, misunderstandings concerning the so-called “Custer massacre” have been wellnigh universal... These misunderstandings have generally been derogatory to the Sioux Indians; and the factual, readable, and temperate summary by Mr. Byrne would be of value and interest to a great many people.¹³⁶

While it has not been confirmed that Belle Byrne’s assertion that the Custer family used its influence to prevent her husband’s work from being printed, there is evidence that Elizabeth Custer was aware of Byrne’s writing and did, in fact, disapprove of it. In 1933, Byrne appears to have submitted another manuscript for publication in the *North Dakota Historical Quarterly* but was, this time, rejected. In a letter from Orin G. Libby, Secretary of the State Historical Society of North Dakota, to the board’s Vice President Judge L.E. Birdzell, Libby raises concern that in light of the rejection, Byrne had decided to, “publish a series of articles in the newspapers of the state” and that, “it seems to me that some of the statements he made... might be taken by Mrs. Custer or her lawyers as being libelous and furnishing a basis for a suit.” He went so far as to propose they approach the publishers of the Bismarck Tribune and Grand Forks Herald, as a “reasonable way to stop him.” And while it is not currently known what resulted from this

¹³³ “Byrne, P.E.,” in the Historical Society Administration Superintendent’s Correspondence, 1929-1959, Series 30203, Box 5, State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismarck.

¹³⁴ P.E. Byrne Residence job file #69, Box 1, Folder 50, William Gray Purcell Papers, Northwest Architectural Archives.

¹³⁵ “Pioneer Daughter Has Gay Memories,” *Bismarck Tribune*, July 29, 1972.

¹³⁶ P.E. Byrne, “When War Came to the Indian: A Chapter of Neglected Truth in American History,” reprinted from the *North Dakota Historical Quarterly*, April 1932, together with a letter from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, which was presented by Mr. Frazier on May 29 (calendar day, June 5), 1933, 73rd Congress, 1st sess., 1933, S. Doc. 68 (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1933).

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND

County and State

dispute, it does underscore that Byrne's writings had drawn attention—including that of Custer's widow.

In 1935, Patrick E. Byrne suffered a malignant tumor and died in the house designed for him. Purcell wrote to Belle in 1938, requesting photographs of the house. But he did offer his sincere condolences at the news of her husband's passing.¹³⁷

Belle Byrne, who had been a secretary at the State Capitol for a brief time, likely before she and Patrick married, returned to work, serving as U.S. Land Office registrar from 1936 to 1949 and as a clerk of the U.S. District Court in 1950. Upon her death in 1973, the *Bismarck Tribune* proudly claimed her as "the oldest native-born resident of Burleigh County."¹³⁸

The Byrnes' youngest son Joe and his wife Betty moved into the family home in 1950, keeping it in the family; three generations of Byrnes lived in it at one time or another. Betty Byrne sold the P.E. Byrne House at 120 W. Ave. A in 1978 to its current owners, Dick and Elizabeth Gross.

CONCLUSION

The P.E. Byrne House is historically significant. Purcell, Feick, and Elmslie's works in North Dakota are a testament to change. The emerging Prairie Style of architecture promised a wholly American aesthetic for a modern age. Those who commissioned these projects were looking to the future, investing in a modern theory of design inspired by the Prairie School. The P.E. Byrne House exemplifies the extent of a collaborative process between architect and client, the convergence of progressive thinking and artistic expression. It stands as the strongest example the firm's unique approach to design in the state, with readily identifiable characteristics of their style inside and out. For Purcell, Feick, and Elmslie, it was a project that spanned major changes in their architectural practice. The P.E. Byrne House ties North Dakota to the larger story of the Prairie School movement and helps illustrate how the community of Bismarck helped to establish what would become a renowned firm's presence on the Plains.

¹³⁷ P.E. Byrne Residence job file #69, Box 1, Folder 50, William Gray Purcell Papers, Northwest Architectural Archives.

¹³⁸ *Bismarck Tribune*, May 4, 1974.

Byrne, Patrick E., House
Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Atwill, Rev. Douglass H. and Rev. A.E. Smith. *St. George's Episcopal Memorial Church: A Memorial to the Pioneers of the Dakotas, 1873-1949*. Bismarck, ND: Conrad Publishing Co., 1949.

Brooks, H. Allen. *The Prairie School: Frank Lloyd Wright and His Midwest Contemporaries*. New York: W. W. Norton and Company, 1984.

Bureau of the Census. "Bismarck Ward 2, Burleigh, North Dakota." *Thirteenth Census of the United States: 1910*. <http://ancestry.com>.

Byrne, Patrick E., Papers, MSS 202492. State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismarck, ND.

Condit, Carl W. *The Chicago School of Architecture*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1964.

