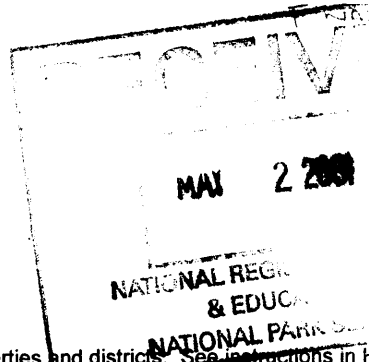


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



621

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Aikens, David House  
other names/site number The Old Manse; Bartholomew Co. Inventory #0508

2. Location

street & number 2325 Jonesville Road N/A  not for publication  
city or town Columbus  vicinity  
state Indiana code IN county Bartholomew code 05 zip code 47201

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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 36CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
J. C. Se D-SHPO 4.30.01  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register  
 removed from the National Register  
 other, (explain:)  
Edson W. Beall 6/6/01  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	1	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling  
AGRICULTURE/SUBSIST Animal Facility

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling  
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTE Storage

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate  
OTHER: Nailed-Frame Barn

foundation STONE: Limestone  
walls BRICK  
roof ASPHALT  
other WOOD: Weatherboard

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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.)

Property is:

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

AGRICULTURE

**Period of Significance**

1877-c. 1905

**Significant Dates**

1877

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Keller and Brockman

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographic References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 2.3 Acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 Zone 16 Easting 592430 Northing 4336440

3 Zone Easting Northing

2 Zone Easting Northing

4 Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Louis Joyner  
organization Louis Joyner, Architect date 08-09-00  
street & number 417 Seventh Street telephone 812-376-7088  
city or town Columbus state IN zip code 47201

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

- Maps
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Mr. William and Rev. Dr. Ann L. Glass  
street & number 2325 South Jonesville Road telephone 812-373-0733  
city or town Columbus state IN zip code 47201

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications 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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

David Aikens House  
Bartholomew County, Indiana

---

**SECTION 7: DESCRIPTION**

**General**

The David Aikens House is a two story, crossplan Italianate farmhouse with a two-story kitchen wing in the rear. A portion of the kitchen wing is one story over the pantry and the former recessed porch. The front portion of the house might be characterized as a "gable front type", having a three bay façade and main entrance in the southerly bay, and gable facing the road. The roof is gabled, with box gutters; there is a shed roof over the pantry. It is built of brick on a limestone foundation. No portions of the house are additions. According to the contract for construction, the house was built between April and September 1877 for the sum of \$2250.00

Copies of the original specifications, dated April 26, 1877, have survived, though the original has been lost. They are signed by the property owner, David Aikens, and the contractors, Keller and Brockman. The specifications refer to drawings, but none have come to light. There is a remarkable consistency between the specifications and the house as it was built. The specifications refer to details from other houses in town (as in the porch that was to be "like Teboe's"), simplifying both the drawings and specifications. The specifications provide a clear picture of the relationship between the homeowner and builder. Their language illustrates the manner in which a building was conceived, and the means by which it was to be constructed.

In style, the house is a restrained version of the Italianate. (Photo 1) It has many Italianate characteristics, such as plan, massing, the box gutters and the side porch. On the other hand, it lacks many elements that are widely associated with the Italianate style, such as hip roofs, brackets, and bays. It appears to be stylistically transitional between the Greek Revival and Italianate. Were it not for the firm date of construction, the house could easily be taken for one built a good ten years earlier. Nevertheless, it is not, for the area, an unusual style of house: in the Columbus Historic District, there are at least four similar houses, all built around 1870.

The house is located on Jonesville Road (Indiana State Route 11), approximately 2 miles southwest of downtown Columbus, and about 1/2 mile south of the unincorporated village of Garden City.

The house was formerly the farmhouse of a substantial farm of over 266 acres. The farm is in the floodplain of the East Fork of the White River, and extends east from the road to the riverbank. The land is flat, rising only slightly in the area of the house, and is prone to seasonal flooding. According to FEMA flood maps, the immediate area of the house is above the 100-year flood elevation, but all of the remainder of the original farm is within the 100-year flood zone; much of it is in floodway. Because of the likelihood of flooding, the cropland is not greatly threatened with development. The farm was subdivided in the late 1970's when Aikens' heirs sold the property. The cropland is now four parcels; the house and road frontage were sold off in smaller parcels of less than 5 acres each. This nomination includes 2.3 acres with the house and associated outbuildings.

