DOUBLE-PEN HOUSES
OF NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

A CREATIVE PROJECT
SUBMITTED TO THE GRADUATE SCHOOL
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE DEGREE
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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BALL STATE UNIVERSITY
MUNCIE, INDIANA
APRIL, 2009
ABSTRACT

CREATIVE PROJECT: Double-Pen Houses of Noblesville, Indiana

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DEGREE: Master of Science

COLLEGE: Architecture and Planning, Department of Historic Preservation

DATE: April, 2009

PAGES: 109

The two double-pen houses documented in this project are rare surviving examples of both folk/tradition-informed construction, (vernacular architecture) and antebellum housing. As there are only thirty or so antebellum structures extant in Noblesville, Indiana, and only three houses of the double-pen plan, the importance of documenting these structures becomes clear.

Neither structure stands alone in a void; each must be placed within the context of its time (1840s-1860s), and place (Noblesville, an urban environment) to be fully understood. Transportation, the construction trade, and industry as it existed in Noblesville during the period 1840-1860 all had a direct effect on who built the houses, and on the materials used in the houses. The concentration of skilled labor, the presence of industrial capacity in the form of sawmills, and the availability of such things as hardware are all a result of an urban environment. A study of primary source documents describing these factors is thus highly relevant in understanding the physical fabric of the houses.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author wishes to thank the following individuals whose contributions and assistance made this project a reality: Dr. Edward Wolner, committee chairperson; Mr. Jonathan Spodek, committee member; Mr. Frank Hurdis, committee member; Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Debow, owners, 736 South 9th Street, Noblesville, Indiana; Mr. Kurt Meyer, real estate agent for 154/164 South 6th Street, Noblesville, Indiana; Mr. David Heighway, County Historian, Hamilton County, Indiana; Mr. Bryant Pedigo, staff, Planning Department, City of Noblesville. Most of all, to my mother, Barbara Aikins, a huge thanks for her support throughout this project.
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INTRODUCTION

The objectives of this creative project have been:

To survey Old Town Noblesville to determine how many double-pen houses were still in existence.

To document the two which were found that dated to the antebellum period, in a format which closely follows the narrative description required by nominations to the National Register of Historic Places.

Present the findings about what makes these houses significant in public forums.

In written form prescribed by the guidelines for creative projects in Ball State University's MSHP program, and the Graduate School, relate the documentation of the houses' physical fabric to primary source materials describing the state of Noblesville's capacity to construct such dwellings in the period 1840-1860.

A double-pen house is a linear plan structure, one to one-and-a-half stories in height. The plan consists of two rooms, side by side, each with its own front door and chimney. The chimneys are sited on the outer, side-gable wall of each room, or pen. Double-pen houses may have rear ells as part of their initial construction. The double-pen house is an expression of folk/vernacular architecture that originated in the Midland (hewn log) building tradition. Two front doors were necessary when a single-pen log house was expanded by constructing a second pen next to the first. One gable end of the
first pen became an interior wall, tangent to the gable end interior wall of the new pen. (It is easier, after all, to cut a door through one wall of logs than it is through two.) When a locality had developed sufficiently to build frame houses instead of log ones, the two front doors persisted, not out of necessity, but rather, from habit. In other words, the power of tradition handed down from the cultural hearth. “The double-pen house reveals how, in tradition-based vernacular houses, the form and patterns of building transcend materials and technology.”

The brick double-pen houses in Noblesville, with their sawn-lumber rafters and floor joists, certainly transcended the primitive hewn log double-pen house built by William Connor in 1802. (This was the first structure to be built by a European-American in the county.) The two brick double-pens in this creative project had rooms in addition to the two that were part of the linear double-pen plan. These extra rooms were an integral part of the houses at the time of their original construction. At 154/164 South 6th Street, the "extra" rooms take the form of an ell extending rearward, flush with one gable side of the house. 736 South 9th Street solved the problem of extra room by adding two additional rooms at the rear, resulting in a "saltbox" appearance.

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The additions to the two room linear double-pen plan should not be mistaken as a
departure from a “pure” double-pen, or as some sort of aberration. “In later, non-log
examples, rear extensions were either added, or more likely, built as part of the initial
construction.”²

While the presence of the two front doors on double-pen houses remains a
constant and essential character-defining feature of the house type, fenestration on the
principal facade varies from example to example. Window-door-door-window is the
simplest expression of fenestration. This treatment can be seen on the house at 154/164
South 6th Street. The house at 736 South 9th Street displays window-window-door-door-
window-window. Other examples of the double-pen house, though not currently found in
Noblesville, have a fenestration pattern of window-door-window-window-door-window.
The two houses described in this creative project are the earliest surviving examples of
this building type in Noblesville. They are tangible, physical manifestations of some
important architectural, material, and cultural conditions in a specific time and place. The
houses directly testify to these conditions in Noblesville between c. 1840 and 1860, and
they link the houses to Noblesville's early 19th century history as well. Moreover, they
were part of a series of double-pen structures that constitutes one of Noblesville's most
long-lived vernacular building types. Primary source materials record that William
Connor's 1802 house at the site of present day Connor Prairie was a log double-pen, as
was Hamilton County's first courthouse. The third surviving double-pen in Noblesville, a
frame house post dating the Civil War, shows that double-pen houses were still being

constructed at least as late as the 1880s.

Each of the houses is a single tile in the mosaic that is Noblesville in 2009. They were also tiles in the mosaic that was Noblesville in 1860. Most of the other tiles of that particular mosaic have disappeared. Documenting the houses generated questions about where their plans and materials came from. The historical research conducted for this special project was thus conditioned by what was discovered about the physical fabric of the houses. The availability of local materials (e.g., abundant timber) is part of the story the houses have to tell. The existence and capacity of local industry (e.g., sawmills and sawn lumber) is also a part of this story. The transportation of building materials not available locally is another facet of the story. These two surviving tiles of the 1840-1860 mosaic thus illuminate how self-sufficient and advanced, or dependent and simple, that part of Noblesville's material culture having to do with building construction was at a given point in time.

It was not possible to document how brick came to be used in the two houses. Public buildings and private dwellings had already been constructed of brick. Public buildings represent the apex of what was possible to build in Noblesville at the time. No private individual there could muster the amount of money necessary to construct a private dwelling of equivalent size or complexity of the public buildings. Unlike private homes, the cost, point of origin, and contractors for public buildings is well documented.

It must also be remembered that the various firms which bid on public building projects in mid-19th century Noblesville did not limit their work to public building construction. They also built commercial structures, and, most relevant to this special project, private homes. Examining the public record thus gives the names of firms and
individuals capable of constructing brick houses, documentation not available from other primary source materials. The brief history of Noblesville's public buildings thus provides a tentative explanation in the form of the public sector's material culture for the appearance of brick walls in the two double-pen houses. Most importantly of all, a review of public records revealed a very likely candidate for the identity of who built the house at 736 South 9th Street.

Similarly, finding the Baldwin and Greenwood hinges in the house at 154/164 South 6th Street was important, because it was concrete proof of the transportation and mercantile links between Noblesville, Cincinnati, and even Great Britain in the mid-19th century. The fact that the houses originally had chimneys that served as stoves is also important. It shows that stoves were available in Noblesville, even though they were not being manufactured there. It also demonstrates that the road and rail networks were sufficiently advanced to allow the efficient, economical transport of large, heavy items like stoves.

It was possible to determine by name many of the skilled labor and craftsmen who were working in Noblesville during the period when the two houses were constructed, though the exact identity of the original owner or builder of either house remains undetermined. Documentation of the states of origin for these laborers and craftsmen (e.g., Virginia, Kentucky, and North Carolina) and the double-pen plan itself as a type illustrate that the houses were influenced by the Tidewater and Midland building traditions.

The first chapter discusses the methodology of the survey phase of the creative
For reasons of compactness and a clear, chronologically ordered narrative, I have presented all my historical findings, which by and large corroborate the rich stories these houses have to tell, in the second chapter.

Narrative descriptions of each of the houses form the next two chapters and the bulk of the text. They have been written following the format prescribed in nominations to the National Register of Historic Places. The exacting demands for precision in this very different kind of narrative make it possible to distinguish between the original structure and the alterations, modifications, and additions that have affected the two houses down to the present day. Additional information is provided by examining Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, ownership, and rental history.

The conclusion relates the findings documented in each house to the larger context of Noblesville's history presented through primary source materials.
I. The Survey Project

Previous Surveys: Purposes and Limits

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources conducted surveys of Noblesville in 1978 and 1991. The surveys are part of the program known as the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory. The Historic Sites and Structures Inventory organizes its surveys by county. The results of the surveys are published in their respective *Interim Reports*. The State of Indiana uses the *Interim Reports* as part of the Section 106 review process undertaken during federal and state projects which may have an impact on historic structures. Local governments may utilize the *Interim Reports* in a similar fashion. The Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology also employs the *Interim Reports* when considering nominations to the National Register of Historic Places.

The survey and publication of county *Interim Reports* is an ongoing process, rather than a one-time occurrence. This allows the changing face of a county's physical, built environment to be traced through time. The surveys do have limitations, however. They generally document only the exteriors of structures; character-defining interior features are not recorded. Outside of the proposed historic districts suggested by the surveys, only structures defined as “contributing,” “notable,” or “outstanding” are listed. Structures can sometimes be mis-categorized by field surveyors. At least two houses defined as double-pen houses in the 1991 survey of Noblesville are actually another
house type, (i.e.: double-pile).

**Purpose of the Creative Project Survey**

The purpose of the survey in this creative project is to identify and document surviving double-pen houses within the limits of “Old Town” Noblesville. If owner permission was obtained, as it was in two of the three houses identified, the houses could then be more extensively investigated.

The findings documented in this project have been used by the Noblesville Historic Preservation Commission in two public “Open Houses” designed to generate public interest in local historic houses, most especially antebellum structures and folk/vernacular housing. Developing an awareness of the local rarity of these resources is crucial. (There are only twenty to thirty frame, and five brick houses dating from the antebellum period in Old Town Noblesville.) This ties in with the larger objective of the Noblesville Historic Preservation Commission which is to develop an appreciation for the utility of historic preservation within the community. The ultimate goal of the commission is the creation of local historic districts, and certified local government status for the community.
Limits

The geographic limits of the survey are as follows: Harrison Street to the north, 12th Street to the east, Plum Street to the south, and the White River to the west. These boundaries roughly correspond to the town limits shown in an 1866 map of Hamilton County. This map predates the Sanborn Fire Insurance maps of Noblesville, and is the oldest graphic representation which could be found that gives the precise location, general size, and shape of individual structures in Noblesville.

