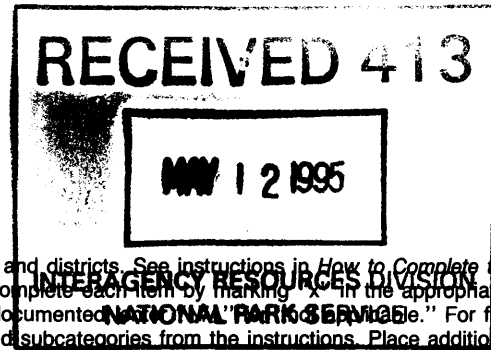


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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, mark "N/A". 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 Witt-Champe-Myers House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Southeast corner, Spring and Foundry Streets N/A not for publication

city or town Dublin N/A vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Wayne code 177 zip code 47327

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 36 CFR 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.)

Robert R. Rabb 4/26/95
 Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
 State of 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 H. Beall 6/9/95
 Signature of the Keeper Entered in the National Register Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal
- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
4	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

AGRICULTURE: agricultural outbuildings

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC: federal

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls BRICK

WOOD: weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

other METAL: aluminum

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)

SETTLEMENT

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1837-1857

Significant Dates

1837

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Witt, Caleb

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical 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 Historical Society

Witt-Champe-Myers House
Name of Property

Wayne County, Indiana
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 1 | 6 | | 6 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 0 | | 4 | 4 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 6 | 0 |
Zone Easting Northing
2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
Zone Easting Northing
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 Thomas M. and Susan R. Slade

organization _____ date October 27, 1994

street & number 4560 Broadway Street telephone (317) 283-6114

city or town Indianapolis state IN zip code 46205-1850

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.)

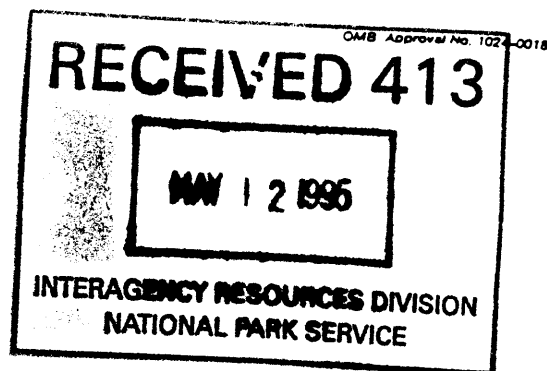
name Robert C. and Helen F. Myers

street & number Rt. 1, Box 333 telephone (317) 478-4109

city or town Cambridge City state IN zip code 47327

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.

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Wayne County, IN

Narrative Description:

The two-story, painted brick Federal Style residence was erected in 1837-1838 after completion and occupancy of the one room house. The primary feature of the house is its two-story, north elevation portico. The open lower level of the portico is accented by six simplified Tuscan columns which are set on a concrete slab. Their irregular spacing is in an A-A-B-A-A sequence. The upper level features a simple railing with wood balusters which connects the second story simplified Doric columns. The wood balusters are detailed as to be miniature columns. The first-story colonnade supports a plain entablature consisting of a narrow architrave, wide frieze and slightly projecting cornice molding. The upper level is finished with a similarly plain entablature. Engaged half columns terminating the east and west ends of both colonnades are set against the brick screen walls which infill the ends of the portico. These three-brick thick walls contain centered six-over-four light sashes in the lower level and four-over-four light sashes in the second level. The east elevation windows are set in segmentally arched brick openings. The west portico windows feature stone lintels. All windows throughout the house are finished with slightly projecting wood sills.

The north elevation is five bays wide. The center bays of both levels contain solid vertical panelled doors topped by triple light transom windows. Flanking these center entrances are pairs of double-hung windows. The second story windows retain their original six-over-six light sashes. Single light sashes were introduced in the 1920's for the first story windows. The present wood storm windows were introduced in recent years as part of an energy conservation program which included a new furnace, central air-conditioning system and additional insulation.

The main block of the house which includes the portico is covered by an open gable or pitched asphalt shingled roof that extends over the portico. East and west elevation open gables with centered interior, unadorned chimneys are finished with compound molded trim which form open returns. Within the main block in both elevations, small four-pane casement windows set in segmentally arched openings are placed behind the prominent gable cornice molding. On the east elevation, the north bay portico windows are the only other openings in these massive common bond brick walls.

