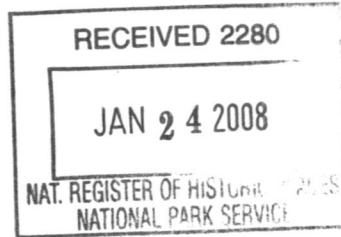


Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology • 402 W. Washington Street, W274 • Indianapolis, IN 46204-2739
Phone 317-232-1646 • Fax 317-232-0693 • dhpa@dnr.in.gov • web: www.in.gov/dnr/historic



January 22, 2008

Dr. Janet Matthews
Keeper of the National Register
of Historic Places
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye Street, NW 8th floor
Washington, DC 20005



Dear Dr. Matthews,

I regret to inform you that the Yenowine-Nichols-Collins House, Floyd County, Indiana, has been demolished. The house was subject of a protracted legal battle regarding its maintenance and its inclusion in a proposed development. In 2005, an arsonist struck the house and it was heavily damaged. Its ruins have been demolished.

Several articles of interest regarding the arson fire and a photo of the house as it last stood are enclosed. Since the property no longer retains any of the qualities for which it was listed, we are requesting that it be removed from the National Register of Historic Places.

Please address any questions you may have regarding this action to Frank Hurdis, Jr. or Paul Diebold of my staff. Frank can be reached at (317) 232-3494; Paul can be reached at (317) 232-3493.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert E. Carter, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert E. Carter, Jr.
State Historic Preservation Officer

cc: Greg Sekula, Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ~~ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION~~ *Removal*

PROPERTY NAME: Yenowine-Nichols-Collins House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: INDIANA, Floyd

DATE RECEIVED: 1/24/08 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/08/08
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 75000017

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

 ACCEPT RETURN REJECT DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

removed from the National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA Remove
REVIEWER Edson Beall DISCIPLINE Historian
TELEPHONE _____ DATE 3.6.08

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 11 1975
DATE ENTERED MAY 12 1975

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Yenowine-Nichols-Collins House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

5118 State Road 64

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

New Albany

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

9th

STATE

Indiana

VICINITY OF

CODE

18

COUNTY

Floyd

CODE

043

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mabelle Nichols Collins

STREET & NUMBER

5118 State Road 64

CITY, TOWN

New Albany

VICINITY OF

STATE

Indiana

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Floyd County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

New Albany

STATE

Indiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Preservation, Metropolitan Preservation Plan

DATE

1973

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Falls of the Ohio Metropolitan Council of Government

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

STATE

Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Yenowine-Nichols-Collins House is a two story, five void, bearing wall brick structure in the Federal style. This house originally was a two story rectangular structure with a one story ell projecting to the rear. In 1880, when a grandmother came to live in the house, a frame room was built for her above the ell. At a later date a porch was added to the rear of the ell as well as another room on the side towards the inside of the ell. The bricks, burnt on the site, are laid in Flemish bond on a limestone foundation. All the wood for both the interior and exterior trim for the house came from the 160 acres that it was built on. The only work not done on the property during the construction of the house was the bending of the cherry banister which was done at Shippingsport.

The roof is low gabled with single-stacked brick chimneys inside the gable ends of the main structure and on the gable end of the ell. The wooden eaves have a boxed cornice with a plain freize. The windows are six over six small paned sash type, have radiating brick lintels on the first floor and second floors have pilasters and an entablature that are similar except in that the transom lights with mullions and the second floor was originally pedimented above the eave line. There are two steps leading to the front door.

The interior of the Yenowine-Nichols-Collins House contains many fine examples of craftsmanship and design. The floor in the living room is made of holly cut in narrow boards. This is a durable but a relatively soft wood, with a soft color that adds warmth to the room.

The rest of the floors in the house are the typical wide-cut ash or poplar. One interesting feature of the living room is the mantle over the fireplace. This is identical to one found in a house built by Isaac Bowman in the Shenandoah Valley. It is of more than passing interest to note that Isaac Bowman lived in this area in Indiana and once sold a horse mill to the Yenowine family and so possibly could have sold them the mantle. The house also contains several pieces of furniture that were brought to the house when it was first built.

A wood smokehouse, woodshed and privy of various dates, but in a style that is totally compatible with the house, complete the Yenowine-Nichols-Collins House complex.

