

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 **Jay, Abijah C., House**  
other names/site number **053-384-37248**

2. Location

street & number **118 West 7th Street** N/A not for publication  
city or town **Marion** N/A vicinity  
state **Indiana** code **IN** county **Grant** code **053** zip code **46952**

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**  
State or Federal agency and bureau

Date  
**1.30.03**

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:)

Jay, Abijah C., House  
Name of Property

Grant 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

**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)

VACANT

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: Limestone

walls BRICK

roof STONE: Slate

other WOOD

STONE

**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.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1888  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1888  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Jay, Abijah C.  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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:

Marion (Indiana) Public Library  
\_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property**    Less than 1 acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	16	613400	4490010
	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 Diane Tuinstra & Jonathan Spodek

organization Ball State University date 04-29-2002

street & number College of Architecture & Planning, Department of Architecture telephone 765/ 285-1900

city or town Muncie state IN zip code 47306

**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 Marion Public Library

street & number 600 South Washington Street telephone 765/ 688-2900

city or town Marion state IN zip code 46953-1992

**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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**Narrative Description**

Summary Paragraph

The Abijah C. Jay House, built in 1888, is an exemplary example of a Queen Anne style house in Marion, Grant County, Indiana. The house is a two-story red brick dwelling with an irregularly shaped footprint and a steep pitched compound hipped roof with lower cross gables. A one-story porch runs from the middle of the west facade around the corner to the middle of the south facade. The interior of the house features elaborate woodwork in cherry and quarter-sawn oak. The house is located on the northeast corner of Seventh and Boots Streets in Marion, Indiana. With the main entrance facing Boots Street (west), the residence is placed in a neighborhood consisting of mixed residential and public-use buildings.

Setting and Site

To the west and south of the house are residential areas. On the east side of the property is a gravel parking lot adjacent to an alley. The Marion (Indiana) Public Library is east of the property across the alley. Immediately north of the property is a twentieth century commercial building. To the north of this building, and on the same block as the Jay House, is the parking lot for the library. The site is an urban residential lot bounded by streets to the west and south. There are concrete sidewalks separated from the street by a grass strip. Concrete walks lead to the buildings main and kitchen entrance. The landscaping is primarily grass lawn with a few trees. The eastern quarter of the property is currently being used as a gravel parking lot for library employees.

Building Exterior

The foundation is rubble-faced limestone with beaded joints. The walls are load-bearing red brick masonry made of locally produced soft-pressed red brick laid in common bond. The roof is a compound hipped roof with lower cross gables. Prominent front facing gables are on the west and south faces of the roof (street faces). There is one gabled dormer window on each of the west and the south facades complementing the larger gables.

While the overall roof form remains from the period of significance, some changes have taken place in the twentieth century. The original slate roof was replaced with a new, matching slate roof in 2001. The original decorative ridge caps have been replaced with simple roll ridge cap. Only one of the original three chimneys still extends above the roofline. This is the chimney on the north side of the house serving the west parlor and west bedroom fireplaces. The elaborated corbelled chimney cap has been removed. Two other chimneys have been taken down below the roof sheathing. The multipart wood entablature has a frieze, modillions and cornice. The built in gutters have been removed eliminating the top section of the cornice moldings. The angled sides of the west and south bays projections are each dressed out with corner brackets and a drop ornament.

The house has one primary porch and two smaller secondary porches. The primary porch partially wraps around the west and south facades accentuating the asymmetrical nature of the building facades. This single story porch has a hip roof with walks and stairs from each of the street sidewalks. The porches' current configuration and location are the same as originally constructed. While the original porch roof framing, ceiling and posts remain, the floor has been replaced with concrete floor and the gables over each of the porch entrances have been removed. The original Moorish arched trim between the paired wood posts has been removed. The corners of the posts are chamfered and there is a sunburst pattern at

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the top. On the south façade are two, small secondary porches serving as rear entrances into the kitchen. The southeast porch has a hip roof and tucks into a corner formed by the brick exterior walls. As with the main porch, the Moorish arch has been removed, although the original configuration, roof and posts remain. The second kitchen porch at the northeast corner porch mirrors the southeast porch with the slight exception of a shed roof and lattice covered walls.

The building fenestrations consist of the original one-over-one double hung wood sash windows. Each window has a limestone lintel with chamfered ends and a straight rectangular limestone sill on the top and bottom of a simple rectangular masonry opening.

Building Interior

The building has an irregular footprint characteristic of Victorian Queen Anne residences of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. There is a partial basement, two full floors, and an unfinished attic. Although this house was divided into two apartments (one on the second floor and one on the first floor), the modifications were minimal. The house retains its original room configuration and all character defining details on all floors.

