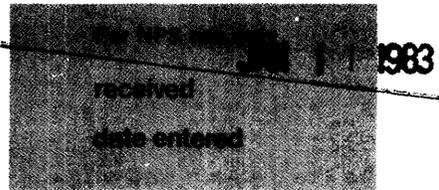


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



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

1. Name

historic Blair-Dunning House

and/or common Paris Dunning House

2. Location

street & number 608 West Third Street N/A not for publication

city, town Bloomington N/A vicinity of congressional district

state Indiana code 018 county Monroe code 105

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name B & C Construction Company

street & number 2801 N.Walnut

city, town Bloomington N/A vicinity of state Indiana 47401

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Monroe County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Bloomington state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1978 federal state county local

depository for survey records Indiana Department of Natural Resources

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana

7: Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Blair-Dunning House is a Greek Revival/Federal-style structure located atop a small hill on the west side of Bloomington, Indiana. The building is situated in what is now a residential area comprised mainly of 20th century houses; when it was originally constructed, however, it was the only building on a six-acre site located in a frontier region. The city of Bloomington has since expanded to engulf the site, and the house now offers a commanding view of West Third Street.

The original section of the house constructed sometime between 1822 and 1845, is a rectangular, two-story, four-pen structure with a medium-pitch gable roof. The ground floor is slightly elevated on a stone foundation, due to the sloping nature of the site. The exterior walls are of soft, hand made brick, laid up in common bond, and the rectangular, double-hung windows feature plain limestone sills and lintels. Below the roofline is a plain frieze and a box cornice with returns. A flush gable chimney appears at the west gable end of this facade, while an offset chimney is located near the east gable end. Both of these chimneys feature decorative corbelling. As originally constructed, the structure's main facade faced north and featured a centrally located main entry and symmetrical window placement.

In the late 1860's, large, one-story additions were constructed at the north and south ends of the house, almost doubling its size. At this time, the orientation of the structure was changed, and the main entry was relocated to the east wall, a gable end. The new wings each consist of a single, large room measuring 26' x 18', and, like the original structure, feature brick exterior walls and medium-pitch gable roofs. Other design characteristics also employed in the additions include the plain stone window sills and lintels, and the flush-gabled chimneys with decorative corbelling.

Sometime in the early 20th century, the exterior of the entire house was stuccoed in order to protect the soft brick. Recent restoration efforts have included the removal of most of this stucco. Extensive masonry repairs were also done at that time.

The interior of the house features an abundance of yellow poplar woodwork, with baseboard widths of up to 18" proportioned to the 11' ceiling height. Each of the six rooms also features a fireplace with a large, but simple, mantel.

The original six-acre tract has been subdivided and sold, so the house now sits on two city lots. No original outbuildings remain, but two cisterns and a pump are still located on the property.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates after 1822, before/ ¹⁸⁴⁹ Builder/Architect Enos Blair

Statement of Significance (~~in one paragraph~~)

The Blair-Dunning House is significant for its association with several important figures in state and local history, most notably Paris C. Dunning, the ninth Governor of Indiana. One of the oldest structures in the area, the house is prominently situated atop a small hill and has long been considered a local landmark.

The home is thought to have been constructed between 1822 and 1845 by Enos Blair, one of the area's first settlers. Blair was Bloomington's first jailer, and also served 12 years as sheriff and Justice of the Peace. After Blair's death in 1845, the home was owned by a number of locally prominent men, including town attorney James Hester, Ransom W. Akin, a former state representative and Indiana University Trustee, and Elias Abel, state representative and Monroe County treasurer.

In 1864, Paris Chapman Dunning acquired the home. Dunning began his professional career as a doctor but abandoned medicine and entered the legal profession, studying under James Whitcomb, of Bloomington. He was admitted to the bar in 1833, and that same year began the first of three terms as a state representative. In 1836 he was elected to the state senate, representing Monroe and Brown Counties. Dunning was elected Lieutenant Governor of the state in 1846; his former teacher, James Whitcomb, was elected Governor of Indiana in the same election. Whitcomb resigned in 1848 to become a United States Senator, and Dunning succeeded to the Governorship, serving in that office until 1850. Dunning later resumed his law practice and served again as a state senator in the 1860's. Dunning was responsible for the additions made to the house in 1867.

In 1869, Dunning sold the house to Jacob Young, a local grocer. Young, in turn, sold the house to Matthew B. Dillon in 1871. Dillon owned a stone quarry and also was involved in local politics, serving as a city councilman. The house remained in Dillon's family until 1931, when it was sold to Henry Steele. Steele subdivided the original six acre tract, allowing the development of the present neighborhood.

The home sits atop a knoll facing east where Third Street makes a tee-intersection with Jackson Street. This siting thus places the house at the terminus of a long vista down Third Street, and helps make the structure one of the most prominent homes in the area.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Blanchard, Charles, editor. Counties of Morgan, Monroe & Brown, Indiana, Historical and Biographical. F. A. Battey & Co., Chicago, 1884, reproduced by Unigraphic, Inc., Evansville, IN, 1969

Myers, Burton Dorr, Officers of Indiana University, 1820-1950. I.U. Press, 1951

(Continued)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Bloomington, Indiana

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6	5	3	9	7	4	0	4	3	3	4	9	3	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H

Zone				Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 1 and 2 of Henry C. Steele's addition to the City of Bloomington.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Katherine Boruff

organization Bloomington Historic Preservation Officer date June 25, 1979

street & number Box 100, Municipal Building telephone 812/339-2261, Ext. 318

city or town Bloomington state Indiana

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature J. W. Redman

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 12-15-82

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 2/10/83

Keeper of the National Register

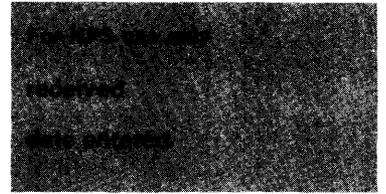
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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



Continuation sheet Blair-Dunning House

Item number 9

Page 1

Woodburn, Hames Albert, History of Indiana University, 1820-1902, Vol. I, I.U. Press, 1940.

Wiley, T. A., I. U., Its History from 1820 to 1890. Wm. B. Burford, printer,
Indianapolis, 1890.