The Yenowine family maintained a continuous interest in the gardens surrounding the house. At one time the vegetable garden was irrigated from a spring that ran through the kitchen. There are still many plantings that were done in the nineteenth century being maintained with the old varieties of flowers.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 11 1975

DATE ENTERED

MAY 12 1975

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

On November 13, 1973 Mabelle N. Collins, the current owner of the house wrote that "In the 1880's the railroad went under it - a mile long tunnel - then the telegraph poles and wires followed above ground - then a state highway came through the bluegrass pasture - destroyed the springbrook. Then the Interstate destroyed our trees, our pond, one spring, a wooded hillside --- a shopping center is on Grandpa's beloved meadow - the pear and apple trees were bulldozed away - high tension power lines bisect the fields -- the old house surrounded by concrete seems lost". The owners of this house have allowed protective bushes to grow and planted more so that once inside the complex the freeways, power lines, and shopping centers are no longer in view.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1832

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Yenowine-Nichols-Collins House is an excellent example of a later phase in a Federal style farmhouse. As in many Ohio Valley houses of the period, the upper central window has been widened to match the entrance door. Especially with the original pediment, the fine vertical lines and sharpness of the details give the house a Greek Revival flavor even though there are few specific references.

This house is intimately associated with the lives of one pioneer family. It was built by Daniel Yenowine after his marriage to Sarah Lidkay in 1832. His ancestors had moved from Pennsylvania to Kentucky in the 17th century and some of them moved in to Indiana in the early 18th century. Mrs. Collins captures the family tradition of the home when she speaks of the beautifully carved cherry banister as the one that her mother, her grandmother, and her great-grandmother had all slid down as children. Each generation has added on to the home to accommodate newer life styles, but has not destroyed the traditional aspects of the house with major remodeling.

The outbuildings, with the exception of a barn, that grew with a traditional Indiana farmstead are all extant and provide an extra measure of identity to this property. Adding to the overall character of the Yenowine-Nichols-Collins House are the gardens filled with 19th century plantings.

The interior furnishing from the cherry banister formed at Shippingsport and the holly, ash and poplar floors to the pieces of furniture that have been in the family since the home was constructed make this house one of the best showplaces for life in southern Indiana over the years.

Its beautiful construction and detail along with its direct association with a pioneer family in Indiana make this house significant.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 10 1977

DATE ENTERED

NOV 9 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

The Scribner House is an unusual example of a well-preserved Indiana house from the early nineteenth century which is important as a memorial to the founding family of New Albany and Floyd County, Indiana.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

MAR 10 1977

DATE ENTERED

NOV 9 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Bibliography (Con't)

Payne, Mrs. M. Arthur, comp. "Sketches of New Albany, Indiana, and Vicinity, 1813-1893,"
n.p.: Piankeshaw Chapter of the D.A.R., 1959.

Scribner, Mary Helen. "The Old House Speaks." n.p. Piankeshaw Chapter of the D.A.R.,
1932.

Already Filmed

Property Yenowine-Nichols-Collins House

Floyd

State Indiana

Working Number 2.11.75.205

TECHNICAL

Photos 4
Maps 1

CONTROL

OK ^{pl} 2.12.75

although altered since 1878 it appears that this house has maintained its architectural integrity.

HISTORIAN

Accept
E. Smith
2-13-75

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

INTERESTING ENOUGH HOUSE, GROUNDS, AND OUTBUILDINGS. I DO NOT THINK IT IS NECESSARY TO REQUIRE PHOTOS OF LATTER TWO.

