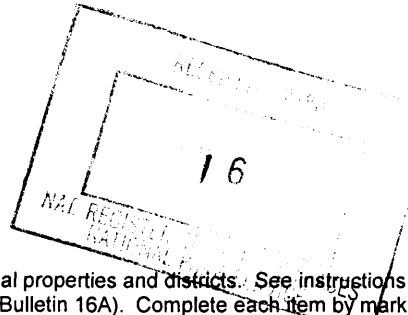


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**



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 **Millen House**
other names/site number **Rain Tree House; Millen-Stalknecht House** 105-055-80021

2. Location

street & number **112 North Bryan Avenue** N/A not for publication
city or town **Bloomington** N/A vicinity
state **Indiana** code **IN** county **Monroe** code **105** zip code **47408**

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.)

John R. Gos 8/11/04
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
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 Beall Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
9/29/04

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
- landscape

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

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

EDUCATION: Education-Related

EDUCATION: Research Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19th c.: Greek Revival

foundation STONE: Limestone

OTHER: Double Pile

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other

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.)

- Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
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.
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:

- owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
removed from its original location.
a birthplace or grave.
a cemetery.
a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
a commemorative property.
less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

Period of Significance

c.1845-1880

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Millen, William Moffett

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:

Indiana Room, Monroe County Public Library

Millen House
Name of Property

Monroe IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	16	542530	4335230	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			

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 Katherine Roberts, Doctoral Student, Indiana University; John Dichtl, Matthew Reckard, &
organization _____ date 02-27-2003
street & number P. O. Box 613 telephone 812/ 334-0717
city or town Bloomington state IN zip code 47402

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 Indiana University Trustees
street & number Indiana Memorial Union, Rm M005 telephone 812/ 855-3761
city or town Bloomington state IN zip code 47405

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 number 7 Page 1

Millen House, Bloomington, Monroe County, IN

Architectural Description

The Millen House (also referred to locally as the Raintree House and the Millen-Stallknecht House, #105-055-90098 in City of Bloomington Historic Sites and Structures Inventory) is a Greek Revival style brick house. It is an excellent example of the Georgian house plan favored by well-to-do farmers in southern Indiana and other parts of the Upland South in the mid-nineteenth century. The house now stands on seven-tenths of an acre from the original 160-acre farmstead that William Moffatt Millen purchased in 1839 in northeastern Bloomington Township.

Today, the Millen House is located on North Bryan Avenue, one block east of the Indiana University campus and within a neighborhood of post-World War II housing. However, the house remains secluded by several large trees and shrubs that were planted by the last private owners, Newton P. and Anna G. Stallknecht, who lived in the house in the 1950s and 1960s. The house faces south, overlooking a long, sloping lawn that runs unencumbered to east Fifth Street. It is the only remaining original structure on the property. A deteriorating concrete block garage that was built in the 1950s (City of Bloomington building permit, 1949) is located behind the northwest corner of the house. Three cisterns are located on the north and west sides of the house, near the northwest back door. A circular gravel drive on the west side of the lot provides access to North Bryan Avenue. Anna G. Stallknecht added a walkway of unusual bricks stamped with a star pattern at the front of the house to accommodate foot traffic from the driveway to the front door.

The house is built of hand-pressed brick bearing walls, yellow poplar framing and a rough-cut limestone foundation. The bricks are laid in common bond, alternating six rows of stretchers over one row of headers. Brick bearing walls of eight to twelve inches divide the rooms in the house, with the exception of four-inch wood frame walls upstairs and downstairs along the west side of the central passage. A massive support beam (10.5" x 18") runs east/west across the ceiling in the upstairs central passage. There are paired, interior brick chimneys at either gable end of the house. They are rectangular and relatively large, featuring slight corbelling in the brick mid-way down. The medium-pitch, side-gabled roof is supported by evenly planed oak rafters and rough sawn yellow poplar nailers and ties. The limestone foundation extends approximately twenty inches above ground level. A full cellar with dirt and cement floor is divided into four rooms, separated by the load bearing brick walls. A stone fireplace protrudes from the northwest wall of the cellar. The exterior entrance in the northwest corner is boarded over (see photo 20).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Millen House, Bloomington, Monroe County, IN

Exterior proportions of the Millen House are typical of the Georgian plan. The north and south faces of the house are divided into five bays, while the gabled ends have two windows on each floor and a central window beneath the gable. The house's 27 windows are all the same size—33" x 77"—and are symmetrically placed. The upper five windows on the north and south faces line up in vertical precision with the windows and doors below. On the gable ends, an attic window is positioned between the two upper and two lower windows. All windows have double-hung sashes with six over six lights. Windows have two-inch unornamented wood casements. There are wide wooden lintels at the top of every window and a limestone sill at the bottom.

The three exterior doors in the house are of similar size—approximately 34" x 74". The front door on the south face of the house is wood paneled and matches the rest of the wood paneled doors in the house (see photo 6). The northwest corner entrance has a blond wood door with a small window on its upper half, and the back central door has two large panes of glass over a wood paneled bottom. Both back entrances have screen doors.

Architectural detailing is restrained but demonstrates an awareness of local Greek Revival style. A portico around the front door comprises the largest concentration of the exterior Greek Revival detailing. Four narrow, square wooden pillars support a flat roof, with an unembellished cornice (see photo 5). Two identical pilasters flank either side of the eight pane sidelights, broken into a unit of two panes over a separate unit of six panes. A tall three-pane casement transom (34.5" x 20") tops the wood panel door. The door and surrounds span approximately six feet (see photo 6). The undecorated, broad wooden lintels, subtle gable-end cornice returns and simple wide band of cornice trim complete the austere Greek Revival exterior treatment.

