

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SENT TO
4-1-04

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Small-Towle House
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 515 County Road not for publication _____
city or town Wilmington vicinity _____
state Illinois code IL county Will code 197 zip code 60481

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally _____ statewide locally.

(____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Wm. L. / SHP 3-20-04
Signature of certifying official Date

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

____ entered in the National Register _____
____ See continuation sheet.
____ determined eligible for the National Register
____ See continuation sheet.
____ determined not eligible for the National Register
____ removed from the Nat'l Register
____ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: single dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Upright and Wing

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

roof asphalt

walls weatherboard

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

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

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance: ca.1864— ca.1869

Significant Dates _____

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Unknown

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: Joliet Public Library

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

1 16 404421 4573678 3 -- -----

2 -- ----- 4 -- -----

 See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Eillesh Tuffy
organization N/A date
street & number 3040 W. Logan Blvd. Telephone 773-252-9069
city or town Chicago state IL zip code 60647

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

 A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

 A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

 Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Julie Warriner & Gary Cox
street & number 515 County Road telephone 815-476-2565
city or town Wilmington state IL zip code 60481

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to Keeper, National Register of Historic Places, 1849 "C" Street NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1 Small-Towle House
name of property
Will, IL
county and state

DESCRIPTION

The Small-Towle House, located at 515 County Road in the town of Wilmington, IL, is a fine example of an Upright and Wing with Greek Revival and Italianate detailing. It is believed that the house was built in two distinct construction episodes that occurred sometime between 1864 and 1869. Although there is no written documentation, there are ceiling height and floor level differences in the upper floors and exposed exterior siding in the attic, which indicate that there were probably two separate phases of construction. The property maintains a high level of integrity in its present form. Although several homes of similar style were built during this period of Wilmington history, the Small-Towle House stands as the most intact representation of this historic housing type.

At the northeastern section of town, County Road leads from IL Route 53 east through unincorporated Wilmington. Before the current highway system was established, County Road was a major thoroughfare in Wilmington. The Small-Towle House is situated in the area of town where these two roads converge and occupies a 66'W x 132'L lot facing north.

The house is set back approximately 45 feet from the present-day street edge. Between the street and the sidewalk there is a low, concrete or Portland Cement retaining wall that demarcates the western border of the lot and spans the width, terminating at the driveway entrance on the east end of the lot. There are only five other retaining walls like this in the city; two are in front of 1930shouses and three are in front of mid-to-late nineteenth century houses. The wall in front of the Small-Towle House is the only one located outside of the property's lot line, and therefore is city property. Running north-south along the eastern boundary line, remnants and full-height sections of an original 4-foot stone wall serve as an historic property line marker. The footprint of the home is roughly 42' wide and extends 33' back on the lot. There are two non-contributing outbuildings along the east lot line: a modern one-car garage and a smaller shed that was moved from its original location on the lot. Both the upright and wing section of the house have gable roofs, which are perpendicular to one another. A kitchen addition at the rear of the building is covered by a shed-roof extension. The asphalt roofing shingles were installed in 1991.

Exterior

The building is wood frame construction on a cut limestone foundation. The exterior is clad entirely in horizontal wood clapboards with additional wood trim along the cornice, front porch, window and door surrounds.

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The primary (North) façade is a two-story gable-front with a full height cant bay window. The two-story section is one bay wide and is capped with a wide band of trim around the eaves, creating a triangular pediment above the window bay. This feature is characteristic of the Greek Revival style, which derives its forms from the temples of ancient Greece. The angled bay has two paired double-hung windows on the flat side which are flanked on either side by a single double-hung window of the same proportion.

The one and one-half story wing extends to the east and is three bays wide. The bays are indicated on the first floor by two tall, narrow sash windows and a single entrance door. A five-foot deep covered porch with slender split-column supports projects out at the first floor level. Above the porch roof, under the bracketed eaves, three small rectangular windows illuminate the attic story. These divided-light sash windows are placed in line above the first floor fenestration. When opened, the windows slide up into the wall cavity above. The door to the home is a single, wood-paneled door with glass panes set into the upper half. This type of door, with glass set into the panels is typical of the Italianate style.

Decorative paired brackets are located on the wing portion of the home under the second story eaves and above the first story porch supports. The second story brackets are placed along a wide band of plain wood trim. On the first floor, the brackets are located above all six porch supports on a wide band of paneled trim. A unique feature in the design of these brackets is the egg-shaped finial which hangs from the braces. It is this feature that has earned the Small-Towle house the nickname the "Egg House" among local residents.