The house faces to the west, toward Jonesville Road, known at the time of construction as the Driftwood Valley (also Irwin's Turnpike). Across the road, on the grounds of the former county poor farm, is the county fairground. The Louisville and Indianapolis Railroad parallels the road on the west side. The rail line was in existence at the time the house was built. The house stands on 2.3 acres of flat lawn landscaped with several mature trees and flowerbeds. Two outbuildings are on the property: a small nailed-frame barn dating from about 1905 located northeast of the house (Photo 20), and a modern 6 car

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

David Aikens House  
Bartholomew County, Indiana

garage built after 1977 due east of the house. The farm's main barn, of unknown type or date, originally stood due east of the house. Reported to have been in an advanced state of deterioration, it was demolished in the late 1970's. The house is the most significant structure of the remaining group.

Two additional buildings are historically associated with the house, but ended up on other parcels when the farm was subdivided. A tool or wood shed, approximately the same age as the existing nailed-frame barn, stands southeast of the house and would have been among the original group of outbuildings. A small one-story hall and parlor house with kitchen ell stands due east of the house in the middle of the farm, and has historically been known as the hired hand's house. This house is occupied, but has been heavily altered, and poorly maintained. A brief inspection revealed that it could date from as early as 1855 (if on a new foundation), or could be from as late as 1890.

The Aikens house is in excellent condition, and is substantially unaltered. The principal alteration has been the replacement of the original 2 over 2 double hung wood sash with single light double hung vinyl sash. The original window frames and sills remain in place, and have been covered with brake-formed painted sheet metal. A second alteration enclosed the recessed porch on the north side of the house, converting it for use as a bathroom. Both alterations were done about 1977, predating the house's inclusion in the county Historic Resources Inventory, done in 1979 (published 1980), and can be seen in the photographs taken then. Wood soffits have been covered with aluminum soffit material. The specifications called for exterior shutters, which have been removed.

HOUSE

Exterior

In plan, the Aikens house consists of an L-shaped two-story portion with a two-story kitchen extension in the rear. The north side of the kitchen extension has a one story shed-roofed portion that houses the pantry and a bathroom in an area converted from a recessed porch. A small Italianate porch is tucked in the L on the southwest side of the house.

The west, or front elevation is three bays wide with the front door in the southerly bay and a box-guttered gable facing the road (Photos 1 & 2). The foundation is a rusticated random ashlar of "blue" limestone laid, according to the specification, with "tuck joints"-a fat, tooled extruded joint (Photo 8). The foundation wall is capped by a beveled watertable of dressed limestone that also functions as sills for the door and windows. This watertable occurs only on this façade. The steps to the entrance are also limestone. The stoop is a limestone slab approximately 6 feet wide, 3-1/2 feet deep, and 8" thick. Apparently from a different source than any of the rest of the building stone, it is a darker gray and contains some visible fossils. It is rather loosely layered and badly weathered due to moisture infiltration and frost (Photo 9).

On both floors the one over one windows are evenly spaced above one another. On the first floor, they start at floor level and are about 8 feet high. Second floor windows also start at floor level and are slightly shorter. As is the case throughout, the sash (with one exception) were all replaced in the late 1970's with single light vinyl sash (Photo 12). The original frames remain in place, covered with brake-formed sheet metal. The specification calls for the following: "The windows in the front part of the house will be 15x40 glass 4 lights. Box frames with sash cord and pulleys with weights to suit. The windows will be provided with fastenings." Because the frames remain in place, reinstallation of reproduced sash based on the original specifications would present little difficulty, mitigating the impact of the alteration.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

David Aikens House  
Bartholomew County, Indiana

---

Lintels and sills throughout the house are a dressed fine-grained limestone, warm gray in color. This stonework has a bush-hammered finish with chiseled margins. This finish pattern was used on the stone of the watertable on the façade as well. (Photo 11) The likely source for the limestone was eastern Bartholomew County, or from a nearby county farther to the east, where such stone is abundant.