ACCEPT
LEBOVICH
2-14-75

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

ACCEPT
COLE
2-18-75

BRANCH CHIEF

accept
Hunt
5.5.75

KEEPER

R. Greenberg
for Murray
5/19/75

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry 7-1-75

Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

Entered MAY 12 1975

INT:2106-74

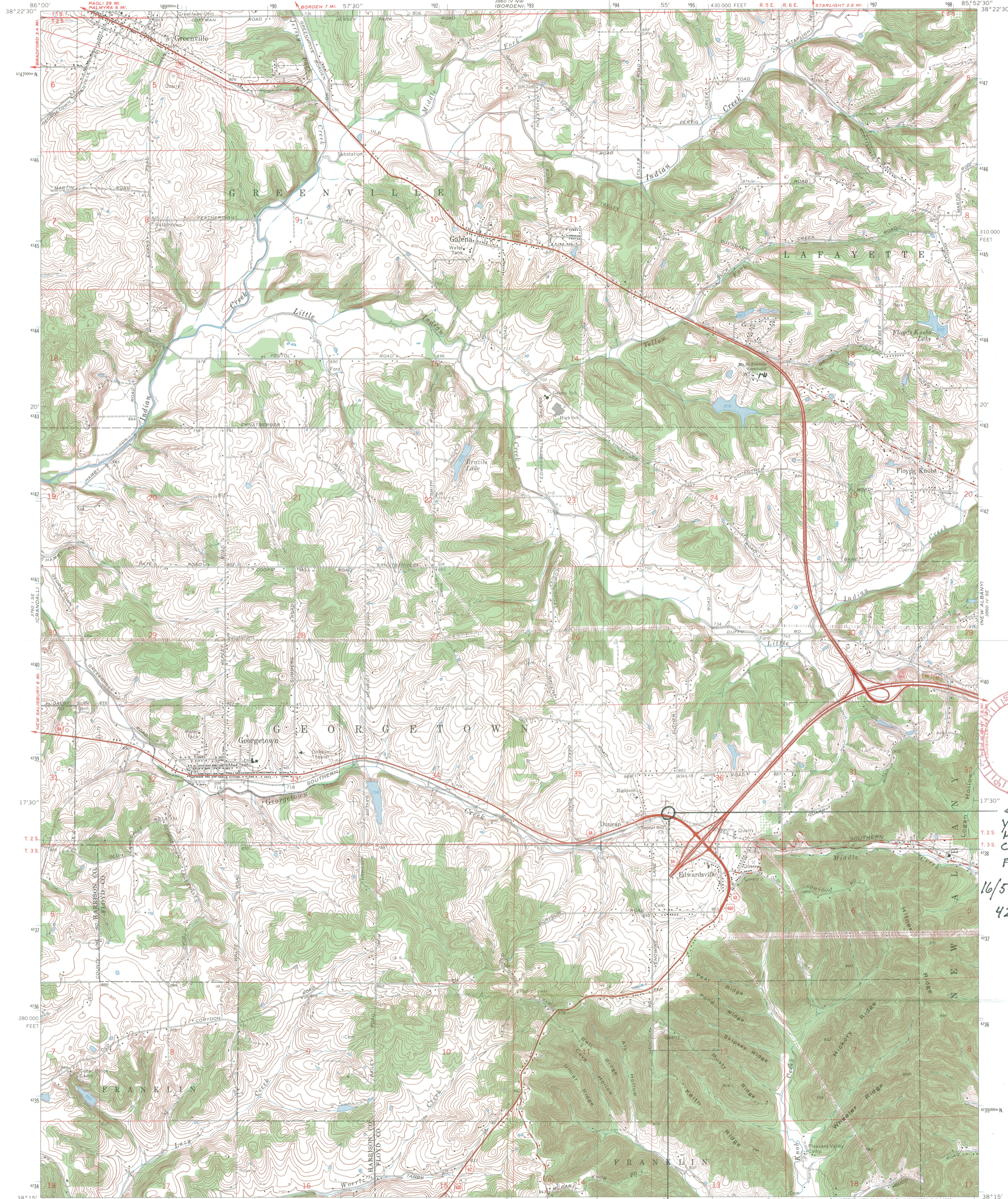
Class Harold Ginn on upper porch





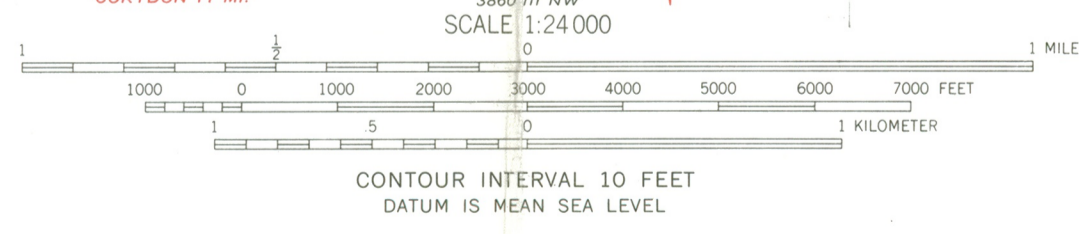
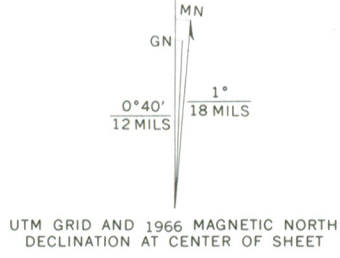






YENOWINE -
Nichols -
Collins House
Floyd County
16/594780/
4238400

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by planetable surveys 1938. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1966
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Indiana coordinate system,
east zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 16, shown in blue



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface	Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface	Unimproved road, fair or dry weather

○ Interstate Route ○ U. S. Route ○ State Route



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
AND INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

GEORGETOWN, IND.
N3815-W8552.5/7.5
1966
AMS 3860 IV SW-SERIES V851

STATE OF INDIANA



INDIANAPOLIS, 46204

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

JOSEPH D. CLOUD
DIRECTOR

February 3, 1975

Dr. William J. Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register
United States Department of the Interior
Room 3209
100 "L" Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20005



Dear Dr. Murtagh:

As the State Historic Preservation Officer for Indiana I am pleased to send you herewith the nomination forms for:

Wendell L. Willkie School, Elwood (Madison County) Indiana
Abram Gaar Home and Farm, Richmond (Wayne County) Indiana
John Kinzer Home, Carmel (Hamilton County) Indiana
Mooreville Friends Academy Building, Mooreville (Morgan County) Indiana
Montgomery County Jail and Sheriffs Residence, Crawfordsville (Montgomery County) Indiana
Yenowine-Nichols-Collins House, New Albany (Floyd County) Indiana

These nominations have been carefully discussed and reviewed at several meetings of the Indiana Professional State Consulting Committee and they are unanimously recommended.