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Wayne County

Extending south from the center of the main block is a full-width gabled, one-and-one-half story kitchen wing. On the east elevation, an original recessed open porch has been enclosed with painted wood infill surrounding a small bathroom window to the north, a one-over-one light sash and a paneled, multi-light wood side entry door. A two-step wood porch projecting from the original recessed bay is covered with a flat shed roof supported by four metal 2 x 2 posts. A simple wood railing frames the platform openings to the north and south steps. The east face of the asphalt shingled gable roof is punctured by a full length, clapboarded shed roof dormer which is fitted with four pair of four-light casement windows. The prominent plain brick kitchen chimney rises through the dormer roof. The east wall is finished with paired, double-hung, one-over-one light sash windows which are set into an opening with continuous block lintel and projecting wood sill.

The west elevation has a similar configuration to that of the east elevation. The west end of the main block features the north bay portico windows which are balanced by similarly configured first and second story windows in the south bay. Located at the intersection is the major feature of this elevation, an entrance door from Foundry Street which is sheltered by a simple pedimented portico. The open pediment rests on a plain entablature supported by two Tuscan Revival columns. The columns stand on two raised limestone blocks independent of the entry steps. Above the door and slightly to the north is a diamond shaped window added in 1928 to provide natural light at the top of the stair landing. South of the door is a single double-hung window with six-over-six sash to illuminate the middle room. Further south is a triple section casement window above the kitchen sink. The brick wall in this area exhibits evidence of various repairs and alterations. The two clapboarded gable dormers have paired four-light casement windows.

The plain, functional south elevation of the main block features a single second story window set in the east end. It is configured as the four second story windows of the north facing portico. The south elevation of the kitchen wing features a centered, single story, elevated, projecting enclosed porch with open gable roof. The original brick wall is set with two segmental arched windows located in the peak of the gable. Each window is set with original six-over-six light sashes. The porch is flanked by two windows. The west window is set with a single light sash within the original segmentally arched opening. The east window repeats the set and sash of the east windows. The porch was enclosed in the 1980's with wood clapboard siding set with single light windows flanking the door and long, narrow double-hung single light

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sashes facing east and west. The existing limestone stoop was incorporated into the base of the enclosure.

The footprint of the house is a 30' by 56' rectangle. However, the roof plan divides the house into an east-west rectangle with centered ridge line and a north-south rectangle with the ridge set to west of center. The east-west block contains the two front parlors with bedrooms above and the two story portico. The north-south portion, or kitchen-dining wing combines the west facing doctor's office (now dining room) with the enclosed staircase behind the north wall; an east facing recessed porch; kitchen at south and southwest, plus another small room or area in the southeast corner. On the second floor, two additional bedrooms rooms extending the full width of the kitchen-dining wing were located to the south of the staircase.

The center entrance from the north portico provided access to the original front parlor area. In 1957 the dividing wall between the two front parlors was removed by Mr. and Mrs. Myers. Today, the first floor of the main north block is one open room. The original formal parlor with the entrance was located to the east. The north facing paired windows are set in flat casings finished with projecting compound bolection trim. Contemporary block paneled and louvered shutters are set into the reveals. Centered on the east wall is a segmentally arched fireplace with masonry surround and projecting brick hearth. A slightly projecting mantle shelf set in a mitered ogee molding base was installed in 1928. It extends between the built-in cabinetry which fills the rest of the east wall. To the north is a painted three-part upper wall cabinet with two-panel block front doors which open to reveal shelves the depth of the interior chimney. Below the cabinet are set a pair of cherry and birds'-eye maple drop-front desk units with two drawers beneath each nobbed and paneled front. Each desk is fitted with six centered pigeon holes above five shelves. A pair of stacked four small drawers hang from the top of the opening, flanking the center storage composition. The cabinet composition is framed as the windows. A similarly framed and painted two level cabinet is located to the south of the fireplace. The six doors are fitted with recessed brass hinges and surface mounted brass slide closures. The smaller, west end parlor portion features a similarly detailed projecting clothes press fitted with paired doors. This unit extends along the west wall from the northwest corner of the room. There is no fireplace in this end wall. The west end chimney, as noted in the exterior description, is a false unit, installed to create a symmetrical exterior north elevation. Both portions of the parlor are finished with a narrow painted crown molding set between painted plaster walls and ceilings. The floors are finished with 4"

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Wayne County, IN

wide curly beech tongue-and-groove boards.

Access to the remainder of the first floor is provided at two locations. Originally the open recessed porch could be entered from the south wall of the east parlor. This doorway was closed in 1975, when a shower was added to the 1928 half-bath. Immediately west of this now closed doorway is a painted four-block paneled door which opens to the west-facing rectangular room now used as a dining room. A similar door located in the south wall of the west parlor opens into the dining room at the west (Foundry Street) entrance. To the east, is a similar door accessing the cellar stairs. To the west, the vertical paneled door opens to the Foundry Street entrance.

