

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 Thomas Faith House

other names/site number 027 663 34006

2. Location

street & number 1208 Bedford Road

N/A not for publication

city or town Washington

N/A vicinity

state IN

code IN

county Daviess

code 027

zip code 47501

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.)

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:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- 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:) _____

Thomas Faith House
Name of Property

Daviess County, 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(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

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)

OTHER: I House

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls METAL: Aluminum

roof ASPHALT

other WOOD

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.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions regarding property significance.

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

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions regarding property considerations.

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):

- Checkboxes for documentation types: preliminary determination, previously listed, landmark, survey, engineering record.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1821

Significant Dates

1821

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Faith, Thomas

Primary location of additional data:

- Checkboxes for primary location: State Historic Preservation Office, Other State agency, Federal agency, Local government, University, Other.

Name of repository:

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory

Thomas Faith House
Name of Property

Daviess Co., IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.2 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	116	4859810	4271891010
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 Laura Thayer, Historic Preservation Consultant

organization N/A date _____

street & number 3905 N. 500 West Road telephone 812/372-6806

city or town Columbus state IN zip code 47201

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 Brenda Bohnert Sobacki

street & number 1208 Bedford Road telephone 812/254-3463

city or town Washington state IN zip code 47501

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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The Thomas Faith House is located in the city of Washington, the seat of Daviess County, in southwestern Indiana. At the time it was constructed, the house was located in a rural area outside of the city. Gradually, the city grew to encompass the Faith House property and that of other country houses in the area. The character of the setting is still one of openness, with 19th century houses situated on large lots on the north side of Bedford Road, where the Faith House is located. The south side of Bedford Road is more densely developed, and has been since the early 20th century.

The Faith House is a one-and-a-half story log structure, built in 1821. The original part of the house is an I-house, a single pile dwelling with a side gable roof (photo 1). There is a large front yard with several old trees. A driveway extends from the street along the west side of the property. There is a brick walk which leads from the street to the center of the front porch (photos 1 and 2). This walk dates from the 19th or early 20th century.

The main (south) facade is three bays wide (photo 2). There is a 19th century, wood porch which extends the width of the facade (photo 3). There is a one-and-a-half story, timber frame, gable roof, addition on the rear of the house (photo 4). This addition dates from the 19th century. At the rear of the addition is a one-story, wood frame, two-car, attached garage (photo 5). The garage was built in two stages in the 20th century. The house has aluminum siding, installed about 1980, over clapboard siding. The foundation is brick. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The original part of the house is of hewn log construction. The half-dovetail notching technique can be viewed in the attic (photo 11).

The main entry door is in the center bay of the south facade. The door is a paneled wood and glass door (photo 7). Windows on the first story are tall (photo 3). They are double hung, wood windows, with four lights in each sash. On the second story of this facade, there are shorter, double hung, wood windows, with one light in each sash. All of the windows on this facade have wood shutters. The door and windows have plain wood surrounds.

A one-story, wood porch is composed of square columns, and an arched frieze with elaborate scroll work (photo 3). It

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appears to date from the mid- to late-19th century. The porch originally had three round arches on the south side. The end bays of the porch were extended in the early 20th century and are elliptical-arched. The porch floor is concrete.

On the west side of the original part of the house, there is one window opening at the basement level, and an attic vent (photo 4). The west end of the north facade of the original part is the only part of this facade not obscured by the addition. Here, there is a tall, wood, double hung window, with four lights in each sash. Above it, under the eaves, is a small, wood, double hung window.

The west facade of the addition has a group of three, wood, double hung windows, with one light in each sash on the south half. There is a like, single, window, and a back door with a concrete stoop, on the west half. At the basement level are two small windows. Windows and the door on the west facade have plain, wood surrounds.

Between the original part of the house and the addition, at the point where the two roofs cross, there is a small addition with paired windows on the east and west sides. This addition houses a bathroom.

On the north facade of the addition, there is a pair of wood, double hung windows, with one light in each sash, on the first level. These windows are placed high, above the level of the sink in the kitchen inside. In the gable is a wood, double hung window, with multi-light sashes.