Sincerely,

Joseph D. Cloud
Director
Indiana Department of
Natural Resources

JDC:mfs

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE INDIANA

Date Entered MAY 12 1975

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Michigan Central Railroad Engine Repair Shops	Michigan City LaPorte County
Steuben County Court House	Angola Steuben County
Wilkie, Wendell L., School	Elwood Madison County
Mooresville Friends Academy Building	Mooresville Morgan County
Jennison Guard Site	Dearborn County
Yenowine-Nichols-Collins House	New Albany Floyd County

Hon. Vance Hartke
Hon. Birch Bayh
Hon. John Brademas
Hon. J. Edward Roush
Hon. Elwood H. Hillis
Hon. David Evans
Hon. Lee H. Hamilton

Also Notified

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Joseph D. Cloud, Director
Department of Natural Resources
608 State Office Building
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
Regional Director, Midwest Region

copy to Cocco

PR

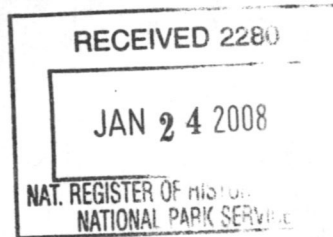
MMot/bsh

5/15/75



HISTORIC
LANDMARKS
FOUNDATION OF
INDIANA

Southern Regional Office
Grisamore House
113 West Chestnut Street
Jeffersonville, IN 47130
812 284 4534
Fax: 812 285 9923



RECEIVED
BY HISTORIC PRES. & ARCH

JAN 12 2004

INDIANA DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

January 7, 2004

Mr. John Goss
State Historic Preservation Officer
INDNR-Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology
402 West Washington Street, Room W274
Indianapolis, IN 46204

RE: Waiving of 30-day Comment Period for Review of Yenowine-Nichols-Collins House
Relocation Request

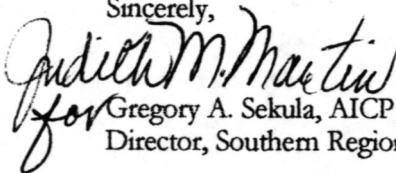
Dear Mr. Goss:

As the holder of an architectural façade easement on the Yenowine-Nichols-Collins House near Georgetown, Indiana, Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana wishes to expedite resolution of the request for relocation before the Indiana Historic Preservation Review Board. The Board has been requested to determine whether or not a physical relocation of the Yenowine-Nichols-Collins House near Georgetown, Indiana, would jeopardize the building's National Register status. Historic Landmarks Foundation, who also maintains partial ownership interest in the property willingly waives the 30-day comment period.

For the record, Historic Landmarks adamantly opposes the concept of relocating this landmark Greek Revival style residence from its original site. The physical act of moving the building will likely result in the loss of original building fabric, eradicate remaining historic landscape elements, disturb archaeological resources, and destroy the original setting of the structure. Our organization believes that relocation of an historic structure is *always a last resort option*. Moving the building simply to make way for new commercial development for the property owner's economic gain is not a justification for such a risky endeavor. **Efforts should be made to retain the house in its original location and to sensitively integrate new development into the surrounding site.**

The proposed development scheme isolates the structure in the midst of a modern office development, changes the building's original orientation and historic relationship to the roadway (now S.R. 64), and blocks visual access to the house from the road. Historic Landmarks urges the Indiana Historic Preservation Review Board to maintain the position that relocating this structure as proposed will undoubtedly jeopardize the National Register status of this property.

Sincerely,


for Gregory A. Sekula, AICP
Director, Southern Regional Office

cc: J. Reid Williamson, Jr., HLF I President
Rachele L. Cummins, Smith Bartlett Heeke Carpenter Thompson & Fondrisi, LLC

DNR

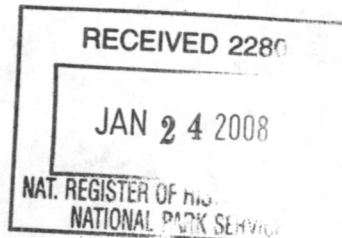
Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology • 402 W. Washington Street, W274 • Indianapolis, IN 46204-2739
Phone 317-232-1646 • Fax 317-232-0693 • dhpa@dnr.state.in.us

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Governor
Kyle J. Hupfer, Director



November 7, 2005



Greg Sekula, Director
Historic Landmarks Foundation
Of Indiana, SRO
115 West Chestnut Street
Jeffersonville, IN 47130

Dear Greg:

Thank you for taking time today to meet with us at the Yenowine-Nichols-Collins House in Georgetown, Indiana so we could evaluate the condition of the house after the recent fire and consider its continued eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

As you know, the property was listed in the National Register on May 12, 1975 for its statewide significance in agriculture, architecture, and landscape architecture. When the property was identified as part of the 1978 Floyd County survey, it was one of only a half dozen properties in Georgetown Township dating from 1840 or earlier, and the only property in the township listed in the National Register. It remains the only listed property in the township.