The Millen House has a rectangular, double-pile plan. A central passage with two adjacent rooms on either side comprises the basic design. The front entrance on the south face of the house opens onto a spacious central passage, approximately ten feet in width. A twelve-inch brick wall that runs east to west divides the downstairs passage, and a door in this wall provides access to the back portion of it (see photos 11 and 12). The front and back entrances align on either end of the passage. Two rooms of similar dimension (approximately 16' x 16' with twelve foot ceilings on the first floor and ten foot ceilings on the second floor) flank the central passage on each floor of this two-story house. Each room has a fireplace, and except for the downstairs southeast room, all rooms have corner presses (see photo 16, left side).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Millen House, Bloomington, Monroe County, IN

Each of the first floor rooms has two doors—one leading to the central passage and another opening into the adjacent room. An exterior door on the north face of the house opens into the northwest room. To the west of the doorway in the middle of the central passage is the interior entrance to the cellar stairs.

A straight staircase to the west of the front entrance leads to the second floor (see photo 11). The four upstairs rooms have only one door each, with no access between rooms. Against the north wall of the upstairs central passage is a trunk room (now a bathroom) and small utility closet. At the south end of the upstairs central passage there is a straight staircase leading to the attic (see photo 19). The attic has a window in the center of the east and west walls. The 4" x 6" floor joists are approximately two feet apart and are covered with slats of particleboard. Two thin walls of paneling run the east to west length of the attic, closing access to its north and south ends.

Interior Greek Revival detailing is equally restrained and is concentrated in the transoms, the mantels and door, window and baseboard molding. The downstairs southeast room was likely the formal parlor and contains the most lavish detailing. The two-inch curvilinear molding around the interior and exterior of the central passage doorway is repeated around all the windows and the door to the adjacent room as well as on top of the twelve-inch baseboards (see photo 15). In addition, the windows are emphasized with four-inch embrasing and wide sills. (The southwest room has the same window embrasure but does not feature the same molding.) A wooden mantelpiece is stored in the attic and has thin classical, horizontal lines, corner block bull's eyes, and channeled pilasters; another mantelpiece with simpler ornamentation is stored in the basement. Both are period pieces that are very probably original to the house. The imposing marble mantel in the southeast room was installed by the Stallknechts sometime after they acquired the property in 1950.

Throughout the rest of the house, molding is a consistent two-inch band of flat, two-tiered woodwork around windows and doors. Baseboards have unornamented functional, molding. All first floor doors have the same tall casement transoms as the front door, while upstairs transoms are narrow, single panes (34.5" x 7"), which do not open (see photo 18). The three remaining wooden mantels have the clean lines, plain panels, and Doric pilasters typical of the Greek Revival style (see photos 16 and 17). The mantel in the southwest downstairs room has an unusual row of four triangular bars at either end of the horizontal panel (see photo 14).

The basic plan, structure and interior woodworking in the Millen House are virtually unaltered. Some changes have been made in the interest of structural maintenance and the accommodation of a contemporary lifestyle. Indoor plumbing was installed, and a bathroom was

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

Millen House, Bloomington, Monroe County, IN

added on the second floor. According to Robert Louttit, who lived in the house in the 1930s, where there now is a small utility closet next to the upstairs bathroom, there used to be a small staircase that descended to the central back (i.e., north) room. Carol Hudson, an occupant of the house from 1949 to 1950, reported that Indiana University installed the first floor bathroom at this time to accommodate the large number of residents—her family, which was renting the first floor, and six medical students living on the second floor. Four of the eight original fireplaces have been completely plastered over, and the other four are sealed off. The house is now heated with a forced air furnace, which is located in the basement, along with the main electrical panel. According to Carol Hudson, a coal bin was added next to the northwest corner fireplace in the cellar, and there was a coal-burning furnace in the cellar as late as 1949. Indiana University workers completely rebuilt the wooden double door closure over the exterior stairwell to the cellar in the late 1990s (see photo 8). Ductwork for the central air system runs along the bottom side of the first floor joists, with intake and exhaust vents cut into the floor boards. Central air reaches the second floor through vertical ducts that pass internally through the east and west walls of the central passageway and, external to the wall, through the first floor bathroom. Electrical wiring was laid under the floorboards, with one electrical outlet mounted into the floor of each room. Newer wiring was added, probably after the house became an office in 1970, and runs in conduits along the walls.

According to notes and reports in the Organization of American Historians office files and in the Indiana University Archives, Newton P. and Anna G. Stallknecht, who lived in the house in the 1950s-1960s, repointed the brickwork and installed two star-capped, steel supporting rods from north to south through the brick load bearing walls. Anna Stallknecht also claimed to have had the floor joists strengthened with the addition of steel and brick supports and the front (south) porch replaced (see photos 5 and 6). A late-nineteenth-century photograph in the Indiana University Archives shows the front of Millen house then had a flush portico with Greek Revival entablature and detailing. The current porch also has Greek Revival detailing, more elaborate than original detailing inside the building. Although not original, the porch is a reasonably sympathetic addition. Its brick foundation is not continuous with the house's (there is a small gap between the two). Two upright limestone blocks sit equidistant on either side of the existing porch. It has been speculated that these may be remains of an earlier porch's foundation.

Stallknecht reported that she had removed a deteriorating wooden porch and replaced it with stone. This presumably refers to the porch floor which is limestone today (as are the stairs). Above floor level, the porch is wood (as it was in 1977 according to Helen Kahn).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

Millen House, Bloomington, Monroe County, IN

No additional evidence of the present porch's origins have been located. The house was outside the city until recent times and does not appear on any Sanborn maps between 1883 and 1947. In the mid-1970s, University carpenters removed the original wooden porch that ran the length of the back (north) of the house, and a small concrete porch with an awning was added to the northwest entrance. The wooden northwest door, which has a small plexiglass window, was probably added in the late 1960s or early 1970s, when Millen House was converted into office space. Other alterations include the installation of drop ceilings, particle board flooring, and paneling partitions in the attic.