The dining room features a fireplace in the south wall. A segmentally arched masonry opening is finished with a projecting brick hearth and simple projecting mantle shelf. In 1928, this fireplace was opened to the original kitchen chimney and finished similarly to that of the front parlor. West of the fireplace is an original built-in unit similar to that found to the south of the parlor fireplace. East of the fireplace is the doorway to the kitchen. The entire framing is similar to the dining room cupboard including a double door cupboard filling the transom area between the doorway and the ceiling. The east wall of the dining room is set with a six-over-six light sash below which is fitted with a double door cabinet. This low wall unit opens to the now enclosed east porch. It is said that this unit was used for bringing in the firewood from the porch. Further north along the wall is a fully glazed fifteen light door which was installed in 1928 when the recessed porch was enclosed. The door is set in the original doorway which features the typical three-part toplight. The partially enclosed straight-run stairway to the second floor frames the north wall of the dining room.

In 1928, the open, recessed, east-facing porch was enclosed with fully glazed door, walls and windows similar to the interior door to the dining room. It was at this time that a half-bath with small window was installed in the north portion of the porch. In 1980, the east porch glazed exterior wall and floor was replaced with the present window/door configuration. A doorway opens from this now enclosed porch to the east end of the kitchen. Beginning in 1928, with the closing of the kitchen fireplace, a series of remodelings have occurred in this space. In 1979, the present owners remodeled the kitchen and enclosed the rear porch.

In 1928, the fully enclosed stairway was opened at the east end. A simple molded railing set on 1" x 1" balusters, two per step extends in the open portion immediately adjacent to the doorway opening from the east end of the parlor. The upper enclosed portion of the stairway rises to a landing which is one step below the

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floor level of the main north block. An arched doorway provides access to the west bedroom. The larger, east bedroom is accessed by a door in typically trimmed doorway located just south of center in the north south dividing wall. The east bedroom features a centered east wall fireplace with segmentally arched brick surround, projecting brick hearth and simple mantle shelf extending between two built-in painted cabinets or cupboards which fill the remaining portion of the east wall. The two-level units are fitted with single panel paired doors finished with recessed brass hinges and sliding brass pin closures. The entrance to the portico is located at the northwest corner of the room. Six-over-six light double-hung windows are finished as those on the first floor. The aprons are incorporated into a slightly molded chair rail which continues around the room. A capped 9" base is set on 6" wide, tongue-and-groove poplar floor boards. A typical door in the south wall to the west of the south facing window opens to a full bath. This full bath was installed in 1928. Located in the northeast corner of the kitchen wing, this bath is located directly above the half-bath which was installed at the same time in the recessed, east-facing porch. The bath also opens west into the north end of the kitchen wing. A vertical plank door set in a low doorway opens into the south bedroom just west of the centered chimney. All bedrooms have projecting contemporary corner closets fitted with new doors.

During Witt's residence, the dining room served as his medical office with the west door opening directly on Foundry Street. The east door opened to the open porch where Dr. Witt held the initial meetings of the United Brethren Church which he had been instrumental in organizing. Aunt Catherine enclosed the porch with a multi-paned glass wall, installing a half bath in its present location with the full bath upstairs. She was also responsible for replacing the wood front porch floor with its present cement floor. Thus, it is probable that it was at this time that the Tuscan Revival bases were added to the first story portico. This would appear to be the only major architectural detail which was altered during the past 100+ years.

Aunt Catherine's failing health and subsequent death in 1942, prompted Mr. Champe to rent the house for several years prior to his death in 1944. After the death of their parents the two sons, Robert and Royce, continued to rent the property. In 1946, after difficulty with the various tenants, the Champes sold the Witt House to Robert and Helen Myers.

During the interim period, the house and grounds suffered from neglect. The Myers immediately commenced work, even prior to final transfer of the deed. They began the stabilization of the house by installing an asphalt shingle roof over the

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existing wood shingle roof. Eventually, Mr. Myers undertook to replaster the ceilings and walls upstairs and in the front parlors. He repaired the small one room house, spring house and re-erected the fences. The repair and development of the house and grounds continued on a regular basis during the 1950's and 60's.

Mrs. Myers initiated the painting of the house in about 1950, because the unglazed brick allowed excessive moisture to penetrate the walls. Using an oil based paint, she first painted the house gray with white trim. In recent years, the house and outbuildings have been painted white.

