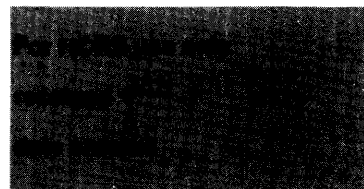


United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



FEB 19 1979

1. Name

historic Elias Abel House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 317 N. Fairview St. not for publication

city, town Bloomington vicinity of congressional district 7th

state Indiana code 018 county Monroe code 105

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Donna Lorine Hanley

street & number 317 N. Fairview

city, town Bloomington vicinity of state Indiana 47401

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Monroe County Courthouse

street & number Kirkwood Avenue

city, town Bloomington state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Indiana Historic Sites & Structures Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records Indiana Department of Natural Resources

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Elias Abel house is a popular but simple version of the Greek Revival style of pre-Civil War days. On the west side of the main structure (in the back) are what appear to be two additions. One of these additions is on the southwest side and is of a salt box style. The other is on the northwest side and has a pent roof.

The frame structure is two stories high and at present is covered with asbestos shingles. These have come off in several places and what was once white clapboard siding can be seen underneath. The main facade is along the east side. At the present time, there is a one story verandah across three-fourths of the main facade. Originally, however, there was only a portico at the main entrance. There are now four columns along this front porch, only one of which may be original.

The roof is made of a composition material and is of medium pitch. The chimneys in the main facade are offset; the one in the salt box addition is extended to rise above the roof line and is located mid-center. All chimneys are of brick.

The roof trim of the main facade has plain projecting eaves, and a plain boxed cornice. The frieze is decorated with lovely dentil molding. All are made of wood. It has plain boxed cornices on the gable ends with a plain return. Again, the dentil molding is carried out along the raking trim and return frieze.

On each corner of the house, the original pilasters are still exposed. The windows are flat with plain molding, plain surrounds, and plain sills, all of wood. Each has double-hung sash with six over six lights, both upstairs and down, though windows upstairs are shorter than those downstairs.

The front door is located in the center of the main facade's five bays. It, like the windows, has a flat heading with plain molding, plain lintel, and plain surrounds, all of wood with no reveal. The door is flush with lights on either side. The transom panel is blind, but originally, it probably was either one or multi-lighted. What appears to be original glass is still in some of these panes.

Other interesting features include the front walk of large handcut limestone, the unusual downspouts, and the lovely old Chinese elm that stands to the left (south) of this house.

Inside, the south half of the house has transoms over each doorway separating the rooms. The transoms are unusual in that they have three lights each, and open horizontally. Other items of interest include the mantel, which may be original, and stairs made of hand-planed boards. The rail, balusters, and newell post seem to be original and may be of cherry. In the attic at the front of the house is a hand hewn walnut log, said to have been a customary addition to bring the owner good luck.

In the basement is a fruit cellar with a full ceiling. The floors are made of hand-made brick. There are limestone walls, and the floor joists were cut by a water driven sawmill.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates Between 1845-18 6 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Elias Abel House is architecturally significant as perhaps the finest example of a Greek Revival, central hall plan house in Bloomington. It is also significant because it was built by one of the city's early prominent citizens.

Elias Abel was born in Whythe County, Virginia, in 1800, and moved to Monroe County, Indiana, in 1824. He worked as a day-laborer until he married, when he became a farmer. In 1841 he moved to Bloomington and became the County Treasurer, an office he held for 13 years, then becoming Deputy Treasurer until 1856. He served as a town councilman in 1848, and was elected to the Indiana General Assembly in 1856. Abel served again as County Treasurer from 1858 through 1862, when he retired from active business life.

Abel purchased the property on which the house stands in 1845 for \$250. He sold it in 1856 for \$1,000, which reasonably establishes that the home, or at least a portion of it, was constructed during this time.

The house is what is sometimes referred to as an "I" house, a two-story house with a central hall flanked by a room on each side. The Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory of Monroe County referred to the Abel House as perhaps the best frame example of the "I" house in Bloomington. The Elias Abel House has been designated as historic by the Bloomington Plan Commission.

9. Major Bibliographical References

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Monroe Co. Census Records: 1820, 1840, 1850, 1870.

Monroe Co. Probate Records: Books I, II, III, IV, V, VI, and VII.

Monroe Co. History

Looking Back (A Folk History of Bloomington) By Elizabeth Leonard, Nov. 11, 1971.

Bloomington Area Historic Sites and Structures Survey

UM NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Bloomington, IN

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 1 6 5 3 9 6 2 0 4 3 3 5 4 2 0
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification The South one-half of Lot 14 and the South one-half of Lot 12 and also 5 feet by parallel line of the south side of the north one-half of Lots 12 and 14 of the Fairview Addition.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Donna Hanley/Gayle Cook

organization Bloomington Historical Society

date 3/25/79

street & number 317 N. Fairview (Donna)

telephone 812/336-3217 (Donna Hanley)
812-332-6317 (Gayle Cook)

city or town Bloomington,

state Indiana

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 5/18/81

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date 2/19/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration