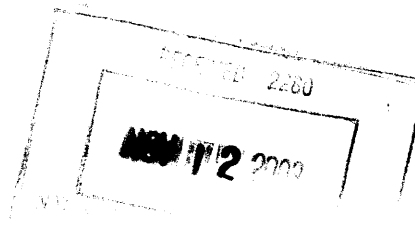


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 **Major, Daniel S., House**

other names/site number _____ 029-029-34022

2. Location

street & number **761 West Eads Parkway** N/A not for publication

city or town **Lawrenceburg** N/A vicinity

state **Indiana** code **IN** county **Dearborn** code **029** zip code **47025**

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.)

Signature of certifying official/Title
Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

for
Edson W. Ball 12/23/03

Major, Daniel S., House
Name of Property

Dearborn IN
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building
- district
- site
- structure
- object
- landscape

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: Limestone

walls BRICK

roof METAL: Tin

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.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1857-1860

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Hamilton & Rankin (Cincinnati, OH)

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.5 acres

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

1

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---------|----|---|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 6 | 68 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 0 | 43 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 0 |
| Zone | Easting | | | | | | Northing | | | | | |

3

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---------|--|--|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | Easting | | | | | | Northing | | | | | |

2

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---------|--|--|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | Easting | | | | | | Northing | | | | | |

4

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---------|--|--|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | Easting | | | | | | Northing | | | | | |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David Denman
organization Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana date 03-31-2003
street & number 4696 Veraestau Lane telephone 812/ 926-0983
city or town Aurora state IN zip code 47001

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 Ron & Sonja Halbauer
street & number 761 West Eads Parkway telephone 812/ 537-1701
city or town Lawrenceburg state IN zip code 47025

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

Daniel S. Major House
Lawrenceburg, Dearborn County,
Indiana

Section number 7 Page 1

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary

The Daniel S. Major House is sited on an abrupt terrace at the mouth of a narrow intermittent water course valley as it enters the valley of the Ohio River itself. Above the house the steep wooded hillsides rise over four hundred feet from the flat valley floor. The primary overland route from Lawrenceburg to Aurora passed in front of the house, eventually to become Federal Highway 50. A circular drive led to and from the roadway, remnants of which can still be discerned today. The drive led to the front of the house. A two piece stone carriage stoop is still present opposite the stone steps leading to the front entry. The façade faces south and slightly east.

The house itself is two stories in height built of brick constructed ca. 1860 in the Italianate style. The basic plan shape is rectangular with a series of rooms behind. The latter are composed of a service wing which is slightly recessed from the wall plane of the main block and a formal room on the east which actually projects beyond the wall plane. The roof of the east wing has a low pitched gable shape, though at the intersection of the wing with the main block it becomes a single face or shed roof intersecting with the low hip of the service wing. The main block has a low truncated hip roof shape.

Façade

The simple common bond laid brick of the house rests on a smooth dressed ashlar stone foundation which projects approximately four inches from the wall plane above [photo 1]. Positioned several brick courses above the foundation is a narrow smooth dressed stone water table which continues across the façade. The façade is symmetrically organized with three bays and a centered principal entry. A flight of three smooth dressed stone steps leads to a large stone slab before the doorway itself virtually flush with the door threshold. The entry [photo 6] is an applied wooden structure which projects approximately one foot from the wall plane with a heavily moulded flat cornice projecting further still about another foot. A flat frieze between outer edge pilasters is unadorned, but the uppermost surface of the pilasters supports decorative treatments with lozenge patterned corner blocks and heavily moulded and scrolled consoles. The pilasters have a flat face and moulded plinth blocks. Centered between the pilasters is the deep recessed entry itself with a single leaf multiple paneled door above which is a broken moulded cornice and one of the most notable features of the entry, a tall half round transom window.

To either side of the entry are two prominent single story polygonal shaped bay windows with virtually flat roofs. Each is brick constructed with a continuous dressed stone water table on each facet, which forms the lintel of the basement windows in the primary face. The broad principal outer face has tall four over four light window sash while the two windows in the flanking faces have long narrow windows with two over two light sash, unusual in that they have horizontal dividing muntin bars. A continuous narrow stone band runs under the windows to form the sill, while at the top is a broad two stepped lintel also of smooth dressed stone. Beneath the windows of the three principal faces is a recessed panel set in the brick masonry. A heavy wooden cornice projects with multiple mouldings and a broad unadorned frieze. The gutter is built into the cornice.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Daniel S. Major House
Lawrenceburg, Dearborn County,
Indiana

Section number 7 Page 2

The three second story windows are symmetrically positioned above the bay windows and entry. Each has a flat projecting two piece stepped window hood on a simple scrolled console at either edge. All of the hood elements are smooth dressed stone. Each has six over six light double hung window sash.

The broad projecting moulded cornice of the main house block contains the gutter system, and is supported on closely spaced unadorned rectangular shaped brackets set on a narrow frieze. A bedmould encompasses the brackets and joint between frieze and soffit providing some decorative relief to the otherwise rather plain cornice. Above the low pitched hip roof rise four brick chimneys which rise to a narrow shoulder several courses above the roofline. Each chimney face has a recessed brick panel, and each chimney is topped with a single stepped coping course.

East elevation

This elevation was clearly intended to be highly visible from the road from Lawrenceburg and thus is at least as formal as the façade [photos 3 and 4]. There are three symmetrical aligned bays in the main block. Windows and cornice details at the second story are identical to that of the façade. The first floor windows, however, extend to the floor with six over nine light sash, and were intended to open onto a porch which it is theorized was never built. Set into the rock faced ashlar laid foundation are smooth stone lintels set over single light basement windows positioned directly below the windows of the first floor.

A gabled single story wing projects some eight feet from the plane of the main block at the rear corner. The gable end is highly decorative with a moulded projecting cornice supported on widely spaced brackets like those of the main block except that the outer edge is cut with a scrolled pattern. The eaves overhang the wall plane continuing the angle of the roofline which provides an intentional contrast to the projecting eave line of the main block. Centered in the gable is a "bulls eye" window with a broad smooth dressed stone face quartered with tapering keystones. Beneath, centered in the first story a triple clustered window each with horizontal divided window sash, half round engaged window lintels and centered tapering keystone. The arches spring from pilasters with moulded capitals and plinth blocks. All of the surround and decorative elements are constructed of wood including the bullseye in the gable. In the south elevation, or inside corner created by the wing and the main block is a window which when built matched in detail those at the first floor of the main block.

West elevation

In the main block there are four symmetrical bays at either story placed above four short basement windows let into the foundation [photo 2]. The windows of either story have a plain smooth dressed stone lintel and sill. Second story windows match the size of the façade windows, while those of the first floor are considerably longer – the same height as the bay windows of the façade-- though still with six over six light sash. The cornice of the main house matches in detail that of the façade and formal north elevation.

At the rear is visible the service wing stepped back from the main block approximately two feet and much lower in overall height as well. The two window bays are carefully symmetrical each with smooth dressed stone lintels and sills.

The cornice contains the gutter, but only shallowly projects from the wall plane with an eave moulding and a plain

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Daniel S. Major House
Lawrenceburg, Dearborn County,
Indiana

Section number 7 Page 3

narrow frieze.

Rear elevation

Across the rear elevation the shed roof of the single story wing and hipped roof of the two story service wing are tucked under the eaves of the main house block [photo 5]. Two long narrow windows are centered in the exposed wall of the main block and light the stair landing on the interior. A portion of the service wing projects some five feet beyond that of the otherwise flat undifferentiated rear elevation.

The cornice treatment on the main block is identical to that of the other three elevations. The service wing continues the simple unadorned profile described on the west elevation, until it meets with the gabled projection. At this point, some five feet from the outer edge, the cornice abruptly assumes a more detailed profile and shape with the supporting brackets found on the opposite overhanging eave line of the formal north elevation. Primarily visible from the rear elevation is the tall brick chimney [detailed like those described in the main house block] which rises from the edge of the cornice of the main block.

A single elongated window opening is in the projecting wing with smooth dressed stone lintel and sill and six over six light window sash. The same treatment is found in three original window openings in the service wing, though the windows are considerably shorter, consistent with the pattern established for the service wing. The single leaf rear door is tucked into the inside corner of the projecting service wing and has a two light transom.

