

FINAL

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections**1. Name**

historic Moore-Youse-Maxon House

and/or common Maxon House

**2. Location**

street &amp; number 122 East Washington Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Muncie

N/A vicinity of

state Indiana

code 018

county Delaware

code 035

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Delaware County Historical Society

street &amp; number P.O. Box 1262

city, town Muncie

N/A vicinity of

state Indiana

47305

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Delaware County Recorder

street &amp; number Delaware County Courthouse

city, town Muncie

state Indiana

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N/A

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town

state

## 7. Description

| Condition                                |                                       | Check one                                   | Check one   |          |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent       | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good            | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved                    | date N/A |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |   |   |          |

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Maxon House stands on a corner in downtown Muncie, within one block of the Courthouse Square. The house is now surrounded by commercial structures sited directly on the sidewalks, so that it is the only structure with a setback. To the north are parking lots. A chain link fence surrounds the property.

The three bay, two story south (main) facade of this vernacular Greek Revival house presents an austere elevation, visually relieved by a pierced, sawn and bracketed single story, flat roofed porch, from a later period and recently rebuilt (Photos 1 and 2). By 1883, a full, three bay, two story addition to the north with entrance and side west porch had enlarged the residence to its present configuration (Photo 3). Prior to 1883, according to a bird's eye view of Muncie, a one story, approximately 15' wide addition extended north from the northwest corner of the original block. By 1883, the rear porch, now enclosed with lattice, was present as was a rear, single story addition at the northeast corner, now a garage finished with board and batten siding (Photo 4). Centered on the house's east facade, a now closed door with only the toplight remaining provided access to the pantry (Photo 5). The difference in window framing in the upper level and deterioration at the first story lintel level lend credence to the alterations evident in the 1883 view. The original block is clearly delineated here by the retention of the cornerboard (Photo 6).

The exterior is finished with narrow gray clapboards. All trim is painted white. All windows in the main block and east first floor are double-hung with six-over-six light sashes. All second floor windows in the addition have four-over-four light sashes. All windows retain shutter pintles (see Photo 1). The four-panel doors are set in plain surrounds, finished with a two light transom and entablature. The asphalt shingled gable roofs of the house are finished with molded, boxed eaves. A simple cornice follows the roofline. The flat porch roofs and gabled garage roof have rolled asphalt covering. A single red brick, non-original interior chimney stack is located at the east end of the east-west ridge. Originally, two banded, corbeled chimneys marked both ends of this ridge.

Access to the interior is provided from the south front porch into the large front parlor. The west side porch provides access to an entry stairhall (Photo 7). Painted and grained four-panel doors with transoms and entablatures open to the north into the dining room and to the south into the main parlor (Photo 8). The original graining in the front parlors has been painted over. Double leaf doors at the east end of the main parlor open into a narrow, 13' wide parlor located in the east end of the main block (Photo 9). The picture rail present in the c. 1900 photograph taken in this room (Photo 10) appears to have been used as the crown molding in the main parlor.

The partially open stairway with heavy turned and tapered newel and two turned and tapered balusters per step rises to a landing and turns 90° to the south, providing access to the front bedroom (Photo 11). Painted and grained woodwork, low ceilings and random width planked floors indicate the earlier date of this front section. A hall, off-set to the east at the top of the stairs, extends to a bath to the right and bedrooms in the northeast and northwest corners. Two narrow rooms, one located over the entrance hall, the other in the southwest corner, can be reached either from the front or northwest corner bedrooms. All woodwork in the north block is varnished light wood. Although all doors retain the transom, the doorways are more heavily molded in the north section.

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No gas fixtures remain. All hardware appears to be original to the dates of the addition, stamped hinge plates and simple latch boxes with spatterware knobs on the first floor and white ceramic knobs on the second floor. Interior chimney stacks received flues from wood or coal burning stoves. Steam heat was later provided by means of radiators. Electric baseboard units have been installed.

The double lot configuration with alleys to the north and west provided easy access to a variety of outbuildings (now gone) which were part of the property, specifically aligned north along Mulberry Street and sited in the northwest corner of the west lot. In 1883, a small, one story wood frame structure, perhaps a privy, was located in the northeast corner of the east lot. Two, two story stables were located in the northwest corner of the west lot. According to the 1892 Sanborn map, the two stables were joined; by 1896, the privy was removed. From turn-of-the-century photographs, the west yard was wooded, with defined garden areas. Fruit trees and the large cedar provide shade and texture to this area. A chain link fence which replaced the earlier white picket fence now extends around the entire perimeter of the property.