Cornell University. *The MDCCCCIII Class Book: Cornell University*. Buffalo, NY: Hausauer, Son & Jones Printers, 1903.

Edwin James Taylor Papers, MSS 10064. State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismarck, ND.

Gebhard, David. *Purcell and Elmslie: Prairie Progressive Architects*. Salt Lake City, UT: Gibbs Smith, 2006.

Hammons, Mark. "Purcell & Elmslie, Architects: The Design of Destiny."
https://organica.org/pemn1900_1.htm.

Harrington, Elaine M. Holzschuh. *Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio, Oak Park*. Stuttgart: Edition Axel Menges, 1996.

I.P. Baker Papers, MSS 10063. State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismarck, ND.

Kaarre, Douglas. "Christopher McHugh House, 429-431 Forest Ave., Oak Park, Illinois."
Website of the AICP Village of Oak Park. <https://www.oak-park.us/>.

Legler, Dixie and Christian Korab. *At Home on the Prairie: The Houses of Purcell and Elmslie*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2006.

Long, Barbara Beving. *The Evolution of Van Horn & Ritterbush, et al*. Cresco, IA: Four Mile Research Co., 1991.

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND

County and State

Lounsberry, Clement A. *Early History of North Dakota: Outlines in American History*.
Washington, D.C.: Liberty Press, 1919.

Morrison, Hugh. *Louis Sullivan: Prophet of Modern Architecture*. New York: W. W. Norton,
1998.

Northwestern Directory Company. *Capital City Directory*. Bismarck, ND: The Bismarck
Tribune Co., 1908.

Oak Leaves Company. *Oak Park Directory: Including River Forest & Forest Park*. Oak Park,
IL:
Oak Leaves Co., 1910.

Pettibone Directory Co. *Fargo and Moorhead Directory*. Fargo, ND: Pettibone Directory Co.,
Publishers, 1907.

Pettibone Directory Co. *Fargo and Moorhead Directory*. Fargo, ND: Pettibone Directory Co.,
Publishers, 1909.

Purcell, William Gray, George Feick, Jr., and George Grant Elmslie. "The Statics and
Dynamics of Architecture." *The Western Architect* 19, no. 1 (1913).

Robinson, Elwyn B. *History of North Dakota*. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press,
1966.

Sakariassen, Emily. "Prairie Vision: The Architecture of Purcell, Feick, and Elmslie in
Bismarck." *North Dakota History: Journal of the Northern Places* 81: no. 3 (2016): 16-
31.

Watson, Nicole. "Marion Alice Parker: Pioneering Woman Architect and the Progressive
Prairie School." Master's thesis, University of St. Thomas, 2008.

William Gray Purcell Papers. University of Minnesota Libraries. Northwest Architectural
Archives. Minneapolis, MN.

Vyzralek, Frank E. and Louis N. Hafermehl. "Cathedral Area Historic District National Register
of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form." Washington, DC, US Department of
the Interior, National Park Service, 1980.

Byrne, Patrick E., House
Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND
County and State

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): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property <1 acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Byrne, Patrick E., House
Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND
County and State

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☒ NAD 1983

- | | | |
|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Zone: 14T | Easting: 363301.36 | Northing: 5185601.15 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property boundary for the P.E. Byrne House is County Parcel Number 0015-017-025 encompassing the west 95 feet of Lots 7 and 8, and the west 100 feet of Lot 9, Block 17 in the Northern Pacific Addition to the City of Bismarck, Burleigh County, North Dakota.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary for the P.E. Byrne House property includes the city lots retaining the historic house, garage, and landscape features designed by Purcell, Feick, and Elmslie architects and associated with P.E. Byrne during the historic period. The boundary does not extend beyond the public right-of-way. The sidewalks and boulevards that line the property's west and south edges along N. Mandan St. and W. Ave. A are maintained by the property owner but are owned and managed by the City of Bismarck.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Emily Sakariassen, Architectural Historian
organization: South Fork Historical Research, LLC.
street & number: 100 W. Ave. A
city or town: Bismarck state: ND zip code: 58501
e-mail: emily@southforkhistorical.com
telephone: (701) 220-4014
date: February 21, 2025

Byrne, Patrick E., House
Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Byrne, Patrick E., House

City or Vicinity: Bismarck

County: Burleigh

State: North Dakota

Photographer: Emily Sakariassen

Date Photographed: November 7, 2024

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Oblique view of the Patrick E. Byrne House, facing northwest.

Image ID: ND_BurleighCounty_ByrnePatrickEHouse_001

1 of 17.

Oblique view of the P.E. Byrne House, facing north-northwest.

Image ID: ND_BurleighCounty_ByrnePatrickEHouse_002

2 of 17.