The entrance in the southerly bay of the first floor has a single light wood door and transom. The door has two horizontal panels and three smaller square panels between. This is a door style more consistent with Queen Anne and appears to have been salvaged from elsewhere for reuse. It does not correspond to the door described in the specifications, which describes the door as follows: "The front doors will have one light for top panel of a neat form with oversized circle corners with transoms to suit the door. Said door will have projecting mould on the outside, and will be 1-3/4 inches thick, with mortice (sic) locks." A door matching this description is now the kitchen door and is believed to have been moved from its original location. (Photo 13)

The house is built of a red brick typical of the area, laid in common bond throughout. The brick was probably made locally, though owing to the sandy nature of the soil on the farm, was probably made on a nearby site. The specifications call for the mortar joints to "appear smooth and white when finished." Joints are now generally weathered. Mortar quality in the Columbus area in the 19<sup>th</sup> century was rather poor. In this respect, the mortar quality in the Aikens house is well above the norm. Exterior and interior bearing walls are three wythes thick.

The roof of the house is gabled throughout, and has metal-lined box gutters. (Photo 10) The eaves overhang about 20" at the gutters and on the gable ends. There is an ogee molding running continuously along the fascia. The profile of the molding is more typical of the Classical sources than the deeply recurved molding that is typically seen on Italianate buildings and can be found elsewhere on the house (Photo 17). In order that all rooflines meet at the peak, roof slopes vary depending on their span, with the front portion of the house having the shallowest slope and the cross gable having the steepest. (Photos 1,3,4) The box gutters appear to be in good condition, with minimal sagging or deterioration evident. The soffit has been covered with aluminum soffit material. The gutters appear to be lined with the original metal. The specifications say, "The roof will be covered with the best quality of pine shingles, laid 4-1/2 in. to the weather." It is now covered with three tab asphalt shingles.

The house has two chimneys, now capped or used as gas appliance vents.

There is a typically Italianate porch located in the corner formed by the intersection of the front portion and the projection of the dining room. (Photos 6 & 7) It was described as follows in the specifications:

"The Verandah will be on the south in the angle, and will be 5 x 12 ft. of a nice neat pattern, (sic) high (sic) to suit the first story. The posts will be formed with 1/4 round in the corners and base and capitals. The cornice will be plancier, fascia (sic) and crown mold with neat cap. The varandah (sic) will be covered with tin flat seam with one down-spout (sic) running into large down-spout (sic). The floor will be ash or oak. The varanda (sic) will be like Teboe's (*a house that stood at 805 Washington Street*)."

The Teboe porch no longer exists in order to verify that the specifications were followed, but the porch as built is very much as described in the specification. The columns do indeed have bases, their corners have quarter-round chamfers, and they have molded capitals. The original flat-seam tin roof and single downspout remain in place. The porch floor and steps are now concrete. There are brackets at each of the columns supporting the cornice, and spanning between the columns are ogee arches bordered with semi-circles having applied scrolled ornament in the tympana and a scroll-sawn pendant ornament in the center.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 4

David Aikens House  
Bartholomew County, Indiana

---

About two miles south on Jonesville Road, the porch on the c. 1870 James Daugherty House (Bartholomew County Interim Report #1223) is identical to this porch. In addition to their contracting business, Keller and Brockman also owned a planing mill, where the parts for both porches may have been produced.

The north elevation (Photo 3) has a two-story portion corresponding to the front section of the house, and a lean-to portion at the rear that houses the former recessed porch and pantry. At the rear of the two-story portion, the gable marks the cross-plan portion of the house. One window on each floor is centered under this gable. The recessed porch is flanked on one side by the house, on the other by the pantry and opens directly into the kitchen. Porches of this sort were not an uncommon element of the kitchen "L" of an I house prior to 1860. Later in the century, they were far less often built, and by the time the Aikens house was built, the recessed porch was a rarity.

The recessed porch has been infilled for use as a bathroom with a frame wall, using "T-111" roughsawn plywood siding. Three of the bathroom's interior walls are the original brick of the bathroom, with furring only as necessary to permit plumbing. At least one window or door leading into the kitchen was infilled when the conversion was made. A concrete porch floor was poured at some point in the past. When the bathroom was built, a wooden floor was built over the concrete, with a step of about four inches up, permitting waste lines to be run. The alteration of the recessed porch appears to be fairly easily reversible, though the practicality of a bathroom on the first floor makes its removal unlikely.