The fire has virtually destroyed the rear wing of the house except for portions of its fireplace wall. It also has heavily damaged the roof on the main portion of the house, destroyed the central stairway, and has caused severe damage to first and second floor rooms south of the stairway. The first floor room north of the stair hall, though heavily scorched, still has most of its woodwork, including its paneled wainscot but there is no evidence of mantelpieces in either that room or the south first floor room. The sole remaining outbuilding on the property is still standing relatively unscathed.

Although the house has suffered substantial damage from the fire, its I-house form and plan are intact. The masonry shell appears to be stable. In addition to the interior woodwork already mentioned, the one-story wood entrance porch with its Federal style detailing remains. The house retains its integrity of location, setting, design and association despite the damage to the original workmanship. When all factors are considered, we believe the property, including the house, outbuilding and surrounding farm land, retain sufficient integrity to convey its association with early settlement and agriculture in Floyd County and still meets the National Register criteria for listing. We do not intend to pursue removing the property from the National Register at this time.

Sincerely,

Frank D. Hurdis, Jr.
Chief of Survey and Registration



HISTORIC
LANDMARKS
FOUNDATION OF
INDIANA

Southern Regional Office
115 West Chestnut Street
Jeffersonville, IN 47130
812 284 4534 Fax: 812 285 9923

south@historiclandmarks.org
www.historiclandmarks.org

RECEIVED
BY HISTORIC PRES. & ARCH
DEC 05 2005

INDIANA DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

November 28, 2005

Mr. Keith Henderson, Esq.
Floyd County Prosecutor
City-County Building
311 Hauss Square
New Albany, IN 47150

RE: Arson Fire, Yenowine-Nichols-Collins House, 5118 SR 64, Georgetown, IN

Dear Mr. Henderson:

On behalf of Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, the nation's largest statewide historic preservation organization, I am writing to request that the Floyd County Prosecutor's Office aggressively pursue the prosecution of the person(s) responsible for the fire that damaged the historic Yenowine-Nichols-Collins house near Georgetown, Indiana, on the morning of October 31, 2005.

As you may be aware from local media coverage, Historic Landmarks Foundation holds a preservation easement on the Yenowine-Nichols-Collins house, which was built in 1832 and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975. Because of its legal property interest in the house, Historic Landmarks Foundation won a judgement this past August that required the present owners to repair the structure to the condition that existed in 1983 – the year the easement was granted. The judgement was the subject of the owner's motion to correct errors at the time of the blaze that was ruled arson by the State Fire Marshal's office.

Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana desires that those responsible for this egregious act be brought to justice. *To demonstrate our determination to protect Indiana's heritage, Historic Landmarks Foundation has also notified the State Fire Marshal that we are offering an additional \$5,000 to match his current reward fund.* We will happily pay for information that results in an arson conviction. Of course, we are also willing to cooperate fully in any on-going investigation on this case, and I look forward to hearing from you soon relating to this important matter. I may be reached by phone during normal business hours at (812)-284-4534.

Sincerely,

Gregory A. Sekula, AICP
Southern Regional Director

cc: Detective Neal Houglund, Floyd County Sheriff's Office
Pat Wachtel, Interim President, Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, Inc.
Mark Dollase, Vice President of Preservation Services, Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, Inc.
Frank Hurdis, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology ✓

Indiana

The Courier-Journal | courier-journal.com/Indiana



Legislative agenda

Indiana House Speaker Brian Bosma wants a focus on property taxes. **B3**

Southern Indiana	B3
Weather	B8
Louisville News	B4
Deaths	B6,7
Briefs	B3



Mark Provano, editor
mprovano@courier-journal.com
948-1315, phone
949-4041, fax

TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 22, 2005

Judge orders historic home to be repaired

Georgetown house damaged by fire

By Ben Zion Hershberg
bhershberg@courier-journal.com
The Courier-Journal

A judge has ruled that a legal agreement remains in effect requiring the exterior of a historic home in Georgetown to be

maintained — despite an extensive fire there on Oct. 31.

The Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana holds a preservation easement requiring the maintenance of the home's façade.

Witnesses for the foundation and the home's owners argued about the extent of the fire damage, and the reasonableness of requiring that the house be repaired, at a hearing last week.

By ruling that the fire did not cause "major destruction," Special Judge Daniel Donahue essentially required that its exterior be repaired by owners Lynda Riggle Meyer and Charles Meyer under the terms of the preservation easement.