Three double-pen houses were identified in the initial walking survey of Noblesville. The houses are located at 154/164 South 6th Street, 576 Walnut Street, and 736 South 9th Street. Owner permission was obtained to document the interiors and exteriors of two of these houses. Since all of the houses are occupied, structural analysis of the interior and framing was limited to non-intrusive methods of observation.

Methodology

Walking Survey: The boundaries of the survey area were defined using the 1866 map of Hamilton County. The 1978 and 1992 Hamilton County Interim Reports were examined to determine the presence of double-pen houses within the survey area. An extensive three-day walking survey totaling thirty hours was conducted in the survey area to determine the number of double-pen houses currently in existence. The presence or absence of these houses was then confirmed on the 1866 map of Hamilton County, and on the 1898, 1905, 1914, 1922, and 1933 Sanborn Fire Insurance maps.

Documentation: In November and December 2007, the homeowners were
contacted in person to obtain their permission to conduct an examination of their homes by documenting the houses' interiors with photographs and measurements. Initial photography was done with a conventional 35mm camera. It was later decided for technical reasons to use a digital camera, so new photography sessions had to be scheduled.

154/164 South 6th Street was divided into two rental units and was on the market for sale during the time documentation occurred. Owner permission was obtained, along with the assistance of a local realtor, in documenting the house on February 9, 2008, and March 22, 2008.

736 South 9th Street was documented on March 30, 2008 and April 13, 2008. A final documentation session at 736 South 9th Street took place on October 12, 2008.

Written descriptions of each house were generated by utilizing field notes, measurements, historic and contemporary photographs, and Sanborn Fire Insurance maps. The format which the written descriptions follow is based on the Narrative Description portion of a nomination for the National Register of Historic Places.

Research: Primary and secondary source materials consulted in generating the histories of the houses in this creative project included county histories from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, old newspaper articles, city directories, the Hamilton County Transfer Books 1859-2007, and abstracts for the houses in possession of the owners.

Practical Application: 736 South 9th Street was featured at an “Open House” presented by the Noblesville Historic Preservation Commission on May 15, 2008. Work preparing the display for the house occurred from mid-March through mid-May, 2008.
The presentation included Sanborn maps, photographs, and written descriptions. The display boards showcasing the house were accompanied by literature from the local library describing historic homes, architectural styles, historic interiors, historic preservation, etc. All of this was presented to the public to inform them of how easily accessible this information is to them. The static display was tied to a power-point presentation given by the Hamilton County Historian, David Heighway. Heighway's presentation highlighted the history of the neighborhood in which the house is located, thus placing the house within a broader historic and geographical context.

The house at 154/164 South 6th Street was presented at an “Open House” hosted by the Noblesville Historic Preservation Commission on August 14, 2008. The static display followed the previous format, and was again linked to a Power Point presentation by David Heighway. Work on the display occurred during July and August, 2008. The new homeowners of 154/164 South 6th Street have since contacted the realtor who sold them the house and have expressed an interest in obtaining more information on the preservation of historic homes.
II. Conditions in Noblesville Relevant to Domestic Construction

The early history of Noblesville is strongly linked to the life of William Connor. In 1802, Connor built a double-pen log house on the site of present-day Connor Prairie. It was the first structure in Hamilton County to be erected by a white man. The history of double-pen houses in Noblesville can thus be traced back to the earliest building constructed in the area.

In 1823, Connor, together with Josiah F. Polk, platted the site of Noblesville. Connor had been living in the area for twenty-one years; his selection of Noblesville's location was therefore a carefully calculated one. The original plat contained twenty-six squares, each lot measuring 66' x 132'. By 1875, twenty-nine additions had been made to the original plat. The house at 154/164 South 6th Street falls within the original plat; 736 South 9th Street within John. D. Cottingham's Addition of 1839.

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The concentration of skilled labor and industry made possible by the existence of a town such as Noblesville is directly related to the materials used in the construction of the two double-pen houses, and the amount of sophistication evident in the houses' physical fabric. The population of Noblesville by 1850 was 664. This was sufficient for it to be incorporated as a town in 1853. In 1860, the population was 1,115, and in 1870, 1,435.5

Development of Construction Trades and Industry

The first communal priority for 19th century settlers was the construction of gristmills for the production of flour. Their second priority was the erection of sawmills. Log dwellings and public buildings erected in Noblesville's first few years testify to the scarce output of the earliest sawmills. This situation was quickly remedied, as will later be seen by a glimpse of the sequence of log, frame, and finally brick construction in both public building projects, and also domestic construction.

Hamilton County had a lavish supply of timber which facilitated log, and later, frame construction. Species of wood native to the county included oak, poplar, walnut, maple, hickory, and beech.6 As late as fifty years after Noblesville's founding, there was still such an abundance of lumber that local sawmills were unable to process enough for export to distant markets; it was shipped un-milled to distant locations.7

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5T.B. Helm, *History of Hamilton County, Indiana*, (Chicago: Kingman Brothers, 1880, 147).
Sawmills exploited the timber available locally, and facilitated the local construction of frame dwellings. The investigation of the two double-pen houses covered in this creative project revealed ONE hand-hewn piece of lumber; the rest of the lumber used in the houses' construction was all sawn in mills.

One of the earliest local sawmills, built by Phillip Hare, appeared on Stoney Creek in 1825. Another was constructed shortly thereafter by John Foster on the White River. This sawmill was able to meet local needs and also supply excess lumber which was floated down the river to Indianapolis via Broad Ripple. 8

John Connor, brother of William, built a sawmill on the White River that was operational until about 1850. It appears on the 1866 map of Hamilton County at the site of present day Conner Prairie, and is denoted on the map as Old Mill. This early mill was sophisticated for a newly founded, sparsely settled area. All available local manpower was employed in construction of the mill-dam and mill; more significantly, millwrights and carpenters were actually imported from the east to supply the necessary construction skills. This concentration of local labor, and importation of skilled labor points out quite obviously what a priority sawmills were to the early settlers. 9

George Tucker constructed another sawmill on Cicero Creek near the northern boundary of the county, “in an early day.” 10 Jacob Crull built a second sawmill further south, which was later called the “Gascho Mill”, and a third was built on the creek near the town of Cicero. Lumber was transported by wagon from the Tucker and Gascho mills

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8 Indiana, (Indianapolis: Indianapolis Printing and Publishing House, 1874), 134.
9 Shirts, Development of Hamilton County: 41-49.
10 Shirts, Development of Hamilton County: 21.
11 Ibid., 97.
Just as a town like Noblesville encouraged the construction of sawmills, it likewise provided for a concentration of skilled labor that would not occur in a strictly rural setting. A glimpse of craftsmen skilled in the building trades and residing in Noblesville in 1840 is offered by the U.S. Census of that year. Carpenters living in Hamilton County included six from Pennsylvania, six from Ohio, three from Virginia, three from North Carolina, two from Kentucky, two of unknown origin, one from Indiana, and one from Ireland. In Noblesville itself were living three of the above from Pennsylvania, two from Virginia, two from Ohio, one from North Carolina, and one of unknown origin. There was one brick maker from Kentucky living in Noblesville, as well as a brick mason and stonemason living within Hamilton County. In addition there were three plasterers, one woodworker, and one house painter. The varied origins of the craftsmen mentioned above allow one to infer that a house being built in Noblesville in 1840 might have been indirectly influenced by a diffusion of either the New England or the Midland/Tidewater South building traditions. In A Field Guide to American Houses, Virginia and Lee McAlester depict central Indiana as a “mixed and transition area”, where the New England, Midland, and Tidewater South folk building traditions were all combined. This supposition is reinforced by the differences exhibited in Noblesville's surviving antebellum houses, (those of massed-plan/New England tradition, those of linear-plan/Midland/Tidewater South tradition) which indeed show the influence of these different traditions.

11 Shirts, Development of Hamilton County, 97.
Evolution of Public Building Construction

The erection of public buildings is worth mentioning for several reasons. First, public buildings represent the apex of what was materially and technologically possible to construct in antebellum Noblesville, since the funds necessary for their construction exceeded the wealth any one individual had at their disposal to construct a dwelling. Second, the public building projects, unlike the construction of Noblesville's antebellum houses, is well-documented. One fact documented in the public record that is relevant to the construction of private dwellings is the identity of local firms or individuals who bid on the public building contracts. These same firms and individuals were also engaged in the construction of commercial buildings and private houses. Indeed, one individual who bid on the construction of the 1852 Seminary also owned the property at 736 South 9th Street during the time the double-pen house there was likely constructed. Moreover, both the seminary and the house were constructed of brick.

The year 1824 saw Noblesville selected as the seat of Hamilton County. The construction of public buildings followed a rather rapid evolution in building material from log, to frame, to masonry. The first public building erected was a double-pen log jail, in 1824. In 1826, a double-pen log courthouse, measuring 24' x 20' and 20' x 16' was constructed.

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This structure was replaced by a frame courthouse, with dimensions of 32' x 18', in 1831.14

The first brick building constructed in Noblesville was the County Recorder's Office, erected on the southwest corner of the Public Square in 1832.15 The 1831 frame courthouse was replaced by a brick, two story structure in 1836-37. This measured 45' x 45', had a pyramidal roof with cupola, and Greek Revival ornamentation. The next public structure to be constructed of brick was the County Seminary, in 1852. It was two stories tall, and measured 32' x 45'. (It will be of interest to note that one of the firms which bid on the construction of the seminary was Cottingham, Lindsay, & Bauchert. John D. Cottingham owned the property at 736 South 9th Street from 1835 to 1849, and it is very likely that the double-pen house there was constructed during that period.) 1853 witnessed the building of a new, brick County Jail and Sheriff's Residence. The sheriff's residence was two stories tall, and had dimensions of 20' x 40'. The jail was one story in height, and measured 17' x 26'. The final brick public building constructed during the antebellum period was the county asylum for the Poor. Built in 1857, it was two stories tall, and had dimensions of 28' x 32'.16 None of these structures have survived to the present day.

Antebellum Frame Houses of Noblesville

Few of Noblesville's early frame houses have survived to the present day. The information in the 1992 Hamilton County Interim Report, combined with the

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14 Helm, History of Hamilton County, 39-40.
15 Shirts, Development of Hamilton County, 177.
observations of the walking survey conducted for this Creative Project, suggest that there are now between twenty to thirty antebellum frame houses in Noblesville. More may exist that have been incorporated within subsequent construction; these of course cannot be discerned from the exterior.