Upon his retirement in 1973, Mr. and Mrs. Myers initiated a 32 step program for the rehabilitation and maintenance of the property. He, even, purchased additional acreage from the railroad to gain control of the water source for the pond and protect the southwest edge of the property..

The Witt-Champe-Myers house is situated atop a low hill east-southeast of the Dublin Historic District over looking the National Road. The historic core of the property contains the main brick two-story residence dated at 1837-38, a one-room brick house(1837) built into the bank to the northeast, a small brick smoke house southeast of the kitchen and brick spring house built into the hill south of the house. Located at the southeast corner of the intersection of Foundry and Spring Streets, the site is bounded by Spring Street on the north for a distance of approximately 135', a fence on the east from the street south about 1000', then west 135' to Foundry Street and returning north along Foundry Street to the intersection with Spring Street. Of the original seventy acres purchased by Caleb W. Witt only about 14 1/2 acres remain with the historic core comprising about three plus acres.

In addition to its unique exterior configuration of the two-story portico, the Witt-Champe-Myers House has finely executed built-in closets, drawers, shelves and drop front desks in the north-east parlor. The desk has two drawers below the drop front which upon opening reveals eight drawers, five shelves and six cubby holes. The unit is made of cherry, yellow poplar and curly maple. The drawers have finely dovetailed corners with original hardware throughout the desk. Hardwoods, yellow poplar for the baseboards, walnut for window sills, beach floors downstairs and poplar upstairs are examples of the native woods employed in construction of the house.

The Witt-Champe-Myers House has three major periods of activity. The initial period was its construction in c. 1837. There is no documentation of any changes until the 1920's. In 1928, the house and 4+ acres were purchased by Charles S. and Catherine Champe. "Aunt Catherine," as Mrs. Champe was known was responsible

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for a major campaign of upgrading and rehabilitation. She had single light sash installed in the first floor north elevation windows. Her principal changes were to the kitchen where the fireplace in the center of the north wall was turned around, opening to the dining room. The kitchen sink was located along the east wall and a back service stair was located in the northwest corner of the room. Also, the primary staircase to the second floor was opened to the now dining room.

The final period commenced with Mr. and Mrs. Myer's purchase of the property in 1946. Since that date the Myers have continued a program of repair, stabilization and maintenance of the property which persists today.

There are four outbuildings associated with the house within the historic core of the property. The three brick buildings are historic and important to the interpretation of the property. The garage was added in 1981.

The one room single story brick house built into the hill northeast of the main house was the first building erected on the property. It served as the initial home of the Witt family during the construction of the grand two-story portico residence. Throughout the years this 16' x 26' one room house has served as temporary quarters for family members and children, or employees of the foundry as the situation required. George Washington Champe and his brother, Lafayette lived in the house with their Mother from 1849 until 1853 while they worked in the foundry for Caleb Witt. Lafayette "walked West," but George stayed, studied medicine with Caleb and ultimately purchased the property in 1887. It is presently occupied by the Myers' grandson.

Over the years Mr. Myers has replaced the terne metal roof(1953), the flooring(1953, note: replaced with re-cycled poplar flooring from Earham Hall), repaired the walls(1958), rebuilt the fireplace(1958) and repainted the roof again in 1975.

Originally, there were two springhouses to the south of the main house. The demolished brick structure stood approximately 100 yards due south of the remaining building. The surviving one-and-one-half story common brick building is built into the slope behind the kitchen. Initially, this 10' x 20' springhouse contained a hydraulic ram that provided water to the house. The pitch roof has a wide overhang protecting the north entrance to the upper level. The roof has asphalt shingles. There is no overhang at the south end of the roof. The south elevation has a plank wood door topped by a wood filled square opening. To the immediate west of this opening is a

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Witt-Champe-Myers House
Wayne County, IN

later brick chimney added to the building for the furnace when the building was used for alternative purposes. Prior to 1981, Mr. Myers used the building as a workshop.

The 10' x 10' brick smoke house stands to the southeast of the kitchen. Original to the property, it retains its wood shingle roof.

The present garage was erected in 1981 by the Myers with the assistance of their children and grandchildren. The two-and-one-half bay garage contains the workshop on the ground floor. The upstairs is the location of Mr. Myers' office with drafting table and Mrs. Myer's quilting and rug frames. The upstairs serves as their hobby room and extra sleeping quarters for family reunions.