A full basement, under the eastern two-thirds of the house, is accessed from a narrow stair from the kitchen and from an exterior bulkhead at the east end of the house. The west third of the house, under the entry foyer and west parlor, has only a crawl space beneath the first floor. The accessible basement is unfinished with concrete floors, brick walls and no finished ceiling. There are several inward opening awning windows at the upper portions of the exterior walls. Their sills are at the exterior finish grade.

The first floor has a compound, irregular arrangement of rooms. The original arrangement of rooms remains intact. The eastern two thirds of the house contains the formal rooms of the entry foyer, two parlors, and the dining room. These rooms are connected through a series of pocket doors. Throughout the formal rooms are hardwood floors with decorative patterning around the room perimeters. The door and window trim is highly decorative, natural finish oak and cherry. While all four of the main formal rooms have chimneybreasts, only the west parlor has a fireplace. This fireplace's mantel, mirror and tile surround have been removed and placed into storage in the library. In the other formal first floor rooms there are variations in the wood floor pattern in front of the chimneybreasts along with small gas piping in the foyer, east parlor and dining room. There is no evidence of a fireplace existing at these three locations. It is probable that this is evidence of gas heating units popular during the gas boom era of east central Indiana.

The eastern third of the first floor contains the service rooms of the butler pantry, kitchen, and bathroom. The butler's pantry has similar decorative trim features as the dining room. The pantry's built-in cabinetry has been removed and is in storage in the library. The kitchen has minimal articulation in the trim and moldings. The kitchen finishes and cabinetry are from a remodeling in the latter half of the twentieth century. The bathroom retains the decorative door and window trim similar to the east parlor, however, the room has been remodeled to contain contemporary bathroom fixtures.

The second floor is a series of rooms organized around a central hallway. There are three formal bedrooms, several large closets, a bathroom, and a servant's bedroom at the east end. Above the first floor foyer is a small dressing/trunk room with a closet. While the three formal bedrooms all have chimneybreasts, only the west and south bedrooms have a

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fireplace. These fireplace mantles and tile surrounds have been removed and placed in storage in the library. With the exception of the bathroom and servant's bedroom, the rooms and hallway are articulated with decorative oak baseboards, door, and window trim. All the hallway doors have transom windows. The servant's (east) bedroom was converted to a kitchen to support a second floor apartment. The bathroom and servant's bedroom were modified in the latter part of the twentieth century with modern fixtures and cabinetry.

Stairs

There are two staircases in the Jay House. The formal stair connects the foyer with the second floor hallway. This stair is highly ornate bracketed stair with scrolled brackets at each step. The stair includes turned spindles, wood railing, and elaborate newel posts. This stair is in its original location, original condition and maintains all its original components. The servant's stair in the rear (east) end of the house connects the basement, first floor, second floor, and attic. This is a simple, enclosed staircase. Although it is in its original location it has been slightly modified in the first floor kitchen. The stair originally had a quarter turn with winders entering the kitchen. This was modified to a straight run at the first floor into a small vestibule at the kitchen entrance to accommodate a separate entrance to the second floor apartment.

Integrity

Although the house was divided into two apartments in the 1930s, it retains a high degree of integrity. The floor plan and traffic flow through the house remains unchanged. The elaborate wood trim remains intact throughout the interior. Although some of the stained glass windows and all of the fireplace surrounds are not currently in the house, the owner, the Marion Public Library, has placed them in storage to keep them safe until restoration work is completed on the house. The exterior form has been unchanged from its period of significance. Although some of the main porch's detailing has been lost, the configuration, size, scale, and relationship to the main house remain. The roof configuration, material and dormers have been restored to its period of significance. However, the built-in gutters and decorative ridge caps have not been restored. All exterior wall material and openings retain a high level of integrity with all wood windows on the first and second floor unchanged.

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**Statement of Significance**

Summary Paragraph

The Abijah C. Jay house is recommended eligible for the National Register under Criterion C. The property is eligible under Criterion C for its architectural merit as an outstanding example of Queen Anne architecture in Marion, Indiana.

Historical Background

The history of European-American settlement around Marion, Indiana, dates back to the mid-1820s. The town was incorporated in 1838.<sup>1</sup> However, the period of growth in Marion was defined by Indiana's gas boom, a time of great growth that followed from the discovery of vast amounts of natural gas in central Indiana. Natural gas was discovered in Marion in 1887 and over the next two decades industries dependent on the cheap supply of gas flourished in the area.<sup>2</sup> It was during this period of growth that the Jay House was built. The size of the Jay House and its elaborate detail exemplify the growing prosperity of the area during the early years of the gas boom.