As was mentioned previously, the surviving frame houses from before the Civil War are of diverse types: linear plan, massed plan, side-gabled, front gabled, one story, two story, etc. This physical evidence confirms what primary source records have to say about the origins of the craftsmen and laborers employed in the building trades, namely, they came from areas representing the different vernacular building traditions of New England, the Tidewater South, and the Midland.

The vast majority of Old Town Noblesville's housing stock dates from the Gas Boom (which began in Noblesville in 1887) and subsequent periods. The increase in general prosperity generated by the Gas Boom allowed for the replacement of older, smaller, and less desirable housing stock.

Originally, the area favored by the town's wealthy residents lay to the south of the courthouse square. (This is where the two houses documented in this Special Project are located.) After the Civil War, and especially following the advent of the Gas Boom, the more affluent began concentrating to the north and especially to the east of the courthouse square. Their new homes replaced the earlier antebellum houses which previously existed in those areas. This also explains why the antebellum houses in the previously desirable area have survived until the present time.

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\[16\] Helm, *History of Hamilton County*, 40-44.
Early Brick Dwellings in Noblesville

The first brick dwelling was constructed in Noblesville around 1835, a mere dozen years after the town was founded. It was located on the southeast side of the intersection of 8th and Maple Streets. It was still a residence in 1901. This structure no longer exists. Just across 8th Street, sits the Judge Earl S. Stone House, a five-bay brick I-House dating to c. 1849. There is another brick I-House with four bays, the Evans-Coy House, located at 1012 Monument Street. It most likely dates to the 1840s. William Connor built what was apparently a central-passage, story-and-a-half brick residence on the north side of 8th Street in 1837. It appears on the 1866 map. This house was replaced by a newer, larger Italianate house sometime prior to 1873. A similar brick central-passage house, c. 1840, was documented at 648 South 9th Street in the 1992 Hamilton County Interim Report. It has since been demolished. Still in existence are a c. 1850 I-House located at 624-628 Cherry Street, a c. 1865 double-pen at 736 South 9th Street, and a c. 1854 double-pen house located at 154/164 South 6th Street. The last two houses will be covered in greater detail later in this Creative Project.

Development of Transportation

The existence of a network of roads and railroads linking Noblesville to the outside world had an impact on the construction of the two double-pen houses in this

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17 Shirts, Development of Hamilton County, 178.
19 Hamilton County Interim Report: Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory, (Indianapolis: Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, 1992), 82.
Creative Project. Transportation was a factor as important as the existence of a local construction industry, and concentration of workers skilled in the construction trades.

The farmers living around Noblesville in the mid-19th century had reached the point where they were able to generate a surplus of crops and livestock. They needed an efficient, reliable means to transport this surplus to market. A transportation system would allow the surplus to be used to procure finished goods from the east, commodities not produced in Noblesville. These commodities included not only furniture, household goods, and clothing, but also items essential to home construction such as glass and hardware.

In the two houses documented in this Creative Project, concrete evidence was found which attests to the importance of the system of transportation and trade. Both houses were originally built with some chimneys that serviced cast iron stoves, an item not produced in Noblesville. The house at 154/164 South 6th Street was found to contain hardware from the mid-19th century produced in England and Cincinnati, Ohio. The first roads in the vicinity of Noblesville were Native American trails. Cart traces appeared after the town was founded. The earliest road improvements in Hamilton County undertaken with funding from the State of Indiana occurred in 1838 and 1839.20 During the 1830s, there was already enough of a surplus of crops and livestock that these were being transported to markets such as Cincinnati, Lawrenceburg, and Lafayette. The conditions of the roads during this period varied with the seasons.

Farmers from Noblesville hauling wheat to Cincinnati traveled in groups of three

20 Helm, History of Hamilton County, 51-2.
or more wagons so they could assist one another when stuck. The round trip took seven or eight days. Driving livestock to market in Cincinnati began in 1835. Such a journey consumed more time than hauling wheat, and the round trip could take three weeks.

Noblesville's merchants were supplied from Cincinnati by wagon in the spring and fall. This round trip took approximately two weeks.\(^{21}\) There were few bridges in the earliest days of settlement. Rivers and streams were forded or ferried. Ferry service across the White River at Noblesville began in 1846, but was only necessary “in time of high water.”\(^{22}\) Bridges had been constructed in Hamilton County by the 1860s. It was in that decade that the county began funding the repair or replacement of previously existing bridges. In addition, the county initiated the construction of new bridges in 1862.\(^{23}\)

A watershed in the development of any 19\(^{th}\)-century Indiana town was the arrival of the first railroad. This occurred in Noblesville in 1851. Construction on the Peru & Indianapolis Railroad commenced in Indianapolis in 1849; by 1851 twenty-one miles of track had been laid to Noblesville. In 1854, the line reached Peru, and in 1871 the line was completed in its entirety, upon reaching Michigan City.\(^{24}\)

\(^{21}\)Shirts, Development of Hamilton County, 282-4.
\(^{22}\)Shirts, Development of Hamilton County, 283-4.
\(^{23}\)Helm, History of Hamilton County, 55-6.
\(^{24}\)Ibid., 55-6.
III. 736 South 9th Street

Ownership and Personalities

736 South 9th Street occupies Lot 7 in John D. Cottingham's Addition. The current owners are Chuck and Caroline Debow. According to the abstract in the Debow's possession, the tract of land the house occupies originally included 85 acres, and was acquired from the United States Government by William and Richard Goe in 1822. William S. Goe was a rather prominent figure in the Noblesville's early years. From 1827-1831, he served as Hamilton County Sheriff; from 1842-1850 he was the County Associate Judge. During his term as sheriff, he superintended the construction of the first log county courthouse in 1826.

In 1829, the property was transferred from William and Richard Goe to Hezekiah Goe. Hezekiah Goe then sold the land to John D. Cottingham in 1835. At this time the parcel contained some 80 acres. Cottingham utilized the area to create John D. Cottingham's Addition, Noblesville's fifth, in 1839.

Cottingham was one of three men (John D. Cottingham, Thomas J. Lindsay, Joseph Bauchert) whose firm made a bid to construct the County Seminary in 1851. Their bid was not accepted. In 1849, Lot 7 in Cottingham's Addition was recorded as being sold by Cottingham to Garrick Mallory. Wesley Daubenspeck purchased the lot from Mallory in 1852 for $700.00. In 1854, Daubenspeck sold the lot to Peter Cloud for

26 Ibid., 40.
27 Ibid., 42.
$1500.00. Cloud owned the lot until 1863, when he sold it to Earl. S. Stone for $850.00. The next year, Isaac Darrah purchased the lot from Stone for $1000.00. In 1865, Isaac Darrow (spelled differently in the abstract) sold the lot to John. C. Davis.

In a newspaper interview from 1926, Mrs. Elizabeth Whitlock, who had acquired the property in 1899, stated to a reporter that, “she does not know exactly how long it (the house) has been built but she remembers that it was built over eighty years ago by a man named John Davis. At that time it was a farm residence and there was a large sugar camp surrounding it. It was the first brick house that Mrs. Whitlock ever saw.”

There are a few problems with Mrs. Whitlock's story. Davis did not acquire the property until 1865; the 1866 map of Hamilton County clearly depicts a house on Lot 8 of Cottingham’s Addition to the south, two houses to the north on Lot 6, and a house diagonally across the street to the northwest. In 1866 then, when Davis owned the property, it was clearly not a “farm residence” with “a large sugar camp surrounding it”. This physical description would have been more appropriate to the 1840s, “over eighty years ago” in 1926, when the area was still owned by John D. Cottingham.

Whether or not John Davis built the house at 736 South 9th Street, he is recorded as having sold the property to John Stephens for $1200.00 in 1869. Stephens, in turn, sold Lot 7 to William Stern in 1896. In 1899, Elizabeth Whitlock acquired the parcel from Stern.

Elizabeth and Guston Lee Whitlock were longtime residents of 736 South 9th Street. G.L. Whitlock was a miller and carpenter who was born in North Carolina in

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1845, and arrived in Hamilton County in 1870.29 During the Civil War, Whitlock served from September 21, 1863 to July 20, 1865 in Company G, 39th Indiana Volunteer Infantry Regiment.30 He would live in the house until his death in 1922.31 Mrs. Whitlock continued to live in her house until her death in 1933.32 City directories from 1924, 1926, and 1929 show Mrs. Whitlock sharing the house with a John Whitlock. The directories beginning in 1926 show the house divided into two units, 736 and 738. The Sanborn fire insurance map of 1914 shows the house as a single dwelling, but the 1922 and 1933 Sanborn maps show the house as divided into two units.

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32 Ibid., January 18, 1933, p. 2.
John Whitlock appears in the house in the 1929 and 1938 city directories. He is listed as a groundman working for the Northern Indiana Power Company in 1938. Whitlock owned the house until 1941, when he sold it to Vivian D. Wilson. Wilson sold the house to Newton Clark and Roland C. Foland in 1944; a year later Foland sold his share to Clark. The abstract shows the house as being owned by Paul W. Clark from 1951-1960. During this period, it continued to be divided into two units, and was utilized as a rental property. City directories from 1948, 1952, and 1959 show the house as being occupied by truck drivers, workers at the local Firestone plant, an assistant superintendent of the Noblesville Milling and Elevator Division, and a lineman for the Public Service Company of Indiana. Four of these men were married, and two of those families had children. Ralph Nethery, a Firestone employee, was shown living at 736 South 9th Street in 1959 with a wife and five children.

In 1960 the house passed from Paul Clark to Charles Sherley. According to information provided in the city directories from 1961, 1965, 1968, 1971, and 1973, the house continued to be subdivided and utilized as a rental property. Sherley owned the property until his death in 1975. Tenants during this time included a landscaper, truck driver, Firestone employee, a worker at Warner Body Works, and a carpetlayer. All the tenants were married, save a single woman listed as living in 738 in 1961. Three of the tenants in this period had children.

In 1975 until 1996, the property was owned by John O’ Mahoney. In 2002, the house was purchased by Chuck and Caroline Debow, the current owners. It returned to its former state as a one family dwelling at that time.