The sash in the pantry window is the only remaining original sash in the living areas of the house. It is double-hung with four-light sash. Basement window sash appear to be original. (Photo 11)

The east elevation is dominated by the two story gabled mass of the kitchen extension. (Photo 4) To the right (north) is the one story shed-roofed pantry. The continuous bond pattern of the brick and foundation indicates that the shed-roofed portion was built as part of the original plan. Windows, as in the rest of the house, have one over one double hung vinyl sash. According to the specs, the windows "...in the kitchen part will be 12 light 10x16 glass..." The small 4 over 4 window in the pantry is an indication that that was the glazing pattern followed in the kitchen. The change from larger glass size in the front to small in the rear is not unusual at this point in the century, when the difference in glass size probably had a significant cost impact and it would have been read at the time as representing the hierarchical relationship between the living areas and the work areas of the house. A window with segmental arch lintel is centered below the kitchen window and lights the basement.

The south elevation has the Italianate porch located in the corner formed by the front portion of the house and the cross gable. Windows are asymmetrically located in the cross gable portion, with a chimney rising from the roof peak.

*Interior*

The plan of the Aikens house is roughly sketched on the property plan attached. It consists of a front parlor with stair/entrance hall. The entrance hall leads to the dining room. To the left is a bedroom, and beyond is the kitchen. The kitchen and bedroom originally opened onto a recessed porch that has since been infilled for use as a bathroom. A back stair leads from the kitchen to a bedroom above. This bedroom does not communicate with the front portion of the house, and was probably intended for use by hired hands or household help. (The 1880 census showed that Aikens lived here with his wife, daughter, a niece of Mrs.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 5

David Aikens House  
Bartholomew County, Indiana

---

Aikens', and one farm laborer.) A flight of stairs from the kitchen leads to a light, dry stone-walled cellar the size of the kitchen above.

In the stair hall, the stairway rises in a long straight run to a 90-degree curve at the top. Describing the stairs, the specification says: "The front stairs will be good easy stairs with quarter circle at the top. The treads will be ash; the risers will be poplar, with banisters (Ash). Rail will be walnut of a neat mould. The stairs will be finished with cove and neat bracket." The stairs were built as specified. The scrolled stringer ornament is grained as noted in the specification. The newel post is walnut and heavily turned in a manner typical for the time. Balusters are made of ash, and are turned, with square bases. (Photos 14 & 15)

The wide tongue and groove poplar floors have a clear finish. Jacquard carpet remnants were found tucked under the baseboards in some rooms when the house was renovated in the 1970's.

Interior trim progresses through the house, from elaborate to fairly simple in keeping with the rooms' hierarchy of importance. The parlor and front hall have trim that combines the Classical elements of a low-pitched pediment and "ears" at the tops of the side trim, with a heavy surrounding molding whose profile is very typical for the Italianate. (Photos 16 & 17) In the dining room, the trim is simplified: the same molding continues around the trim, and there is a slight pitch to the lintel instead of the more clearly defined pediment of the parlor. (Photo 18) The trim in the bedroom, kitchen, and throughout the rest of the house is uses flat members on the jambs, with a slightly pedimented lintel that is topped by a small molding. (Photo 19) All interior doors have transoms, with etched glass in those of most importance, single light plain glass in areas of less importance, and two-light plain glass elsewhere. The baseboards are about 8" tall with a shoe mold and are capped with a molding. Interior trim is now painted, but according to the specifications was grained in an oak pattern. The stairway has not been painted, and some graining remains on the baseboard and secondary trim. The grain pattern bears some resemblance to oak, though not overwhelmingly so.

