

DUNN RESIDENCE
Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore
406 East Lake Front Drive
Beverly Shores
Porter County
Indiana

HABS IN-298
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HABS
IN-298

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

DUNN RESIDENCE

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Location: 406 East Lake Front Drive, Beverly Shores, Indiana

Significance: A good example of the Spanish/Mediterranean Style, the Dunn Residence was constructed around 1929 to help establish a resort image for Chicago developer Frederick Bartlett's new suburban development Beverly Shores on the Lake Michigan shore in Porter County, Indiana. Bartlett originally commissioned at least two dozen similar homes in Beverly Shores in the style popularized in vacation spots such as Coral Gables, Boca Raton and Palm Beach, Florida. Besides these strategically placed houses, Bartlett built a series of Spanish/Mediterranean Style public buildings to set the tone for his new resort community.

Description: Overlooking Lake Michigan, the two-story dwelling epitomizes the Spanish/Mediterranean Style including red clay tile roofs, stucco walls, arched windows, and rooms opening out to porches and patios. The plan of the house is roughly two rectangles placed side by side. There is a two-story wing with a flat roof and a one-story gable-roofed wing placed perpendicular to it. The north side of the house features a covered porch with an arcade. The house is constructed of frame with a stucco finish and a concrete block foundation. Style and type of windows vary from single-pane wood casements to a large fixed glass window with single-pane casements on either side to an original large multi-pane fixed glass window. Ornamentation consists of arched stucco trim running along the roof line and stucco laid in a cross pattern on the chimney and above the main entrance. Original trusses and exposed beams enhance the living room's high ceiling.

History: The Spanish/Mediterranean houses at 310 and 406 East Lake Front Drive were the first two homes built on the lakefront in Beverly Shores. Built about 1929, developer Frederick Bartlett probably used the houses as models to promote the high-style resort he platted in 1927. These homes and about 23 other Spanish/Mediterranean style homes throughout the new subdivision were designed by Chicago architect Frederick Mertz and constructed by Leo Post, a local builder who owned the Beverly Shores Construction Company. For Beverly Shores Mertz favored the architectural traits of Florida resort homes such as integration of indoor and outdoor spaces created by frequent use of French doors, arcaded windows leading from high-ceilinged living rooms to patios, and floor plans that were usually one-room deep. The houses in Beverly Shores ranged from \$3,500 to \$6,000.

Prospective Beverly Shores home-buyers could choose one of five basic floor plans for their Spanish/Mediterranean home from a plan book published by Bartlett. Homes with floor plans labeled A,B,C,D, and E could be built with one of 10 different facades. The house at 406 East Lake Front Drive illustrates plan E7 featuring a first-floor patio

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and living room to the west, a dining room and kitchen to the east and an attached garage. The second floor contains three bedrooms and a bathroom. This house featured the same floor plan as its neighbor to the west, the Quinn residence, which boasted a slightly different façade.

The Bartlett Realty Company sold the property in 1935 to Marie Fleming of Chicago. The Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore acquired the property in 1971 from Fleming, who subsequently assigned her Reservation of Use (ROU) to Ray Dunn, president of the Gary-based School Buildings, Inc. Dunn used the house as a weekend and vacation retreat until 1998.

Sources: Maria Ali, Historian, Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service, The Century of Progress Documentation Project, 1993-1994, HABS No. IN-239, Washington, D.C.

Frederick Mertz, "Plan Book of Beverly Shores," circa 1929, Beverly Shores Train Station and Museum.

Jim Morrow, Beverly Shores: A Suburban Dunes Resort, Arcadia Publishing, Chicago, Illinois, 2001.

Porter County Deed Records, 1930-1975, Porter County Recorder's Office, Valparaiso, Indiana

William G. Taft, "Beverly Shores and the Development of the Modern Suburban Resort," circa 1994, copy in Historian's files, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

Historian: Janice Slupski, Historian, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, 2002.

