

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
DEC 20 1977  
RECEIVED  
DATE ENTERED MAY 22 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

McEwen-Samuels-Marr <sup>Home</sup> ~~Home~~

AND/OR COMMON

Bartholomew County Historical Museum

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

524 Third Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Columbus

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Ninth

STATE

Indiana

CODE

18

COUNTY

Bartholomew

CODE

005

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Bartholomew County Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

524 Third Street

CITY, TOWN

Columbus

VICINITY OF

STATE

Indiana

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Bartholomew County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Third and Washington Streets

CITY, TOWN

Columbus

STATE

Indiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Columbus Historical and Architectural Survey

DATE

1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Bartholomew County Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Columbus

STATE

Indiana

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" 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      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The McEwen-Samuels-Marr Home is an Italianate-style structure typical of its period, the 1860's and 1870's. Judging from the property values given in the abstract of title, it is believed that the back portion of the house was built in 1864 and that the front section was added about 1875. The original section was a simple structure with two rooms upstairs over two rooms downstairs. A one-story section attached at the back contained the kitchen. The later addition is comprised of three rooms on the first floor, plus the entry hall; and three rooms on the second floor, plus the stairway and landing.

The theory that the house was constructed in two different sections is substantiated by several structural details. The brick work of the two parts of the house is different: the back portion is laid in common bond while the front is laid in stretcher bond. The windows of the two sections are also different. The ones in back are elliptical; three sides are brick and the sills are stone. In front, the windows have flat openings with stone lintels and sills. Inside, on the first floor, the ceilings are lower in the back section than they are in front. Consequently, the back part of the second story is lower than the front. Two steps were installed to bridge this difference in levels.

Overall, the house is rectangular in shape with the short side, three bays wide, facing the street. As mentioned above, the house is brick, and it has a stone foundation.

At the front door there is a three-step stoop. A porch is located in a small ell on the west side of the house. A door opens off this porch. There are two more doors at the back of the house which open off either side of the former kitchen.

The metal roof of the house is hipped. The roof pitch of the original section is very low; the hipped roof of the front section is truncated.

There are four brick chimneys, two on each side of the house. Metal brackets are located under the eaves of the front section of the house. There are also small windows located in the cornice fascia of the front section.

All of the windows in the house have two-over-two double hung sashes with the exception of the ones in the former kitchen which are six-over-six.

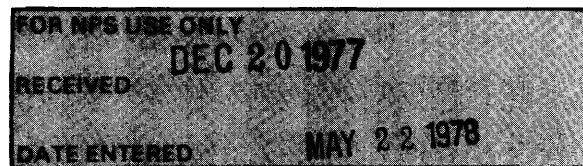
The front door is located on the right side of the main (south) facade. The opening is flat and surmounted by a metal hood. The door surrounds are wooden; there is a deep reveal. The door is a single glazed leaf. There are no side or transom panels. The door opening is eight and one half feet high.

The door which opens off the side porch is also a single glazed leaf. It has a transom, as do the doors at the back of the house. The latter are single leaf paneled doors.

(See Continuation Sheet)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Description - continued

A brick carriage house is attached to the main building by a covered breezeway. There is an outside cellar door under the breezeway roof.

When the Historical Society purchased the building it had been in use as a boarding house for many years. In the process of renovation, several partitions which had been added were removed from the interior in order to restore the original floorplan. The only deviation from the original floorplan was the removal of a non-supporting wall which had divided two bedrooms on the second floor. This was done in order to create a large room for meetings, classes, and temporary exhibits.

The renovation of the exterior included the removal of a cinderblock addition at the back of the house. This addition had enclosed the breezeway and encompassed the former kitchen, giving it a second story. Care was taken during the renovation to return the exterior precisely to its original appearance. The only concession made to modern convenience was the installation of storm windows, a change which could be reversed.

In adapting the interior for use as a museum, three rooms (parlor, bedroom, and nursery) were carefully restored and are now furnished in period. Three other rooms contain exhibits and were not precisely restored. However, no structural changes were made in these rooms. Total restoration would simply require a change of paint color and floor covering. The same is true of the former kitchen, now the office.

As previously mentioned, a large activity room was created on the second floor. A library was installed in another second floor room. The greatest deviation from the original appearance of the interior occurred in the creation of these two rooms. These changes were considered necessary in order for the museum to function efficiently as the headquarters of the Historical Society. Again, however, the changes are reversible.

# 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> _POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> _OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> _INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES      1864/1875                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The McEwen-Samuels-Marr Home, through association with the first two families who resided in it, is considered locally to be of significance in the area of commerce. (Although the Marrs, the third owners of the home, are well-known in the history of Bartholomew County, there is another house which more appropriately derives significance through association with that family. See paragraph 16.)

The home is also considered locally to be of significance in the area of architecture.

The property on which the house is located is lot #19 of the original plat of Tiptona, now Columbus. It is part of the land which General John Tipton deeded to Bartholomew County in 1822 as the site for its seat of government.

In 1829 the Liberty School and Meeting House was built on the lot by public subscription on the condition that it be available for use by all religious denominations and for the education of their children. The school board held title to the property until 1854. It was then owned for ten years by a Reynolds family, who apparently made no improvements to the property. William McEwen purchased the lot in 1864 for \$150. Soon thereafter he erected his home, the original section of the present-day building.