There are fireplaces in the parlor and dining rooms; both apparently intended to have coal grates. Both have had the mantels replaced. The specifications called for "...one iron mantle and grate to cost \$35 or \$40 dollars one wooden mantle the same stile (sic) as Joe Conden's..." The white oak mantel in the parlor appears to date from about 1910. It has one plain column on each side of the fireplace, and was installed by a previous owner after 1985. The fireplace in the dining room is a rectangular mass of exposed ruffed brick with a wood mantel. Based on the style of the fireplace and the period when that brick was popular, this fireplace was probably built during the 1920's.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 6

David Aikens House  
Bartholomew County, Indiana

---

**NAILED FRAME BARN**

The small nailed-frame barn that stands 50 yards or so northeast of the house is the only remaining outbuilding on the property. (Photo 20) It appears to date from around 1905, but that is admittedly quite approximate. The barn's dimensions are approximately 30' x 60', with a gable running along the long axis. A lean-to shed addition is on the west side. The barn is roofed in metal, and sided on the east and north with tongue in groove pine siding, and on the west and south with roughsawn cedar applied over the original siding. There are two large sliding doors on the east side. The frame of the barn is all native, roughsawn lumber. Most of the members are 4x4's, with 2x members for joists and rafters. The entire frame is nailed. It is on a concrete foundation, with a dirt floor. The original purpose of the building is not immediately evident, though equipment storage seems likely. There is one slatted interior wall that may have been part of a corncrib, though no evidence of the other corncrib walls remains.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 7

David Aikens House  
Bartholomew County, Indiana

---

**SECTION 8: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The David Aikens house meets National Register criteria A and C in the areas of significance of Architecture and Agriculture. The house and grounds represent one phase in the economic and social patterns that marked settlement and development of Bartholomew County. The house is an excellent example of a very simple variant on the Italianate style that is neither common nor widely recognized. It is a fine and substantial farmhouse, located in a county that has few remaining farmhouses of this quality. Of those that were built, few have survived in similar condition. Also of significance is the fact that portions of the original construction documents have survived, in the form of copies of the construction specifications and the contract for construction.

**Agriculture**

Bartholomew County was organized in 1821, and Columbus, the County seat, was founded that same year. Settlement in the county began in 1819. The county grew slowly, but at a pace equivalent to its neighbors through the end of 19<sup>th</sup> century. With the exception of Hope, a town with a present-day population of about 2500 in the northeast corner of the county, Columbus was the only town of consequence that developed in the county, the others mainly being small crossroads hamlets.

The county is made up of four distinct natural regions that have had clear effects on settlement and development patterns in the county. In the northeast, the land is fertile and rolling glacial till and moraines, and saw fairly early settlement and intense agricultural use. This area is centered on the town of Hope, and was heavily settled by Moravians who came from North Carolina in the 1840's, and remains largely agricultural. The southern part of the county, settled by North Carolina Quakers in the 1820's and centered on Sand Creek Township, ranges from fertile sandy bottomland along the White River, to uplands of loess (wind-deposited sand and silt), deposited after the retreat of the glaciers. The western part of the county is primarily unglaciated land marked by steeply eroded hills with poorly drained infertile clay soil. This area proved difficult to farm, and historically was the site of small subsistence farms well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In recent years, this part of the county has seen extensive residential development centered on large man-made lakes. In the center of county is the broad floodplain of the Driftwood and Flatrock Rivers, which meet at Columbus to form the East Fork of the White River, whose wide floodplain continues south to the county line. This floodplain area is at once fertile and difficult to farm: the river is subject to extreme seasonal floods, and the sandy soil dries quickly when there is a shortage of rainfall. During the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, this area was widely known for its fertile land.

In its early years, Bartholomew County was primarily an agricultural county. Early growth and economic development was not vigorous, probably due mainly to poor transportation links and the distance to the markets centers of Cincinnati, Louisville, and Indianapolis. The building of the first rail line linking Madison and Indianapolis in 1844 provided the critical link for sale of agricultural products. This spurred economic development and population growth. According to U.S. Census records, the county's population grew by almost 50% between 1850 and 1860. By 1870, it had grown by almost 75%, from 12,428 in 1850 to 21,133 in 1870. In subsequent years, the population grew slowly, leveling around 24,000 until 1930. In the late 1920's and early '30, Columbus experienced significant industrial and population growth, eclipsing the seats of the neighboring counties in size and importance as a regional economic center.