Abijah C. Jay purchased the property at the corner of Boots and Seventh Streets on March 23, 1888, from Jasper A. Gauntt. Gauntt removed the buildings located there and during the summer Jay erected the current Jay House.<sup>3</sup> Jay lived in the house until his death on May 18, 1909.<sup>4</sup> His wife and daughter, Rhoda Davis Jay and Florence Jay continued to live in the house after his death. In the 1930s the house was divided into two separate apartments, one upstairs and one downstairs.<sup>5</sup> Rhoda Davis Jay died in 1947<sup>6</sup> and in 1953 the house passed into Florence's possession, and she continued to live in the upstairs apartment.<sup>7</sup> In 1972 Florence Jay sold the house to Jules and Robert Walker. Jules Walker had lived in the house since the 1940s, when he moved there with his parents. Jules Walker sold the house to the Marion (Indiana) Public Library in 1991.<sup>8</sup> Since its acquisition by the library, the Jay house has sat vacant awaiting restoration for use as a facility to support library programming.

Abijah Jay

Abijah C. Jay (1838-1909) was a significant figure in local history. He was born October 12, 1838, in Montgomery County, Ohio.<sup>9</sup> Along with his parents and four brothers and sister he moved to Grant County, Indiana, in 1850.<sup>10</sup> Jay attended Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana. In 1854 he married Caroline Coffin; together they had one son, Cooper Jay. Caroline

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1 Grant County Junior Historical Society, *A Century of Development, Grant County, Indiana*, (April 1937), 23, available in the Indiana History and Genealogy Room, Marion Public Library; Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, *Grant County Interim Report*, (Indianapolis, Indiana: Department of Natural Resources, 1993), xiii.

2 *A Century of Development*, 11.

3 *The [Marion, Indiana] Daily Chronicle*, 24 March 1888.

4 "Abijah C. Jay Dies After A Brief Illness," *The Marion [Indiana] Daily Leader*, 19 May 1909.

5 Tammy Kingery, "This Old House," *[Marion, Indiana] Chronicle Tribune*, 7 June 1992, C-1.

6 Obituary Index, Marion Indiana Newspapers, Indiana History and Genealogy Room, Marion Public Library.

7 Property Deed, Grant County Recorder's Office, Marion, Indiana.

8 Kingery, "This Old House."

9 "Abijah C. Jay Dies After A Brief Illness."

10 *History of Grant County, Indiana: From the Earliest Time to the Present, with Biographical Sketches, Notes, Etc., Together with an Extended History of the Northwest, the Indiana Territory, and the State of Indiana* (Chicago: Brant & Fuller, 1886), 641.



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died in June 1880. In 1884 Copper married Rhoda Davis and they had one daughter, Florence, before his death in 1890.<sup>11</sup> Abijah Jay served two terms as Grant County commissioner and held that position at the time of the construction of the Grant County Court House. He was a member of the city council for seven years, and was a school board member for nine years from 1898 to 1907.<sup>12</sup> Jay was chairman of the county central committee of the Republican Party.<sup>13</sup> As president of the school board, Jay was instrumental in obtaining \$50,000 in funding from Andrew Carnegie for a permanent building to house the Marion Public Library.<sup>14</sup> The library is located on the same block as Abijah Jay's house. Jay purchased the lot and built the Jay House at the height of his financial and political prominence. The house is a sign of the prominence, both financially and politically, that Jay occupied in the local community.

**Criterion C**

The Abijah C. Jay House is architecturally significant as a representative of the elaborate homes built during central Indiana's natural "Gas Boom" period, which began one year before the Jay House was built. It is an outstanding example of Queen Anne style architecture in the local community. The size of the house, elaborate detail in the interior and exterior woodwork, and the degree of integrity make it a rare example of a house of its kind in this area.

The economic surge fueled by natural gas also spurred home building on a large scale in Marion and many other central Indiana towns. Mechanized lumberyards were by then well-suited to produce all the necessary elements of Queen Anne domestic architecture. Hundreds of Queen Anne cottages for middle class and working class families sprang up in the community. But only a handful that survive today truly have individual merit as high style examples. The Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory for Grant County identifies ten houses that represent the Queen Anne movement. These ten were given the higher ratings of "notable" or "outstanding." The mostly unknown builders or architects of these ten houses often borrowed influences from other closely related styles of the era: Shingle, Stick, Romanesque Revival, Chateausque, and Free Classic. Six of these ten were given the highest rating of "outstanding," including the Jay House, and only three of these six are more purely Queen Anne in style.

On the exterior, the Jay House exemplified many of the features characteristic of Queen Anne residential architecture both in its shape/layout and in its decorative features. The irregular shape layout with steeply pitched roof and dominant front facing gables on both street facades are features identified with the Queen Anne style of Victorian Houses. Additionally the asymmetrical facades and a partial width wrap around porch dominant on the Jay House are key characteristics of this architectural style.

<sup>11</sup> "Abijah C. Jay Dies After A Brief Illness."

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Kingery, "This Old House."

<sup>14</sup> *Marion Public Library, 1884-1902*, pamphlet. Available at the Marion Public Library.

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**Bibliography**

Grant County Junior Historical Society. *A Century of Development, Grant County, Indiana*. April 1937. Available in the Indiana History and Genealogy Room, Marion Public Library.

Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana. *Grant County Interim Report*. Indianapolis, Indiana: Department of Natural Resources, 1993.

*History of Grant County, Indiana: From the Earliest Time to the Present, with Biographical Sketches, Notes, Etc., Together with an Extended History of the Northwest, the Indiana Territory, and the State of Indiana*. Chicago: Brant & Fuller, 1886.

*[Marion, Indiana] Chronicle Tribune*

*The [Marion, Indiana] Daily Chronicle*

*The Marion [Indiana] Daily Leader*

*Marion Public Library, 1884-1902*, pamphlet. Available at the Marion Public Library.

Obituary Index, Marion Indiana Newspapers. Indiana History and Genealogy Room, Marion Public Library.

Property Deed. Grant County Recorder's Office, Marion, Indiana.

**Boundary Description**

Lot eleven in Turner's Addition to Marion, Indiana

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes the lot currently associated with the Jay House and historically associated with the Jay House during its period of significance.

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**Photographs**

All photographs are of:

Abijah C. Jay House  
Grant County, Indiana  
Diane Tuinstra, Photographer

All negatives are stored in the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Photo #1 of 10

View of Front Elevation from the west

Date: March 14, 2002

Photo #2 of 10

View of the South Side Elevation from south

Date: March 14, 2002

Photo #3 of 10

View of the Rear Elevation from the east

Date: March 14, 2002

Photo #4 of 10

View of the North Side Elevation from the north

Date: March 14, 2002

Photo #5 of 10

View of Dormer Detail from the south

Date: March 14, 2002

Photo #6 of 10

View of Cornice/Corner Bracket Detail from the west

Date: March 14, 2002

Photo #7 of 10

View of first floor foyer from the north

Date: March 14, 2002

Photo #8 of 10

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View of first floor east parlor into foyer and west parlor from the east  
Date: March 14, 2002

Photo #9 of  
View of first floor dining room into east parlor and butler pantry from the south  
Date: March 14, 2002

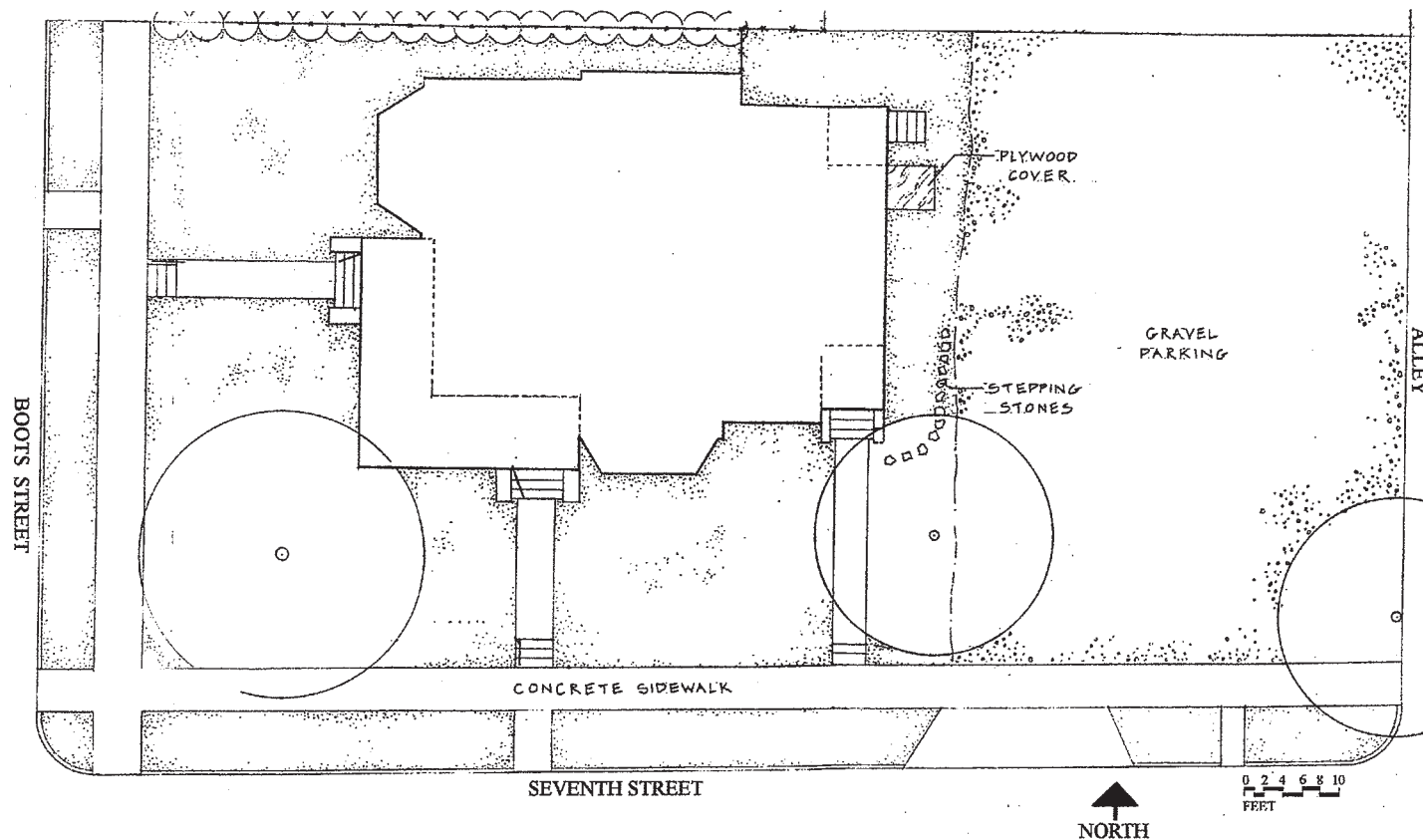
Photo #10 of 10  
View of second floor south bedroom into corridor and west bedroom from the south  
Date: March 14, 2002