33 Noblesville City Directory, 1938, 93.
Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph: The brick portion of the house was most likely constructed in the mid to late 1840s. It is a one-story Greek Revival cottage. This structure has a gable end roof with “saltbox” profile and front porch. At the rear of this brick cottage is a 1 ½ story, side gabled frame structure which was added to the brick cottage between 1908 and 1914. The frame structure has roughly the same dimensions as the original brick structure. The house is located on the east side of South 9th Street between East Walnut and East Pleasant Streets. As such, the house falls within the “Plum Prairie” Zone of Significance designated by the Noblesville Historic Preservation Commission.

The roof is finished with asphalt shingles. The walls of the brick portion of the house are painted white. The frame portion of the house has a cladding of white aluminum siding. The foundation is brick. Most of the original fabric of the interior has been removed. The original woodwork found in the brick portion of the house is most likely poplar, while replacement woodwork, and that found in the frame portion of the house is pine. The house fronts west onto South 9th Street. Between 1905 and 1914, a front porch was constructed across the facade of the house. The house has contemporary wood 1/1 replacement windows, and hollow core steel entry doors. The overall condition of the house is fair. In 2003 the lower northeast corner of the cottage had to be rebuilt with new bricks, and new parging replaced older parging on the north wall of the cottage at that time. There are currently many spalling bricks and much peeling paint on this wall.35

34 Noblesville City Directory, 1959, 48.
35 Interview with Chuck Debow, building owner, October 12, 2008.
**Setting and Site:** The 700 block of South 9th Street is part of John D. Cottingham's 1839 addition, Noblesville's fifth. The house appears on the earliest known map of Noblesville, dated 1866. The lot to the north contains a small, one-story 19th century vernacular, side gabled frame dwelling with rear ell. It has a brick, Craftsman style front porch which has been enclosed. This dwelling has existed since at least 1898. The east side of the property is bounded by a paved alley. To the south is a frame two-story Free Classic house, built between 1898 and 1905. Across 9th Street to the west are two 1 1/2 story gable-front cottages constructed in the late 19th century. The north side of the house has an historic concrete sidewalk paralleling the north wall. It extends from the sidewalk on 9th Street to the rear of the house. It is accessed from the front sidewalk by two concrete steps which are inset into a short concrete retaining wall. The sidewalk is separated from the neighboring property by a lawn. The rear ell of the neighboring house is enclosed by a tall privacy fence constructed of vertical wooden boards. The east side of the house serves as a small, grassy back yard. It is bordered on its eastern edge by an asphalt alley. There is a gravel parking area in the northeast corner of the yard. The south side of the house has a lawn approximately eight feet wide. A chain link fence mounted on wood 4"x4" posts extends from the southeast corner of the house to the alley. The west side of the house has a short retaining wall of historic poured concrete built flush with the sidewalk along 9th Street. There are two integral concrete steps, capped by an older, limestone slab step, which lead to the front porch. The three feet separating the front porch from the retaining wall are planted with ground cover. There is a six foot strip of lawn between the front sidewalk and 9th Street. It is crossed by a concrete sidewalk leading to the front steps of the house.
**Exterior:** The original portion of the house was built in the mid to late 1840s. It is constructed of load-bearing masonry three bricks thick.\(^{36}\) The bricks are laid with one course of headers for every six courses of stretchers. This section of the house is a double-pen plan with an integral shed-roofed rear “addition” of two rooms. (The masonry courses of the side gabled walls of the structure are continuous from front to rear with no vertical seam.) The “addition” gives the house a “saltbox” profile from the side (fig. 1). The pitch of the rear roof becomes more shallow where the “addition” begins. All of the masonry of the house is currently covered with several layers of white paint. While the west wall, the facade, has no apparent spalling and only minimal chipping of paint, both the north and south walls suffer from these problems. The north wall has suffered the most damage, as related previously, the lower northwest corner of this wall was rebuilt in 2003. The bottom 4' of the entire wall have been parged with concrete. The south wall is in more sound condition; it exhibits small, random areas of parging. Like the north wall, the parging has been applied to the lower portion of the wall.

\(^{36}\) Interview with Chuck Debow, building owner, October 12, 2008.
Figure 1. “Saltbox” profile of 736 South 9th Street. North elevation

Figure 2. Cornice with boxed return. 736 South 9th Street.
The chimneys of the original portion of the house are still extant up to just below the roof ridge. They are not visible from the exterior. There is a single chimney located near the center of mass of the frame structure. It passes directly through the ridge of the roof. The chimney serves the current furnace of the house. This chimney is constructed of red brick.

Stylistically, the original portion of the house possesses the symmetry and sparse ornamentation present in vernacular Greek Revival houses. On the exterior, this is expressed by the symmetrical fenestration, and by the simple, flat entablature boards and boxed returns which make up the original cornice (fig. 2). The original door and window openings remain present in the masonry, but in each example these openings have been filled in with plywood to accommodate contemporary doors and windows with stock dimensions. The openings for the transoms above the two entry doors in the facade have likewise been covered over (fig 3). There is a single window on the north and south walls of the rear “shed roofed” portion of the brick structure. The window opening on the north side has been filled in slightly with boards to accommodate a contemporary window. The window opening on the south side has been completely covered with aluminum siding. None of the window openings of the brick portion of the house currently have sills; the originals have been removed. The lintels are made from sawn lumber, and were fabricated exactly equal in height to two courses of brick.

The brick portion of the house rests on a brick foundation. The roof has rafters of roughly sawn lumber, some partially clad with bark. There is no ridgepole. The cladding was originally roughly sawn boards of random widths; some of these remain. The current cladding is plywood, covered with asphalt shingles.
The west facade has a shed-roofed porch, constructed between 1905 and 1914. The porch extends across nearly the entire facade. It has four turned posts and two pilasters, turned brackets, and flat reeded spindles. These decorative elements reflect a simple, vernacular interpretation of Queen Anne style. The roof of the porch retains its original 8" wide flat boards, and true dimensional 2"x 6" rafters (fig. 4). The entire porch floor, structure and floorboards, was replaced with contemporary treated lumber sometime prior to 2002.37

![Figure 3. Decorative and structural elements of front porch.](image1)

![Figure 4. Transoms over entry doors 736 South 9th Street.](image2)

The house fronts west. There are two entry doors centered in the facade. The north door is a contemporary, hollow core steel door with a large, single light. The light has frosted and beveled glass separated by decorative leading. The south door is a plain, hollow core steel door. There are no storm or screen doors. There were originally transoms above each door; this space has been covered with plywood. Between the entry doors and gable end walls are a pair of windows on each side. The windows are

37 Interview with Chuck Debow, building owner, October 12, 2008.
contemporary 1/1 wood windows. Since they occupy the space of the original window openings, the space around them has been filled with plywood. The original door and window lintels are still in place; they are of sawn lumber. The original sills have been removed (fig. 5).

The north elevation has a single window located about 6' from the rear of the house. The original window opening remains; its dimensions are slightly larger than the contemporary 1/1 wood window which occupies the space. This window is covered by an aluminum storm window. The original sill has been replaced with a 1"x6" board. The original lintel of sawn lumber is still in place (fig. 6).

The east elevation of the original house is now an interior wall. It has two entry door openings, still extant. The former exterior of the bricks on the north half of this elevation are currently exposed, and the lintel over the doorway here is of hewn timber.

The south elevation of the house has a single window opening. This has been filled in with aluminum siding, and also contains a dryer vent. This window retains its original lintel (fig. 7).
Figure 5. West Elevation. 736 South 9th Street.

Figure 6. North Elevation. 736 South 9th Street.

Figure 7. South Elevation. 736 South 9th Street.
A story and a half, side-gabled frame structure was added to the rear of the brick cottage between 1908 and 1914. This created an undesirable valley where the side gabled roofs of the two structures meet. The current owner states there have been leaks resulting from this valley. The cladding of the frame structure's roof is asphalt shingles. The structure is clad with aluminum siding.

The north wall has two windows on the first floor. The front (west) window is an older, 1/1 double-hung sash constructed of wood. The rear window is a small, wide rectangle. It has a horizontally sliding aluminum sash. It once had larger dimensions; this area has been filled in with aluminum siding. There is a single 1/1 double hung wooden window centered in the gable of the second floor. This window retains its original dimensions (fig. 8).

The east wall contains a recessed covered stoop at the center of the elevation. The rear entry door of the house is located in the recessed wall on the south side of the stoop. A shed roof projects from the house out over a set of three poured concrete steps that descend from the recessed stoop. The front of the shed roof is supported by two square posts. There is a small shed which is built out from the house on the south side of the steps. The east wall has a single small, wide rectangular window with horizontally sliding sash. It is centered in the wall to the north of the recessed stoop. (fig. 9).

The south wall of the frame structure contains three contemporary, 1/1 double hung replacement windows. They are constructed of wood. One window is centered in the second floor gable. The west window on the first floor has larger dimensions than the east window. (fig. 10).
Figure 8. North and East Elevations.

Figure 9. East Elevation of Addition.

Figure 10. South Elevation of Addition
**Interior:** The 1840s portion of the house is a double-pen plan with an integral shed roofed rear “addition” (fig. 11). All of the exterior walls of this portion of the house are 10" thick, load bearing masonry. The interiors of these walls have been plastered and painted. The interior wall dividing the northwest and southwest (front) rooms is 9" thick, load bearing masonry. The interior wall dividing the west rooms (front) from the east rooms (rear) is likewise 9" thick load bearing masonry.

The northwest room retains its original plaster walls, and its original plaster ceiling with a height of 11'2". The southwest room has a contemporary drywall ceiling, the height of which is only 7' 11 ½". All of the wall surfaces of this room have likewise been covered in contemporary drywall. The southeast room originally had dimensions of about 13"x9'3". A bathroom has been built on the north side of this room with dimensions of 4'9"x8'5". It is divided from the rest of the room by a contemporary 2"x4"framed, drywall covered wall. The rest of this area is currently utilized as a laundry room. A space 3' 6" deep x 5'8" wide at the southwest end contains a washer and dryer and has been enclosed with drywall. It has a bi-fold door. There is also a 3'6" deep closet, 3'2" wide in the southeast corner. In the northeast room, the north and east walls have contemporary wood paneling. The south and west walls are the original plaster.

In the northwest room there is an 8" wide chimney extending 4" out from the north wall. It contains a collar for a stovepipe 7' up from the floor. This chimney appears to be original; there are no traces of a foundation to support a fireplace in the crawlspace below. The southwest room has two 17" deep recesses in the south wall.
One is 5'4" wide, the other 5'3" wide. The recesses are 7'6" tall. The area between them is 5'4" wide. According to the owner, this center space contained a fireplace which the previous owner had covered over.\textsuperscript{38} The recesses on each side were most likely originally built-in cupboards.