The development of Bartholomew County's rural architecture reflects the patterns of geography and economic and social development outlined above. The familiar progression from small early log or frame houses, to larger frame or brick houses took

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 8

David Aikens House  
Bartholomew County, Indiana

---

place here as it did elsewhere. Because the period of greatest population growth was after 1850, there are few buildings remaining in the county that date from before then. The 1860's saw the first development of substantial farmhouses with definite pretensions to style, with several Greek Revival two story I houses in the rich, well-drained farmland of the northeastern and southeastern parts of the county. Elsewhere in the county, it is evident that the combination of poor ground and uncertain transportation held up development by several years: in the western part of the county it was not until the 1890's, and in some cases decades after that, that the housing of early settlement was finally replaced.

Whether because of modesty, lack of money, or indolence, Bartholomew County did not develop large numbers of showy farms, even after the period of initial settlement was over. An exception, ironically, was in the Quaker enclave of Sand Creek Township, where they are comparatively abundant, dating from the 1850's and into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Throughout the county, brick houses were rarely built, due perhaps in part to lack of suitable clay deposits in the predominantly sandy soils.

Within this context, Aikens' accomplishment in building a substantial house is more significant. Within a three-mile radius of the Aikens house, only 4 other farmhouses of similar size and quality remain standing (City of Columbus excluded). Of these, only one is relatively unaltered, with many of its outbuildings remaining and its farm context intact. Another is, like the Aikens house, in good condition and relatively unaltered but with loss of the farm context (D.W. Heagy Farm, National Register 1998). Of the others, one is badly deteriorated and the other heavily altered. Enlarging the radius captures more equivalent properties but does not substantially alter the ratios.

The Aikens farm was located on 266 acres of productive bottomland adjacent to the White River, about 2 miles south of Columbus and the confluence of the Driftwood and Flatrock Rivers. David Aikens was a native of Virginia, born in 1835. He is known to have moved to Bartholomew County in 1860 with his wife Isabella. They had one daughter, Anna, born in 1861. Their names do not appear in Columbus Township (where this property is located) in the 1870 census, but the 1874 directory of Bartholomew County locates him two miles south of Columbus, probably at this location (no address given). Aikens' whereabouts between 1860 and 1874 has not been determined.

Aikens prospered on this farm, as evidenced by the size and quality of the house he built. Prior to 1879, he had also become part owner of the Columbus Elevator, located in Columbus at 5<sup>th</sup> and Washington Streets (now the site of the National Historic Landmark-designated Irwin Union Bank by Eero Saarinen), though by the time the 1882 Directory was published he appears to no longer have had an interest in it.

Aikens died in 1887 at the age of 52; the 1898 directory shows that his wife Isabella had moved to Columbus by this time, though she is shown as owning 225 acres of land-presumed to be this farm. The Aikens' daughter, Anna, married William Marr, a member of a large and prosperous county farm family. From about 1927 until 1977, the house was a rental property, owned by heirs of Anna and William Marr. It is not known whether Anna and William lived there before 1927. During the 50 years that it was a tenant house, the house was poorly maintained and received few improvements.

In 1977, the Marr estate sold the farm, breaking it into several parcels, with the house, and barns on one of several 2-5 acre lots along the highway frontage. Earl and Bonnie Davidson bought the house and set about renovating it.

Although the Aikens house is the sole remaining element of the 19<sup>th</sup> century farmstead, it nevertheless is a significant representation of the development of farm complexes in the area from its period of construction. The house was built at a time

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 9

David Aikens House  
Bartholomew County, Indiana

when the very difficult work of settlement and occupation of the land had been supplanted by the business of farming on a large scale and the road access to markets afforded by the railroads and early industrial development could be taken advantage of. A farmer like Aikens actually had cash to spend (\$2250 in this case), and could afford to hire professionals for the task.

The nailed frame barn is a 20<sup>th</sup> century structure, and as such is an example of the development of barn construction. The date of the building is was inexactly determined. In form and proportion it is reminiscent of farm buildings of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but the means of construction reflects the abandonment of the heavy timber frame with mortise and tenon connections, for the lighter and more easily assembled frame seen here. It was clearly not the principal barn, does not appear to have been intended mainly for animals. It may have been built as an equipment shed, to accommodate the larger amounts of farm machinery necessitated by 20<sup>th</sup> century farming practices.

**Architecture**

The David Aikens house is architecturally significant as a fine example of a rural house in the Italianate style in a county with relatively few historic architectural resources of comparable quality, and for which important documentation related to its construction exists.