The two-car garage at the rear of the addition was built in two stages (photo 5). The section nearest the house dates from the early 20th century. It has a wood garage door with square, multi-light windows in the upper third. Inside this part of the garage, clapboard siding is visible on the north wall of the addition to the house. The section farthest from the house was added in the mid-19th century. It has a wood garage door, with wide, short windows in the upper half. There is a window and door on the north facade of the garage, and two windows on the east facade.

On the east facade of the house, there are no windows in the original part (photo 6). There is a vent in the gable. On the east facade of the addition, there is a group of three, wood, double hung windows on the south

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half, and a small, wood, double hung window on the north half.

The original part of the house has two rooms on each floor (see floor plan). Originally, there was a central hallway on both floors. The west wall of the first floor hallway was removed in the 19th or early 20th century to make the room on the west half of the house larger. On the second floor, a closet was added at some point at the south end of the corridor. On the first floor of the addition are a dining room, kitchen, bath, and one other room. On the second floor are a bath and an attic.

Throughout the house, are hardwood floors, and plaster walls and ceilings (photos 7-10). Doors are paneled, wood doors. Woodwork on the first floor of the original part of the house include wide, molded baseboards, and architrave moldings around door and window openings (photos 7 and 9). A wood fireplace surround (photo 8) has pilasters supporting a decorative frieze surmounted by a mantel. The stairway (photo 7) has turned newel posts and spindles, a molded railing, and scalloped moldings along the stringer. These decorative elements are probably not original to the house, and may have been added during the time Matthew Brett occupied the house, from c. 1852 to c. 1860 (see Statement of Significance). Woodwork on the first floor of the addition is similar to that in the original part of the house (photo 10). Woodwork on the second floor is plain, and without distinction. The house has a cellar with a cement floor and brick walls.

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The Thomas Faith House is significant under Criterion A in the area of Exploration/Settlement and under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The house is one of a small number of extant structures associated with the settlement period in Daviess County, which extended from about 1800 to 1850. In addition, it is a rare example in the county a log house, a building type generally associated with the settlement period.

Daviess County was originally part of Knox County, organized in 1790. The first settlers of what would become Daviess County arrived around the year 1800, or shortly after. Many of the pioneers were from southern states, and came by way of the Wabash and White Rivers from Kentucky. Others came from the east, by way of the Ohio River, and overland trails. Population growth was slow during the first years of settlement, due in part to conflicts with Native Americans. The War of 1812 also discouraged immigration. Settlement increased significantly in 1814, after the end of the war. Daviess County was organized as a separate county in 1817, and Washington established as county seat. By 1820, the year the Federal Census first recorded the population of the county, there were 3,432 people.

Most of the early settlers were farmers. They practiced subsistence level farming during the first half of the 19th century. There were a few stores and industries in the county, most located in Washington. The population continued to increase at a steady pace, as people from crowded and overfarmed areas of the country sought inexpensive land in Indiana. By 1850, most of the land in Daviess County had been purchased from the government and the population had reached 10,352. The initial settlement period was over. Several changes took place in the 1850s which contributed to a new period of rapid industrial and agricultural development. The Wabash and Erie Canal was completed through Daviess County in the early 1850s. In 1857, the first railroad, the Ohio and Mississippi, arrived in Washington. Coal mining, which would become a major industry in the county, began in the late 1850s.

Thomas Faith was a farmer and cabinetmaker, who came to Daviess County from Pennsylvania in 1817. He purchased a farm northeast of Washington, and, in 1821, built a

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one-and-a-half story log structure, the subject of this nomination, to house his large family. The Faith House is one of a small number of extant resources associated with settlement in Washington Township and Daviess County. Other than cemeteries, four resources associated with settlement between 1800 and 1850 in Daviess County are identified in the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory. These are Walnut Hill M.E. Church in Madison Township, built c. 1848, and rated "contributing" (page 4, site 014 in the Daviess County Interim Report); a log house in Madison Township, built c. 1850, and rated "notable" (page 4, site 018); Pleasant Grove United Baptist Church in Madison Township, built c. 1840, and rated "contributing" (page 10, site 022); and the Chapman-Allison House in Veale Township, built in 1813, and rated "contributing" (page 61, site 001).