Oblique view of the P.E. Byrne House, facing west-northwest.

Image ID: ND_BurleighCounty_ByrnePatrickEHouse_003

3 of 17.

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND

County and State

Oblique view of the P.E. Byrne House, facing southwest.

Image ID: ND_BurleighCounty_ByrnePatrickEHouse_004

4 of 17.

Oblique view of the P.E. Byrne House, facing southeast.

Image ID: ND_BurleighCounty_ByrnePatrickEHouse_005

5 of 17.

West elevation of the P.E. Byrne House, facing east.

Image ID: ND_BurleighCounty_ByrnePatrickEHouse_006

6 of 17.

Oblique view of the P.E. Byrne House, facing northeast.

Image ID: ND_BurleighCounty_ByrnePatrickEHouse_007

7 of 17.

Oblique view of the P.E. Byrne House, facing northeast.

Image ID: ND_BurleighCounty_ByrnePatrickEHouse_008

8 of 17.

Oblique view of the P.E. Byrne House, facing southeast, with garage visible at left.

Image ID: ND_BurleighCounty_ByrnePatrickEHouse_009

9 of 17.

Close-up view of the west eave detail on the P.E. Byrne House, view east.

Image ID: ND_BurleighCounty_ByrnePatrickEHouse_010

10 of 17.

Detail view showing treatment of the mortar joints along the first story façade, P.E. Byrne House.

Image ID: ND_BurleighCounty_ByrnePatrickEHouse_011

11 of 17.

Detail view of the grated light well along the north elevation of the P.E. Byrne House.

Image ID: ND_BurleighCounty_ByrnePatrickEHouse_012

12 of 17.

The P.E. Byrne House, west façade of garage, view east.

Image ID: ND_BurleighCounty_ByrnePatrickEHouse_013

13 of 17.

Oblique view of the P.E. Byrne House garage, facing northeast.

Image ID: ND_BurleighCounty_ByrnePatrickEHouse_014

14 of 17.

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND

County and State

View of the P.E. Byrne House garage, facing west-northwest.

Image ID: ND_BurleighCounty_ByrnePatrickEHouse_015

15 of 17.

View of the west planter, P.E. Byrne House, facing northeast.

Image ID: ND_BurleighCounty_ByrnePatrickEHouse_016

16 of 17.

View of the concrete walkway and steps along east boundary, P.E. Byrne House, facing north.

Image ID: ND_BurleighCounty_ByrnePatrickEHouse_017

17 of 17.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations 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.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
Tier 2 – 120 hours
Tier 3 – 230 hours
Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property
Burleigh County, ND
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional documentation