The Italianate style was most popular from about 1850 through about 1880, with the period of its greatest acceptance during the 1870's when it was the predominant style. Tall, narrow proportions in the massing of the building, the windows and doors, and ornamental detail typified the Italianate style of the 1870's. Hipped roofs with box gutters supported by ornamental brackets were typical of the style. In Indiana, Italianate details were commonly applied to commonly indigenous forms like the 5-bay I house or the 5-bay double pile house. By the 1870's, a crossplan was popular and the Italianate style became more distinct, with a particular building form and a vocabulary of standard details. Often the ends of the wings terminated in one or two story bays. In the corners formed by the intersecting masses, were wood-framed porches with slender, ornamented columns that rose to an ornamented zone of brackets, scrollwork and other detail.

The Aikens house has enough elements of the Italianate style that it can be firmly considered to be of that style, having typical porch, window proportions, box gutters and other typical elements. In many respects, however, it differs. Although built near the end of the Italianate's hegemony, it shares many characteristics with earlier periods, and does not have many of the standard elements of the style, most particularly in its lack of brackets. One might argue that it represents a transitional mode between the simpler forms of the Federal and Greek Revival, and the more ornate Italianate. Had it been built earlier, such a blending might have been more nearly the case. Given that the Aikens house was built in 1877, however, when the Italianate style was at its peak, it would seem that those ways in which it does not conform to the norms of the style were deliberate rather than a carryover from an earlier architectural period. There are, in fact, at least four other houses in Columbus, all dated c. 1870 in the county survey, that are in many respects very similar to the Aikens house. Though their plan-types all vary somewhat, they all have three-bay façades, box gutters, roofs with gables to the street, and have no brackets. Most have Italianate porches, or other clearly identifiable Italianate elements. It is possible that houses served as models for Aikens: as the specifications make numerous references to details on other houses in town, Aikens may have looked to other houses in the area in settling on the basic form for the house.

There is also the possibility that the house was professionally designed. Columbus is known to have had at least two architects working in town at the time. Although no designer is referred to, the hand in which the specifications are written belongs to

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 10

David Aikens House  
Bartholomew County, Indiana

---

neither Aikens nor the representative of Keller and Brockman, leaving open the possibility that a third party was responsible for their preparation.

Keller and Brockman was a construction firm owned by Adam Keller and William Brockman that operated from 1870 on. By 1903, the business had passed to their sons. Keller and Brockman also owned a substantial planing mill that was renowned, according to a contemporary biography of Brockman, for "meeting its contractual obligations." Other buildings by Keller and Brockman are not known. Adam Keller also served as director of the city gas works during this period.

The specifications that have survived are a very unusual document, though unfortunately the original is missing. This document, which has marginal notes and one detail sketch, effectively describes almost all elements of the house, with specific standards of quality (though often it is "of the best sort" or "to the complete satisfaction of the owner"), material, and descriptions of elements of the building. Plans, which have not survived, are referred to. The document is precise and, though it uses archaic terminology, its meaning is clear. The document proceeds through the different elements, such as stone work, or the veranda, describing the materials, details and dimensions if necessary, and giving the standard of quality to be observed.

Much of the significance of the specification lies not in its specifics, but in what is implied in the text. In reading between the lines of the specification, one can begin to develop a sense of the relationship between owner and builder, of the way they came to an agreement, and of the things that they considered to be the most important. One can also begin to sense the way in which the design was developed, with references to familiar details from extant houses in the area.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 9 Page 11

David Aikens House  
Bartholomew County, Indiana

---

**SECTION 9: MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES**

Atlas of Bartholomew County, 1879

Androit, John L. ed. Population Abstract of the United States. McLean, VA: Androit and Associates, 1980.

Biennial Directory of Columbus and Bartholomew County. Detroit: R.L. Polk & Co. 1898.

Biographical Record of Bartholomew County Indiana, Indianapolis: B.F. Bowen Publisher, 1904.

Caron's Directory of the City of Columbus, Indiana, 1917-1918. Louisville: Caron Directory Company, 1917.

Cline and McHaffie. The People's Guide Directory of Bartholomew County, Indiana. Indianapolis: Indianapolis Printing and Publishing House, 1874.