In 1951, Mr. and Mrs. Maxon leased the west portion of the west lot to Bender Properties, Inc. A single story, cinder block office was constructed. This building is also part of the holdings as the property was never sold.

Mary Youse Maxon, upon her death, deeded the house, contents, the two lots, and a small endowment to the Delaware County Historical Society for use as a historical museum. At this time plans are not finalized as to the exact function of the structures and property, but repair and restoration of the exterior is part of this organization's plan.

## 8. Significance

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

**Specific dates** c. 1860; pre-1883 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Moore-Youse-Maxon House stands as the only residential structure in the commercial center of Muncie which is representative of the earlier building phase and settlement of this city. It is also one of five or six of the earliest houses in the entire city, and is the best frame example from the pre-Civil War period.

The house has the simple detailing and plan of federal style houses found in Indiana, but its window entablature and eave trim give subtle reference to the Greek Revival style. Other houses in Muncie from before the Civil War (no more than six in number) are either brick, Italianate, or more altered than the Maxon House, and all others are located outside the downtown area. The date of the house's front porch has not been established, although it can be seen in an 1898 view (Photo 1). The present porch is a reconstruction completed in 1981, and appears to be an accurate reproduction.

Located on the northwest corner of East Washington Street and Mulberry Street, Gilbert's Addition of 1827, the Moore-Youse-Maxon House, according to an 1872 bird's eye view, was sited within one block of a row of commercial shops, and later the Post Office to the west along the east side of Walnut Street. Other frame residences were sited on adjacent lots to the east and north, as well as to the south. By 1887, the structure faced a pipe tile yard to the south across Washington Street. To the east, across Mulberry Street, the Abbot House was located in a structure which was continuously upgraded and finally designated as the Braun Hotel in 1911. Thus, the Maxon House was never part of a thoroughly residential neighborhood, but rather was one of a few wood framed residences among many frame and masonry buildings which marked the eastern edge of Muncie's commercial district. Today, this residence maintains this same relationship to the commercial area on the west and south, and the residential area on the east.

The house is thought to have been constructed c. 1849, prior to the sale of the property by Mary Jane and Daniel Andrews, daughter of Goldsmith C. Gilbert and the first white child to be born in Muncie. Anderson Carter, a tailor, the purchaser, sold the property to Wilson in 1864 for \$1500, \$500 more than the purchase price in 1849. Since no further documentation exists, a stylistic analysis suggests a date of construction as c. 1860.

From 1864 to 1983, the Moore-Youse-Maxon House remained in the same family. In 1864, Samuel P. Wilson purchased the two lots. Within three months he sold the lots to his daughter, Clara Jane Moore, and her husband, Charles Wesley Moore, a lawyer who began practicing in Muncie in 1859. Upon the death of Clara Moore, her daughter, Mary E. Moore Youse, inherited her mother's estate in 1904, including 122 East Washington Street. William Riley Youse, owner of a carpet and paper dealership, retained ownership with his daughter, Mary Youse, until his death in 1945. Mary Youse, who married John J. Maxon, a local industrialist, in 1946, remained in the house until her death in 1982.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approximately .3 acres  
Quadrangle name Muncie West, Indiana-Delaware County

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

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Verbal boundary description and justification Lots 7 and 8 in Block 9, Goldsmith C. Gilbert Donation to the City of Muncie, Delaware County, Indiana (formerly Muncietown).

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

| state | N/A | code | county | code |
|-------|-----|------|--------|------|
| state | N/A | code | county | code |

|       |     |      |        |      |
|-------|-----|------|--------|------|
| state | N/A | code | county | code |
|-------|-----|------|--------|------|

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan R. Slade

organization for Delaware County Historical Society

date October 15, 1983

street & number 4560 N. Broadway

telephone 317/283-6114

city or town Indianapolis

state Indiana 46205

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature James M. R. Deenour

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

date 4-19-84

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



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Abel, Mary Frances. You Are Because They Were. Muncie, 1976.

