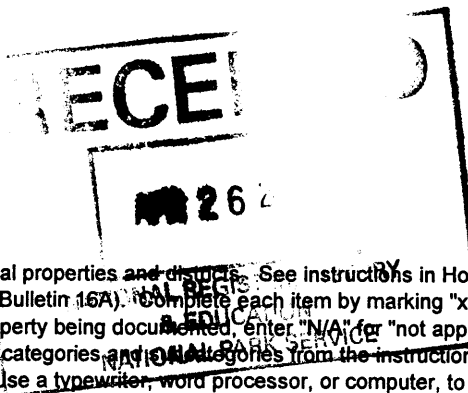


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 Scott County Home  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 1050 South Main St. N/A  not for publication  
city or town Scottsburg N/A  vicinity  
state Indiana code IN county Scott code 143 zip code 47170

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] 4-19-00  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
  - determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.
  - determined not eligible for the National Register
  - removed from the National Register
  - other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
Don H. Beall 5/26/00

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

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

- building, district, site, structure, object

Table with 3 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing, and Resource Type (buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total). Values: 1, 3, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 3.

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Institutional Housing

VACANT Not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN:

foundation STONE: Limestone

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- 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)

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1892- 1949

Significant Dates

1892

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Wiley, Johan J.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Indiana State Library, RATIO Architects, Inc.

Scott County Home  
Name of Property

Scott IN  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property appx. 4.23 acres

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	6	6	0	7	0	4	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 Julie Zent, Graduate Architect / Historic Preservation Specialist  
organization RATIO Architects, Inc. date 6/1/99  
street & number Suite 100, 107 S. Pennsylvania St. telephone 317-633-4040  
city or town Indianapolis state IN zip code 46204-3684

### 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 Scott County Commissioners  
street & number 1 McClain Ave., Suite 130 telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Scottsburg state IN zip code 47170

**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

2-13

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1 Scott County Home  
name of property  
Scott County, Indiana  
county and State

*Narrative Description*

The former Scott County Home (Photo 1 & 2) sits on approximately 4.23 acres of land on the outskirts of Scottsburg, Scott County, Indiana. The building fronts east and is set back from South Main Street by an expansive front lawn. The lawn continues around the north and west sides of the building with an asphalt parking lot located on the south side of the structure. Two non-contributing one-story wood-frame buildings are situated to the southwest of the main building. The older of the two was originally designed as a chicken coop. This structure dates from the early 1900s. However, the foundation indicates that it was moved to its present site at an undetermined date. The other outbuilding is used for storage and was constructed in the 1950s. Both structures are currently used for storage and have been allowed to deteriorate. There are two prominent maple trees (Photo 10) on the eastern portion site. These likely date back to the original construction of the home. A gravel parking lot is situated on the southeast corner of the site.

The Scott County Home is a two-story building with a T-plan configuration. The foundation is composed of unfinished limestone topped by red brick walls laid in a running-bond pattern. A broad band of particleboard painted white caps the walls above which an aluminum gutter system has been installed. The building has a hip roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. A brick chimney pierces the roof on the southeast side of the structure. The attic space reveals the existence of four more chimneys that do not appear on the exterior. Also, there is evidence that tall narrow dormers once penetrated the roof surface. It is believed that these features were removed when the present gutter system and roof surface was added in the mid-1980s. A wood-frame one-story porch with hip roof spans the entire east elevation of the structure. The fenestration exhibits consistent features on all elevations.

All of the exterior doors, except the accessible wood door on the west elevation and the steel basement door on the south, are original wood units. The two main entrances appear to have been on the east and south elevations. These doors feature two panels at the bottom with a large arched window above (Photo 8). The doors are in good condition with no obvious signs of deterioration. All doors, except for the basement entry, feature aluminum storm door units with a divided-light casement transom and limestone lintel. Several of the transoms have been covered with plywood.

All of the windows (Photo 9) have been replaced with smaller one-over-one double-hung wood sash units with exterior aluminum storms. The exact appearance of the original windows has not been determined due to the lack of documentation on the Scott County Home. However, there are remnants of two-over-one double-hung wood sash windows in the attic of the building. Each window features a limestone sill and lintel. The metal foundation vents also have a limestone lintel.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 2

Scott County Home  
name of property  
Scott County, Indiana  
county and State

---

*Narrative Description continued*

The east elevation (Photo 3) contains the main entry to the Scott County Home. The door is accessed via a set of centralized concrete steps that leads to the porch. The porch (Photo 7) features tongue-and-groove wood decking with symmetrical wood columns supporting an unadorned wood frieze. The square columns taper toward the roofline and feature paneled relief decoration topped by simple crown moldings. A plain railing with square banisters spans the regions between the columns. Two light fixtures hang from the north and south sides of the porch ceiling. Two windows are situated to the south of the centralized entry with one window to the north. The second floor fenestration aligns with these four openings.

The south elevation (Photo 4) is separated into two portions due to the T-plan configuration. The western section extends thirteen feet beyond the eastern half. A first floor entry is situated on the ell with a window above it. The western portion of the elevation consists of eight symmetrically placed windows. The eastern portion features a first floor and basement entry. The first floor door is situated on the west with two windows to its east. The second floor windows align with these three openings. A set of concrete sets leads down to a basement level mechanical room. This door does not conform to the typical door characteristics as it is steel and does not possess a transom or limestone lintel. Both first floor entries are accesses via a set of concrete steps.

The west elevation (Photo 5) contains two doors and twelve windows that are divided into seven bays. An attempt to make the building accessible is evident by a long concrete ramp with metal pipe handrails leading up to a door in the third bay from the left. The second door is located in the sixth bay and is accessed via concrete steps. The most prominent feature on this façade is a 1950s steel fire escape slide, which leads to the ground from an altered second floor window.

The north elevation (Photo 6) is also separated into two portions with the western section extending six feet beyond the eastern half. First and second floor windows are located on the ell. The western portion of the elevation consists of six symmetrically placed windows with six more windows also being found on the eastern portion.

The majority of the interior finishes (Photo 13 & 14) were modified when the Scott County Offices occupied the building. However, the room configurations have not been altered with only a few new wood stud walls being added. Most of the floor surfaces are covered with vinyl composite tile with the walls being sheathed in wood paneling and the ceilings surfaced with acoustical tile. Light fixtures, electrical outlets and heating system have also been added to the structure over the years. The original wood flooring, plaster walls and ceilings appear to be intact under the present surfaces. The doors feature divided-light casement transoms with a plain wood surround topped by a simple cornice molding. The windows feature similar surrounds. Many of the original door and windows surrounds are still intact.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7

Page 3

Scott County Home  
name of property  
Scott County, Indiana  
county and State

---

*Narrative Description continued*

The interior floor plan centers on a double-loaded corridor (Photo 11) running east to west, which is divided where the building portions intersect. This corridor retains the greatest number of original architectural features. Portions of the original wainscoting, baseboards and plaster walls are still intact. There are two wood staircases, of which the eastern set has been refinished. Both stairs contain storage closets beneath them and are the most ornate elements in the building. The stair balustrade features fluted balusters with decorative infill panels and newel posts (Photo 12). The western portion of the hall exhibits a unique four-light oculus window. This window opens on a pivot and appears to be an original feature. A narrow wood enclosed stair in the second floor corridor leads to the attic. The stair enclosure is wood-framed and covered with painted wood paneling.

The attic contains three finished rooms, with the remainder of the attic space being accessible via a small opening in the east wall. The walls and ceilings are wood-framed with gypsum wallboard. The floor surface is composed of the original tongue-and-groove wood decking. A limited amount of wood flooring exists outside the finished attic areas. The majority of the attic features exposed rafters and floor joists.

The Scott County Home was built over a crawlspace with a full height mechanical room being added at a later date. The small room houses the boiler and water heater and is accessed from the outside of the building. The walls are composed of concrete block with a poured concrete floor.

The Scott County Home remains structurally sound with the majority of its original materials intact. The building has not been altered in regard to additions or room configurations. The refinishing of the interior surfaces has most likely aided in the preservation of the plaster and wood flooring. Currently, the interior does not resemble the original appearance. However, through the removal of these materials, the original look could once again be obtained. Also, while not a contributing element, plans are in order to restore the older of the two outbuildings. The retention of this chicken coop would add to the interpretation of the Scott County Home in regard to its means of operation and organization.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 4 Scott County Home  
name of property  
Scott County, Indiana  
county and State

---

*Statement of Significance*

The Scott County Home is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of social history for its important role in the public welfare of Scott County. The architecture, interior layout and location of the former poor asylum exemplify many of the prescribed principles for the care of the less fortunate that were adhered to around the turn of the century.

In the days before federal welfare programs and foster child-care, public assistance was provided through county homes, commonly referred to as "poor farms". Largely self-sufficient, these social welfare institutions were often built in the countryside just outside of towns or cities for the abundant land and distance from town centers. The county homes provided a place for people with nowhere else to go. Residents were housed together and more or less cared for each other. Some managed to leave and become productive members of society. However, the majority remained on the poor farm their entire life and knew no other home.

The origins of the county home can be traced back to 17<sup>th</sup> century England. The Elizabethan Poor Law of 1601 "established the principle of local responsibility for the care of those in need."<sup>1</sup> This often entailed the construction of a home to accommodate the "worthy" poor, worthy being defined as the elderly, widowed, children and infirm. This poor relief law was transported to the America by English colonists who later incorporated it into the government of the newly formed United States.<sup>2</sup> When Indiana joined the union in 1816, the poor relief law followed.

The establishment of poor asylums was mandated by constitutional statute in 1821. Revisions to this statute in 1831 authorized county commissioners to buy land and erect buildings to support the poor.<sup>3</sup> The commissioners oversaw the maintenance, hiring of caretakers and distribution of money to these establishments. Funding for these institutions were procured from county taxes. "The State Board of Charities was required by Indiana law to examine the condition and management of county homes and make an annual report to the Governor for the use of the Legislature."<sup>4</sup> This duty was later given to the State Welfare Department who set up the Division of Inspection and Investigation in 1937. This division performed semi-annual examinations to insure a safe, clean and humane environment.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Julie A. McGrath. *The Evolution of Indiana's Social Welfare System*. Indianapolis, Indiana: Department of Public Welfare, 1985. 1

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., 120.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., 124.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 5

Scott County Home  
name of property  
Scott County, Indiana  
county and State

---

*Statement of Significance continued*

In 1824, the Knox County Home was the first indoor public welfare habitation in Indiana. Within the next twenty-five years all counties in the state had poor asylums.<sup>6</sup> Originally designed to house the able-bodied or worthy poor, these institutions often “became social graveyards housing all those for whom the county did not know how to provide.”<sup>7</sup> “It was not until 1844 that the first of various groups of residents needing special care and treatment were removed from poor asylums and placed in separate institutions,”<sup>8</sup> such as orphanages, deaf and blind schools.

There is little documentation on the origins of the Scott County Home as many of the pertinent records regarding the home’s operation were destroyed or are non-existent (typical in many county homes). However, records from the Indiana Board of State Charities Secretary write of a visit to a facility in Scott County in 1889. The structure is described as a “old dilapidated frame building.”<sup>9</sup> The described location of this structure coincides with the present site of the masonry Scott County Home. The secretary also comments that the need for a new home is urgent.<sup>10</sup> Scott County Commissioner Records for March 10, 1892 describe a contract with Johan J. Wiley. He was assigned the title of Executive Administrator of Construction for a poor asylum to be built three-quarters of a mile south of Scottsburg. Wiley was awarded \$6,990.76 and work was scheduled to be completed on November 1, 1892.<sup>11</sup>

The 1890s illustrated a time of change for county homes in Indiana. The public care for the poor was considered a duty incumbent on each community.<sup>12</sup> Attempts were made to create self-sufficient environments for the elderly, chronically ill, convalescent, mentally ill, disabled, injured, unwed mothers and homeless. Ages of the inmates ranged from infants to people in their nineties, with the only shared characteristic being that of poverty. No matter what their ailment, all

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<sup>6</sup> Ibid. 120.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., 121.

<sup>9</sup> Indiana Board of State Charities. *County Poor Asylums: Construction and Management, Laws, Reports of Visits by Secretary, Statistic of County Poor Expenses*. Indianapolis, Indiana: Wm. B. Burford, 1890, 50.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Scott County Auditors Office, Commissioners Records, Volume 7 (1.June.1891-26.May1897), 86-87.

<sup>12</sup> Indiana Board of State Charities. *County Poor Asylums: Construction and Management, Laws, Reports of Visits by Secretary, Statistic of County Poor Expenses*. Indianapolis, Indiana: Wm. B. Burford, 1890, 3.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 6 Scott County Home  
name of property  
Scott County, Indiana  
county and State

---

*Statement of Significance continued*

inhabitants were expected to contribute to the maintenance and upkeep of the county home by working on the farm or in the home.<sup>13</sup>

All aspects of county homes were considered in the 1890s, including the ideal location. It was recommended that these asylums were situated at a distance of one to two miles outside the county seat on a main road. This was so the home could be easily seen or visited. However, the distance from town was great enough to keep the inmates from entering and intermingling with the "norm" of society. The home should also be situated upon enough land to raise crops and livestock.<sup>14</sup> The Scott County Home is found less than one-mile outside of Scottsburg and is believed to have 180 acres of land in its possession when it served as a poor farm.

The architecture of the Scott County Home also reflects the ideals of this time period. Brick buildings with interior brick partitions such as those found at the Scott County Home were recommended. This was to create a structure as nearly fireproof as possible. Also, dormitories should be arranged as to segregate by gender and levels of sanity.<sup>15</sup> These spatial divisions can be seen clearly in the Scott County Home. The main corridor is divided into two portions with two stairwells accessing the second floor. The mere shutting of a door allows for the separation of spaces.

Records indicate that the Scott County Home was a functioning poor house until the 1960s.<sup>16</sup> It was during this time that the Scott County Offices moved into the structure and the residents were moved elsewhere. The building functioned as offices until 1995 when it was vacated. Plans to restore the county home are underway. It is intended that a museum be housed in the structure depicting the history of Scott County. The main corridor of the structure is to be restored to its original appearance and all inappropriate materials throughout the structure are to be removed.