Davidson, Bonnie: Interview with Louis Joyner, July 12, 2000. (Bonnie Davidson was owner of the property during the late 1970's)

Emerson, Charles. Charles Emerson's Columbus Directory, 1882-1883. Indianapolis: Caron and Hollenbeck, 1882.

Haddock and Brown's General Directory of Columbus, Indiana. Indianapolis: Haddock and Brown, 1879.

Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Indiana. Chicago: Baskin Forster & Co., 1876

Jones, Susannah. "Century Old Home Restored to Original Plans." The Republic. September 27, 1979

Specifications Accompanying plans for Mr. David Aikens' Residence, Unpublished Manuscript, 1877. Photocopies in the possession of Bill and Ann Glass (property owners), Louis Joyner, Architect, and the Bartholomew County Historical Society.

U.S. Bureau of the Census, United States Census (Eighth, 1860; Ninth, 1870; Tenth, 1880).

Works Progress Administration. Index to Marriage Record, Bartholomew County 1850-1920. Bound Manuscript, 1941

Works Progress Administration. Index to Death Record, Bartholomew County 1882-1920. Bound Manuscript, 1941

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 10 Page 12

David Aikens House  
Bartholomew County, Indiana

---

**Section 10: Geographical Data**

**Verbal Boundary Description:**

A rectangular parcel located in the Southwest Quarter of Section 36, Township 9 North, Range 5 East. From a point near the south side of the driveway at the edge of the state highway right of way, east 375.40', then north 221.9', then west 372.53', and south 217.09' to the point of beginning. All bearings are nominal, and are more particularly described in the legal description of the property:

Lot 1-B in the replat of Lot 1 in Three Gardens as recorded in Plat Book J, p. 92 (Bartholomew County Records).

**Boundary Justification**

Boundary is based upon the property lines.



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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section \_\_\_\_ Page 13

David Aikens House  
Bartholomew County, Indiana

---

**Photographs**

The following information pertains to all photographs:

Photographer: Louis Joyner, Architect

Date: July 17, 2000

Location of Original Negatives:

Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology  
402 West Washington Street  
W274  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

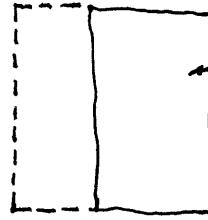
**Photo Number View**

1. West elevation, from southwest
2. West elevation, from northwest
3. North elevation
4. East elevation
5. View from southeast
6. Porch, overall view, from southwest
7. Porch, detail, from south
8. Foundation detail (stonework), west elevation at north corner
9. Foundation detail, stoop, west elevation at south corner
10. Box gutter detail, taken at east side of gable, on north elevation
11. Window detail, pantry window, east end of north elevation
12. Window detail, south elevation
13. Door detail, kitchen door at southeast corner of house
14. Entrance/stair hall, view, looking west
15. Stair/newel detail, looking south
16. Parlor, view, looking west
17. Parlor, trim and transom detail, door to entrance hall, looking south
18. Dining room, view of door and interior trim, door to porch, looking west
19. First floor bedroom, view of doors and interior trim, looking toward southeast
20. Barn, overall view, looking southwest

S.R. 11 / JONESVILLE ROAD

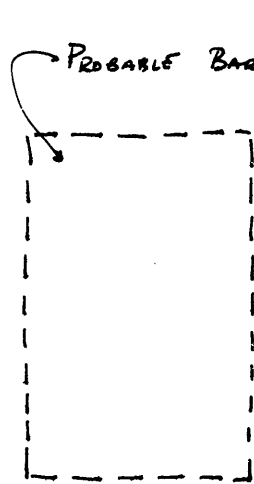
217.09'

372.53'



NAILED FRAME BARN

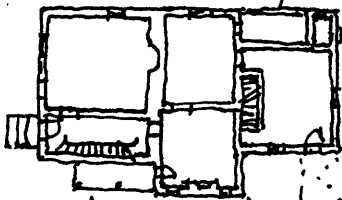
PROBABLE BARN LOCATION



226.9'

INFILLED RECESSED PORCH

HOUSE



ITALIANATE PORCH


PATIO

GARAGE (Non-contributing)

26' DRIVEWAY EASEMENT

375.40'

POINT OF BEGINNING OF DESCRIPTION

SKETCH SITE PLAN  
DAVID AIKENS HOUSE  
NORTH  NO SCALE