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Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page summary paragraph

Witt-Champe-Myers House
Wayne County, IN

Summary Paragraph

The Witt-Champe-Myers House meets National Register criteria A, B, and C in the areas of settlement and architecture. The house is a significant representation of the settlement era of Dublin, Indiana, making criterion A applicable. Dublin was settled as the National Road crossed its site in the 1830s, and the small brick house in back of the large house dates directly from this era, one of few intact settlement resources in the community. Specifically, Caleb Witt played a significant role in the settlement of the community, and Criterion B is cited for his contributions to the settlement of Dublin. Lastly, Criterion C applies to the Witt-Champe-Myers House because of its locally outstanding vernacular Federal design.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

Witt-Champe-Myers
Wayne County, IN

Statement of Significance:

The Witt-Champe-Myers House is eligible for listing on the National Register for its outstanding architecture and its builder's seminal role in the growth and development of the town of Dublin. Situated on a low hill at the southeast corner of Foundry and Spring Streets overlooking the "Old National Road," the Witt-Champe-Myers House is a unique example of Indiana's vernacular Federal style incorporating a variety of motifs. Because of the outstanding design for the period and condition of the house, it was included in the state's earliest architectural catalog, Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth century.

The two story portico of the north elevation is a rare and unique example of this classical architectural feature. Instead of facing south overlooking a river or waterway, the Witt-Champe-Myers portico faces north towards the highway. As such, its is an acknowledgement by the builder of the import of the "Old National Road." The very road that the builder, Caleb W. Witt, probably travelled in May 1834 when he moved to Indiana from Ohio after receiving his M.D. degree from Worthington College. His extensive medical practice reached west along the "National Road" to Knightstown. By 1836, he along with John Whippo and James Creagor erected the Dublin Female Seminary. A year later, February 1837, he with others organized the establishment of the Dublin Academy. Witt played an important role in the settlement of Dublin. His involvement in many facets of the community greatly aided its growth. April 1, 1837, he and his wife purchased 70 acres of land upon which he first erected a small one room brick house. This 1837 house is one of several homes dating from the settlement era of Dublin. Shortly thereafter, Caleb Witt, John Whippo and James Witt, his brother, opened a foundry for manufacturing reaping hooks and scythes. After Mr. Whippo sold his shares in the business, the brothers continued manufacturing agricultural implements until 1856 when Caleb left the business and it was reorganized. In 1875, under new ownership, it moved to the Richmond, Indiana where it became the Wayne Works, formerly the largest manufacturer in the world of school bus bodies.

Upon completion of the big house in 1838, it served as residence, medical office and site for the initial meetings of the United Brethren Church in Dublin. When the faithful outgrew the recessed side porch, they moved to the C. W. Witt and Brothers Foundry. It was at this time, that he donated land, raised the monies to build their first

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Section number 8 Page 2

Witt-Champe-Myers House
Wayne County, IN

church and acted as its local minister until 1857. Joining the Itinerancy the next year, he sold the house to his son-in-law, John Cooper. He travelled devoting all his efforts to the church for a period until 1875 when he returned to Dublin and the practice of medicine. John Cooper sold the property in 1873 to Edith Hiatt. Eventually the property was inherited by Franklin and Rachel Hiatt who sold it in 1887 to Elizabeth A. and George W. Champe. Years later, it was his son the CHICAGO TRIBUNE illustrator, Charles S. Champe and wife, Catherine, who convinced the numerous heirs and descendents of George W. to transfer their interests to them so that they could restore the property. The promise of lifetime visitation privileges for the family prevailed and "Aunt Katherine" commenced to work on the house in 1928.

Born on June 28, 1807 and died September 22, 1880, Caleb W. Witt was a doctor, manufacturer, inventor and minister. He was a remarkable person. He built a foundry where one should not have been feasible. He developed a medical practice that extended to the next county. He was involved in establishing Dublin's economy, its schools, caring for the town's health and mental state of mind.

No less unique than the life he led, is the house he had built for himself. There is no information regarding the origin of the house's design. It is quite possible that he had seen the feature of the portico screen walls in his extensive travels. The two story portico is enclosed at the east and west ends by screen walls with engaged half columns terminating the double colonnade. The feature of the screen walls is very rare in Federal architecture. In some respects it is similar to the treatment seen in Charlestown, South Carolina where homes with two story porticos are sited end to the street and the front door opens to reveal a covered two story portico extending the width of the facade, yet from the street the false screen wall conceals the open portico that provides shade and fresh air to the individual rooms.

In 1837, Caleb W. Witt acquired the present property upon which the Witt-Champe-Myers House was built from Paul and Mary Custer. The parcel contained 70 acres. No improvements were mentioned in the deed. The present property now is comprised of approximately 14 acres. In addition to the two-story main house, there is the earlier, one-story, single room brick house to the northeast, a 1981 two-bay garage with loft to the east, a brick smoke house to the southeast, a brick spring house due south built into the side of the hill on which the house stands and a three acre pond, developed in 1952, covering the eastern third of the property.