According to an article from the Indianapolis Star, only 31 county homes remain in Indiana.<sup>17</sup> The Scott County Home is one of them. The building remains unaltered in regard to architecture, location and interior layout. The major changes to the structure include the removal of the dormers, new windows and interior finishes. The original plaster and wood interior finishes remain intact under the layer of newer materials. The window opening were not altered when the new fenestration was installed and future plans for the building include restoring the dormers, thus leaving the Scott County Home an excellent example of a rapidly diminishing resource in the state of Indiana.

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<sup>13</sup> Ibid., 7.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid., 4-5.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid., 6.

<sup>16</sup> "County Homes in Indiana." Indianapolis, Indiana: Department of Public Welfare, Division of Public Assistance, 1963.

<sup>17</sup> Shaw, Bill. "Their Refuge, Their Strength." *Indianapolis Star* (31.March.1997).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   9   Page   7  

          Scott County Home            
name of property  
          Scott County, Indiana            
county and State

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 10 Page 8

Scott County Home  
name of property  
Scott County, Indiana  
county and State

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*Geographical Data*

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The Scott County Home is located in approximately eight-tenths of a mile south of downtown Scottsburg, Scott County, Indiana, part of the Southwest  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the Northwest  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 29, Township 3 North, Range 7 East. The rectangular site is bounded by South Main Street on the east and the Louisville & Indiana Railroad on the west. The shorter north and south edges are formed by the property lines of the adjacent owners. The building is centered on the northern portion of the site and is accessed via an asphalt drive off South Main Street. Refer to site plan for exact boundaries.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundary is based on the legally recorded property lines and encompasses the whole of the property associated with the Scott County Home.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 11 Page 9

Scott County Home  
name of property  
Scott County, Indiana  
county and State

---

***Photographs***

1.    3.)    John Oberlies  
      4.)    December.1998  
      5.)    John Oberlies Consulting Engineers, Inc.  
      6.)    Overall view of Scott County Home and site. Camera facing northwest.
  
2.    3.)    John Oberlies  
      4.)    December.1998  
      5.)    John Oberlies Consulting Engineers, Inc.  
      6.)    Overall view of Scott County Home and site. Camera facing southeast.
  
3.    3.)    Peter Moore  
      4.)    December.1998  
      5.)    Ratio Architects Inc.  
      6.)    East elevation. Camera facing west.
  
4.    3.)    Peter Moore  
      4.)    December.1998  
      5.)    Ratio Architects Inc.  
      6.)    South elevation. Camera facing north.
  
5.    3.)    John Oberlies  
      4.)    December.1998  
      5.)    John Oberlies Consulting Engineers, Inc.  
      6.)    West elevation. Camera facing northeast.
  
6.    3.)    Peter Moore  
      4.)    December.1998  
      5.)    Ratio Architects Inc.  
      6.)    North elevation. Camera facing south.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 11 Page 10

Scott County Home  
name of property  
Scott County, Indiana  
county and State

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*Photographs continued*

7.
  - 3.) Peter Moore
  - 4.) December.1998
  - 5.) Ratio Architects Inc.
  - 6.) Porch detail. Camera facing south.
  
8.
  - 3.) Peter Moore
  - 4.) December.1998
  - 5.) Ratio Architects Inc.
  - 6.) Door detail. Camera facing north.
  
9.
  - 3.) Peter Moore
  - 4.) December.1998
  - 5.) Ratio Architects Inc.
  - 6.) Window detail. Camera facing north.
  
10.
  - 3.) Peter Moore
  - 4.) December.1998
  - 5.) Ratio Architects Inc.
  - 6.) Maple tree. Camera facing south.
  
11.
  - 3.) Peter Moore
  - 4.) December.1998
  - 5.) Ratio Architects Inc.
  - 6.) East portion of the first floor corridor. Camera facing west.
  
12.
  - 3.) Peter Moore
  - 4.) December.1998
  - 5.) Ratio Architects Inc.
  - 6.) Detail of newel post and stair railing. Camera facing northwest.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 11 Page 11