William McEwen was the proverbial "self-made man." He was born in Salem, North Carolina, in 1816, and his family moved to Bartholomew County, Indiana, when he was a small boy. He had no formal education and made a modest beginning as a farmer on rented land. Soon, however, he acquired a home of his own in Haw Creek Township and in time accumulated a sizeable amount of property in Bartholomew and other counties. He was for awhile engaged in the pork packing business in Madison, Indiana, but apparently maintained his Bartholomew County residence.

In 1852 Mr. McEwen moved into the town of Columbus and soon afterward organized the Kentucky Stock Bank. He remained associated with the bank, as its president, until 1872, when the bank failed. By that time, his sons had entered the business, and it was known as McEwen and Sons Bank.

It is the failure of the bank which has made Mr. McEwen famous (or infamous) in the history of Bartholomew County commerce. It is the only bank failure in the history of the county and was quite a catastrophe at the time because both the city and county governments were depositors.

(See Continuation Sheet)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Abstract of Title - Lot #19, original plat of Columbus

Cline and McHaffie (eds.). The People's Guide: Directory of Bartholomew Co., Ind.  
Indianapolis: Indianapolis Printing and Publishing House, 1874.

(See Continuation Sheet)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre  
UTM REFERENCES

A	1 1 6	5 9 3 3 6 1 0	4 3 3 9 5 1 1 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property is lot #19 of the original plat of Columbus. It is 75 feet by 150 feet in size.

## 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

Cheryl Griffith (former director

ORGANIZATION

Bartholomew Co. Historical Society)

DATE

October 4, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

940 25th Street, N.W. #408-S

TELEPHONE

202-338-7660

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

# 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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE December 9, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Wathum Cole

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5-22-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5-12-78

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Significance - continued

In 1870, before the failure of the bank, Mr. McEwen sold his home to David and Samuel Samuels, a father and son who were partners in a dry goods business in Columbus.

The Samuels family had come to Bartholomew County from Poland in 1852. The son, Samuel, arrived shortly before his father and engaged in peddling until 1854, when he and his father established a small grocery business. With some associates, they expanded the business in 1857 to include dry goods. It then became known as the Trade Palace.

In 1862 David and Samuel Samuels, in partnership with another man, built a woolen mill in Columbus. Four years later they left the partnership and went to St. Louis where they built another mill, reputed to have been the largest west of the Alleghenies. The second mill was not successful, however, so they returned to Columbus, bought out their associates in the Trade Palace, and purchased the home of William McEwen.

The Samuels family is apparently responsible for the large addition made to the home around 1875. The addition more than doubled the size of the house, and it was done in the fashionable Italianate style. The original section of the house was remodeled to conform to that style.

In 1884 they also remodeled and expanded their business. The next year the "new" Trade Palace was described as having "two of the finest business rooms in this section of the state, and a business block that reflects credit alike upon the enterprise of its proprietors and upon the city."<sup>1</sup>

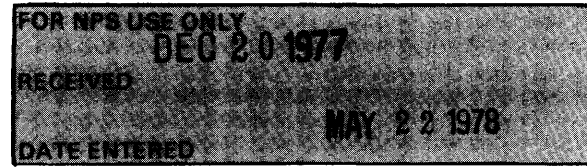
David and Samuel Samuels were known as successful and sagacious businessmen. The Trade Palace was typical of the businesses which, along with farming, were the mainstays of local economy prior to the coming of industry to the county.

In 1889 James and Mary Marr purchased the home from the Samuels family. Mr. and Mrs. Marr were retiring to town after a life of farming northeast of Columbus.

James Marr was a member of a pioneer family which had settled in Bartholomew County

<sup>1</sup> Leading Industries of Decatur, Bartholomew, Jackson and Lawrence Counties, Indiana. 1885.

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Significance - continued

in 1819 or 1820. He was born in the county in 1829.

(Many of Mr. Marr's descendants, including grandchildren who knew him, still live in the county, so a great deal is known of his life. However, if any building should derive significance from its association with him, it is the farmhouse which he built in the 1860's. The house has continuously remained in the Marr family and is now the home of a great-grandson and his family, who have renovated it.)

The Marrs lived in the house in Columbus until Mr. Marr's death in 1915. It then went through a series of six owners and was eventually converted into a boarding house. It was in very deteriorated condition when the Historical Society bought it in 1968 and started renovation.

Architecturally, the house is felt to be a very good example of small-scale domestic architecture in the Italianate style. It is one of perhaps a dozen surviving examples of this style in Columbus, and it is the only remaining example which has not been altered by the addition of a front porch. The metal hood over the front door is original to the 1875 addition.

Nearly all of the house's fabric is, in fact, original. The renovation of the exterior consisted mainly of painting, cleaning, and repairing (with the exception of the removal of the cinderblock addition as noted in the description). All of the trim was intact, as was the wrought-iron fence which encircles the lawn. The attached carriage house is one of the more unusual features. While a few other carriage houses survive in Columbus, this is the only one which is attached (and apparently always has been) to the main house.

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Bibliography - continued

Leading Industries of Decatur, Bartholomew, Jackson and Lawrence Counties, Indiana.  
1885.

Long, Laura. "Bank Failure Unites Citizens for Good of Columbus," The Evening Republican, January 28, 1965, p. 24.

Marr, Griffith. "Biography of James Marr." Unpublished manuscript, Bartholomew County Historical Society, 1971.

Marshall, Robert J., and others (eds.). History of Bartholomew County, Indiana - 1888.  
Vol. I, annotated edition. Columbus: The Avery Press, 1976.

"Souvenir and Official Program: 19th Annual Encampment, G.A.R., Columbus, Indiana."  
Louisville: Courier-Journal Job Printing Co., 1898.