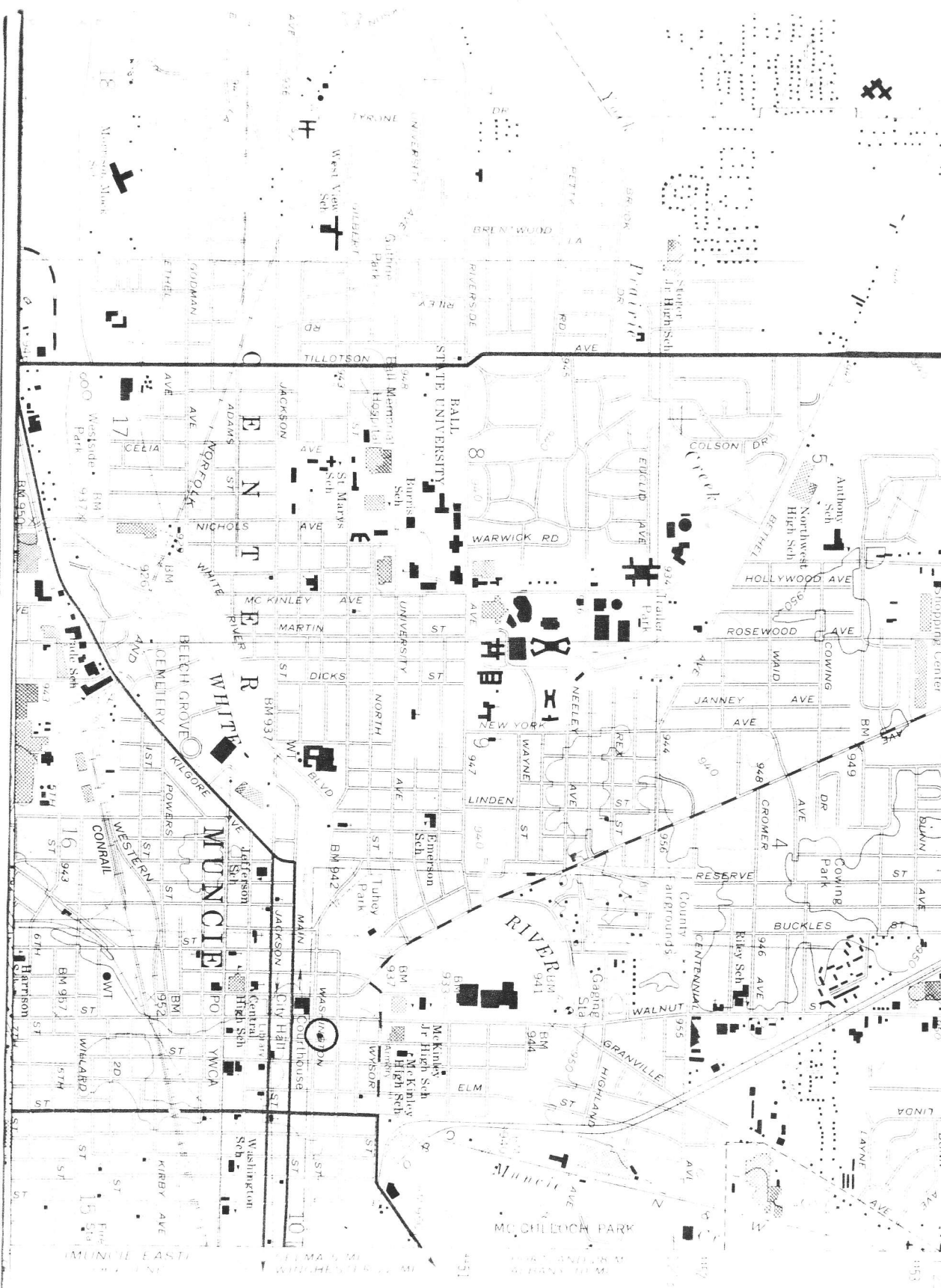
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Indianapolis: Historical Publishing Company, 1924

Helm, T. B. History of Delaware County, Indiana. Chicago: Kingman Brothers, 1881.

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Moore-Youse-Maxon House  
Muncie, Indiana  
UTM Reference:  
16/637440/4450400