The period of significance includes the time when Caleb Witt lived in the house. By about 1845, settlement had ended in Dublin, but Witt's contributions to the growth of Dublin continued until he moved in 1857.

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Wayne County, IN

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Witt-Champe-Myers House
Wayne County, IN

10. VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Located at the intersection of Foundry and Spring Streets, the historic core of the property is approximately a three acre rectangle bounded by Spring Street on the north and Foundry Street on the west. Commencing at the intersection, the boundary line extends east 135' along the south right of way of Spring Street, then south 1000' along an existing fence line, then west 135' along an existing fence line to the east right of way of Foundry Street, then north 1000' along said right of way to the south right of way of Spring Street.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The area described above contains all the historic resources described in the nomination. That portion of the remaining acreage owned by Mr. and Mrs. Myers to the east and south of the historic resources has always been reserved for agricultural purposes, grazing of livestock and a fishing pond.

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Witt-Champe-Myers House Photographs:
Wayne County, IN

Photographer: Thomas M. Slade

All photos taken 5/93 and 9/93.

Original negatives are in the possession of Robert and Helen Myers,
owners.

Descriptions:

1. View of intersection of Foundry and Spring Streets looking NE. (Site of the Witt Bros. Foundry on left of Spring St.)
2. View looking south on Foundry Street. (Witt-Champe-Myers Hse. on left.)
3. View looking south on Foundry Street. (Present entrance to house.)
4. Witt-Champe-Myer House. View looking SSW at north elevation with two-story portico. (Note: Brick screen walls terminate east and west ends of porches.)
5. View looking SW of east wall of house. (Note: Exterior of windows in north facing portico.)
6. View looking SW of west end of north elevation. (Note: Different column bases and 6 vs 4 light top sashes of end windows.)
7. View looking SE of west screen wall exterior. (Note: Different column bases and 6 vs 4 light top sashes of end windows.)
8. View looking NE at backside of 1st floor column
9. View looking NE of west and south elevations. (Note: Remodelling of west and south entrance porches.)

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Witt- Champe-Myers House

Wayne County, IN

Photographs cont.

10. View looking NW of east and south elevations. (Note: East entrance deck with flat roof and enclosed south entrance.)
11. View looking ESE of east wall of front parlor. (Note: Cupboards flanking fireplace with drop front desk units.)
12. View looking NE at north end of east wall. (Note: Paired drop front desk units.)
13. View looking NW at west half of parlor. (Note: Remaining stub wall dividing east and west parlors.)
14. View looking SW of typical four panel door leading to Foundry St. entry.
15. View looking SW at south wall of dining room with built-in storage. (Note: Opening at left accesses kitchen.)
16. View looking E at east wall of dining room. (Note: Pass-thru cupboard below window and 15 light door installed in 1928.)
17. View looking NW at 2nd story door to north facing porch. (Note: Chair rail incorporates window apron trim.)
18. View looking NE in east bedroom. (Note. Cupboard doors have vertical block panels.)
19. View looking NE to 1837 one room brick house.

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Witt-Champe-Myers House
Wayne County; IN
Photographs cont.

20. View looking SW at southeast entrance to basement of 1837 house.
21. View looking SSW at smokehouse located southeast of kitchen.
22. View looking N to house from springhouse. (Note: Springhouse roof at right edge of photo.)
23. View looking SE at springhouse. (Note: Used as workshop by Robert Myers prior to building present garage.)
24. View looking NNW at springhouse with house in background. (Note: Location on hillside facilitated operation of hydraulic ram.)
25. Copy of original c.1900 photo of the George Washington Champe family gathered for unknown occasion. View looking SE at north and west elevations. (Note: 1st story column bases have not been added; first floor windows have multiple light sashes and west entrance has shed roof supported by plain square posts.)
26. Copy of original c.1928 photo after Catherine Champe's alterations. View looking west of east elevation. (Note: House unpainted, open south porch similar to existing west porch entrance, repaired east wall of kitchen, 2nd kitchen chimney removed by Myers's and glazed wall enclosing recessed porch with half bath.)
27. United Brethren, or "Middle Cemetary." View looking SE at Witt Family plot. (Note: Caleb Witt donated a part of the northeast section of his land to the Church of the United Brethren in Christ by deed dated September 16, 1862.)

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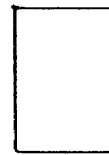
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Witt-Champe-Myers House
Wayne County, IN
Photographs cont.