Scott County Home  
name of property  
Scott County, Indiana  
county and State

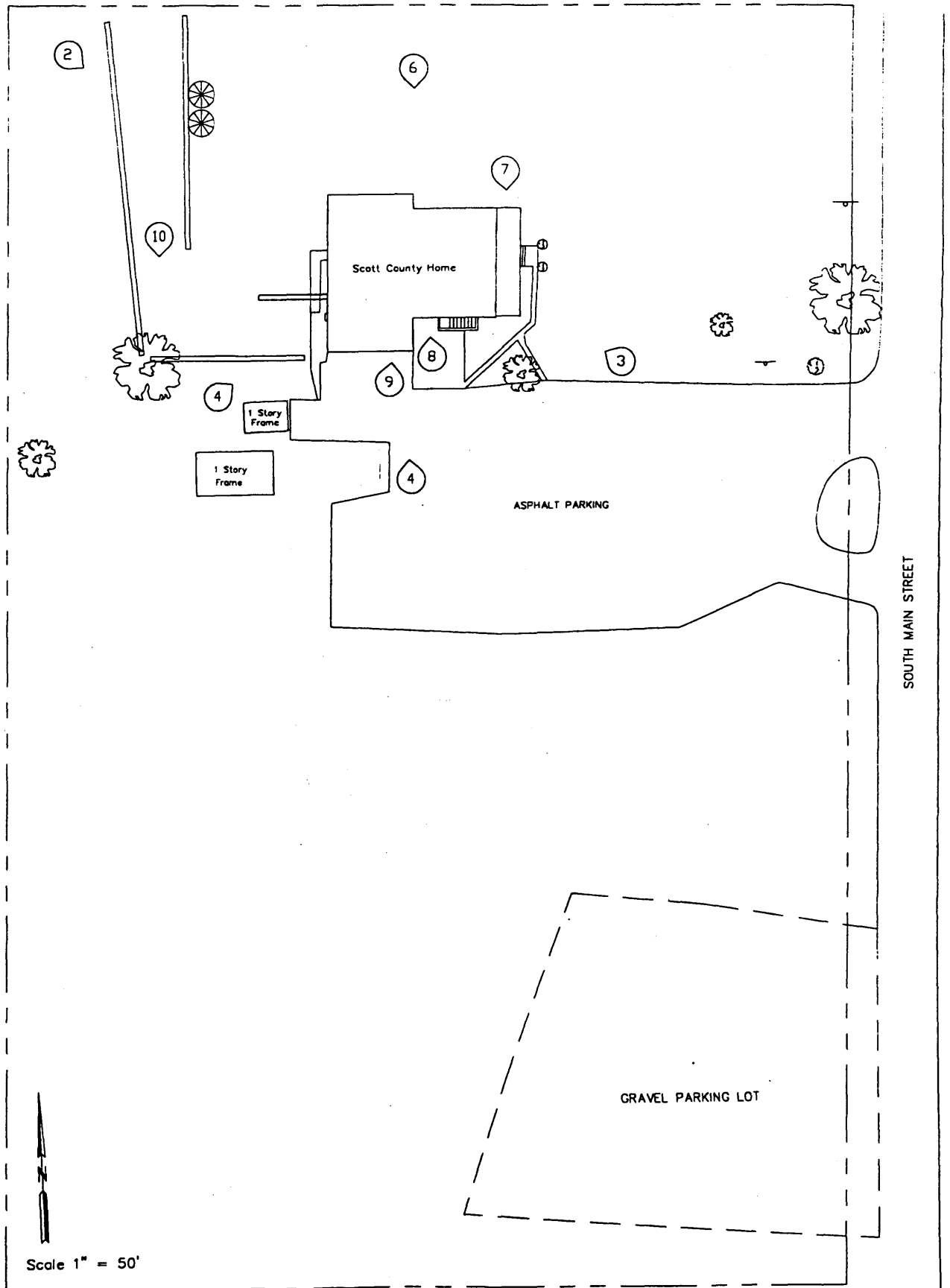
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*Photographs continued*

- 13. 3.) Peter Moore
- 4.) December.1998
- 5.) Ratio Architects Inc.
- 6.) Typical room with refinished surfaces. Camera facing west.
  
- 14. 3.) Peter Moore
- 4.) December.1998
- 5.) Ratio Architects Inc.
- 6.) Typical room with historic features. Camera facing southwest.