Lynda Meyer declined to comment on the ruling yesterday, and Mike Naville, her lawyer, didn't return several calls for comment.

Greg Sekula, executive director of the regional office of the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, said "we're very appreciative" of Donahue's ruling.

The home, known as the Yenowine-Nichols-Collins House, is on the National Register of Historic Places. Expert witnesses for the foundation said at last week's hearing that the most important part of the house —

much of its two-story front section, which was built in the 1830s — could be stabilized and repaired, Sekula said.

Donahue ruled Aug. 4 that the Meyers had to repair the home's exterior, based on the preservation easement that Mabelle Collins had entered into with the foundation in 1983. It requires the foundation to reg-

See **GEORGETOWN**, B3, col. 4

GEORGETOWN | Repairs ordered on home

Continued from B1

ularly inspect the house and see that the family homestead is preserved "in perpetuity."

Collins died in 1994. Donahue had ordered repairs to begin by Sept. 1. At the Meyers' request, he gave them until Oct. 17 to get bids for the work. Repairs had not begun at the time of the fire, which firefighters said required 30 to 40 minutes to extinguish. Investigators said it was caused by arson, but no arrests have been made.

Paul Diebold, senior architectural historian with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, said he visited the house Nov. 7 at the request of the foundation and because of his concerns about the condition of a building on the National Register of Historic Places.

The most distinctive part of the house can be saved, Diebold said.

The two large downstairs rooms and two large second-floor rooms with central hallways between them are typical of an "I" house built widely in towns and rural areas from the 1830s through the 1850s, Diebold said.

Some other important architectural elements, including the railing for the central stairway, had been removed and stored by the owners before the fire and possibly could be replaced when the house is repaired, he said.

He said he has seen the restoration of buildings that were in worse shape.

But Diebold said he believes

it's important to put a new roof on the house within a couple of weeks and board up any openings to keep moisture out, especially with winter on its way.

He said tax-credit programs are available to help owners, if the building is put into use as an office, or grants are available if it's restored by a nonprofit organization.

It's not clear when any steps will be taken to stabilize the house. Donahue has scheduled a hearing Jan. 6 on a motion by the Meyers' lawyers to correct errors that, they argue, he made in his first ruling.

Sekula said he doesn't know whether the foundation will take additional legal action to get the house stabilized quickly.



Photos by David R. Lutman, Special to The Courier-Journal

A firefighter removed debris from what was left of the Yenowine-Nichols-Collins House after yesterday's fire. The Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana had taken legal action against the owners to get them to preserve the building as required by an architectural façade easement.

Historic home in Georgetown ravaged by fire

Cause of blaze is under investigation

By Dick Kaukas
dkaukas@courier-journal.com
The Courier-Journal

A fire of undetermined origin did extensive damage early yesterday to a vacant brick house in Georgetown that was built 173 years ago and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Georgetown Fire Chief Terry Herthel said the two-story brick building, called the Yenowine-Nichols-Collins House, was gutted by the fire.

Firefighters got the alarm at 2:14 a.m.

When they arrived, flames were coming from most of the structure, Herthel said, noting that it took 15 to 20 firefighters from the Georgetown and Lafayette departments 30 to 40 minutes to extinguish the blaze.

Damage appeared to be most serious on the side of the building that faces Ind. 64, with the roof burned off, the windows

gone and a wall collapsed.

The house is the focus of litigation filed by the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana against the owners, Charles Meyer and Lynda Riggle Meyer.

In the complaint, the foundation asks the court to order the Meyers to repair and preserve the deteriorating building as required by an architectural façade easement.

Mabelle Collins, the former owner who died in 1994 after living in the house most of her life, had the easement written in 1983 to preserve the place "in perpetuity." That required subsequent owners to repair it and the landmarks foundation to make sure it's kept up.

Special Judge Daniel Donahue, who is hearing the case, ordered the Meyers to get bids for repair work by Oct. 17.

On Oct. 11, Michael Naville, one of the lawyers for the Meyers, filed a "motion to supplement the record" with a bid proposal that said the repairs would cost \$274,262, and a separate appraisal that concluded the building was worth only \$21,500.

Naville and his colleague,



The 173-year-old house, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, might have to be torn down because of the damage, said Georgetown Fire Chief Terry Herthel.

Barry Bitzegaio, have asked Donahue to reconsider his rulings in the case, and a hearing has been scheduled for Nov. 8 on that request.

Chief Herthel said yesterday afternoon that Andy Long, a deputy state fire marshal, had examined the building.

But Pam Bright, a spokeswoman for Long's office in Indianapolis, said that no determination about the cause has been made and that the investigation is continuing.

"We're certainly wanting to hear what that fire marshal's report says," said Greg Sekula, director of the landmarks foundation's Southern Regional Office.

He added, "At this point I cannot say whether or not the property is in our view salvageable or not."