Several other early resources in the Inventory are significant for their architecture. Nine of these are identified in the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory as "outstanding," or "notable." These are the Montgomery House, a Federal style house in the village of Montgomery, built c. 1840, and rated "outstanding" (page 26, site 001); the Aikman House, an I-cottage in Washington Township, built c. 1850, and rated "notable" (page 31, site 008); the Helphenstine House, a Greek Revival style house in Washington, built in 1847, and rated "outstanding" (page 42, site 021); the Vantrees House, a Greek Revival style house in Washington, built c. 1843, and rated "outstanding" (page 46, site 139); a Federal style house in Washington, built c. 1850, and rated "notable" (page 55, site 041); a Federal style house in Washington, built c. 1850, and rated "notable" (page 58, site 085); the White House, a Federal style house in Veale Township, built c. 1850, and rated "outstanding" (page 61, site 008); the Allen House, a Federal style house in Harrison Township, built c. 1840, and rated "notable" (page 63, site 005); and a farm in Harrison Township, built c. 1840, and rated "notable" (page 63, site 009).

Besides houses, farms, cemeteries, and churches, expected resources associated with the settlement period might include mills, stores, schools, and governmental buildings. None of these were identified in the Inventory.

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The Faith House is significant for its architecture. It is one of a small number of extant log structures in Daviess County. Log structures were one of the most common building types in southern Indiana in the first half of the 19th century. According to Warren Roberts, in Log Buildings of Southern Indiana,¹ the early settlers of Indiana were "thoroughly familiar with hewn-and-chinked-log construction," which had proliferated in earlier settled areas of the United States.

Log construction is thought to be of European origin. In the 18th century, it was in use in the eastern part of the county, in New England, the Mid-Atlantic states, and the South. By the time Thomas Faith immigrated to Daviess County from Pennsylvania, it was a standard building type for Midwestern pioneers.

It seems likely that log structures were common in Daviess County before 1850, as in other places in southern Indiana, but little evidence of this construction type remains. Log houses in Madison Township (page 4, site 018) and Washington Township (page 32, site 031) were the only log structures identified in the Inventory. It is probable that other log structures exist in the county, but may be sided, and are not generally known.

Roberts surveyed 296 log houses. Of these, the most common type was the single pen log house with a sleeping loft, which constituted 65 per cent of the total. One of the least common types surveyed was one-and-a-half story, single pile house with two rooms on both floors, and a central hallway. The Faith House falls into this category, which comprised only 2 per cent of the total houses surveyed. Roberts found that the main type of notching in southern Indiana was the half dovetail notch. Of a total of 470 log buildings surveyed (including barns, churches, and other buildings, as well as houses), 338 employed this type of notch, which can be seen on the corners of the Faith House.

The Faith House has aluminum siding, applied over clapboard siding, in about 1980. The historic form,

1. Warren Roberts, Log Buildings of Southern Indiana (Bloomington, Indiana, 1984).

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features, and detailing are not obscured by the modern siding. Window and door openings; window frames, sashes, and surrounds; paneled wood doors; and the decorative wood porch remain intact. Considering that the Faith House appears to be one of the few representations of both the settlement period, and log construction in Daviess County, the aluminum siding does not significantly decrease the historic importance of the property.

The house was constructed by Thomas Faith. Along with 14 acres, it was sold to Matthew L. Brett for \$260 in 1852. Brett, who probably lived in the house between 1852 and about 1860, was a prominent Daviess County businessman, farmer, and politician. Born in 1823, he came to Daviess County with his family in 1831. He served as Daviess County Auditor from 1844 to 1859, and was elected to the Indiana State Legislature in 1860. He served as State Treasurer from 1863 to 1865. In 1872, he was again elected to the State Legislature, and served two more terms. As a businessman, he was a director and first cashier of the Washington National Bank, and owner of a flour mill. He also owned a large farm near Washington. Brett died in 1896.

Two other houses in Washington are associated with Matthew Brett. In 1858, he commissioned Isaiah Rogers (1800-1869) to design the Greek Revival style house at 607 E. Main Street (page 46, site 145). Rogers was an important American architect of the Greek Revival period. Brett and his wife Alice probably lived in this house from about 1860 to 1865. After the Civil War, another Greek Revival style house, also designed by Rogers, was built for the Bretts on property adjacent to that of the Thomas Faith House (page 53, site 007). The land on which this house stands was purchased by Brett in 1852. A large part of the property, now a golf course, was maintained as a deer park by Brett's grandson and heir, Brett Cabel, in the late 19th century.