Site Plan and Exterior Photograph Index

Scott County Home  
Scott County, Indiana

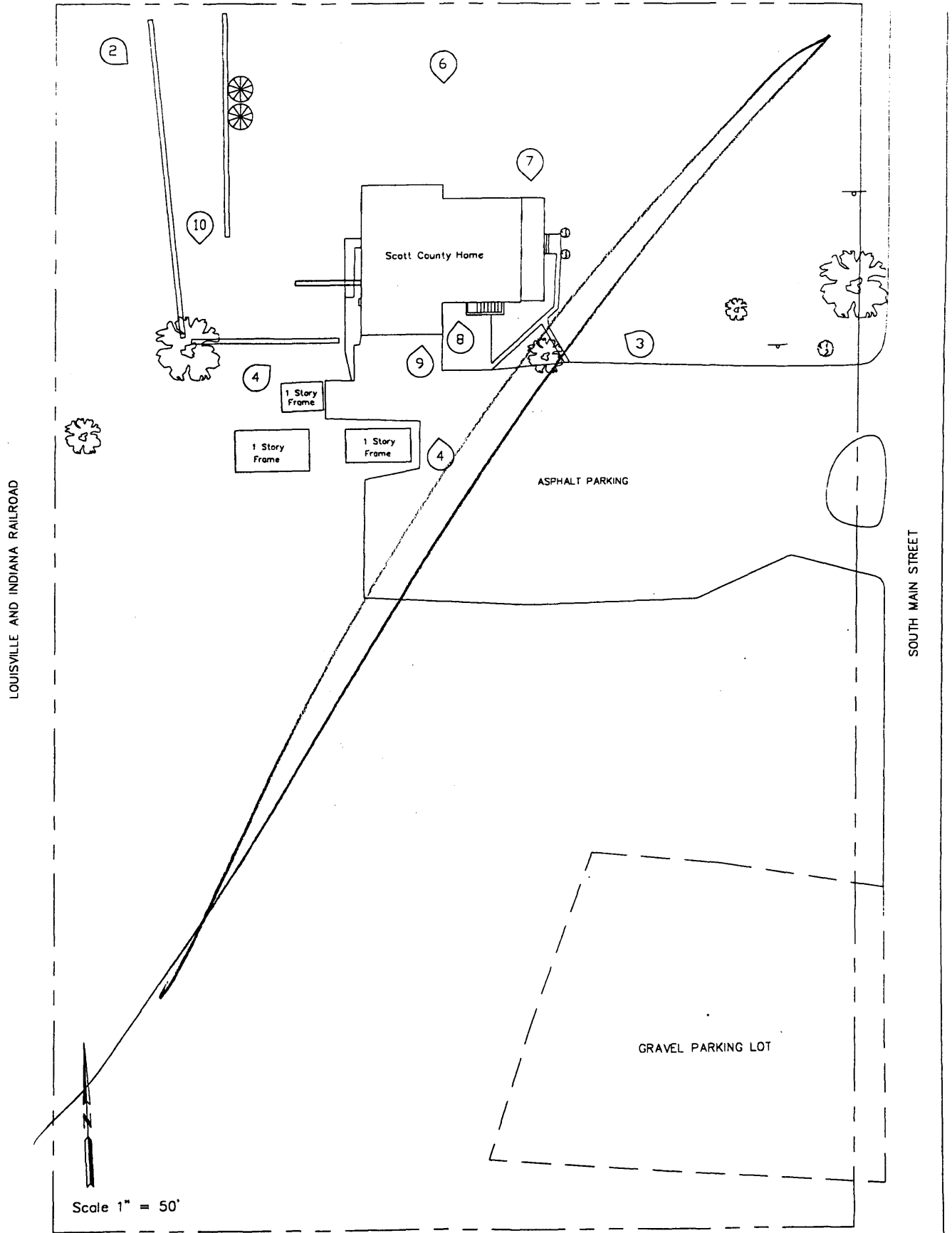


both 1 story frame bldgs. are NC



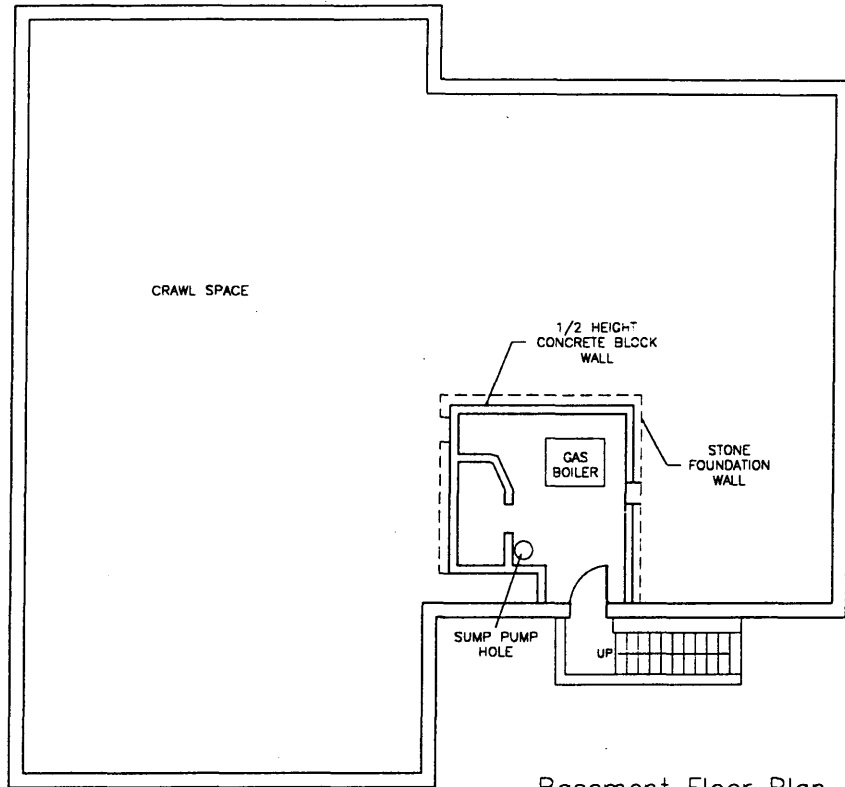
