

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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date entered

Continuation sheet 27

Item number 7

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Name: Ballou House

Location: Albion Road (near pole 56), Lincoln

Classification: Building; Private; Occupied; Accessible--restricted;
Private Residence

Owner: Mr. & Mrs. David Smith (same address)

Condition: Good; Altered; Original Site

Description:

The Ballou House is a handsome center-chimney, Federal house, gable-roofed, two-and-a-half-stories, of heavy post-and-beam construction. The clapboarded house is four bays wide; its roughly centered door is set under a heavy molded cap and a transom.

The plan of the house follows the standard five-room pattern dictated by its large central chimney. Its three-run stair is tucked in the space between the door and the chimney and is ornamented with a ball finial on its newel post and acorn pendant on its angle post. The interior of the house is finished with wide floor boards and plain plastered ceilings and walls, except for the first-floor central rear room where there is a wainscot of horizontal boards, and the left front chamber of the first floor where raised panels have been inserted (c. 1978) below the original chair rail. The fireplaces remain intact, though in some rooms the hearth openings have been temporarily closed, and in the right front chamber on the first floor the deteriorating brick face has been replaced with modern brick. Many of the original doors and much of the early hardware remains throughout the house.

Two additions have been made to the Ballou House. On the east side, a one-story addition with a brick chimney is set at basement level; it was probably built in the mid-nineteenth century to serve some utilitarian function associated with the Ballou farm. In the 1970s, a second addition was made on the north side of the house, a small one-story, gambrel-roof kitchen wing.

Three outbuildings of note still remain on the property: a privy; a small shed; and an early barn of post-and-beam construction, later extended, apparently to accommodate a farm vehicle. The caved-in remains of a spring house can be seen just northwest of the house.

Period: 1700-1799

Areas of Significance: Architecture, Agriculture

Specific Date: 1782

Builder/Architect: Unknown

(See Continuation Sheet #28)

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Significance:

The Ballou House is significant both architecturally and historically: it is an intact and representative example of Lincoln's farm houses of the early national period. Built by a rural family of moderately substantial means, its form and modest detailing are well preserved and neither addition has compromised its form or character.

The house was built by Moses Ballou, a member of one of Lincoln's earliest European families. Maturin Ballou was one of the first settlers to receive a land grant in northern Lincoln in the seventeenth century, and his descendents lived in Lincoln for at least two centuries after. This house was, in fact, owned by Ballous throughout the nineteenth century. Of some import are the surviving outbuildings which, with the meadows and fields still surrounding the house, and the sheep and chickens still raised here, give it the ambience of agricultural life.

Acreage: c. 2 acres

UTM Reference: A 19 295060 4646600

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary of the Ballou House is the line of Lincoln Assessor's Plat 40, lot 4; the lot encompasses the house, its outbuildings, and their immediate surroundings.

Level of Significance: Local

(See Continuation Sheet #29)