In 1874, the Faith House, with 1.68 acres, was transferred to Brett's widowed sister, Honora Burke. She lived there until her death in 1905. In 1906, Alice Brett, by then a widow, moved back into the house, and lived there until 1913, when it was purchased by John C. Reed. Reed was an engineer for the B & O Railroad. His daughter, Evelyn Reed, a teacher, lived in the house until 1988, when it was purchased by the present owner.

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Atlas of Daviess County, Indiana. Philadelphia:
Griffing, Dixon and Company, 1888.

"Daviess County home a log cabin at heart." Indianapolis:
Indianapolis Star, July 4, 1984.

Daviess County land records.

Fulkerson, A.O., Ed. History of Daviess County, Indiana.
Indianapolis: B.F. Bowen and Company, 1915.

History of Knox and Daviess Counties, Indiana. Chicago:
The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1886.

Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Indiana.
Chicago: Beskin, Forster, and Company, 1876.

Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Daviess County
Interim Report. Indianapolis: Historic Landmarks
Foundation of Indiana, 1987.

Myers, L. Rex. Daviess County, Indiana, History.
Paducah, Kentucky: Turner Publishing Company.

National Register of Historic Places, Nominations for
Solomon Fussell Farm, Pendleton, Indiana, listed 1992; and
Washington Commercial Historic District, Washington,
Indiana, listed 1991.

Purdue, Eleanor, Daviess County Historical Society.
Telephone Interview. February 10, 1992.

Reed, Evelyn, Former Owner of Thomas Faith House.
Interview. Washington, Indiana, February 5, 1992.

Roberts, Warren E. Log Buildings of Southern Indiana.
Bloomington, Indiana: Trickster Press, 1984.

Shepard, Rebecca A., et al. A Biographical Directory of
the Indiana General Assembly. Vol. I. 1816-1899.
Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Bureau, 1980.

"Tour of 5 Historic Homes of City Arranged For Oct. 4."
Washington, Indiana: The Washington Times-Herald, October
3, 1966, p. 8.

"VU Student Reports on Oldest Washington Home."
Vincennes, Indiana: The Valley Advance, May 5, 1966.

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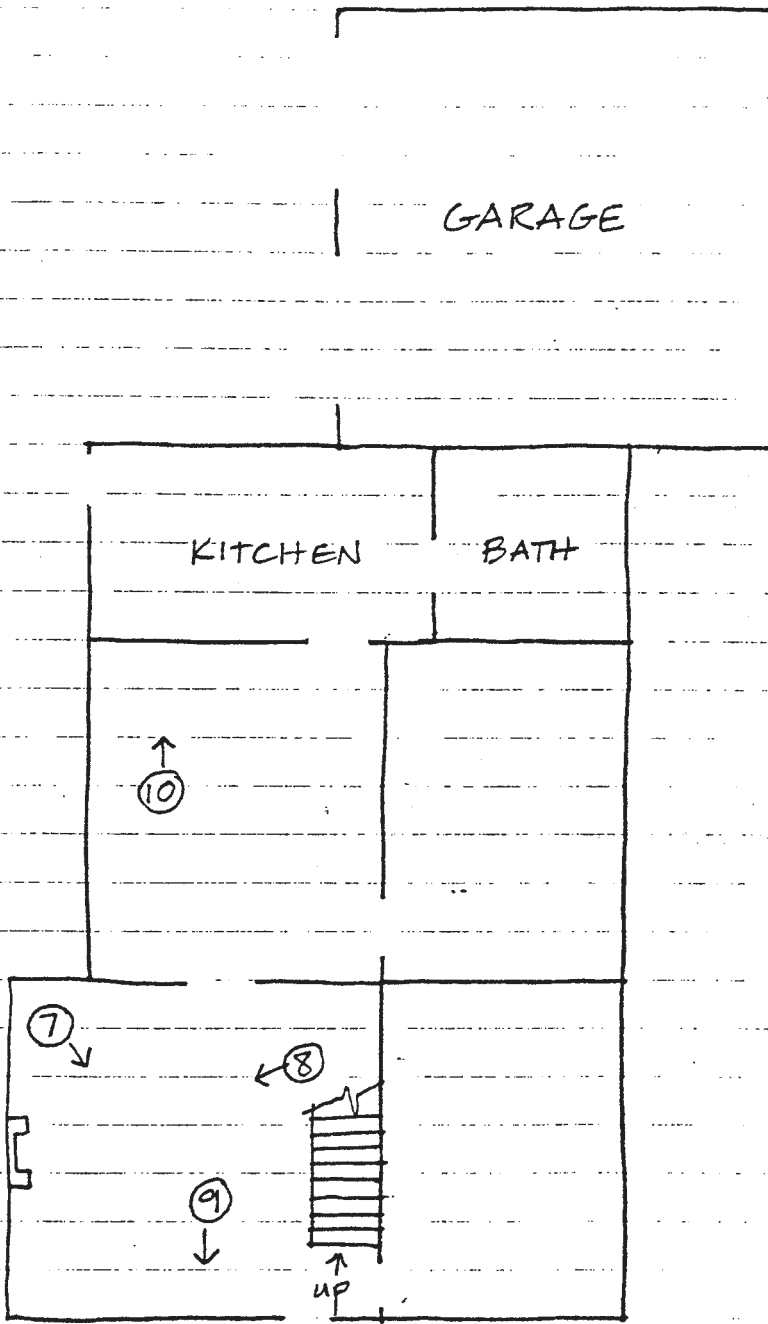
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Verbal Boundary Description