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Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore
Tract 67-109

280'

Lot 8
13'

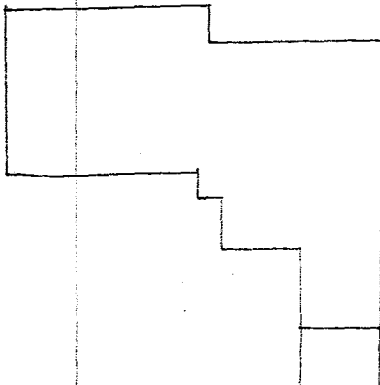
Lot 9
50'

Lot 10
50'

Lot 11
50'

240'

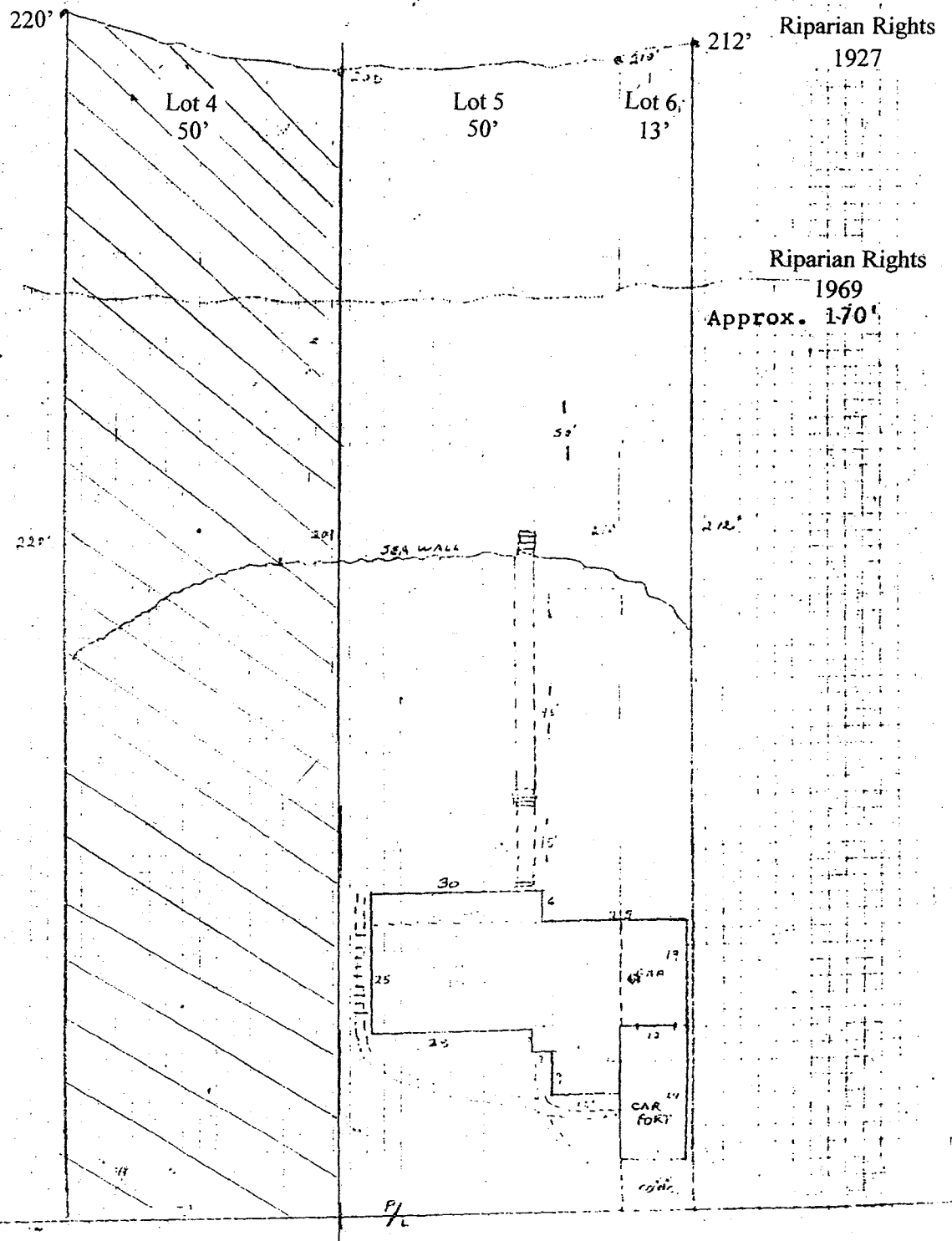
Riparian Rights
1927