The Millen House has a few distinguishing features that reveal the individual needs and whims of the builder/designer. The central passage of most Georgian plan houses is an open space from front door to back door. This feature, which circulates air well, is a blessing in the summer, but can be a curse in the winter. The builder of the Millen House seems to have wanted the prestige of the central passage design but also the ability to manipulate the space. Shutting the door in the middle of the passage could stem cold and warm air circulation. In addition, this would create a separate back room, accessible from the back porch and the northwest and northeast downstairs rooms.

The wood frame walls along the west side of the central passage are a little unusual for local Georgian plan houses, which mostly feature load bearing brick walls on either side of the central passage. Of further interest is the slight jog between the northwest and southwest wood walls downstairs. Because of this the northwest downstairs room is approximately one foot narrower than the rest of the downstairs rooms and the back part of the central passage is one foot wider than the front part. This may have been done to accommodate the interior cellar entrance. Other peculiarities include a small set of cabinets tucked into the southeast corner of the southwest room (see photo 13) and a cabinet of similar dimensions embedded into the wall just to the east of the front door.

The Millen House is in remarkably good condition. It retains much of its original glass, and all but three doors in the house are original. According to employees who work in the house today and were present at the time, these original doors were stripped of multiple layers of paint in 1990. Other than the loss of their original finish the doors are in excellent shape, and several have original hinges. The decorative woodwork throughout the house is also original, and it resembles that of other period houses in the area (the Woodburn House #105-055-90170 and the Blair-Dunning House #105-055-66005 in the City of Bloomington Historic Sites and Structures Survey, 2004; the Samuel Harbison House #105-055-15028 and the Ben Owens House #105-

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7&8 Page 6

Millen House, Bloomington, Monroe County, IN

055-25016 in Monroe County Historic Sites and Structures Survey, 1989). There have been very few structural alterations to the Millen House. One of the few remaining Georgian plan houses of the 1840s-60s in the county, it retains the overall integrity of its architectural period.

Statement of Significance

The Millen House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, and is historically significant between the years 1839, when the Millens purchased the land, and 1880, when they sold it. The large brick Georgian plan house exemplifies "high style" residential architectural of its time and place. It is one of only four buildings of its type left in Monroe County. While two of these four have been substantially altered, the Millen House retains exceptional historical integrity. The Millen House also meets Criterion A, as an example of a significant residence from Bloomington's settlement era. Its first residents were part of a significant settlement trend that helped shape Bloomington.

The Millen House, like the Thomas Smith House, James Faris House, Woodburn House, and Wylie House, is a surviving landmark of a group of Scotch-Irish Presbyterians who migrated primarily from Chester County, South Carolina, to settle in early Bloomington. The greater part of this migration was complete by 1834. Presbyterians from the uplands of South Carolina who came to southern Indiana in this period were divided into three groups: Reformed Presbyterians, or Covenanters; Associate Presbyterians, or Seceders; and, thanks to a union of most members of these two groups in 1782, the Associate Reformed Presbyterians. As historian James A. Woodburn has shown, key members of these groups migrated together, intermarried, helped transform the economic fabric of the community, were active in the formation of Indiana University, and were anti-slavery in spirit. Some of these settlers aggressively defended the lives of escaping slaves, offering their homes as stations along the Underground Railroad. The Millens were early members of these interconnecting religious communities, which were significant in the early development of Bloomington and Monroe County.

Historical Background

William Moffat Millen (1801-1893) and his first wife, Martha Bonner (d.1843), came to Monroe County from Chester District, South Carolina, by 1834. It was in May of that year that they were received as members of the Union Congregation of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian church in Bloomington. According to church records, William's younger brother, James (b. 1805), and more than a dozen other settlers from South Carolina had formed the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

Millen House, Bloomington, Monroe County, IN

congregation the previous year (Woodburn, 1910). William Millen, fellow migrants from South Carolina, such as Samuel Harbison (an Associate Reformed Presbyterian) James Blair (a Covenanter and a member of the first Board of Trustees at Indiana University), William Fee, and others would establish successful farms close to Bloomington (Woodburn, 1910; Blanchard, 1884).

Millen paid \$1,800 in 1839 for 160 acres in the southeast quadrant of section 34 in Bloomington Township, one mile east of downtown Bloomington. Millen purchased the land from William Bonner, who may have been a relative of his wife, Martha Bonner Millen. The property was well situated, bounded on the north by the Nashville Road (now Tenth Street) and on the south by the Columbus Road (now Third Street). Although documentation has not been found to establish when Millen's house was built, it may have been between 1839, when the property cost him \$1,800, and 1850, when the U.S. Census of Agriculture and the U.S. Census valued his farm at \$3,200 and \$4,000 respectively. The sharp increase in property value over the eleven intervening years—from \$11.25 per acre to \$20 or \$25 per acre—suggests the addition of the house. (In contrast, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service, the average price per acre in Monroe County in 1850 was \$8.)

Martha Bonner Millen died in February 1843, and William married Eleanor McDill (1811-1899) late the next year. Eleanor, William, and William's three children of his first marriage, Eliza, James, and William, occupied the house for many years. William and Eleanor sold it in 1880 and moved to a house in town on Lincoln Street (Shepherd; Millen obituary, 1899).

The Millen family had arrived in Monroe County during a period that saw Bloomington grow from a small frontier county seat with about 700 residents and a tiny seminary to become a prosperous small city with the state university. It was a time of increasing prosperity as well as population, with improved roads and other infrastructure, culminating with the arrival of the New Albany and Salem Railroad in 1854. William M. Millen, at least six of his nine siblings, and his uncle, who also was named William, were part of the economic transformation of the area. By 1835, one of the two Williams opened a steam powered sawmill with William Fee, the first elder of the Millen's Associate Reformed Presbyterian congregation. In 1843 the two business partners added a grist mill to their enterprise (Blanchard, 1884). William M. Millen's sister, Eliza Chestnut Millen (b.1810), was married to one of the most prominent Covenanters in Bloomington, James K. Hemphill (Shepherd; Woodburn, 1910). And when James K. Hemphill, also one of the city's foremost early merchants, passed away in 1837, it was William M. Millen

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

Millen House, Bloomington, Monroe County, IN

and James Blair, another prominent Covenanter, who administered his estate and liquidated the merchandise from his store (*The Bloomington Post*, December 1837-January 1838).

During the previous period of early European settlement, residential architecture in the area had been almost entirely in traditional vernacular styles such as double pen or hall-and-parlor. The new period brought the appearance of more sophisticated, consciously "high style" architecture. In residences this typically meant the Georgian style, a tradition brought by emigrants from Kentucky and the Eastern States. The Millen House is typical of the double-pile Georgian plan, with its paired chimneys at each gable-sided end, symmetrical fenestration and floor plans, and restrained Greek Revival detailing.

The area had limited manufacturing capabilities at this time. Much of the Millen House's considerable architectural ornament is very simple in form and could have been made locally by men with limited skills and few tools. Baseboards in some rooms, for example, are simply boards with a beveled upper half. The house's more sophisticated elements were imported: the hardware certainly, but also quite possibly mantels, doors and windows. The house's Greek Revival ornament, while new to this part of Indiana, was becoming outdated in the eastern U.S., where Italianate and Gothic homes were more in fashion. The Millen House thus reflects the provincial world in which it was built.

There are four brick Georgian houses from this period left in Monroe County, according to the County and City Historic Sites and Structures Surveys. Samuel Harbison, who migrated to Bloomington at the same time as Millen, built a similar brick Georgian house on his large farm in Richland Township around 1840. Joseph Bungler and Benjamin Owens, also prosperous farmers in the county, likewise built large brick Georgian houses between 1850-1860 (respectively #105-40025 and #105-25016 in the Monroe County Interim Report). All three houses have similar restrained Greek Revival detailing in the lintels, cornice returns, and porticos. Unlike the Millen House, all three have an original ell at the back which housed the kitchen. Otherwise the same basic floor plan is the same in all four. The interior detailing in the Harbison and Owens Houses is similar to the Millen House—tall transoms, embrasure around the windows, and simple curved molding along high baseboards, doors and windows.

Both the Owens and Harbison Houses have had substantial structural alterations. In contrast, structural alterations to the Millen House have been few and minor, as discussed in Section 7. Non-structural alterations have also been minor and have resulted in the loss of very little of the building's original fabric. The only substantial missing feature is the shed-roofed

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9

Millen House, Bloomington, Monroe County, IN

porch that once extended the length of the rear façade (replaced by a small modern porch at one door and a stoop at the other).

The historic setting of the building, once an isolated farmhouse, has been substantially altered by residential development. The effects of this are mitigated by the house's location in the center of a block. The building is not in a line with any other building, nor does it directly front on any street. It is surrounded by back yards and, in the front of the house, undeveloped lots, all with mature vegetation. While unlike the house's original environment, which would have been open fields descending to the west toward downtown Bloomington, the present setting give the house a secluded atmosphere which suggests its rural origins.

Further Research

This nomination asserts the house is eligible for the National Register for its architecture and role in settlement; additional investigation may establish that it also qualifies for the Register for its associations to ethnic heritage.

Oral tradition suggests the Millen house may have been used on the Underground Railroad. The Millens were members of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian church, which, in the antebellum period, condemned slavery as an evil. In northern communities the Associate Reformed Presbyterians had an attitude on slavery that "was essentially the same" as that of the Covenanters, or Reformed Presbyterians. (Woodburn, 1910). William M. Millen's father's will, for example, written in South Carolina in 1844, took the rare and radical step of freeing his seven slaves and leaving them \$300 so they could move to free states of their choosing. Unsure if this could be accomplished, Millen's father stipulated that if the slaves could not be freed legally, then they should fall into the care of his children, whom he trusted to ameliorate their situation. Millen's father, although perhaps only a posthumous abolitionist, was serious enough to leave \$300, a large amount of money at the time, to see his plan through. In contrast, he left only \$50 to each of several sons and \$100 to a daughter (John Millen, 1844). This suggests the Millen family's moral beliefs, and perhaps political opinion, was strongly anti-slavery.

Local members of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, or Covenanters, were instrumental in local Underground Railroad efforts. Several of the original Covenanter settlers from South Carolina—Thomas Smith, Rev. James Faris, and James Blair—figure prominently in the only published account of Underground Railroad activity in Bloomington. Faris was an active

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 10

Millen House, Bloomington, Monroe County, IN

abolitionist and had petitioned the South Carolina state legislature to pass a law allowing the voluntary release of slaves.

Despite some effort, however, no connection between the Millen House and the Underground Railroad has been proven. Direct evidence of the Underground Railroad's secret activities is notoriously scarce, but additional research might prove fruitful.

Nevertheless, Reformed, Associate, and Associate Reformed Scotch-Irish Presbyterians who migrated to the Bloomington area in the 1820s-40s were historically important for reasons other than the Underground Railroad. They established a sizeable and lasting presence in Monroe County where they were instrumental in the commercial and civic growth of Bloomington and the establishment of Indiana University. The first president of the university, was a Covenanter scholar and minister. Sons and daughters of these early Presbyterians were early graduates of the university and would join the faculty and administration. (Clark, 1970; Woodburn, 1910). Additional research might establish a stronger link between these developments and the Millen family or their house.

It is clear, however, that the Millens and many of their neighbors were part of an influx of Scotch-Irish Presbyterians who helped settle Monroe County and left a personal, material legacy on the local landscape. Seven of Bloomington's oldest remaining houses belonged to these early settlers: the Thomas Smith House (#105-055-9134), the Woodburn House (#105-055-90170), the Andrew Wylie House (#105-055-74007), the James Faris House (#105-055-90133), the James Blair House (#105-055-90058), and the Millen House in the City of Bloomington Historic Sites and Structures Survey, 2004; and the Samuel Harbison House (#105-055-15028) in the Monroe County Historic Sites and Structures Survey, 1989. All built between 1830 and 1850, these houses leave an important material record of early settlement.

History of the Site: 1879-Present

The Millens sold their house and 158 acres to James B. Clark, a local farmer, and his wife, Anne E. Clark, in 1880. Two acres in the southeastern corner of the original parcel had gone to Robert Rock in 1879. Emily Smith Rogers and her son Ben purchased the house and land in 1882, and Ben sold his eastern half of the property back to his parents three years later (Abstract of Title). Emily Smith Rogers (1832-1898) and Isaac Milton Rogers (1830-1899) lived in the house with their many children until 1900. Isaac was the grandson of Henry Rogers who, with his brother Aquilla, came to southern Indiana in 1816 and was among the earliest

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8&9 Page 11

Millen House, Bloomington, Monroe County, IN

landowners in the county. Portraits of Isaac and Emily Rogers hang in the Millen House's northeast downstairs room (see photo 16). George W. Morrison (1820-1893), a local artist, painted the portraits in March 1878 (Peat, 1954).

The Millen House went through many changes of ownership during the twentieth century, and the land through numerous subdivisions. The Indiana University Foundation bought the Millen House, with its grounds reduced to their present size of seven-tenths of an acre, in 1969. In 1992, the Foundation deeded the house and grounds to the Trustees of the University, who own it at present. Since 1970, at the invitation of Chancellor Herman B Wells, the house has been used by the Organization of American Historians for its executive headquarters.

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United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 12

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 13

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United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9&10 Page 14

Millen House, Bloomington, Monroe County, IN

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Verbal Boundary Description

Lots number ten (10), eleven (11), twelve (12), thirteen (13) and fourteen (14), in Block "I" in Highland Homes Subdivision of the west one-half of the southeast quarter of Section Thirty-four(34), Township Nine (9), North, Range One (1) West, as shown by the recorded plat thereof.

Also part of lots number 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28 in Block "I" in Highland Homes Subdivision of the west one-half of the southeast quarter of Section Thirty-four (34), Township Nine (9) North, Range One (1) West, as shown by the recorded plat thereof, described as follows: The north fifteen feet (15) feet of lot number fifteen (15), and the east forty-one (41) feet of the south ten (10) feet of lot number fifteen (15), and forty-one (41) feet off the entire east end of lots number sixteen (16), seventeen (17), eighteen (18) and nineteen (19), and twenty-six (26) feet off the entire west end of lots number twenty (20), twenty-one (21), twenty-two (22), twenty-three (23), twenty-four (24), twenty-five (25), twenty-six (26), twenty-seven (27) and twenty eight (28), all in Block "I" in Highland Homes Subdivision of the west one-half of the southeast quarter of Section Thirty-four (34), Township Nine (9) North, Range One (1) West, as shown by the recorded plat thereof.