\textsuperscript{38} Interview with Chuck Debow, building owner, October 12, 2008.
The two front rooms of the house have none of their original doors or windows. They contain a mixture of original and contemporary wood trim. The casings of the windows of the northwest room are contemporary flat pine boards, 3/4" thick x 4 ½" wide. The top casing for the front door is also contemporary, it measures 3" wide. The side casings around this doorway are also contemporary pine 3/4" thick x 5 ½" wide. By contrast, the doorway in the east wall has its original side casings which are 1 1/4" thick x 5 7/8" wide. The casing over the door is 1 1/4" thick x 5" wide. This doorway is extremely wide, at 40". It is 7" 1 ½" in height. The doorway is fitted with contemporary wood, hollow-core double doors. All of the baseboards in this room appear original. They are 1 ½" thick x 10 ½ tall flat boards. In the southwest room, all of the door and window casings are contemporary, flat pine boards 3/4" thick x 5 ½" wide, with the exception of the casing around the door to the southeast room. These are 1" thick x 6 3/8" wide flat boards. The north and east walls have their original flat baseboards. These measure 1" thick x 10" tall.

The east and west doorways in the southeast room retain their original wood trim. The east door was originally an entry door in an exterior wall. It is 31" wide and 6'3" tall. The casings around it are 1 1/4" thick x 5 7/8 wide flat boards. The door in the west wall is 33 ½ " wide and 7' 6" tall. Its casings measure 1" thick x 5 5/8" wide. The east and west walls retain their original baseboards. These are 1 1/4" thick x 8" tall flat boards. In the northeast room there is a 1'10" deep cupboard built into the entire length of the south wall. It is accessed by two doors, placed one over the other. The width of the door opening is 31 ½". The bottom door is 5'9" tall; the top door 1'5" in height. These
doors are constructed of beadboard, and have their original cupboard latches. There is a casing 5 7/8" wide around the doors, and a casing 4" wide separates the doors. The doorway in the west wall has side casings 1 1/4" thick x 6 1/2" wide. The casing over the door is 4 1/4" wide. There is a 7 1/2" deep recess in the wall just north of the doorway. Three shelves have been constructed in the upper half of the recess. The bottom half has been filled in with drywall. The upper casing of the adjacent doorway continues over this recess, and the recess is framed with side casings equal in dimensions to those of the doorway. In the northwest corner of the room is a window 29" wide. It is framed with casings of contemporary flat pine boards measuring 3/4" thick x 5 1/2" wide. The original entry doorway on the former exterior wall has had a wooden "box" built out from it 6" into the room. A contemporary wood 6-panel door has been hung on this box. The original hewn timber lintel over this doorway is exposed on the opposite, formerly exterior side of the wall. The floors in the northwest, southwest, and northeast rooms are covered with contemporary carpeting. The southeast room has a floor covered in contemporary 13" square tiles that are beige with a rusticated surface.

The frame addition was added to the rear of the original brick cottage sometime between 1908 and 1914. The south side of the first floor contains a kitchen at the rear (east) and a dining room at the front. The north side of the first floor has a bedroom and bathroom. There is a stairway between the kitchen and bedroom that gives access to the second floor. The second floor has one bedroom on the north side, and one on the south. These are divided by a narrow passage. The three bedrooms in the frame portion of the house contain wooden doors with four vertical panels. They all have rim locks, and hinges with an embossed floral/scroll design. All of these features are typical
of the late 19th, early 20th century. The casings for these doors all appear to be original.
They consist of flat boards 4 ½" wide. There is a closet under the stairs to the second
floor. It contains several layers of old wallpaper, dating back as far as the late 19th, early
20th century. The floors of the addition are all covered with carpet, except for the kitchen,
which is vinyl.

**Integrity:** The exterior walls of the brick cottage, with the exception of the
northeast corner, are original. The structural members which support the roof all date to
the time of the house's original construction. The brick portion of the house retains all of
its original door and window openings. None of these, however, contain their original
windows or doors. The house retains its original Greek Revival cornice, complete with
returns. The majority of the front porch is original, with the exception of the floor. The
condition of the original wall cladding of the frame portion of the house is unknown, as it
is covered with aluminum siding. The two second story windows in the frame portion of
the house appear to be original. Most of the windows on the first floor have been altered
from their original dimensions.

Most of the character defining features in the house's interior have been
removed or covered up. The most striking example of this is the area along the south wall
of the southwest room that once contained a fireplace and built-in cupboards. Drywall
has covered the original walls and ceiling of this room as well. The original plaster walls
are visible in about half of the rest of the 1840s portion of the house. Altogether, perhaps
a quarter or less of the original wood interior trim remains in the brick cottage. The
exposed hewn timber lintel over the former entry door to the northeast is certainly an
interesting feature. The most outstanding vestige of the original interior of the brick
cottage is the built-in cupboard located on the south wall of the northeast room. The frame portion of the house contains doors complete with hardware that date to the late 19th, early 20th century. The casings for these doors are original. The wood trim of the two upstairs bedrooms is all original as well. These two rooms are the most unaltered and complete in the entire house.
Figure 12: 1866 Map showing 736 South 9th Street.
The earliest known representation of 736 South 9th Street appears on an 1866 Map of Noblesville (fig. 12). The house is shown as occupying the southwest corner of Lot 7, John D. Cottingham's Addition. It is roughly square in its footprint on the map, as indeed it is in reality. Close behind the house is a smaller, square structure. This is likely a summer kitchen or office, constructed of brick. A brick structure in this location was torn down in 1908. It is of interest to note that only principal structures are depicted on the 1866 map. Outbuildings such as stables, woodsheds, and privies are not shown, though they certainly existed at the time.

As discussed in the narrative description, all of the exterior window and door openings on the brick portion of the house appear to be original. The same is true of the interior walls which are constructed of load bearing masonry. There is no evidence to suggest that the current interior doors openings in the house have been moved.
The earliest Sanborn map of 736 South 9th Street dates from 1898. The street address of the house at this time was 1205. The brick cottage has a small covered stoop centered on the west facade. The wood cornice is depicted. The small, square structure which stood alone behind the house on the 1866 map is depicted as a one-story masonry building. In 1898, it is connected to the brick cottage by a frame, one-story, L-shaped addition. All have a roof of wood shakes. Abutting the alley to the east of the house is a
two-story frame stable with a one-story addition on its south side. A smaller one-story wood structure is tangent to the alley to the north of the stable. In the northeast corner of Lot 7 is a final small wood structure, perhaps a privy. To the north of the property is the one-story frame dwelling which still exists in that location. 9th Street to the west, and the alley to the east appear just as they do today. To the south, however, is an empty half-lot (fig. 13).
Form in 1905

Figure 14. 736 South 9th Street, 1905.

In 1905, the house address has been changed from 1205 to 244. The two-story stable is now depicted as being only a story and a half. The one-story addition to the stable has disappeared, made necessary, perhaps, because Lot 8 has been subdivided from east to west. To the north of this dividing line, the Free Classic house now occupying that space has appeared. The other outbuildings have all vanished (fig. 14).
The Sanborn map of 1914 reveals that the earlier covered stoop along the facade of the house has been replaced with the current front porch. The stable previously located in the southeast corner of the property has disappeared. The small brick outbuilding is now gone, as is the frame L-shaped addition which connected it to the main house. A newspaper article from 1908 mentions the razing of the small brick
structure. Taking the place of these earlier additions is the current story and a half frame structure. Curiously, its footprint, construction material, and height in stories all correspond to that of the vanished stable. A final change from 1905 is the appearance of a small, frame, one-story outbuilding along the alley to the northeast of the main house (fig. 15).

**Form in 1922**

![Diagram of 736 South 9th Street, 1922.](image)

**Figure 16.** 736 South 9th Street, 1922.

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39 Noblesville Daily Ledger, August 4 1908, p. 8
In 1922, the house has been sub-divided into two units. The address of the house has changed from 244 to 736/738. A small wooden outbuilding has appeared in the southeast corner of the property. The roof of the earlier outbuilding has changed from wood shakes to asphalt shingle (fig. 16).

Form in 1933

Figure 17. 736 South 9th Street, 1933.
By 1933, the roof of the house has changed from wood shakes to asphalt shingles. The only difference between the appearance of the property in 1933, and its appearance today, is that the house has been restored to its status as a single unit dwelling, and the two outbuildings which abutted the back alley in 1933 no longer exist. (fig. 17).
IV. 154/164 South 6th Street

Ownership and Personalities

154/164 South 6th Street occupies Lot 6, Block 20 in the Original Noblesville Plat of 1823. Ownership of 154/164 South 6th Street is first mentioned in tax assessments taken in the 1880s, which appear in the Hamilton County Transfer Books. Although the books date back to 1859, there is no earlier mention of the property. The owner of the property in the 1880s was James H. Harris. Harris is listed in the 1870 U.S. Census as living at the property with his wife, Mary, and three daughters. His occupation is given as cooper. Harris was 30 years old at the time, and was born in North Carolina. Mention is made in *The People’s Guide* (1874) of a John R. Harris, cooper, 41 years old, born in North Carolina, arriving in Noblesville in 1864. The Harris family lived at 154/164 South 6th Street until 1893, when it was sold to Henrietta E. Stephenson.

Henrietta Stephenson resided in the house from 1893 until 1904, when she sold the property to G.M. Hare. The Hare family had arrived in Noblesville very early on. The family had generations of blacksmiths and wagon makers. The first Hare wagon making shop opened in Noblesville in the 1840s; one of their shop buildings from the late 1880s still exists at the corner of 6th and Connor Streets, 1 ½ blocks north of 154/164. Today this tradition continues through the Hare car dealership in Noblesville, which is still owned by the family.

G.M. Hare sold the property to Walter S. Brown and his wife Margaret in
1910. Four years later, Walter Brown transferred the title to Mary E. Brown. It remained in the Brown family until 1936. The City Directory for 1916 lists Walter Brown as living in the house, and shows him as working in a billiard parlor.\textsuperscript{40} The year 1920 finds Miss Mary E. Brown living in the house.\textsuperscript{41} By 1922, the house had become a rental property. The City Directory for 1922 shows the house as being occupied by a Philip Bauchert. Two years later, the directory calls him Philip Backert, and lists his wife Mary as residing with him.\textsuperscript{42} The tenant in 1926 is a carpenter, Bart Jarrett.\textsuperscript{43} Earl Guilkey and his wife Clara are renting the house in 1929.\textsuperscript{44} At some point between 1922 and 1933, Walter Brown had the rear ell of the house enlarged.