Herthel said it was his preliminary impression that damage to

the bricks and mortar caused by the fire and the heat would make salvage difficult.

"It will probably have to be bulldozed," he said.

Lynda Meyer said later in a brief telephone interview, "I can tell you it's a very sad day for us." She referred questions to Bitzegaio.

He said the Meyers "would be very interested to hear a cause and origin report on the fire," adding that Lynda Meyer was "despondent" over the fire and its consequences.

Despite the age of the building, Herthel said, it still had electricity, a fact that at least one neighbor said he had noticed.

Mark Herrington, 36, who lives in a subdivision near the property, said that every night he passed the house he saw light on in the upstairs room nearest the road.

Indiana

The Courier-Journal | courier-journal.com/Indiana



Growth job

Cherry Kay Smith has a new job and will help grow Ivy Tech Community College at Sellersburg. **B3**

Southern Indiana	B3
Weather	B8
Louisville News	B4
Deaths	B6,7
Briefs	B3



Mark Provano, editor
mprovano@courier-journal.com
948-1315, phone
949-4041, fax

THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 3, 2005

Georgetown fire called arson

Historic home gutted by blaze

By Dick Kaukas
dkaukas@courier-journal.com
The Courier-Journal

A fire that gutted a historic home in Georgetown Monday morning was caused by arson, a spokeswoman for the state fire marshal said yesterday.

"It was a set fire. There were signs of accelerants," said Pam Bright, a spokeswoman for the fire marshal.

She said officials have been interviewing suspects — no one

has been charged in the case — and declined further comment to avoid jeopardizing the investigation.

The fire, which started around 2 a.m. Monday, destroyed the interior and part of the roof of the old brick structure at 5118 Ind. 64.

The structure, known as the Yenowine-Nichols-Collins House, is on the National Register of Historic Places but has been deteriorating and vacant for years.

It is the focus of a suit filed by the Historic Landmarks Commission of Indiana against the present owners, Lynda Riggle Meyer and Charles Meyer, who

have been ordered to make repairs to the house.

Mabelle Collins, who lived in the house most of her life and owned it until her death in 1994, had an architectural facade easement put on the property in 1983.

It requires that future owners keep the house in good repair and that the landmarks foundation assure that it's properly maintained.

A Nov. 8 hearing before Special Judge Daniel Donahue has been scheduled to hear a request by the Meyers that the judge reconsider his rulings and correct what they say are errors in his order.

Yesterday Lynda Meyer declined in a brief telephone interview to discuss the state fire marshal's determination, saying, "We just can't make any comments at all."

Barry Bitzegaio, one of the lawyers for the Meyers, said later that "it's not at all surprising to anybody that that fire was of incendiary origin, including us. We wish, of course, that it wouldn't have been, but it is."

He said his clients "will not be surprised by the news that this was a set fire. Everything points to that, and that's another unfortunate development."

Greg Sekula, director of the landmarks foundation's South-

ern Regional Office, said the organization "is saddened and devastated that someone would willingly and intentionally destroy such a wonderful part of our heritage here in Floyd County."

He added, "It is truly a sad, sad day, and we hope that whoever perpetrated this will be brought to justice."

Bright, the fire marshal's spokeswoman, said the office offers a \$5,000 reward for tips that result in the arrest and conviction of arsonists.

She asked that anyone with information about the fire call the state's "arson hot line" at (800) 382-4628.

Diebold, Paul

From: Greg Sekula [gsekula@historiclandmarks.org]
Sent: Thursday, January 17, 2008 4:07 PM
To: Hurdis, Frank; Diebold, Paul
Subject: FW: Collins House - Lynda Meyer

Attachments: YNCHouse1_7Jan08.JPG



YNCHouse1_7Jan08.JPG (91 KB)

Frank and Paul:

Just wanted to pass along the latest on this sad story. HLFII did ultimately allow the Bank to dismantle the house after 2 years of working with them and structural engineers bringing into question the integrity of what remained. We had no options. I guess delisting of the property is in order. Ironic that Lynda's passing coincided with the "death" of the house. I leave this one up to a higher being.

Greg Sekula

-----Original Message-----

From: Greg Sekula [mailto:gsekula@historiclandmarks.org]
Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2008 5:38 PM
To: Mary Burger (burger@historiclandmarks.org); Marsh Davis (mdavis@historiclandmarks.org); Mark Dollase (mdollase@historiclandmarks.org); Thomas Engle (Thomas.Engle@BTLaw.com); Jan Carroll (jan.carroll@BTLaw.com); Tina Connor (connor@historiclandmarks.org)
Cc: 'All RO Dir'
Subject: Collins House - Lynda Meyer

Hello All:

I wanted to report to you that we learned this afternoon that Lynda Meyer passed away as a result of breast cancer. This news comes in the wake of the dismantling of the Yenowine-Nichols-Collins house, a picture of which is attached as the work progressed last week. The house is now completely gone. I guess this chapter is now officially ended.