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Site Plan

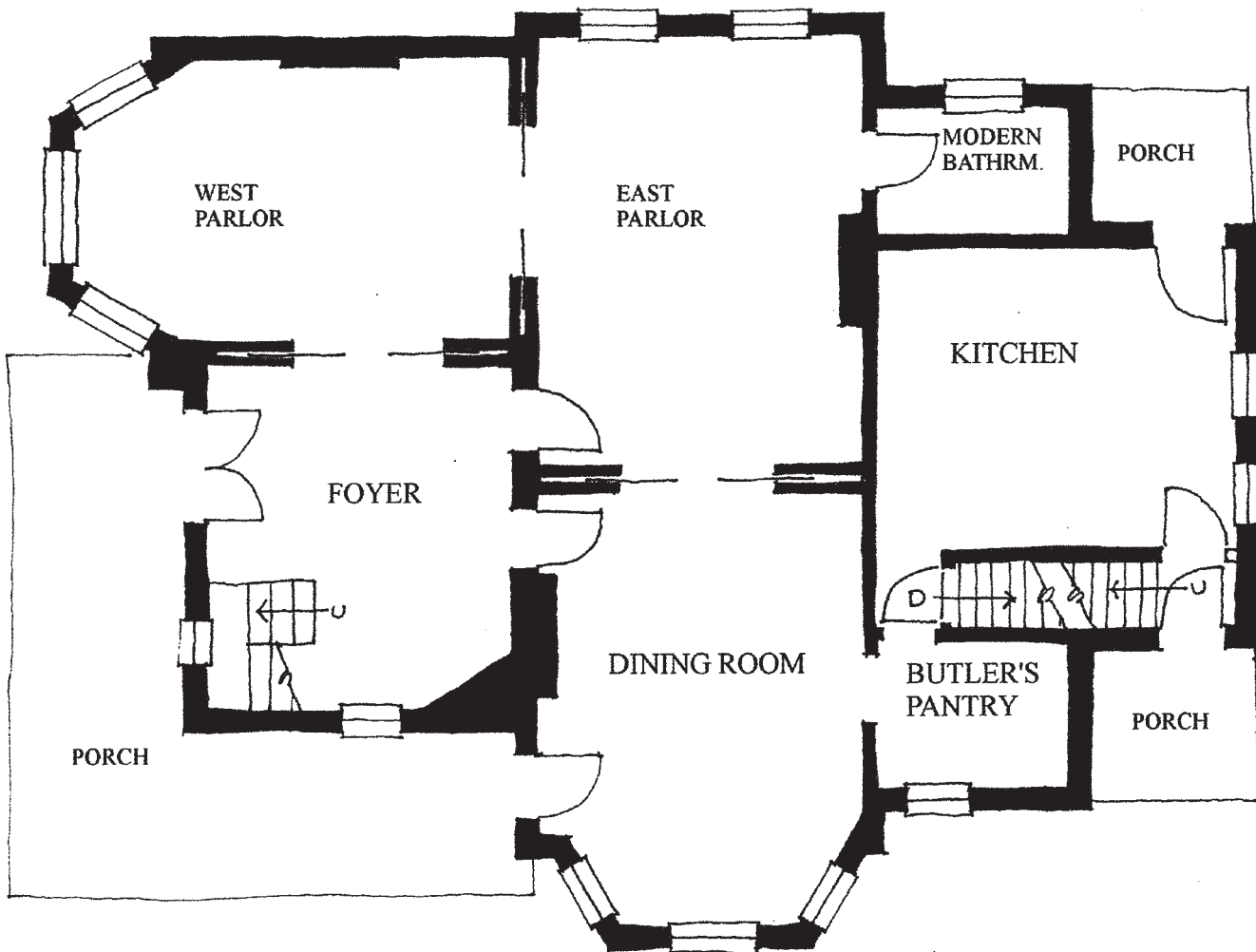


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**First Floor Plan**