In 1936, Walter S. Brown sold the property to John D. Williams, a grocer, and his wife, Mary.\textsuperscript{45} By 1948, Williams is the owner of a local furniture store.\textsuperscript{46} The house is occupied from 1952 to 1965 by John H. Williams. Sometime between 1959 and 1961, the house is subdivided; the new second address is listed as 154 ½. It is occupied by Katherine Keesling.\textsuperscript{47} According to the present owner, the house was subdivided in the 1960s for “the Williams sisters”.\textsuperscript{48} In 1965, John H. Williams moves out of 154, and John D. And Mary Williams move in. By 1968, Mrs. Mary Williams is a widow.\textsuperscript{49} Mary Williams continued to live in 154 until the 1980s. Katherine Keesling occupied 154 ½ into the 1980s as well.

\textsuperscript{40} \emph{Noblesville City Directory.}, 1916, 233
\textsuperscript{41} Ibid., 1920, 206.
\textsuperscript{42} Ibid., 1924, 216.
\textsuperscript{43} Ibid., 1926, 217.
\textsuperscript{44} Ibid., 1929, 207.
\textsuperscript{45} Ibid., 1938, 94.
\textsuperscript{46} \emph{Noblesville City Directory.}, 1948, 92.
\textsuperscript{47} Ibid., 1961, 18.
\textsuperscript{48} Interview with Timothy Knapp, building owner, March 22, 2008.
John H. Williams sold the property to Timothy and Bonnie Knapp in 1991. The Knapps utilized the house as a duplex rental property. In April, 2008, the Knapps sold the house to Douglas and Kathy Hales. At present, it continues to be subdivided and used as a rental property.

**Narrative Description**

**Summary Paragraph:** The house is listed in tax records as having been constructed in 1854. It is a one-story, brick, Greek Revival cottage. The main portion of the house has a gable end roof and front porch. The ell to the rear has a rear-facing gable. The house is located on the east side of South 6th Street between West Maple and West Cherry Streets. As such, the house falls within the “Pioneer Homestead” Zone of Significance designated by the Noblesville Historic Preservation Commission. The roof is finished with asphalt shingles. The walls and chimneys are red brick painted white, and the foundation is of fieldstone rubble. The interior echoes the exterior in its sparse decoration; woodwork is of poplar. The house fronts west onto South 6th Street. Between 1898 and 1904, a front porch was constructed across the front facade of the house. An addition to the rear ell appeared on the southeast portion of the house between 1922 and 1933. The house received 1/1 vinyl replacement windows in 2005, and the front porch was reconstructed the same year. The overall condition of the house is very good.

**Setting and Site:** The 100 block of South 6th Street is one of Noblesville's earliest areas of settlement, and appears on the original plat of 1823. The house itself is featured on the earliest known map of Noblesville, dated 1866. The lot to the north

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49 *Noblesville City Directory*, 1968, 87.
50 Interview with Timothy Knapp, building owner, March 22, 2008.
contains a frame Dutch Colonial Revival duplex, which has existed in its present form since at least 1914. The lot to the east of the back alley is used as a trailer park. To the south is a brick I-House, c. 1850. Across South 6th Street to the west is a frame, one story T-plan cottage, c. 1890. The T-plan cottage is currently faced with contemporary brick. The north side of the house has a lawn. The east side contains a garage of panel-face cinder block, which dates at least to 1933, and may date as far back as 1914. A gravel drive connects the alley to the garage. The back yard where the garage is located has a lawn bordered by a tall hedge on its south and east sides. There is a large coniferous tree in the southeast corner of the yard. The south side of the house contains a lawn. The west side of the house has bushes placed in front of the porch. The west side of the property is framed by an historic concrete sidewalk. A concrete walkway leads to the front porch. The north and west side of the property are bordered by asphalt paved alleys.

**Exterior:** According to the property card in the Hamilton County Tax Assessor's Office, the original portion of the house was built c. 1854. This section of the house is a double-pen plan with rear ell flush to the building’s north side. It is one story high. The walls are load-bearing masonry of pink/red brick laid with one course of headers for every five to six courses of stretchers. The walls were apparently unpainted until at least the late 1920s, early 1930s. This is illustrated by the unpainted areas of the walls currently enclosed by the raised roof section of the addition built at that time. The masonry of the entire house is today covered by several layers of white paint. The paint exhibits cracking and some chipping, especially along the mortar joints. There is some spalling of bricks, but it appears mostly in small, random areas. The front section of the house has one brick chimney flush with each gable end. These originally served the
fireplaces in the two front rooms of the house. The north chimney has a steel cap with large mesh screen. The chimney is nearly square in cross section. The portion of this chimney above the roof is unpainted, wire-scored brick from the first half of the 20th century. The bricks and mortar of this chimney appear to be in good condition. The south chimney is also unpainted brick. The bricks appear to date from the same period as the walls of the house. These bricks have suffered deterioration. This chimney has areas where the mortar is completely gone from the joints. The chimney is larger than the north chimney, and is more rectangular in cross section. It has a galvanized steel stovepipe and rain cap. There is a third chimney located in the northwest corner of the original ell portion of the house. This chimney serves the current furnace for the house, located in the cellar. The chimney is constructed of the same wire-scored brick as the north chimney described earlier, and has a metal chimney cap identical in design to that on the north chimney.

Stylistically, the original portion of the house displays the symmetry and simple ornamentation characteristic of vernacular Greek Revival. This is expressed on the exterior by the original cornice. The cornice has flat, simple entablature boards and returns under the eaves. The exterior window openings of the original section of the house have bulky, 3" thick wood sills, and 5 ½" thick lintels on the north and west sides of the house.

The brick house rests on a fieldstone rubble foundation. The roof has sawn oak rafters and its original cladding of roughly sawn boards of random widths. The roof currently has contemporary asphalt shingles. A vestige of the original roof for the south side of the original ell is still extant underneath the c. 1925-1930 roof for the southeast ell
addition. It retains its original wood shakes (fig. 18).

Figure 18: Original roof of double-pen, east side

Figure 19: Front Porch Ornamental Elements, 154/164 South 6th Street.

The west elevation (facade) has a shed-roofed porch, constructed between 1898 and 1905. The porch extends across almost all of the facade, in contrast to the stoop
it replaced, which was much smaller in dimension. The porch has six turned posts and
two pilasters, scrolled brackets, and flat, reeded spindles. These decorative elements are
characteristic of a simple, vernacular Queen Anne style. The porch was reconstructed in
2005.

The house fronts west. It has two main entry doors centered in the facade.
Both doors have been painted white. The north door has a single, large rectangular glass
pane set over two recessed panels. The door appears to be of pine. It has been fitted with
a late 19th century mortise lock. This was later supplemented by a deadbolt. The door is
topped by a three light transom with a single light storm window. The south door is
similar to the north door. It has a single large rectangular piece of plexiglass set over two
recessed panels. The door is pine. It has a rim lock with white porcelain knobs. The door
also contains a deadbolt. The south door is topped by a single light transom with a single
light storm window. Both doors have 5 1/4" wide wood lintels. There are single 1/1 vinyl
windows roughly centered in the walls to the north and south of the entry doors. These
occupy the original window openings. The windows have their original 3" wide wooden
sills and 5 1/4" wide wooden lintels (fig. 20).
Figure 20. 154/164 South 6th Street. West elevation.

Figure 21. 154/164 South 6th Street. North elevation.
The north elevation has a single window located at the east end of the original ell. This window is 1/1 vinyl, and occupies its original opening. Just to the west of the window is a door. Like the doors of the west elevation, this door is painted white. It has a large single glass pane over two recessed panels. The door is topped by a single light transom. The door currently has no stoop, and is partially blocked by a gas meter. The door and window on the north elevation have aluminum covering their sill and lintels (fig. 21)

The east elevation has an irregular saltbox shape. This resulted from an addition built onto the south side of the original ell c. 1922-1933. The south wall of the addition is considerably shorter than the height of the north wall of the original ell. The ridge of the original ell's roof is clearly visible on the east elevation. While the original portion of the house has walls built of load bearing masonry, the walls of the addition are of balloon framing with a brick veneer. This brick veneer was laid in a running bond, whilst the walls of the original house were laid in common bond. There is a large, square vent in the gable of the east elevation. The vent has a wood frame and board slats. It is covered with mesh screen, and has a sill of brick headers. Centered in the east elevation is an entry door. This door is white painted wood. It has a single large pane of glass surmounting three horizontal recessed panels. The door has its original mortise lock. The door has a two-step, poured concrete stoop, with a single wrought iron railing on the stoop's south side. The stoop is covered by a small gable roof supported by knee braces. The roof structure and knee braces are sheathed in vertical drop-lap siding. All of these elements appear to date from the time of the addition c. 1922-1933. The east elevation has four 1/1 vinyl windows; two on each side of the entry door. All four have a sheet of
steel serving as a lintel. The north-most window has a lintel of brick headers over the steel lintel. None of the other windows in the east elevation have this feature. While the two windows to the north of the entry door have no sills, the two to the door's south have sills of brick headers. The south-most window, which serves a bathroom, is somewhat smaller in dimension than the other three, which are of approximately equal dimensions. All four windows have had their casings enclosed by aluminum. It is interesting to note that the brick wall to the north of the entry door has been parged over with cement to a height just beneath the sills of the windows. This is the only area of the house which has received this treatment (fig. 22).

The south elevation, like the north elevation, has no openings in the side gable portion of the house. There is a door located at the east end of the ell. The door is of white painted wood, and has a 4-light opening placed over three horizontal panels. The door has its original mortise lock. Like all the doors of the house, this door has a contemporary, white aluminum screen/storm door. The door is accessed by a two-step, poured concrete stoop. Just to the west of the door is a double, 1/1 vinyl window. On the west end of the ell is a 1/1 vinyl window. Both windows have their casings enclosed in aluminum, and both have sills of brick headers, and lintels of steel plates (fig. 23).
**Figure 22:** 154/164 South 6th Street. East elevation.