Page 40

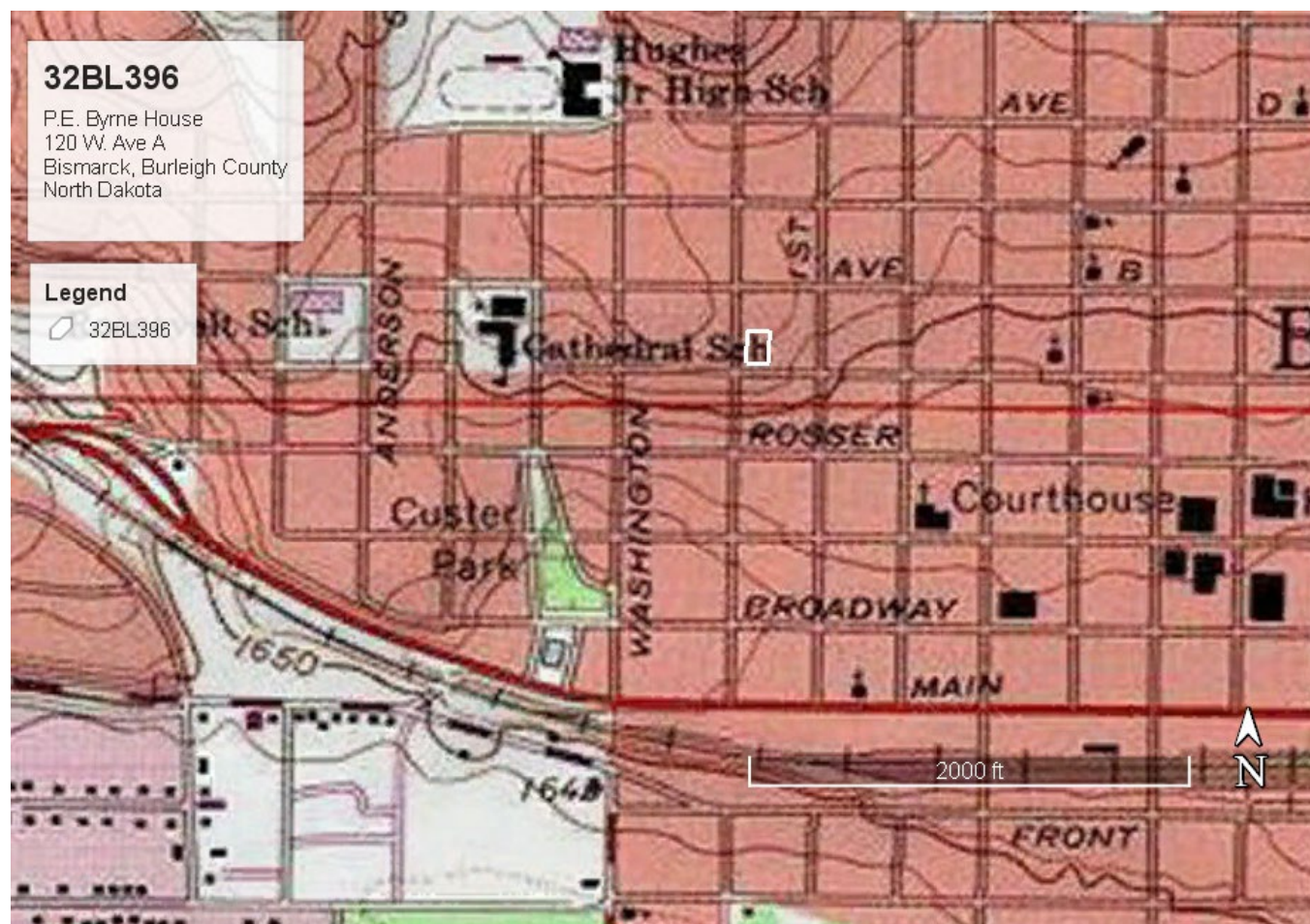


Figure 1: Patrick E. Byrne House (120 W Ave A) depicted on Bismarck, North Dakota USGS Topo Map.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional documentation