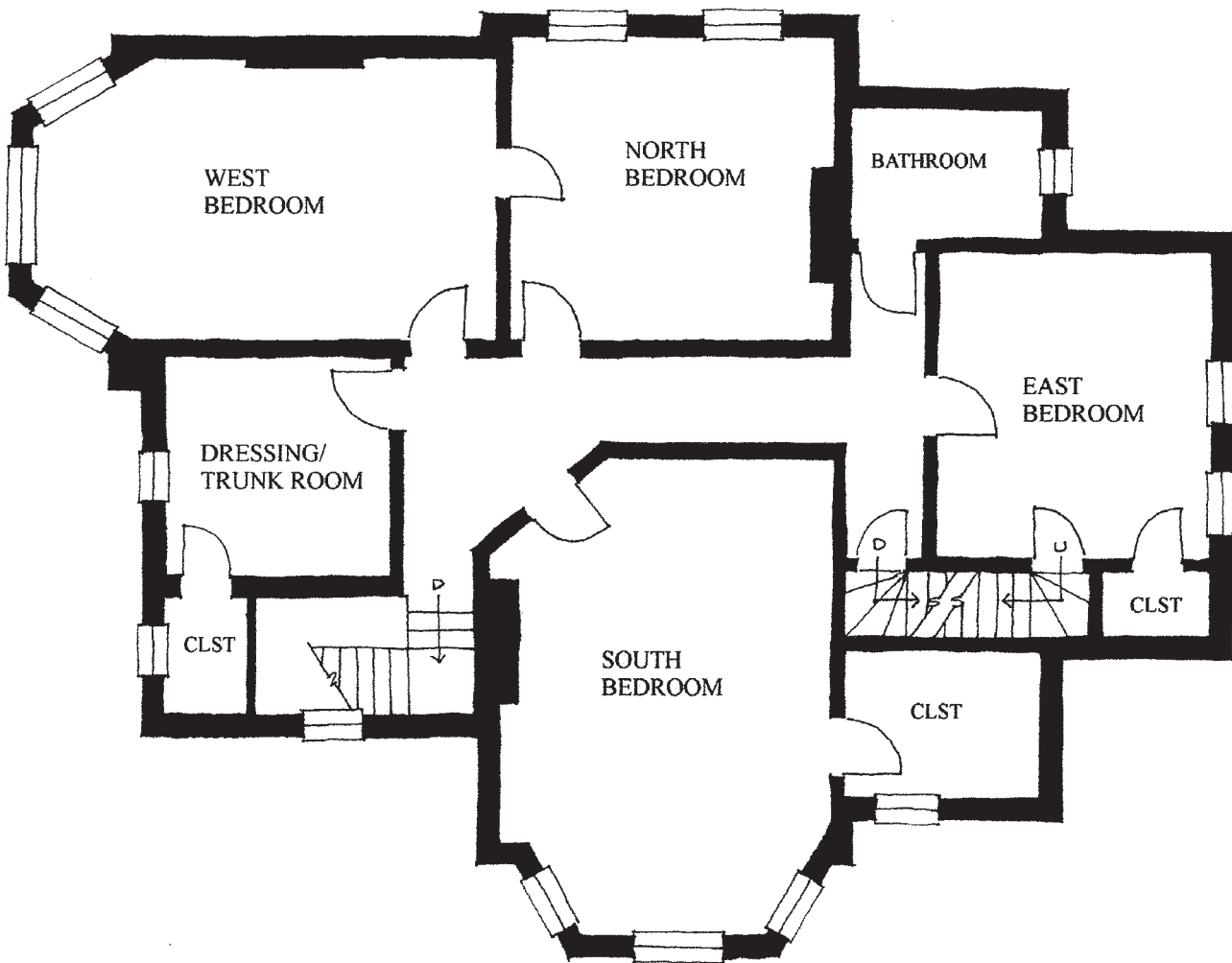


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**Second Floor Plan**