Alterations and changes on the exterior

There have been remarkably few changes to the house over the years. It is rare to have both a contemporary elevation view and floorplan to compare to the present, but that is exactly what we have for the Daniel Major House. On the exterior the evidence seems to indicate that the impressive porch in the north elevation was never built. There are no telltale signs of construction, such as framing anchors or tie bolts, visible in the brick to indicate that there was ever any structure present. The brick is not discolored in any way, and there is no evidence that the masonry was patched to cover any joist pockets. On the same elevation the drawing illustrates a polygonal bay window with round arched lintels that likewise was not built according to plan. The present chimneys lack the stepped cap visible in the drawing. This may be because they were never built that way or that they have been modified sometime in the past.

There have been a few minor modifications and additions to the house and grounds. On the grounds a narrow concrete drive replaced the original drive ca. 1915 [date from a penny of that date set into the concrete], bypassing the front of the house and leading to the contemporaneous built rear porch. The porch projects to the west of the rear service wing, constructed of brick with a brick parapet and segmental arched bays. The north face of the porch has the same segmental brick arch treatment. Behind the house the porch is supported on brick pillars. The roof of the porch is a low hip shape [photos 2 and 5].

The half round transom window over the front door is a single piece of glass, though a fan light with radiating muntins is clearly indicated on the 1862 elevation drawing.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Daniel S. Major House
Lawrenceburg, Dearborn County,
Indiana

Section number 7 Page 4

On the rear elevation are two second story windows with four over four light sash, and a paired opening below, also with four over four light sash, which replaces an original single window opening indicated in the period floorplan. The lowermost outer window in the west elevation of the service wing is considerably shorter than its neighbor, an alteration made early in the 20th century to accommodate fitting a sink under it in the kitchen [photos 2 and 5].

The first floor window in the east projecting wing which faces onto the never built porch location has been shortened in height with modern masonry and has six over six light sash.

The roof of the main block, wings, and porch, is covered with standing seam tin dating circa 1990 replacing an earlier standing seam roof. The kitchen chimney, visible as engaged brick flue on the exterior, has been eliminated below the roofline.

Interior

The first floor of the main block of the house has a symmetrical center hall plan with the staircase in the center hall; and rooms to either side off of the hall [photos 7 and 8]. To the right rear is a one story formal room which backs on the main house block and extends beyond the exterior wall plane to the east [photos 14 and 15]. This room was probably a study or office, and is reached through the parlor, also accessed by hallway from the service wing. The service wing with kitchen, pantries, day room and rear entry, extends across the remainder of the rear elevation. The ceilings are eleven feet tall in all of the first floor formal rooms, entry hall, and rear study, while only seven and one half feet in the service wing rooms and rear hallways.

The woodwork of the formal rooms of the first floor are consistent and extravagant, made up of composite mouldings with a broad face and exceptional relief [photos 8, 9, and 13]. The doors are all four panel inverted cross patterned with cast brass escutcheons, plates and knobs [photos 9 and 13]. All of the windows in the downstairs formal rooms have built-in interior shutters, which fold into a void behind the moulded facing. There are two sets of shutters at each window conforming to the size of the window sash, and each is a bifold with a solid panel and louvered panel [photos 10 and 14].

The interior walls of the main block are of brick construction, while those of the rear service wing are wood frame.

To the left upon entry is the dining room nominally divided into two rooms with doors leading into either room. The dividing wall is almost nonexistent in that it is pierced by a large opening leaving only short stub walls at either side with the top two feet from the ceiling [photo 9]. Centered in the rear wall is a short hallway leading into the kitchen. A second doorway to the right of the hall door is a second doorway--obscured by modern shelving--which passed into a butler's room, probably where china and dining room linens were once stored.

To the right upon entry is a single door leading into the long parlor [photos 12 and 13]. This room has no divisions whatsoever, and it can be seen from the 1862 footprint, that it never has been divided. In both dining room and parlor are two evenly spaced fireplace flues on the inner hallway wall with shallow flues of twelve inches integrated into the masonry of the wall. Three of the flues have wood mantels: one is missing from the dining room. In the dining room the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Daniel S. Major House
Lawrenceburg, Dearborn County,
Indiana

Section number 7 Page 5

surviving white painted mantel has a segmental shaped opening [photo 11] while those in the parlor are half round and have cast metal inserts [photos 12 and 13].