Page 41

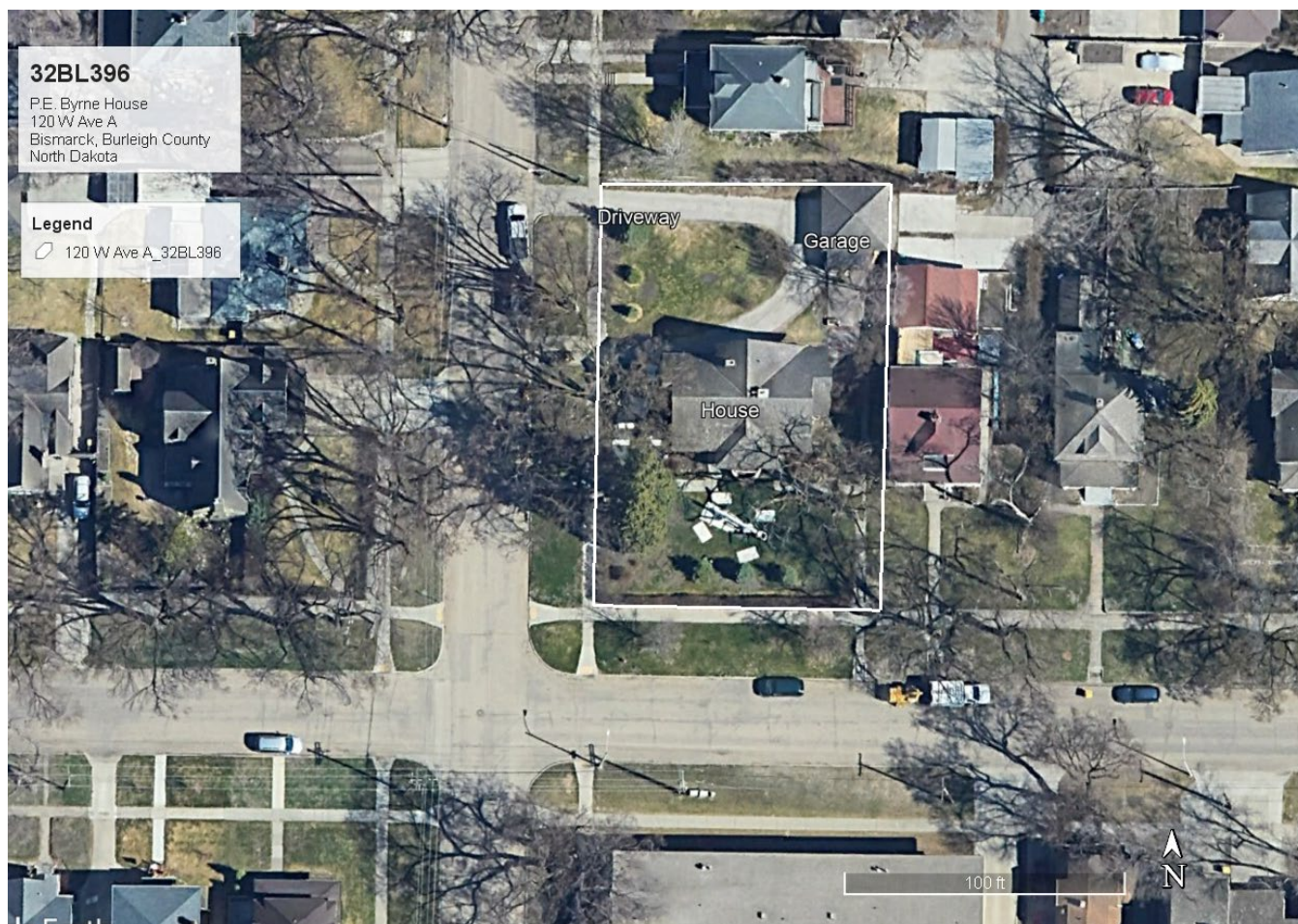


Figure 2: P.E. Byrne House (120 W Ave A) depicted on Google Earth aerial imagery dated May 3, 2023.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional documentation

Page 42



Figure 3: Oblique view of the P.E. Byrne House, facing northwest (ND_BurleighCounty_ByrnePatrickEHouse_001).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property
Burleigh County, ND
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional documentation

Page 43



Figure 4: Oblique view of the P.E. Byrne House, facing north-northwest (ND_BurleighCounty_ByrnePatrickEHouse_002).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional documentation

Page 1



Figure 5: Oblique view of the P.E. Byrne House, facing west-northwest (ND_BurleighCounty_ByrnePatrickEHouse_003).

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property
Burleigh County, ND
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional documentation

Page 2



Figure 6: Oblique view of the P.E. Byrne House, facing southwest (ND_BurleighCounty_ByrnePatrickEHouse_004).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property
Burleigh County, ND
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional documentation

Page 3



Figure 7: Oblique view of the P.E. Byrne House, facing southeast (ND_BurleighCounty_ByrnePatrickEHouse_005).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property
Burleigh County, ND
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional documentation

Page 4



Figure 8: West elevation of the P.E. Byrne House, facing east
(ND_BurleighCounty_ByrnePatrickEHouse_006).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property
Burleigh County, ND
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional documentation

Page 5



Figure 9: Oblique view of the P.E. Byrne House, facing northeast (ND_BurleighCounty_ByrnePatrickEHouse_007).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property
Burleigh County, ND
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional documentation

Page 6



Figure 10: Oblique view of the P.E. Byrne House, facing northeast (ND_BurleighCounty_ByrnePatrickEHouse_008).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional documentation

Page 7



Figure 11: Oblique view of the P.E. Byrne House, facing southeast, with garage visible at left (ND_BurleighCounty_ByrnePatrickEHouse_009).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional documentation

Page 8



Figure 12: Close-up view of the west eave detail on the P.E. Byrne House, view east (ND_BurleighCounty_ByrnePatrickEHouse_010).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional documentation

Page 9



Figure 13: Detail view showing treatment of the mortar joints along the first story façade, P.E. Byrne House (ND_BurleighCounty_ByrnePatrickEHouse_011).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places**
Continuation Sheet

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional documentationPage 10

Figure 14: Detail view of the grated light well along the north elevation of the P.E. Byrne House (ND_BurleighCounty_ByrnePatrickEHouse_012).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property
Burleigh County, ND
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional documentation

Page 11



Figure 15: The P.E. Byrne House, west façade of garage, view east (ND_BurleighCounty_ByrnePatrickEHouse_013).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional documentation

Page 12



Figure 16: Oblique view of the P.E. Byrne House garage, facing northeast
(ND_BurleighCounty_ByrnePatrickEHouse_014)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property
Burleigh County, ND
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional documentation

Page 13



Figure 17: View of the P.E. Byrne House garage, facing west-northwest (ND_BurleighCounty_ByrnePatrickEHouse_015).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional documentation

Page 14



Figure 18: View of the west planter, P.E. Byrne House, facing northeast (ND_BurleighCounty_ByrnePatrickEHouse_016).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property
Burleigh County, ND
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional documentation

Page 15



Figure 19: View of the concrete walkway and steps along east boundary, P.E. Byrne House, facing north (ND_BurleighCounty_ByrnePatrickEHouse_017).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property
Burleigh County, ND
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional documentation