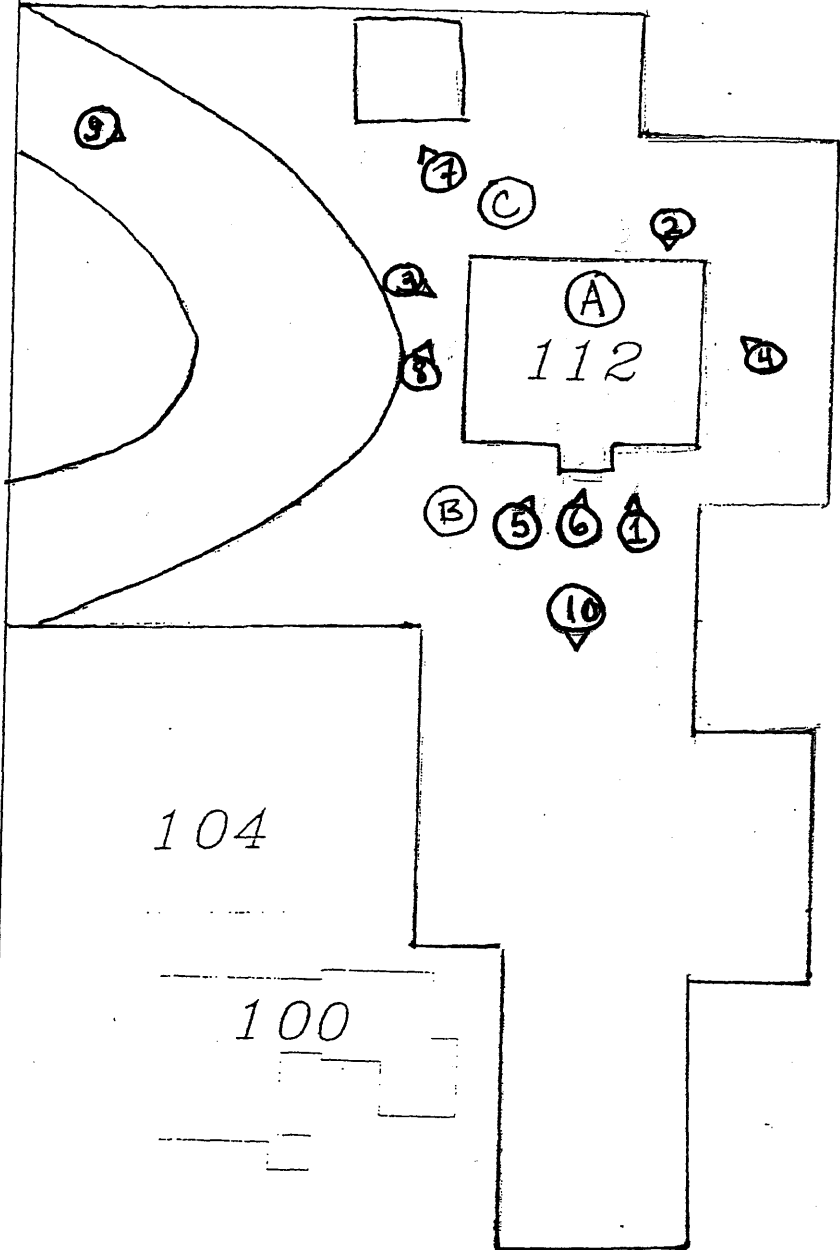
Boundary Justification

These are the legal parameters of the land on which the Millen House stands.

123

120

Legend:
 A. Millen House
 B. brick walkway
 C. cistern



N JEFFERSON ST

104

105

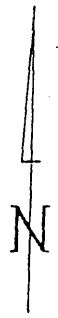
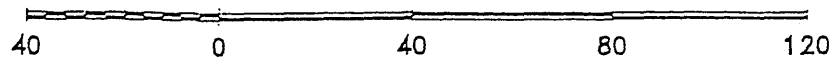
100

2127

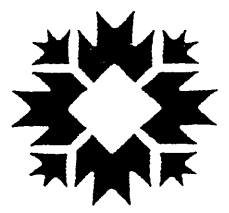
PHOTODOCUMENTATION

Millen House 112 North Bryan
 Monroe County, Bloomington, Indiana

By: hiestann
 24 Feb 03



City of Bloomington

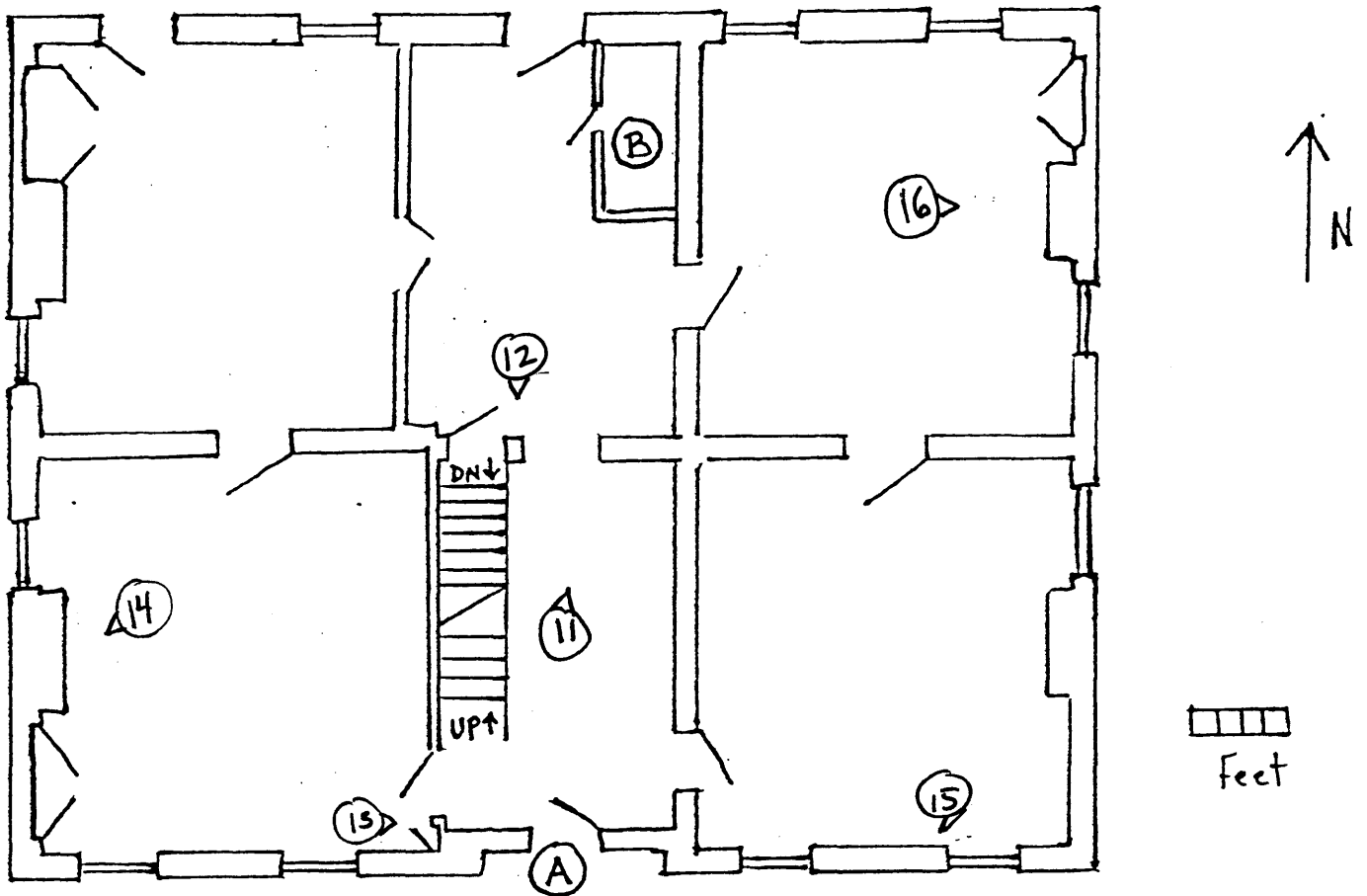


Scale: 1" = 40'

For reference only; map information NOT warranted.