Site Plan and Exterior Photograph Index

Scott County Home  
Scott County, Indiana

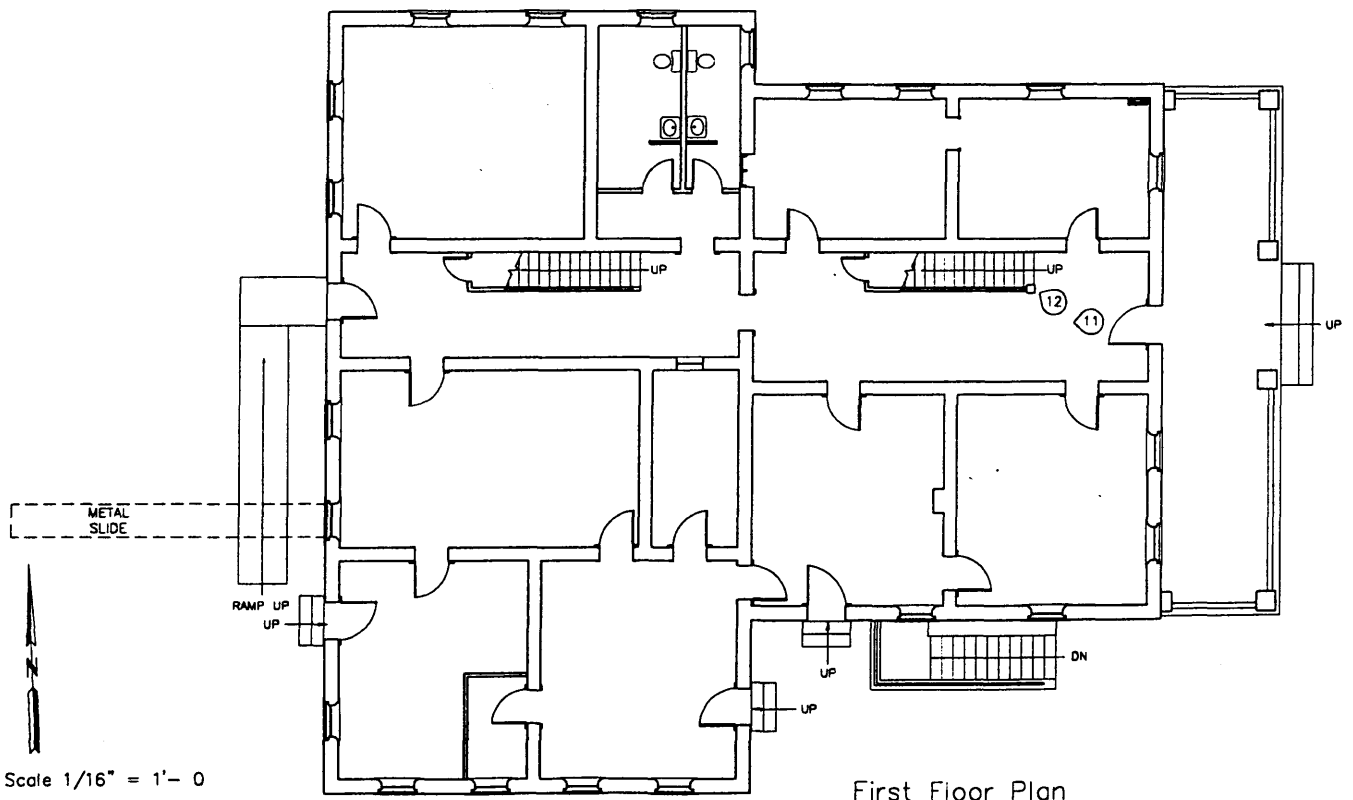


Scott County Home  
Scott County, Indiana

Basement/First Floor Plans and Photograph Index