The rear elevation is a mirror of the primary façade, with the exception of the rear kitchen addition off the wing. A kitchen and bath were constructed at the rear of the wing in the 1920s, altering the original L-shaped plan of the building. This addition is one-story in height with a shed roof that joins at the ridge of the wing. The siding is wood clapboard with wood trim pieces, in keeping with the rest of the exterior. The gable end of the upright section has a cornice return on both sides of the eaves, unlike the full pediment on the primary facade. Instead of a projecting bay, the rear elevation has flush window openings. These windows are 4-over-4 wood double hung windows, two on the second floor and one on the first floor. The rear kitchen wall has two smaller, 1-over-1 double-hung windows that look onto the rear yard. A modern skylight has been added on the sloped roof of the kitchen addition.

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The west elevation is two stories in height and two bays wide. It is very simple and lacking additional ornament. Each floor has two double-hung sash windows that are spaced symmetrically, the second floor in line with the first floor.

The east elevation is the gable end of the wing with the kitchen addition set back approximately nine feet on the south side. This gable end has cornice returns and the brackets are wrapped around this side of the roofline to match the north wall of the wing. A double-hung window is centered under the peak of the gable on the second floor and one double-hung window is placed toward the north wall on the first story, creating an asymmetric pattern on this end of the wing. The recessed kitchen ell has one small double-hung window and a single wood door that exits out into the rear courtyard.

Interior

The front door opens up into the stair hall and a door on the left leads into the original parlor. The door to the right of the stair hall was added later and leads into the front room of the upright. The rooms in the upright were constructed back-to-back without a connecting hallway between the two, similar to a shotgun house. The front room on the first floor has a single door that leads to a rear office. The east wall of the upright was altered on the first floor when the connection was built between the two arms of the house to accommodate a larger kitchen and a bath. This rear kitchen ell is accessed by three separate doorways from the hall, the parlor (currently the dining room) and the back office. The doorway off of the hall into the kitchen and the doorway off of the dining room into the kitchen appear to be original; they both have original trim and were probably doors to the exterior before the kitchen was added.

The floors throughout the home are exposed hardwood except for the front room on the first floor, which was carpeted. The walls are finished with plaster. Much of the original wood baseboard and window trim remains intact.

A previous owner attached 2' x 4's to the side of the staircase to frame out a coat closet in the front hall, and in the process removed a portion of the stairway's original railing and balusters. The current owners, however, are returning the space to an open hall and reconstructing the missing railing and balusters. The balusters and railing on the upstairs landing are original as are the treads and risers.

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The stairs lead to the attic story above the hall and parlor. A master bath now occupies the room above the parlor, which would have been the original sleeping quarters. This bathroom was installed in 1995 by the current owners. Additional partition walls have been built to create closet space at the rear of the wing. The floor level of the upright is higher than the wing on the second story. A raised doorway leads from the central hall into the upright addition. These bedrooms were originally constructed in the same manner as the first floor, opening directly onto one another. A previous homeowner altered the floor plan to create an interior hallway along the east wall and closets along the wall of the old pass through. Immediately to the right of the doorway into the addition, a small, half bath was built in the early 1970s to connect with the front bedroom.

The Small-Towle House is in excellent condition with a high level of historic integrity. The most significant alteration to the home occurred over 80 years ago when the rear kitchen and bathroom were constructed in the 1920s. The current owners have retained the original windows that were intact; the ones that had deteriorated were replaced with new wood double-hung windows that matched the originals. New roofing shingles were installed in 1991. One damaged porch support has been replaced by a simple square post, making it easily distinguishable as non-original fabric without detracting from the appearance of the porch. The original wood siding is in good condition as are the decorative brackets and cornice trim pieces. Almost all of the original trim, baseboards, and window and door surrounds on the interior are intact; the wood that has been replaced has matched the original in material and style. Three windows in the dining room that were installed in the 1970s were replaced with windows that matched the originals. Nine of the nineteen interior doors were missing when the current owners purchased the house; they were replaced with period doors that matched the originals. With the removal of the closet in the front hall, the current floor plan of the first floor of the house appears as it did in the 1920s. The second floor has essentially the same floor plan, with only the addition of the wall dividing the 1995 bathroom and closet, and the wall for the small 1/2 bath.

The Small-Towle has experienced few changes over the years and retains sufficient integrity for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Small-Towle House is locally significant under Criterion C as an excellent example of an Upright and Wing residence. Although several homes were constructed in a similar fashion throughout the Town of Wilmington during the late 1800s, the Small-Towle house is the best surviving example, providing an accurate record of a popular historic housing type. With only minor alterations, primarily to the interior of the home, the building retains a high level of integrity. Since the house is believed to have been built in two phases, the period of significance is from circa 1864 through circa 1869, the presumed dates of each building episode.