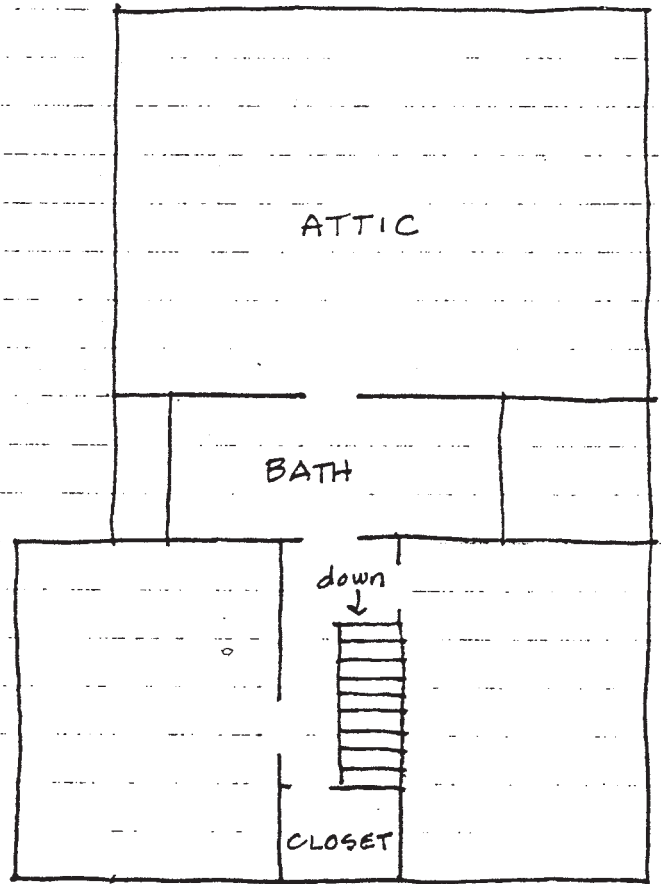
A part of the Southwest Quarter of Section 26, Township 3 North, Range 7 West more particularly described as follows: The east one-half of the following described tract, to-wit: Beginning at a stone 624 feet west of the northeast corner of Location Numbered 135, in Township 3 North, Range 7 West, and running thence west 184 feet; thence north 400 feet; thence East 184 feet; and thence south 400 feet to the place of beginning, but excepting therefrom a parallel strip 118 feet wide off of the north end of said tract.

Boundary Justification

Except for a strip 118 feet deep and 184 feet wide, which is not included, this has been the boundary of the property since it was partitioned from the larger farm in 1874. It includes the house and additions, a large front yard, and a small back yard.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

THOMAS FAITH HOUSE
WASHINGTON, IN

↑
north

① ↗
photo view