At the rear of the parlor is a centered doorway leading into the back study or office. The woodwork and ceiling height matches that of the formal rooms of the main block. On the common wall with the main block of the house is a fireplace with a twelve inch flue. The mantle is constructed of slate, painted to appear like marble. The mantle is unlike those in the parlor and dining room with a simple pilaster and architrave with projecting shelf. A half round cast iron metal insert fills the opening [photos 14 and 15].

The stair to the second floor and into the service wing is unusual. The first flight leads to a landing which is not in the main block of the house, but is integral to the second floor of the service wing. Two doors lead to small rooms, and may have been servant's rooms. To the right is a short flight of steps leading to short double leaf doors which access storage above the ceiling of the study. To the left is a doorway leading to a hall and series of rooms over the kitchen, probably additional rooms for servants [photos 7 and 16].

A second short flight of steps angles back into the main house block and leads to a broad second floor hallway directly above that of the main hall below. The door and window facings of the second floor are flat unadorned wood. There are two light sash transoms above each of the four doors. To the left [facing the front of the house] is a single large room corresponding to that of the parlor below. Likewise there are two fireplace openings with half round hearth openings matching those in the parlor. These mantels retain their green faux travertine paint over slate. The decorative cast iron inserts survive in both fireplaces. To the right of the hallway there are two rooms corresponding to the partial division seen in the dining room below. In each room there is a slate fireplace with a segmental shaped architrave, squared surround and cast iron inserts with half round shape [photo 17]. To the right of the front bedroom fireplace is a closet which appears to be original with matching trim, door and door hardware.

Alterations on the interior

There have been a number of changes to the interior which can be traced by reference to the 1862 floorplan.

In the downstairs formal rooms the original floors of tongue and grooved pine--visible from the underside in the cellar--have been covered over with another tongue and grooved board flooring, probably dating to the turn of the twentieth century. The floors are strip oak with a two piece narrow striped walnut in a running band in each room as a decorative device [photos 9 and 13].

In the rear service wing the original stair to the basement and a second rear stair to the second floor of the service wing have been removed. In its place are two closets at the first floor. To gain access to the cellar a new set of stairs has been cut from the closet under the main stairway.

Modern doors were cut into the two pantries giving access from the short hallway between kitchen and dining room. The left pantry [facing into the kitchen] has been converted to a modern bathroom. Positioned directly above at the second floor is a second bathroom.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Daniel S. Major House
Lawrenceburg, Dearborn County,
Indiana

Section number 8 Page 1

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY

The Daniel S. Major House, 761 West Eads Parkway, Lawrenceburg, Indiana, is eligible for nomination under Criterion C in the area of architecture. It is significant as an exceptional example of the Italianate style house as built for a wealthy real estate speculator and successful professional: A high style home in a country setting near to his place of business interest. This was a pattern followed by similar wealthy families in the confines of the Ohio River valley in Indiana, proximate to the small towns which were developing next to the river. The period of significance is that of the building date: 1857-1860, and the house is of local significance.

ELABORATION

Lawrenceburg, Indiana, is located in the valley of the Great Miami River just at the point where it meets the Ohio River, a scant 22 miles below Cincinnati, Ohio. The area was one of the first settled in Indiana and the town itself was first platted in 1802, though slow to develop. It was not until late in the 1810s that the village began to prosper. By the end of the 1820s Lawrenceburg had become a major business center with a population of 700 persons and 150 brick and frame dwellings. The community was ideally suited to become a transportation nexus, situated directly on the Ohio River. Moreover, changing transportation technologies added to the range of options: In 1838 the Whitewater canal was completed from Brookville to Lawrenceburg. By 1848 railroad construction had begun, and by 1857 the community was linked into the national railroad network with a major through route from Cincinnati to Indianapolis.

In 1831 Daniel Symmes Major arrived in Lawrenceburg after completing his formal education in Oxford, Ohio. He studied law with General James Dill and was admitted to the bar in the following year. He joined in business with the politically active attorney Amos Lane who sold his "good will" to his partner upon his election to the US Congress in 1833. That same year Major married Catherine Eliza Guard, the daughter of a prominent local family. Their residence, and his office, were on Lawrenceburg's High Street, the principal commercial and residential street running parallel to the Ohio River.