**Figure 23:** 154/164 South 6th Street. South Elevation.
**Interior:** The 1854 portion of the house is a double-pen with rear-ell plan. All the exterior walls of this portion of the house are 11" thick load bearing masonry. The interiors of these walls have been plastered and painted. The wall dividing the north and south front rooms is solid masonry. A doorway on the east wall of the south room once opened to the exterior. The wall separating the north room from the original kitchen is also solid masonry, as is the wall separating the original kitchen from two small rooms at the east end of the original ell. The northern of the two small rooms is currently a bathroom. The southern of the two is currently a bedroom. These rooms are divided by a masonry wall. The ceilings and walls throughout this portion of the house are the original plaster, with the exception of the bathroom ceiling, which is drywall.

The north and south rooms each have a fireplace with built-in cupboards on each side. There is a thimble present on the east wall of the original kitchen, centered between the doors leading to the small service rooms (fig. 24). The northwest corner of the original kitchen contains the chimney which serves the furnace in the cellar. The south wall of the original kitchen contains two doorways; one has been plastered over. These were originally doors to the exterior (fig. 25).

The two front rooms contain flat baseboards, window and door casings. These measure approximately 6 7/8" wide. The casings have a raised center section which measures 3 7/8" wide. There are flat, square corner blocks present at the top corners of the door, window, and cupboard casings. Corner blocks also separate the door casings from the baseboards. The walls of the north room contain ghostings of a chair rail. There are also vestiges of the chair rail where it met the door casings.
Figure 24: The thimble for the original kitchen's cookstove appears above the hutch. Also visible are the door casings in the 1854 kitchen (now a dining room).

Figure 25: Blocked entry door from what was the original exterior of the house. It has been plastered over on the opposite side, in the original kitchen. The door and window casings, and the baseboards of the original kitchen are similar to those in the two front rooms. These casings measure 5 1/4" wide, with a raised center section 2 1/2" wide.
All of the floors of the 1854 portion of the house are covered with contemporary carpeting, with the exception of the northeast service room. This room, currently a bathroom, has vinyl flooring. The original floorboards of the house are visible in the doorway separating the two front rooms. The floorboards vary in width from 4 7/8" to 5 1/4". They run north to south.

The c. 1922-1933 addition to the house changed the plan of the house from an “L”-shape to a rectangle. The walls of the addition are of conventional balloon framing; the exterior walls are veneered with brick. The addition is divided roughly in half from east to west. The eastern 2/3 of the northern half contains a “new” kitchen, accessed from the original 1854 kitchen. A door in the west wall of the new kitchen opens into a pantry/storage area. The pantry contains access points for the house’s cellar and attic. The southern half of the addition has a bedroom on its western end. The bedroom has a doorway connecting it to the south room of the 1854 section of the house. Another doorway on the bedroom's east wall joins it to a second “new” kitchen. This new kitchen has a small bathroom on its eastern end. The bathroom has a small closet on its northern side.

The rooms of the addition have plaster ceilings and walls. The addition has door and window casings, and baseboards of plain, flat pine. The casings vary from 4 3/8" to 4 ½" in width. The floorboards of the addition are obscured by contemporary floor coverings. The “new” kitchen in the north side of the addition has vinyl squares of imitation parquet. The bathroom of the south side has a vinyl floor. The “new” kitchen of the south side has a pergo floor with a plywood subfloor, and the bedroom on the south side has contemporary wall to wall carpeting.
Integrity: Both the 1854 portion of the house and the c. 1922-1933 addition retain a large degree of their original materials and character-defining features. With the exception of the ceiling and wall between the bathroom and bedroom in the 1854 ell, all walls and ceilings of the house are original. All the rooms of the house contain their original baseboards and door and window casings (fig. 26-29).

Figure 26: Door casing in north room showing corner blocks and raised profile of casing. This doorway leads to the 1854 kitchen.

Figure 27: Door casing and transom of the front entry door, north room.
Figure 28: Baseboard and window sill, north room.

Figure 29: Door casing and corner blocks. 154/164 South 9th Street. The three entry doors for the 1854 section of the house likely date from the period 1880-
1900. They contain Victorian butt hinges with scroll work common to the post Civil War period (fig. 30, 31).

**Figure 30.** One of three late 19th century entry doors at 154/164 South 6th Street. This one has white porcelain knobs and a rim lock. The pine wood is visible where the paint has worn away.
**Figure 31:** Entry door butt hinge with scroll ornamentation

**Figure 32:** Two panel door in the “new” kitchen; south side of the 1922-1933 addition.
Figure 33: Two panel door with rim lock in the pantry. This door leads to the cellar.

The two entry doors for the c. 1922-1933 addition appear to be original. The interior doors still extant are all of Greek Revival design. These consist of two recessed vertical panels. There are six of these doors in the house, and one on the garage. Four of these doors have been moved from their original locations. Three of these doors are located in the addition, and one on the garage. The 1854 portion of the house would originally have required six exterior doors and four interior doors (fig. 32-35).
**Figure 34:** Two panel door in the south room of The double-pen. The transom is visible above the door.

**Figure 35:** Close-up of Figure 34. Clearly visible are the positions of the larger mid 19th century rim lock, as well as a later late 19th century rim lock.
The north room of the double-pen has a fireplace with its original wood mantel. Two flat pilasters support a flat, two-stepped mantelpiece cornice. These are surmounted by a mantelshelf with rounded ends and decorative crown molding (fig. 36, 37). The bricks of the fireplace surround appear to date from the 1920s-1940s (fig. 38).

**Figure 36:** Fireplace mantel, north room

**Figure 37:** Closeup of mantelshelf. of double-pen.
Figure 38: Bricks of fireplace surround. 154/165 South 9th Street.

Built-in cupboards flank the fireplace. Each has two long and two short one-panel doors. The cupboard to the right of the fireplace has the small doors placed over the larger ones (fig. 39). This pattern is reversed for the cupboard to the left of the fireplace (fig. 40). The cupboard doors contain Colonial Revival hardware likely from the period 1920-1940. These include H-L hinges and thumb latches (fig. 41). The interiors of the cupboards have been painted (fig. 42). As previously mentioned, the north room has ghosting of a chair rail, which had the same raised center profile as seen in the door and window casings (fig. 43).
**Figure 39:** Cupboard, north room of double-pen, 154/164 South 6th Street. Note the reversal of door placement on the two cupboards.

**Figure 40:** Cupboard, north room of Double-pen, 154/164 South 6th Street.
**Figure 41:** Top cupboard door, north room of 154/164 South 6th Street, showing 20th century Colonial Revival H-L hinges.
**Figure 42:** Interior of cupboard, north room, 154/164 South 6<sup>th</sup> Street

**Figure 43:** Vestige of raised profile of chair rail on entry door casing, north room, 154/164 South 6<sup>th</sup> Street.
The north room is separated from the south room by a two-panel Greek Revival door. The door has a rim lock, with evidence that an earlier, larger rim lock had once been installed (fig. 35). The door is surmounted by a two-light transom (fig. 34). This doorway has been sealed in the north room, and the space converted into bookshelves.

The original wood mantel in the south room has been removed. There is now an early 20th century Craftsman style fireplace constructed of wire-scored brick. This fireplace has been painted (fig. 44).

**Figure 44:** Craftsman mantel in south room of 154/164 South 6th Street.
On either side of the fireplace are built-in cupboards of the same design as seen in the north room (fig. 45). As in the north room, the arrangement of reversing the larger doors from the top of one cupboard to the bottom of the other holds true. Unlike the cupboards in the north room, the interiors of those in the south room have never been painted. The interior of the cupboards consist of plain unstained poplar boards, installed vertically. The cupboards of the south room contain plain cast iron butt hinges, marked variously “Baldwin Patent” or “Greenwood”.

Figure 45: Cupboard in the south room of the double-pen, 154/164 South 6th Street. Unlike the cupboards in the north room, those in the south room retain their original hardware.
The Baldwin hinges were likely manufactured by the firm Baldwin & Son. This foundry began operation c. 1780, and was located in Stourport, England. The Greenwood hinges were manufactured by the Eagle Ironworks. Miles Greenwood's foundry was located in Cincinnati, Ohio. The firm was established in 1832. It began manufacturing butt hinges like those found in 154/164 South 6th Street c. 1840. Greenwood was soon successful in driving away English imports such as Baldwin. The hinges likely date to the time of the house's original construction. Similar Greenwood hinges were observed by the author on the front door of a c. 1854 house located on Jackson Street in Muncie, Indiana. Eagle Ironworks ceased operation shortly after the Civil War, so the butt hinges on the cupboards must date c. 1840- c. 1865.51

The dimensions of the hinges vary from 2' w x 3" l, to 1 ½" w x 2" l. The cupboard doors all have wooden pull knobs. These vary from plain knobs as seen on mid 19th century dressers to knobs with a “bull's-eye” pattern. The knobs measure approximately 2" in diameter.

The rooms of the c. 1922-1933 addition contain historic elements dating to the time of its construction. All rooms contain their original window and door casings. The small bathroom in the southeast corner of the addition has a small, wall-mounted sink with separate hot and cold water taps (fig. 46).

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Figure 46: Early 20th century wall sink, 154/164 South 6th Street.

Figure 47: Early 20th century bathroom light fixture, 154/164 South 6th Street.
The bathroom also has its original ceiling fixture with Art Deco globe (fig. 47). The kitchen in the southern half of the addition retains its original small schoolhouse type light fixture (fig. 48). The bedroom in the southern half of the addition has its original ceiling fixture as well (fig. 49). The bedroom fixture has two bare bulbs descending from an oval base with embossed floral design. The fixture retains its original paint. The “new” kitchen in the northern half of the addition retains cabinets c. 1940-1955 with Art Deco hardware on its south wall (fig. 50).

**Figure 48:** Schoolhouse fixture in “new” kitchen.

**Figure 49:** Bedroom fixture, south side of addition.
Figure 50: Kitchen cabinets with Art Deco hardware. “New” kitchen, north side of addition. 154/164 South 6th Street.
Figure 51: Plan of 154/164 South 6th Street.
The earliest representation of the house is shown on an 1866 map of Noblesville (fig. 52). At that time, the house had an “L” shape. The double-pen portion of the house fronts west, with the rear ell flush with the house's north wall, and extending east. No outbuildings are shown on the property; other structures in Noblesville are shown without their outbuildings as well. Since most residences at the time had stables, privies, and other ancillary structures, it is likely these were simply omitted from the map.
The “L” shape of this double-pen house with rear ell is confirmed by existing physical evidence. Most striking is the roof of the original ell, still complete with its wood shakes beneath the new roof built for the ell addition of c. 1922-1933. That the rear ell was integral to the original double-pen structure is confirmed by the north wall of the house, which shows no evidence of the ell being a later addition to the side-gabled double-pen. The brick walls of the house once open to the elements, but now covered by the “new” roof of the addition, remain unpainted. This suggests the entire house was unpainted until after the c.1922-1933 addition.