28. View looking SE at Caleb W. Witt tombstone.
29. View looking West from cemetery to house.
30. Pot lid. Cast iron lid, size no. 2, from "C. W. Witt & Bro's., Dublin."

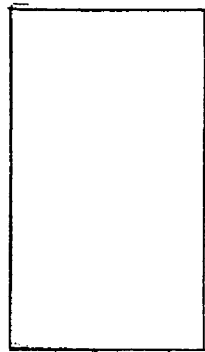
SPRING STREET

FOUNDER ROAD



GUEST HOUSE ORIGINAL

MAIN HOUSE ORIGINAL



GARAGE (NON-CONTRIBUTING) 1981



JACKE HOUSE ORIGINAL

← WATER LINE
DISCONTINUED - 1970



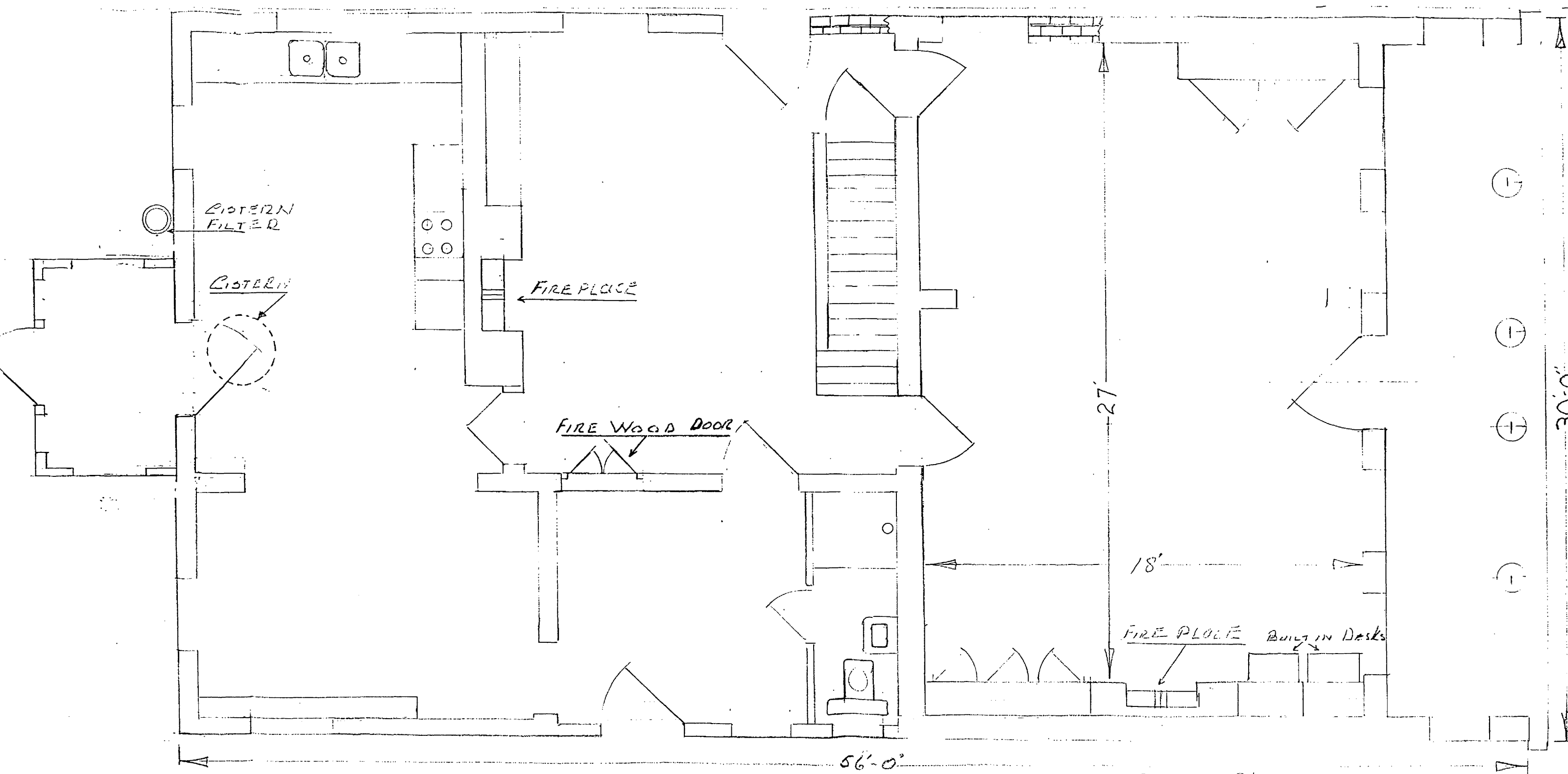
DUG WELL



SPRING HOUSE ORIGINAL

PROPERTY PLAN

↑
N



CISTERN FILTER

CISTERN

FIRE PLACE

FIRE WOOD DOOR

FIRE PLACE BUILT IN DESKS

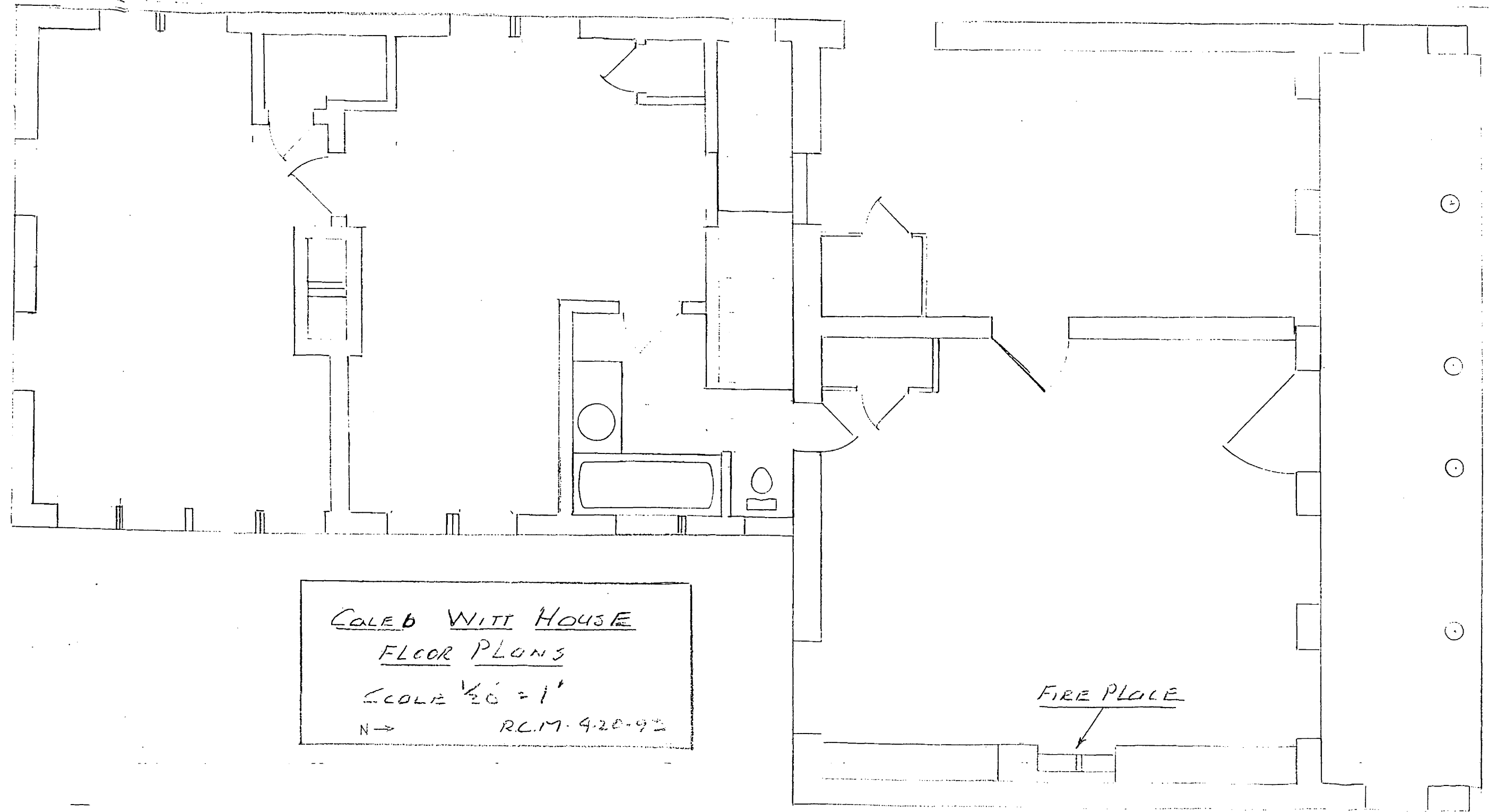
27'

18'

56'-0"

30'-0"

FIRST FLOOR PLAN N →



CALEB WITT HOUSE
FLOOR PLANS
SCALE $\frac{1}{2}'' = 1'$
N → R.C.M. 4.20.92

FIRE PLACE

SECOND FLOOR PLAN