By the mid 1840s Major began dabbling in real estate speculations on his own behalf. By the outbreak of the Civil War he had conducted over 120 sales of Lawrenceburg city lots and had platted two additions to the city. In the Federal census of 1860 only fifteen other residents would report a net worth equal to or greater than that of Daniel Major in both real estate and personal property, in a community now numbering several thousand.

In July of 1859 the Major family sold their house on High Street in Lawrenceburg, though they remained in town for at least another year in town. The 1860 census places the Major family at their High Street residence in Lawrenceburg, and a published business directory of 1859-60 places him in town as well. Nonetheless, it would appear that sometime in 1860 Daniel Major and family moved to their new country home close to town on the road between Lawrenceburg and Aurora, Indiana.

Daniel Major had set his sights on the ground early in 1848, probably through his professional capacity. The McLeaster parcel of some 116 acres had been in dispute among the heirs of James McLeaster who had died earlier in 1843. It would

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Daniel S. Major House
Lawrenceburg, Dearborn County,
Indiana

Section number 8 Page 2

take Major nine years [March, 1857] to acquire and clear up the title to the land. Little is known of McLeaster other than that he was an early resident of Lawrenceburg, and that he was a shoemaker. There is some evidence that there was a house on the property at the time given the value of the real estate. It has been widely believed that the home built by McLeaster forms the core of the present structure. If anything remains of the early house it was thoroughly buried in the massive additions and rebuilding done for Daniel Major ca. 1857-1860.

Major hired the Cincinnati architectural firm of Hamilton & Rankin to design [or remodel] his new home. The architects used millwork from the Cincinnati based Hinkle, Guild and Company. This company was one of the largest of its kind and published a catalogue in 1862. On page 48 is an elevation and floorplan for the "Residence of D.S. Major", Lawrenceburg, Indiana" [see illustration below].

John R. Hamilton was English born with a successful career in England where he designed the Lincoln and Worcester Insane Asylums, and churches in London and Oxford. Hamilton immigrated to the United States in 1850 and arrived in Cincinnati in 1852. Several prominent commercial buildings are attributed to Hamilton in Cincinnati [none extant], and ironically, the still standing Presbyterian Church in nearby Aurora, Indiana. For a brief period in 1856-1857, Hamilton joined his practice with Rankin, about whom nothing is known. By 1859 Hamilton had moved to New York City.

The evidence suggests that the house was designed during the brief period Hamilton and Rankin were business partners: 1856-1857, presumably after Major acquired clear title to the property in 1857. The three year period 1857-1860 is likely the time during which the house was designed and built [or remodeled]. The evidence points to Daniel Major and family occupying the new home in the year 1860, where he would reside until his death in 1872. His daughter Caroline and family would continue to live here until near the end of the nineteenth century.

The massive nature of the house, and its siting overlooking the main roadway [in the 20th century to become Federal Highway 50], railroad and Ohio River, informs the visitor that this is the substantial and stylish house of a wealthy country gentleman: Few do it so well as the Major House. The Major House is one of the finest and earliest high style architect designed Italianate mansions in the region. On the exterior the innovative and style defining bay windows; the unique bracketed eaves; tripartite half round windows and heavy moulded door and window hoods, are what make the Major House an important and exceptional example of the Italianate style. The interior, with its rich mouldings, intricately detailed fireplace mantles, and beautifully crafted staircase certainly bear out the assertion as well. The house survives today virtually intact with very few alterations or changes.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
***Continuation Sheet**

Daniel S. Major House
Lawrenceburg, Dearborn County,
Indiana

Section number 8 Page 3

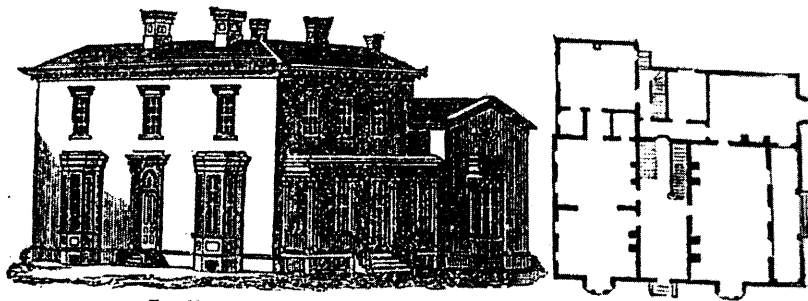


FIG. 18—52 feet Front, 46 feet Deep.