The Millen House
112 North Bryan Ave.
Bloomington
Monroe County, Indiana

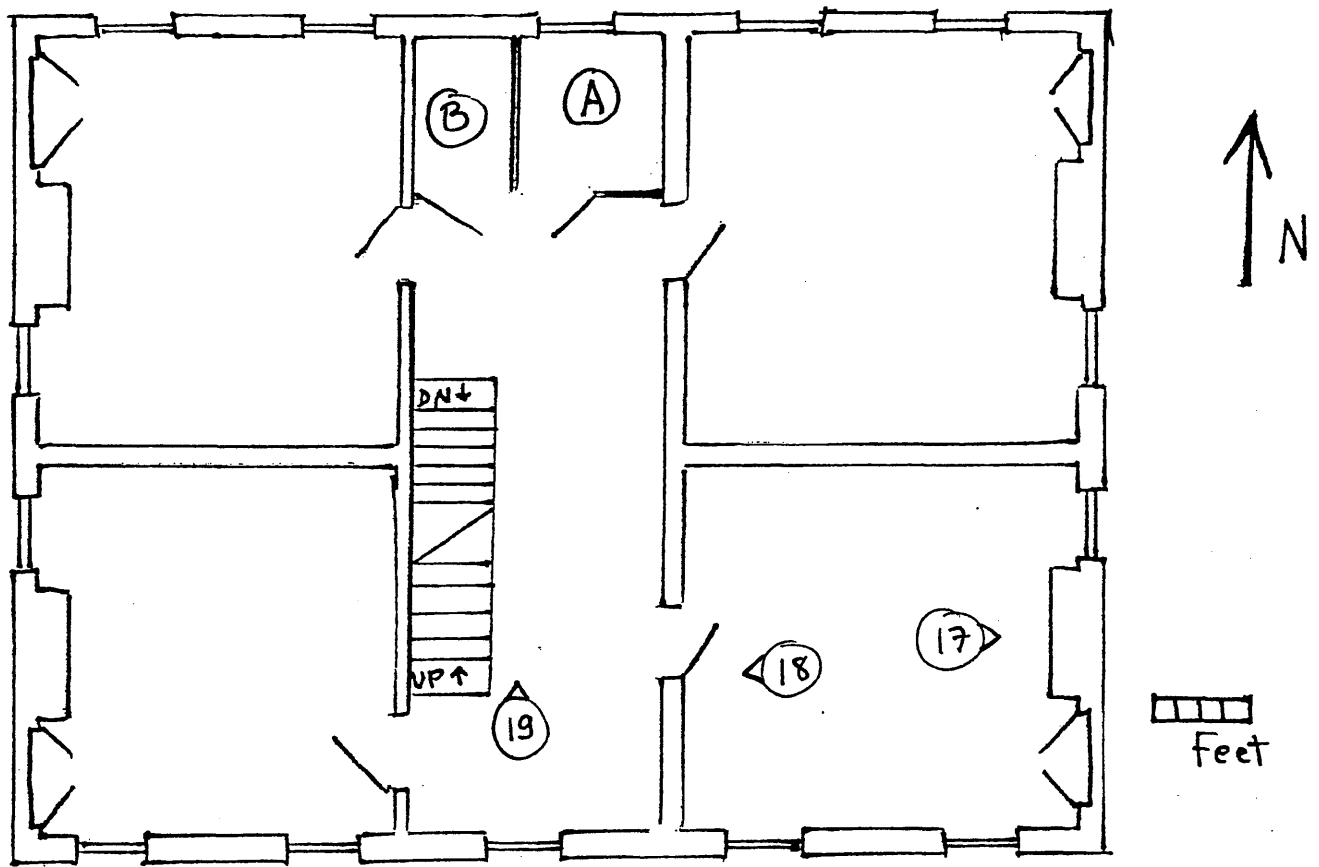
First Floor



Legend:
A. front entrance
B. bathroom

The Millen House
112 North Bryan Ave.
Bloomington
Monroe County, Indiana

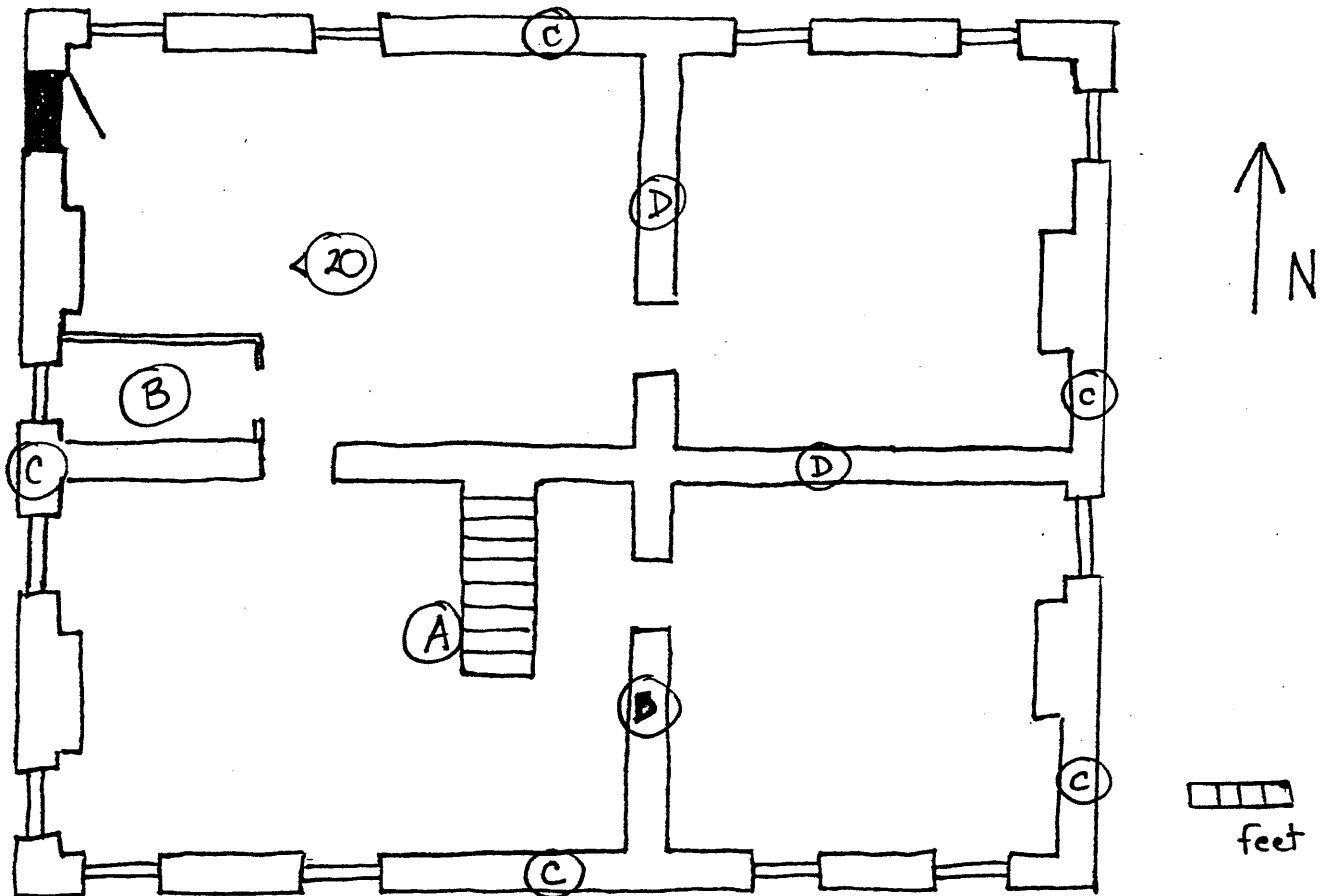
Second Floor



Legend:
A. Bathroom
B. Utility Closet

The Millen House