As a gesture of good humanity, the SRO will send a card of condolence to Charlie Meyer.

Greg Sekula
Director Southern Regional Office
Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana
115 West Chestnut Street
Jeffersonville, IN 47130
812-284-4534
Fax: 812-285-9923
gsekula@historiclandmarks.org
www.historiclandmarks.org



GENOWINE-NICHOLS-COLLINS HSE
DURING DEMOLITION JAN 2008

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 12-1-76
Reviewer INITIALS: nesbitt
NR ✓ DOE 5/12/75

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: ¹⁰Yenowine-Nichols-Collins House

OTHER NAMES:

✓ LOCATION: 5118 State Rd.

STREET & NUMBER

✓ CITY, TOWN

New Albany

STATE

✓ Indiana

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

✓ ninth

✓ COUNTY
Floyd

code

043

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) ✓ PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST

SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR
✓ Substantially intact-1
- unknown - 4
- not applicable - 7

EXTERIOR
✓ Substantially intact-2
- unknown - 5
- not applicable - 8

ENVIRONS
✓ Substantially intact-3
- unknown - 6
- not applicable - 9

- Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION -

✓ EXCELLENT

- GOOD

- FAIR

- DETERIORATED

- RUINS

- UNEXPOSED

- Unexcavated

- UNALTERED

✓ ALTERED

- Reconstructed

- Excavated

✓ ORIGINAL SITE

- MOVED

- Unknown

ACCESS -

Yes-restricted

Yes-unrestricted

No access

Unknown

historic district?

YES

NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT?

YES

NO

IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK?

YES

NO

IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE:

YES

NO

Saved?

YES

NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- HOUSE

now- HOUSE

SIGNIFICANCE:

- ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC

- ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC

- AGRICULTURE

✓ ARCHITECTURE - 4

- ART

- COMMERCE

- COMMUNICATIONS

- CONSERVATION

- ECONOMICS

- EDUCATION

- ENGINEERING

- EXPLORATION

- INDUSTRY

- INVENTION

- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

- LAW/Gov't/politics

- LITERATURE

- MILITARY

- MUSIC

- PHILOSOPHY

- POLITICS-GOVERNMENT

- RELIGION

- SCIENCE

- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN

- TRANSPORTATION

- OTHER (SPECIFY)

- entertainment

- health

- recreation

✓ settlement - 29

- socio/cultural

- urban & commun

planning

Claims

"first" YES NO

"oldest" YES NO

"only" YES NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: FEDERAL

architect/m.builder:

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

personal

(label role & appropriate date)

events

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1832 ✓

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

3

COMMENTS:

(include architectural information here)

Brick, 2 stories, rectangular, gabled roof sections, interior chimneys; 1-story (center) railed entrance portico, 1st and 2nd story entrances with transom and sidelights; simple interior; 1880, additions; smokehouse, woodshed and privy at rear; 19th c. plantings extant; FEDERAL. Example of an early 19th c. house basically intact, maintained by one family through the years.

✓ Brick, 2 stories, rectangular, gabled roof, interior chimneys, center 1-story entrance portico with balustraded deck, 1st- and 2nd-story paneled ^{entrances} with transom and sidelights;

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

interiors and furnishings nearly intact; front porch altered and front cross gable removed; Smokehouse, woodshed and privy at rear; 19th c. plantings remain. Federal. Example of early 19th c. house ^{land} maintained by one family through the years.

Yenowine-Nichols-Collins House

(Resource Name)

75000017

(Reference Number[s])

06/30/09

(Date form completed)

Floyd

(County)

IN

(State)

S. Manant

(Completed by)

STATUS:

1. MISSING _____ 2. REMOVED/ DEMOLISHED 3. NHL _____ 4. TR _____ 5. MRA _____ 6. OVER-SIZED _____ 7. NPS - _____ UNDOCUMENTED 8. DOE - _____ OWNER OBJECTION 9. RESTRICTED _____

EXPLANATION:

1. Missing Status: Entire Folder (); Nomination (); Map(s) (); Photos ()
Available on: Microfiche (); Optical Disk ()

2. _____
(Cause for removal)

_____/_____/_____
(Date Removed)

3. _____
(NHL Name, if different than NRHP Name)

_____/_____/_____
(Date Designated)

4. _____
(If multi-state/county TR, state/county where filed and location)

(TR or MRA Name)

5. _____
(If multi-state/county MRA, state/county where filed and location)

6. _____
(Location of oversize file)

7. _____
(Current source of partial documentation)

_____/_____/_____
(Target Date)

COMMENTS: _____
(Where found, or source of replacement)

_____/_____/_____
(Date Found/Replaced)