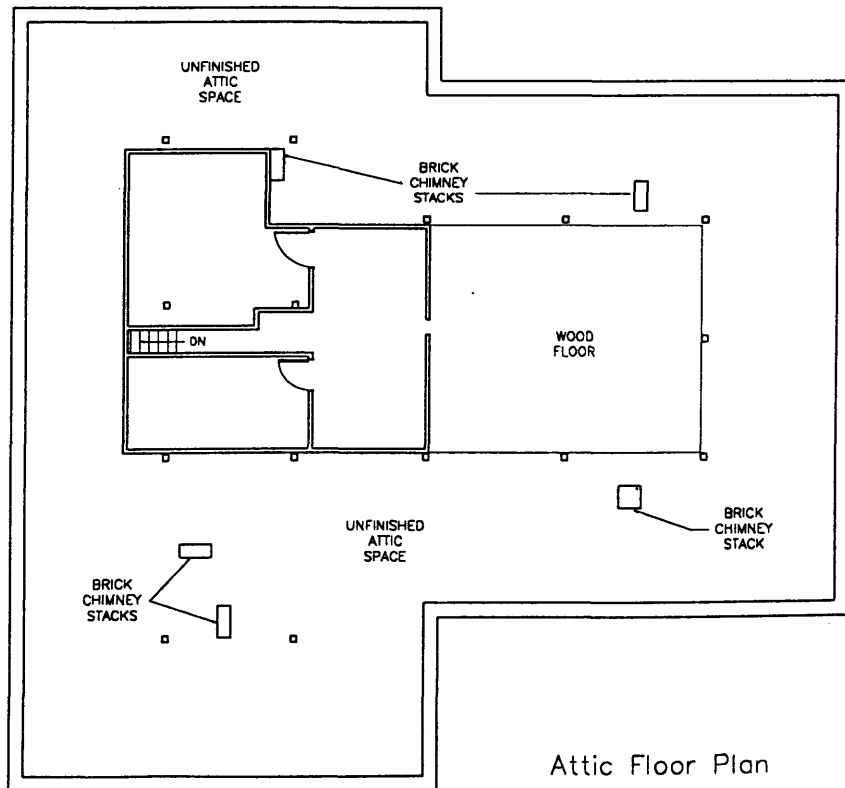
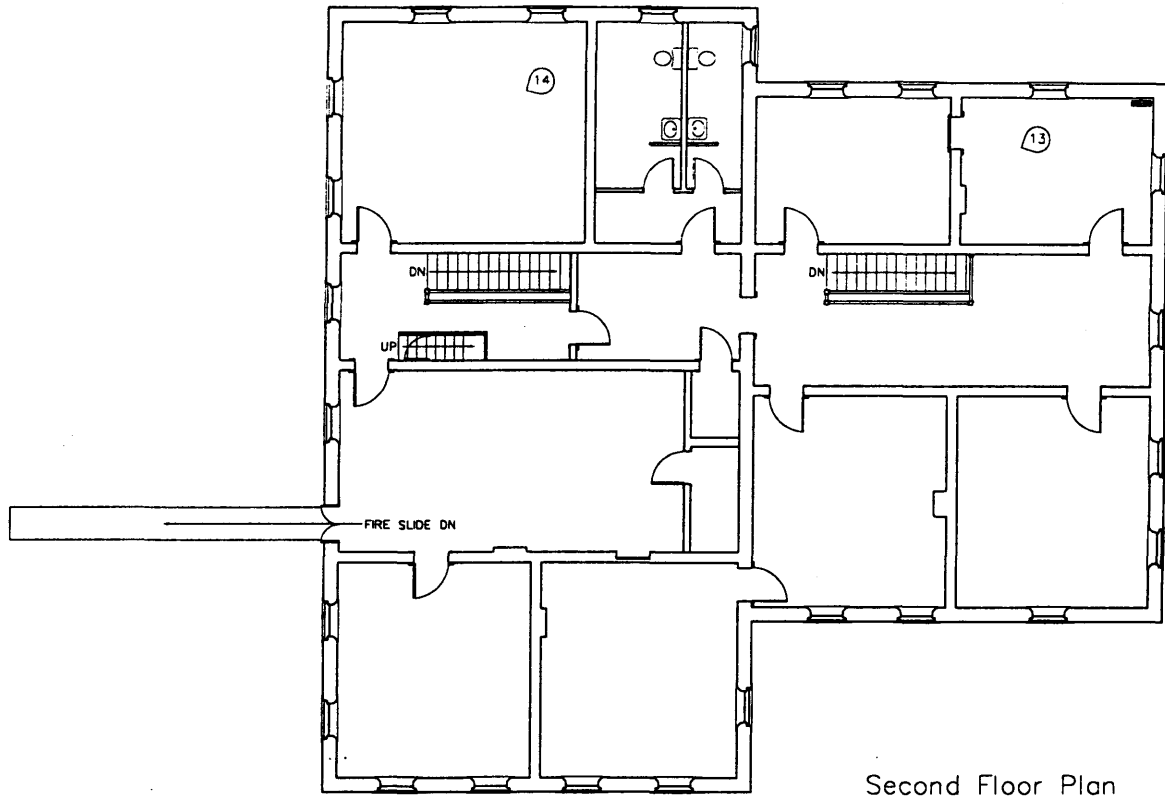


Basement Floor Plan



First Floor Plan

Second/Attic Floor Plans and Photograph Index



Scale 1/16" = 1' - 0"