Page 16



Figure 20: Interior view of P.E. Byrne House front hall, showing oak trim, oak flooring, corner closets, and custom light fixture. Photo by Melanie Sioux Photography, June 18, 2024 (MelanieSiouxPhotography-27.JPG).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property
Burleigh County, ND
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional documentation

Page 17



Figure 21: Interior of P.E. Byrne House living room, showing the brick hearth with an ornamental terracotta mantle and half-circle recess, along with built-in bench seating and bookcases. Photo by Melanie Sioux Photography, June 18, 2024 (MelanieSiouxPhotography-5.JPG).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property
Burleigh County, ND
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional documentation

Page 18



Figure 22: Interior view of P.E. Byrne House dining room, showing cove molding, trim, recessed built-in sideboard, and custom light fixture. Photo by Melanie Sioux Photography, June 18, 2024 (MelanieSiouxPhotography-22.JPG).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional documentation

Page 19



Figure 23: Detail view of the built-in sideboard in the P.E. Byrne House dining room, showing the sawn-wood monogram set in the central cupboard door. Photo by author, July 15, 2016 (DSC_0057.JPG).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional documentation

Page 20



Figure 24: Photograph of Dr. Fannie Dunn Quain with her bicycle, 1900-1909. In the background, the Bread of Life Episcopal Church (left) is depicted in its original location, the future site of the P.E. Byrne House (SHSND 00091-00598).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional documentation

Page 21

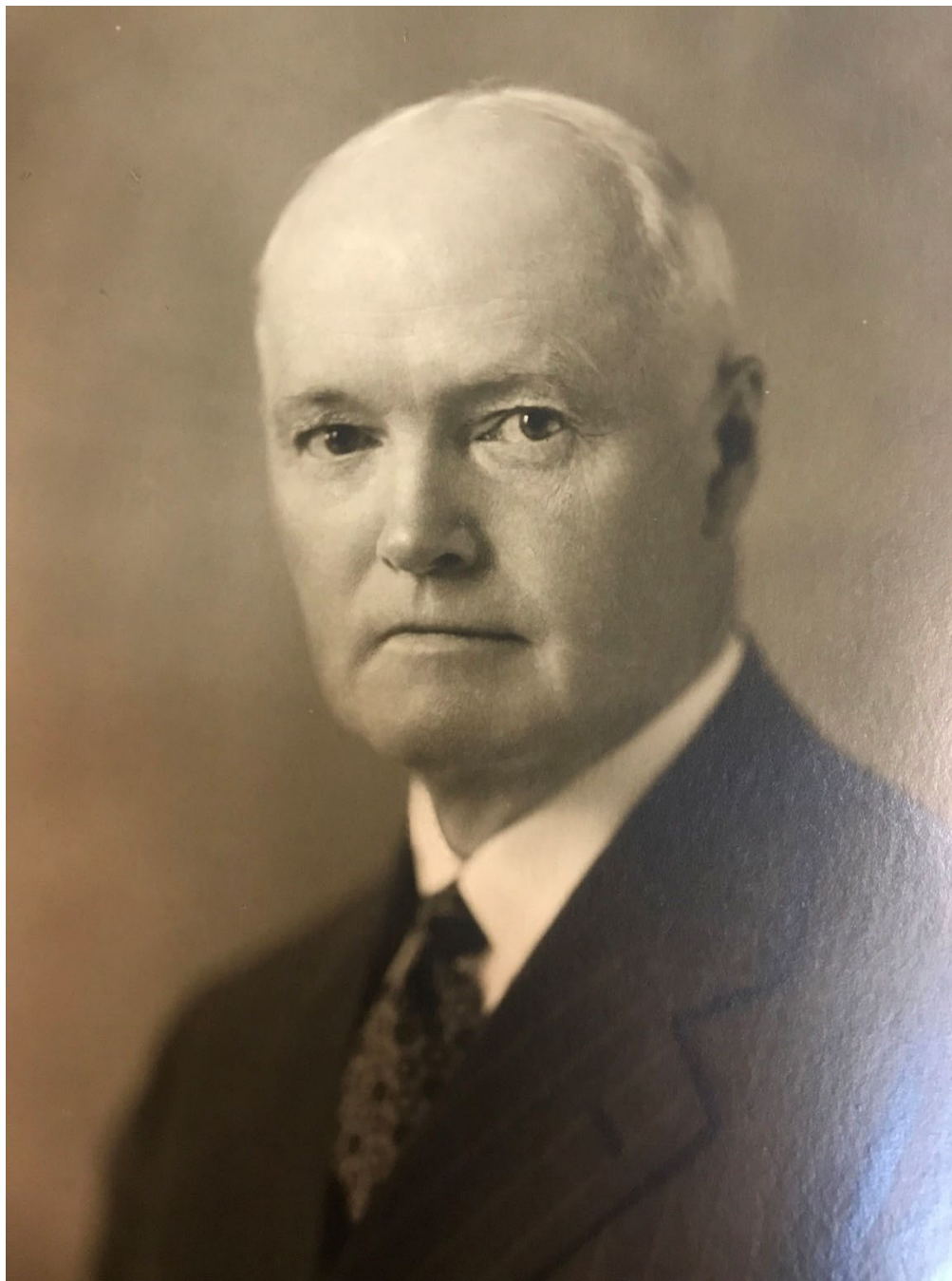


Figure 25: Portrait of Patrick E. Byrne, from John Guthrie, www.findagrave.com/memorial/76052331.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional documentation