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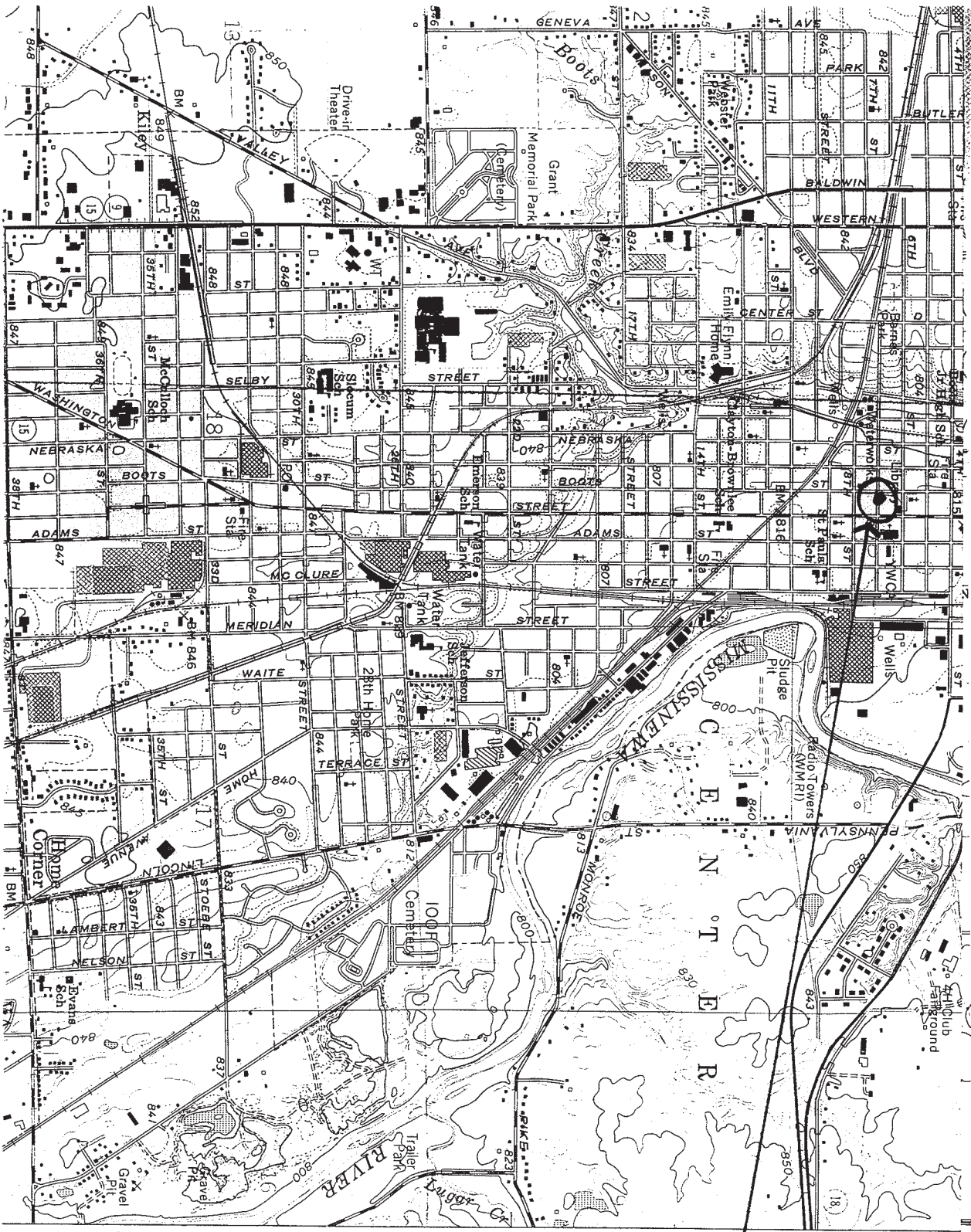
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**Historic Photo c.1900**