The doors and windows of the double-pen portion of the house appear to be positioned in the same locations as when the house was originally built. The window and door on the north elevation of the original ell also appear to date to the time of the house's original construction. Whether there were originally any windows on the east side of the original ell is unclear. The one extant window which could have existed on the east elevation has a method of construction consistent with the windows found in the c. 1922-1933 addition; it has a steel plate as a lintel. The windows constructed in 1854 all have wood sills and lintels.

The south elevation of the original ell currently has two doorways that are evident. One has been plastered over on the side opening into the 1854 kitchen. The other has wood casings consistent with those found in all of the 1854 rooms of the house. Whether there were other window or door openings in the south elevation of the original ell is unknown.

The east elevation of the double-pen's south room contains a doorway which originally had a transom. This would originally have been an exterior door. Whether the
area framed by the east elevation of the double-pen and the south elevation of the ell originally had a porch is unknown.
Form in 1898

Figure 53: 154/164 South 6th Street, 1898.
The first Sanborn map featuring the house dates from 1898. At that time, the street address was “820”. The 1854 portion of the house appears with a small covered stoop centered on the west facade. Whether this covered stoop dated to 1854 is unknown. An “L”-shaped addition has appeared along the south side of the original ell and east elevation of the double-pen. This addition connects the original portion of the house to a rectangular structure located southeast of the house. The addition was wood, and the rectangular structure was masonry. It is possible the wooden structure started as a porch, and was subsequently enclosed.

A two-story stable appears in the northeast corner of the property. The stable has a one-story structure tangent to its south elevation. Just south of the southwest corner of this structure is a very small structure. Another structure appears in the southeast corner of the property. As today, the property is bordered on the west side by 6th Street, and on the north and east side by alleys.
Between 1898 and 1905, the small covered stoop at the front of the house was replaced with the present front porch. The street address has changed from "820" to "56". The only other change is the disappearance of the small structure just to the south of the stable.
By 1914, the masonry structure attached to the south side of the house's ell has vanished. A 1 story structure appears on the site of the present garage. The rest of the property remains unchanged since 1905.
In 1922, the street address has changed from "56" to "154". The stable and adjoining structure in the northeast corner of the property have disappeared, along with the structure in the southeast corner of the property. The structure on the site of the present garage remains, and the footprint of the house is unchanged.
The house in 1933 has seen the “L”-shaped addition to the house’s south side replaced with the present addition, identified as frame with a masonry veneer. The structure to the east of the house is now identified as a garage. The wood shake roofs identified by earlier Sanborns on both structures have been replaced by asphalt shingle roofs. The form of the house, garage, and property in 2008 remain virtually identical to that in 1933. The only difference apparent is that the house in 1933 was still listed as a
single dwelling; by 2008 it had been subdivided into two apartments.

**Form in 2008**

In 2008, the house has been subdivided from east to west into two apartments. All of the original 1854 house, with the exception of the south front room, is contained within the northern apartment, 154 South 6th Street. The north front room is utilized as a living room. The 1854 kitchen is used as a dining room. A chimney servicing the furnace in the cellar is located in the northwest corner of the dining room. It dates to the first half of the 20th century. There is an early 20th century floor register located near the south wall of the dining room. Two small rooms lie to the east of the dining room. The north room is a bathroom, the south room is utilized as a bedroom. The apartment at 154 South 6th Street also contains a “new” kitchen and storage pantry within the 1922-1933 addition.

The southern apartment is known as 164 South 9th Street. The only room from the 1854 portion of the house in this apartment is the south front room, which is used as a living room. The original fireplace mantel in this room has been replaced with a Craftsman mantel of wire-scored brick. An old gas heater sits in front of the fireplace, and is vented into its chimney. This gas heater is the heat source for 164, unlike the apartment in 154, which has forced-air central heating. The electrical service for this room, like that in the front room and dining room of 154, is ran through conduit attached to the outer surface of the walls, another indication that the walls of the 1854 portion of the house are solid masonry.

To the east of 164’s living room is a bedroom. It contains an original ceiling fixture, previously described. To the east of the bedroom is a kitchen, also containing an
original ceiling fixture. The bathroom to the east of the kitchen also has an original ceiling fixture, as well as its original sink. It should be noted that the electrical service for the c. 1922-1933 addition to the house is contained within the ceilings and walls, unlike in the original 1854 portion of the house.

In 2005 the structure of the front porch roof was replaced. The porch roof had originally met the facade underneath the eaves of the house's roof; today the porch roof is an extension of the main roof. The original porch roof also had a small gable centered over the front steps. This was removed and not replaced. During the 2005 reconstruction, the porch rails which had existed prior to that time were removed. The porch was refloored with contemporary 1" x 6" treated lumber, laid running east to west. The original latticework under the porch was removed and replaced with contemporary vinyl latticework. In 2005, the present vinyl windows were installed. These replaced double-hung, 1/1 wood windows. Wood storm doors for the entry doors were also replaced. The wood storm doors had eight lights each. The present storm doors are of contemporary design in white aluminum.  

Garage: Sanborn maps show a structure on the site of the present garage appearing between 1905 and 1914. The structure is not identified as a garage until 1933. The garage fronts north. It is a one-story, gable-front structure. The garage rests on a poured concrete slab. The walls of the garage are constructed of early 20th century panel-face cinder block. The gables are of 3" drop-lap siding. They have a cornice board of 1' x 10" lumber with a small crown molding. The rafters are 2" x 10" lumber, and have exposed

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52 Interview with Timothy Knapp, building owner, March 22, 2008.
ends. The roof is covered with grey asphalt shingles. The north facade has a single contemporary steel garage door, offset to the east of center. There is an early 20th century light fixture with enameled steel shade on the gable above the garage door (see figure 58). The east elevation has a single window with steel sash, divided into two vertical lights. The glass panes have been replaced with wood; one contains a vent (see figure 59). The south elevation has two windows. These windows have the same dimensions as those on the east and west elevations, but have been boarded over. The west elevation has a single window with steel sash, divided into two vertical lights. The window is roughly centered on the elevation. There is a two-panel, Greek Revival door at the north end of the west elevation. The door casings consist of flat pine boards (fig. 60).

Figure 58: North elevation of garage, 154/164 South 6th Street.
Figure 59: East elevation of garage, 154/164 South 9th Street.

Figure 60: West elevation of garage, 154/164 South 9th Street.
Conclusion

The two houses in this creative project are significant locally, as they are rare survivors of the antebellum period. The bricks, mortar, and woodwork present in the houses tell the story of what was possible in Noblesville in the 1840s and 1850s. The investigation of the houses revealed nothing unique or surprising in the methods or materials of construction. The methods of construction were quite typical for the period. This is expressed in such things as non-standardized door and window dimensions, roof framing without ridgepoles, and the use of materials that were readily obtainable locally.

Primary source materials from the period of the houses’ construction describe Hamilton County as well-forested with the species of lumber present in the houses. The almost exclusive use of milled lumber in the houses shows how readily available that material was in Noblesville at the time.

The presence of chimneys to serve cast-iron stoves, and of hardware from Cincinnati and England demonstrates how mid-19th century Noblesville was linked to supply sources in distant places.

Primary sources also list the variety and numbers of workmen and industries that existed locally in the mid 19th century. Noblesville in the period 1840 to 1860 attracted a concentration of artisans skilled in the building trades. These craftsmen hailed from areas as diverse as Pennsylvania and Ohio all the way south to Virginia and North Carolina. The surviving Antebellum houses in Noblesville represent the different folk
building traditions that originated in the Northern and Southern English colonies along the east coast. Census data from the period, and the surviving Antebellum houses in Noblesville offer evidence that Noblesville in the mid-19th century had a diverse population originating from many different areas.

No evidence was uncovered which identified with certainty the original owners or builders of either house. John D. Cottingham owned the property at 736 South 9th Street from 1835 to 1849. He was also involved with a firm that was capable of constructing brick buildings. Cottingham is a good candidate as the builder of the house, but the evidence is not conclusive enough to make him anything more than a candidate.

Perhaps it is just as well that the identities of the builders remain unknown. After all, the story the two houses tell to us today is the story of an entire community: the brickmasons, woodcutters, sawyers in the lumber mills, carpenters, cabinet makers, plasterers, and merchants stocking goods from Cincinnati and even far off England.

At the time of their initial construction, 736 South 9th Street and 154/164 South 6th Street were relatively “high end” dwellings. The physical locations of the houses ceased to be “high end” after the advent of the Gas Boom, and their relatively small size was not in keeping with what the upper middle classes demanded in the late 19th century. Despite all this, the two houses remained relevant; they continued to fulfill the function for which they were designed: housing people. The original outbuildings on each property, by contrast, ceased to be relevant, and have disappeared.

Each house was adapted as time went on to provide greater living space. Front porches were very much in fashion in the late 19th and early 20th centuries; both houses enjoyed the addition of a front porch during this period. It is interesting to note the very
different approaches taken by the houses' owners in the early 20th century regarding additions. The owner of 736 South 9th was content to merely attach a structure to the rear of his brick house; it is tempting to suggest that this structure may have been the 1 ½ story stable which previously existed on the property. What is certain, however, is that the valley created between the roofs of the two structures was not an example of practical design. The owner of 154/164 South 6th Street, by contrast, received a well-constructed addition that blends harmoniously with the original structure. Also worth mentioning is the practicality of the builders in the early 20th century. All of the plumbing installed at that time was installed in the new additions, rather than wasting the additional time and effort it would have required to locate plumbing in the original brick structures. In the case of 154/164 South 6th Street, no time or effort were wasted to remove the roofs of the double-ell or original ell; they were simply left in place.

Perhaps the most amazing and thought provoking fact of all is this: it must be remembered that merely twenty or so years before these two houses were built, there was nothing, nothing at all, on the site of present day Noblesville. No farms, no industry, no streets, no railroad. No stores or houses. From virgin, unspoiled forest and pristine plains, the early settlers had created a thriving and growing community in the short space of two decades.
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