Page 22



Figure 26: Mrs. P.E. Byrne and son William, 1908 (SHSND 00091-00646).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property
Burleigh County, ND
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional documentation

Page 23



Figure 27: Excerpt from a group photo taken at the Ward Home, 1903, in Dr. Fannie Dunn Quain's scrap book. Patrick Byrne and Belle Dietrich are seen standing at right (SHSND 0091, box 0016).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional documentation

Page 24



Figure 28: Exterior photo of the P.E. Byrne House, c. 1915 (William Gray Purcell Papers, Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota Libraries).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional documentation

Page 25



Figure 29: Oblique view of the P.E. Byrne House, c. 1915 (William Gray Purcell Papers, Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota Libraries).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property

Burleigh County, ND

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional documentation

Page 26



Figure 30: Interior photo of the P.E. Byrne House living room, c. 1915 (William Gray Purcell Papers, Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota Libraries).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property
Burleigh County, ND
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional documentation

Page 27

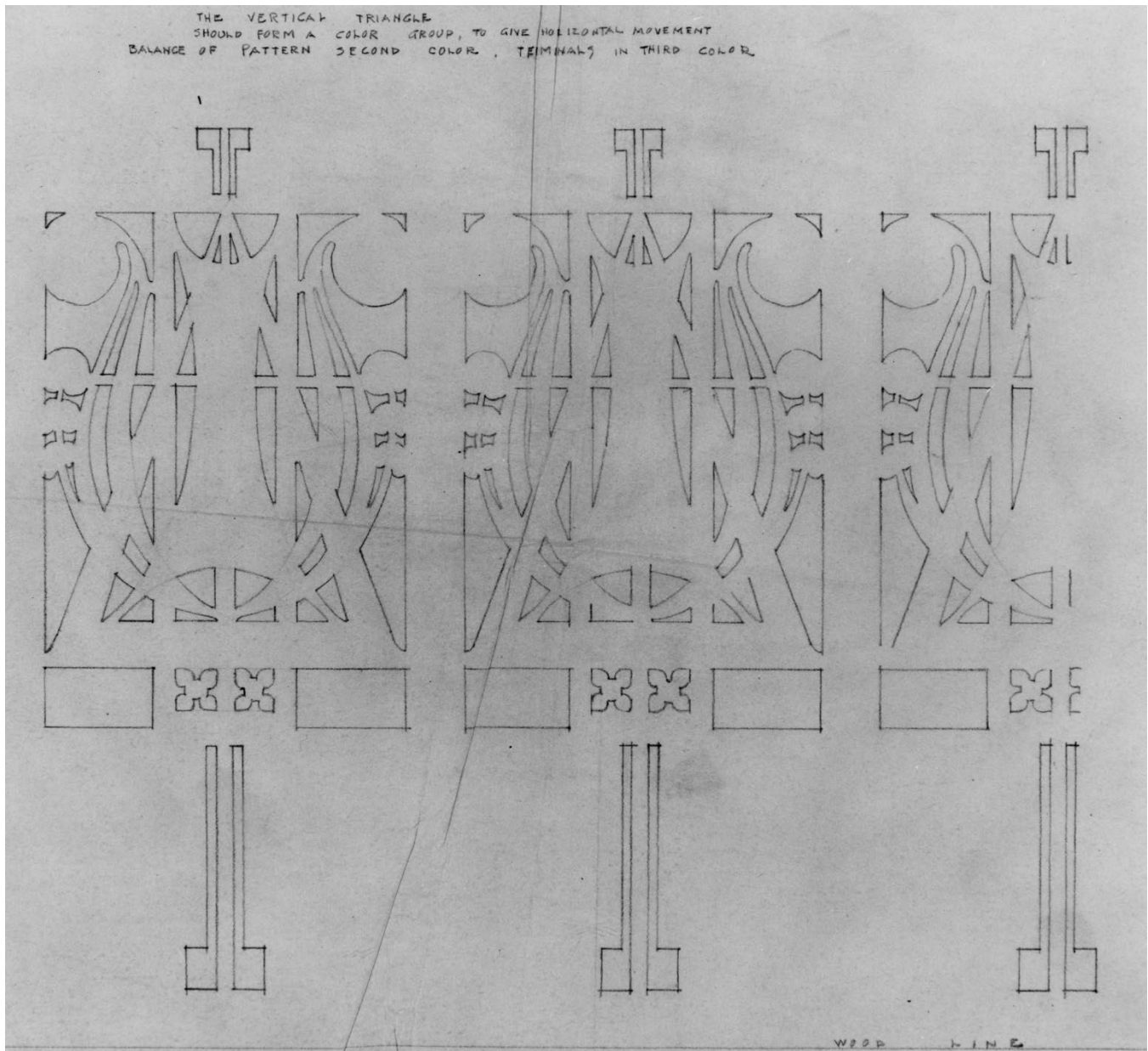


Figure 31: Stencil pattern drawn for the P.E. Byrne House, 1909-1912 (William Gray Purcell Papers, Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota Libraries, pur00302).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Byrne, Patrick E., House

Name of Property
Burleigh County, ND
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional documentation

Page 28

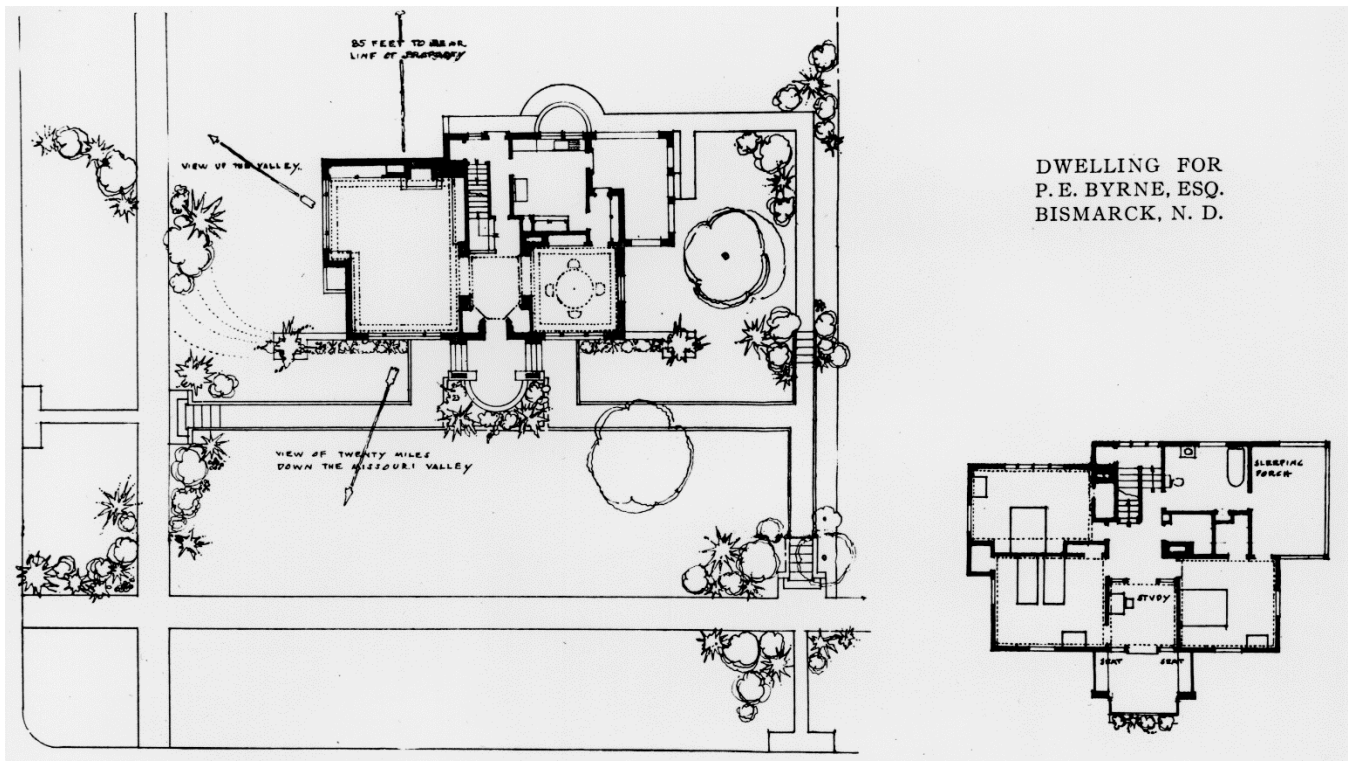


Figure 32: Early plan drawing for the P.E. Byrne House and property, 1909-1912 (William Gray Purcell Papers, Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota Libraries, pur00300).