112 North Bryan Ave.
Bloomington
Monroe County, Indiana

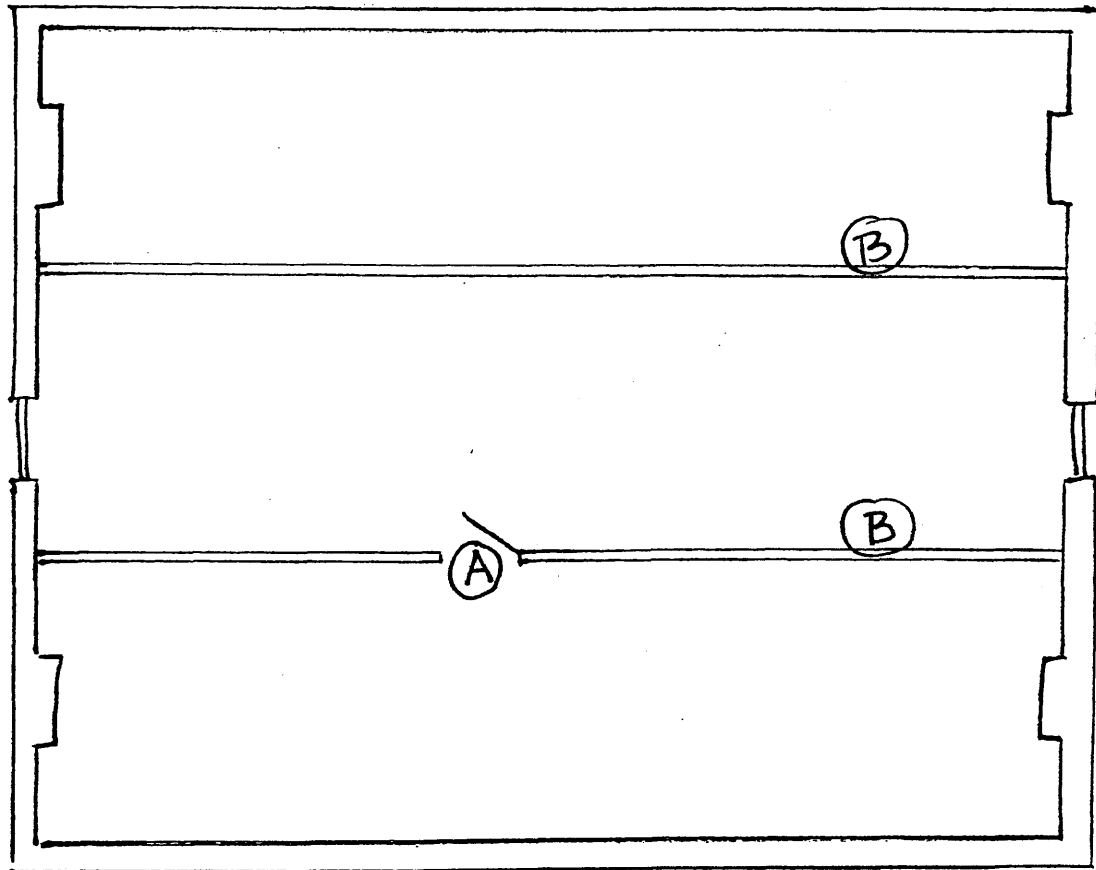
Cellar



- Legend:
- A. stairs to first floor
 - B. coal bin
 - C. limestone walls
 - D. brick walls

The Millen House
112 North Bryan Ave.
Bloomington
Monroe County, Indiana

Attic



- Legend:**
A. entrance from attic stairs at second floor
B. thin paneling partitions