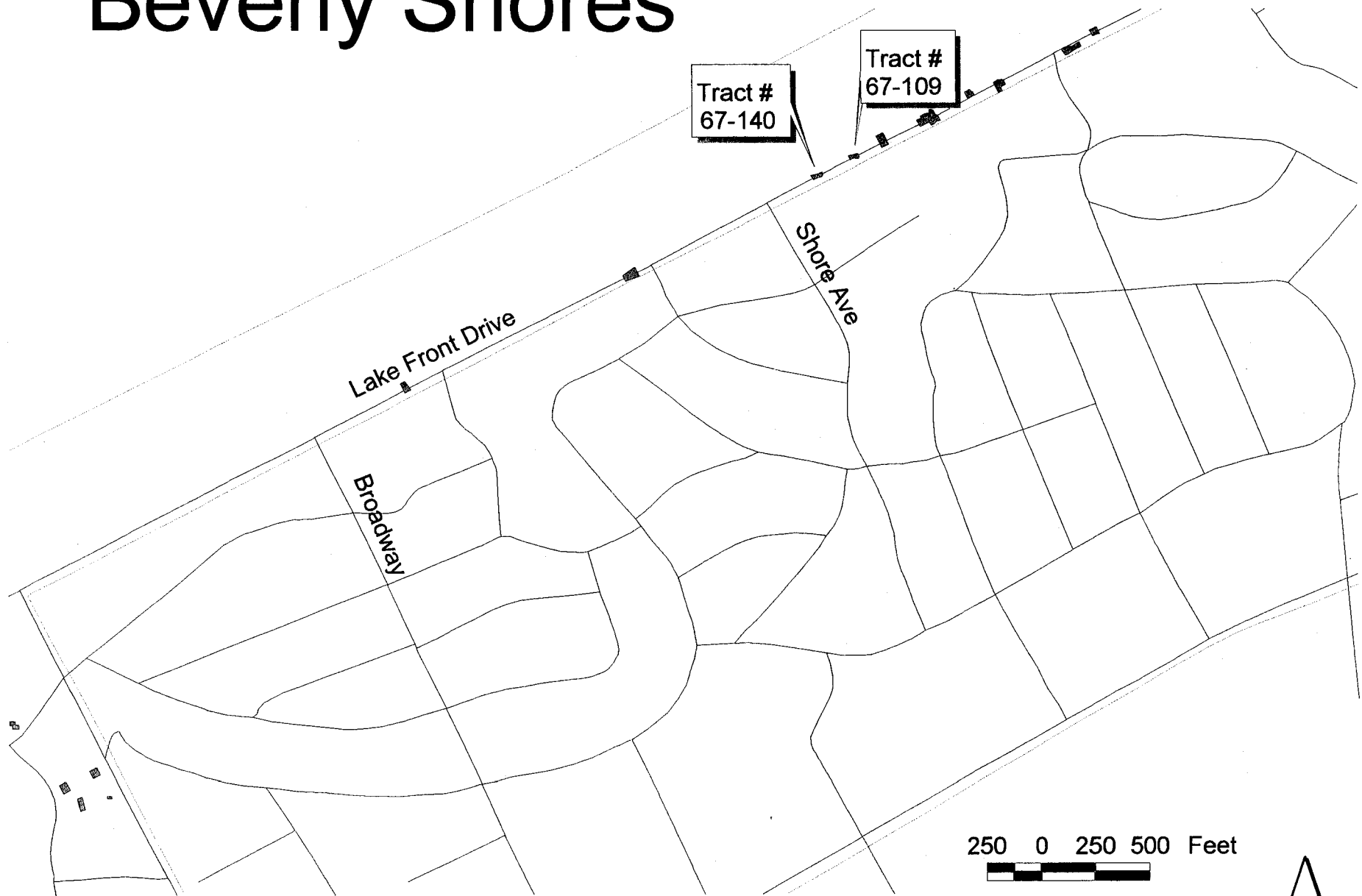
Site Plan based on information contained within the appraisal records.

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Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore
Tract 67-140



Beverly Shores



250 0 250 500 Feet



100 0 100 Meters