487 488 3230' 489 490

Jay, Abigail C, House  
 Marion  
 Grant County  
 IN



Abijan Jay House  
Grant County IN

Photo # 1



Abijan Jay House  
Grant County IN

Photo # 2



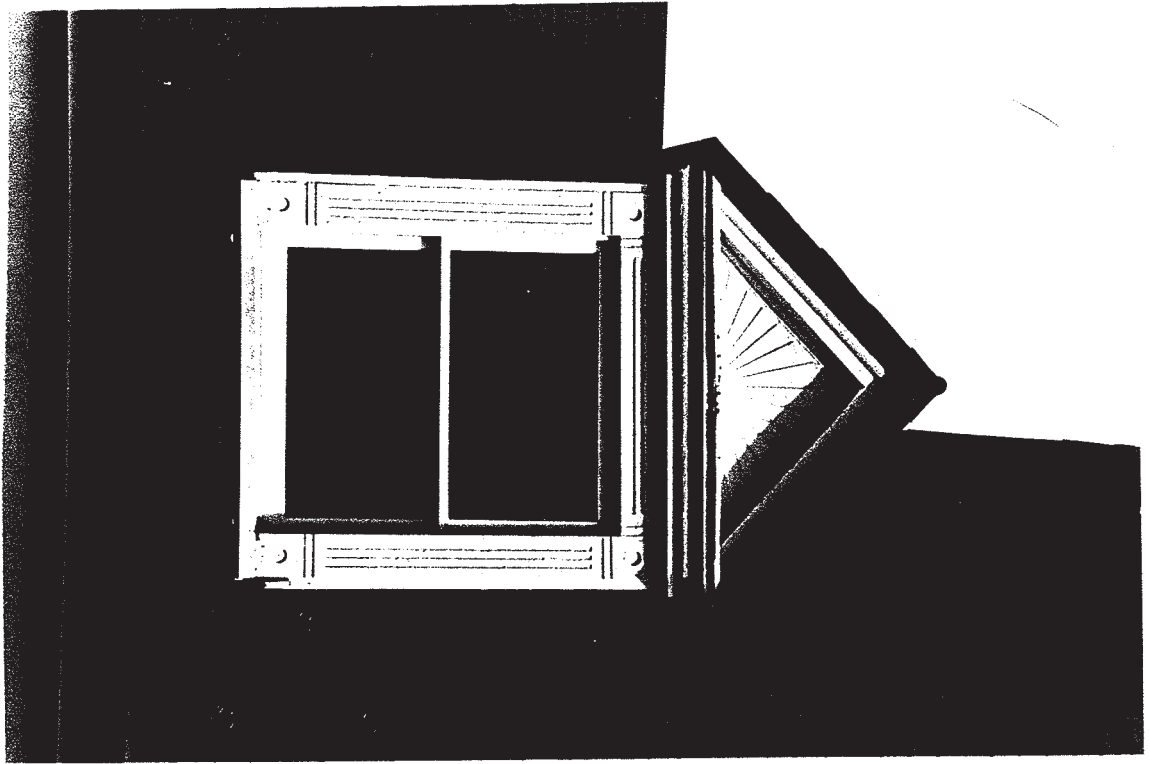
Abijah Jay House  
Grant County IN

Photo # 1



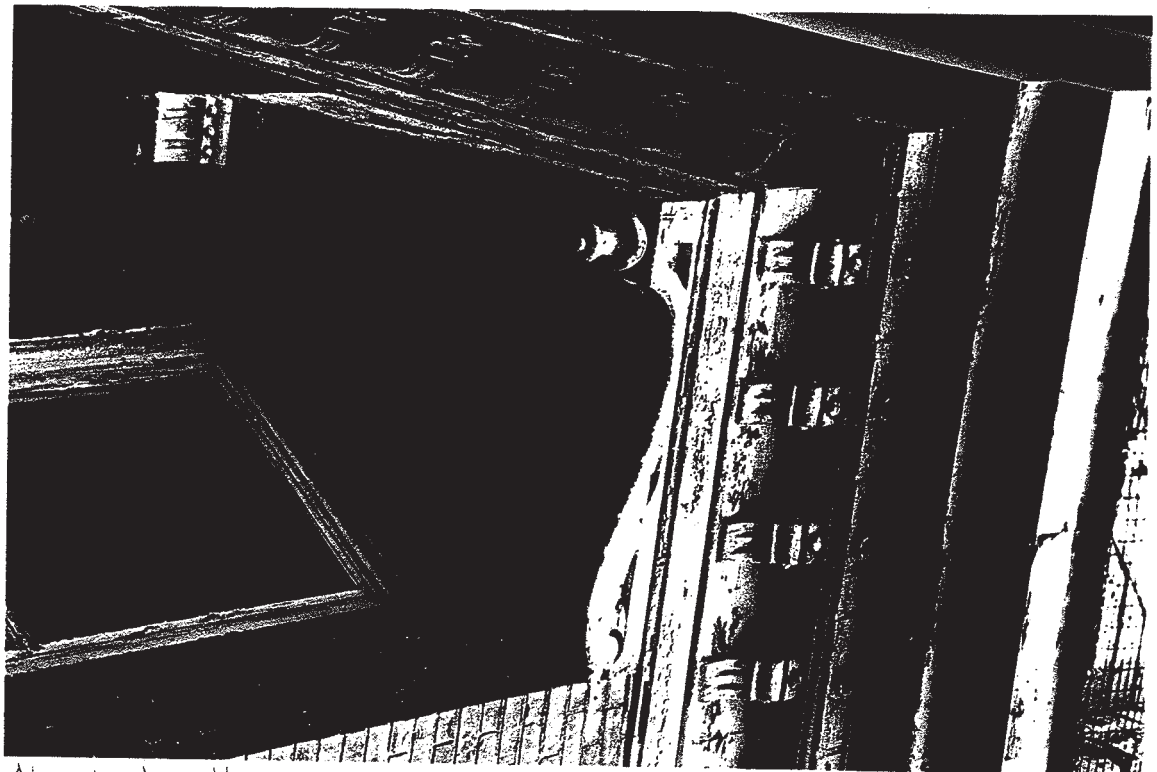
Abijah Jay House  
Grant County IN

Photo # 2



Abyan Jay House  
Grant County IN

Photo #5



Abyan Jay House  
Grant County IN

Photo #6



Abijah Jay House  
Grant County IN

Photo # 7



Abijah Jay House  
Grant County IN

Photo # 8



Abijah Jay House  
Grant County IN

Photo 9



Abijah Jay House  
Grant County IN

Photo 10