RESIDENCE OF D. S. MAJOR, LAWRENCEBURG, INDIANA.
HAMILTON & RANKIN, Architects, Cincinnati, Ohio.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Daniel S. Major House
Lawrenceburg, Dearborn County,
Indiana

Section number 10 Page 1

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

Because the orientation of the Major House is not orthogonal with the compass directions, we consider the southern elevation to be that of the primary façade. The following boundary is based on these established directions.

The north boundary is a line parallel to yet 30' north of the northmost wall of the Major House; the south boundary extends to the present easement limit of Federal Highway 50; the east boundary is a line parallel to yet 30' east of the easternmost wall of the house; and the west boundary is the west property line, approximately 50' from the westernmost wall of the Major House.

Boundary Justification

The boundary to the south includes the slope down to the existing roadway and the remnants of the original drive which is significant in that the view was intended to impress those on the roadway, particularly, presumably, those from Lawrenceburg, where Daniel Major had lived and continued to work. To the west the boundary is the present property line, which is approximately the same as it was in 1860. To the north and east the line is meant to include the maintained portion of lawn and to exclude noncontributing buildings behind the house.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Daniel S. Major Home
Lawrenceburg, Dearborn, Indiana

Section number ___ Page ___

Bibliographic References

Atlas of Dearborn County, Indiana, published by Lake, Griffing and Stevenson, Philadelphia, 1875.

Auditor's Office, Dearborn County, Indiana, Property Transfer Records.

Biographical Dictionary of Cincinnati Architects, Walter Langsam. Unpublished manuscript, 1996.

"Death of Daniel S. Major," *Dearborn Register*, 3 October 1872.

Federal U.S. Census 1860, Dearborn County, Lawrenceburg. Microfilm on file at the Lawrenceburg Public Library

Halbauer, Ron and Sonja. Unpublished manuscript, n.d.

Hinkle, Guild & Co.'s Plans of Buildings, moldings, architraves, base, brackets, stairs...For the Use of Carpenters and Builders, Cincinnati, Published by Hinkle, Guild & Co. 1862.

History of Dearborn and Ohio Counties, Indiana, Chicago, F.E. Weakley and Co., Publishers, 1885.

McEvoy's Directory, Lawrenceburg, Aurora, Rising Sun, 1859-1860.

Plat map, City of Lawrenceburgh, Dearborn County, Indiana, 1854. Surveyed and Published by Harter, Mapother, Civil Engineers, Louisville, Ky.

Western Statesman, Lawrenceburgh, Indiana, 12 October, 1832.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Daniel S. Major Home
Lawrenceburg, Dearborn, Indiana

Section number ___ Page ___

PHOTOGRAPHS

ALL PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN BY DAVID DENMAN

ORIGINAL NEGATIVES ON FILE WITH THE INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND ARCHAEOLOGY

ALL PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN ON MARCH 15, 2003

1. front elevation, facing north
2. west elevation, facing east
3. east elevation, facing west
4. detail of the projecting wing on the east elevation, facing south
5. north elevation, facing south
6. detail of front doorway, facing north
7. front stair hall, first floor, detail of staircase and newel post, facing north
8. front stair hall, first floor, detail of stair, newel and front doorway, facing south
9. from the interior of the dining room, first floor, showing the dining room dividing wall; two doors leading into the hall, facing east.
10. dining room looking into the bay window with photo taken from approximate location of dividing opening, facing south
11. dining room detail of the right hand [southward most] fireplace and hearth. View through door into hall, facing east.
12. Long parlor taken from near the back [rear or northernmost] wall facing south.
13. Detail in the long parlor showing door jamb and trim.; left hand fireplace [southernmost]. Note the patterned flooring visible just inside the doorway. Facing south and west.
14. Study/ office interior showing fireplace to the extreme right; interior shutters on the tripartite window in the gable end; facing east.
15. Detail of the fireplace mantel in the study/office, facing south.
16. View of the stair landing with the two doors to small ancillary rooms. Door to the extreme left goes back to rooms over the kitchen. At the extreme right the short flight of stairs is visible leading to a low ceiling storage room over the study/office. Photo taken from the second floor looking down and facing to the north.
17. Detail of fireplace in upstairs bedroom. Facing to the west.