Wilmington, Illinois was first settled in the late 1830s and existed as a small farming and milling community for the first twenty years until the advent of the railroad drew greater numbers of settlers to the area. With the completion of the Chicago and Alton railroad in 1854, which included a station at the northern edge of Wilmington, new residents descended upon the area and the Village of Wilmington was established the same year. Homes were built within the natural boundaries of the town, which is bordered by the Kankakee River to the west and a smaller waterway, Forked Creek, less than one mile to the east. The village continued to grow and, nearly ten years after the railroad arrived, Wilmington incorporated as a city and elected John H. Daniels as its first mayor in 1865.

The Small-Towle House first underwent construction in the mid-1860s. The name of the house is taken from the two families who occupied the home for the greatest length of time. The house was built by William McGinnis, who bought the lot in 1864 for \$175. He built the house and sold it in November of 1869 for \$1,900. The house had two owners, including John H. Daniels (Wilmington's first mayor) before it was purchased by the Small family, who owned the property from 1870 through 1883. Mr. Small's son married the daughter of William McGinnis at the same time he purchased the house (June of 1870). The Smalls sold it to a member of the Towle family. The second family owned the home for fifty years, until it was sold for \$1.00 in 1933. According to the deed, the sale in 1933 to Bertha McQueen was in exchange for the care of Julia Towle, presumably an elderly relative who was responsible for the house during that time. The Small family is mentioned in

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histories of Wilmington in connection with the "Mohawk Belle", a steamboat built by Eli Small and used to transport goods along the I&M Canal.¹ It is believed that shortly after the Smalls settled into the home, the structure was expanded to create the Upright-and-Wing form that is visible today. The taller, vertical section of the home is referred to as the "Upright," while the lower section is called the "Wing." This type is also called gable-front-and-wing. The Upright-and-Wing is a form of vernacular architecture that appeared across the American countryside from the 1860s—1890s. The Midwest Vernacular Architecture Committee adopted this term when it penned the 1987 National Register Bulletin, *Surveying and Evaluating Vernacular Architecture*.

UPRIGHT-AND-WING: Emerging as a distinct house type at the beginning of the nineteenth century, the Upright-and-Wing House is associated with the New England—Great Lakes building tradition. Derived from combining classically ornamented gable-front houses and One-and-a-Half-Cottages, the . . . compound ground plan exemplifies a historically elaborated core. The addition of a side wing to a gable front house, or vice versa, occurred so frequently that a conceptually integrated. . . dwelling type quickly emerged as a distinct entity.

Generally speaking, Upright-and-Wing houses bear some evidence of Greek Revival architectural vocabulary, whether by ornamentation, the squat massing of the upright, or the shallow pitch of the roof.

The upright element of early Upright-and-Wing Houses is usually three bays across and contains the front entry positioned asymmetrically to one side, while the wing either lacks a door or has a secondary, less architecturally emphasized entry. In later versions of the Upright-and-Wing, particularly those built after about 1850, the upright tends to shrink to two bays, and the main entry shifts to the wing, where it is frequently located within a recessed porch.²

¹ Barnes, Elma. *Historical Facts and References of Wilmington*. Coal City, IL: Bailey Printing and Publishing, Inc., 1976, p.5

² Wyatt, Barbara, ed. *National Register Bulletin: Surveying and Evaluating Vernacular Architecture*. April, 1987.

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The Small-Towle House aptly fits the description of an Upright-and-Wing home constructed after 1850. The house was constructed during a time when both Greek Revival and Italianate architecture were popular choices for residential architecture in Illinois. The wing of the home is very simple in its overall design, taking from the classical, balanced compositions of Greek Revival homes. The most direct influence can be seen in the treatment of the second story windows of the wing as well as the cornice and roofline. These items are in keeping with the identifying features for Greek Revival architecture stated in *A Field Guide to American Houses*:

IDENTIFYING FEATURES: Gabled or hipped roof of low pitch; cornice line of main roof and porch roofs emphasized with wide band of trim. . .

VARIANTS AND DETAILS -

The principal areas of elaboration in Greek Revival houses are cornice lines, doorways, porch-support columns, and windows:

CORNICE LINES - The wide band of trim beneath the cornice of both the main roof and the porch roofs is an almost universal feature of Greek Revival houses. Commonly the band is made up of undecorated boards, but complex incised decorations also occur. In gabled houses the trim band may be variously treated along the gabled walls. Post-1850 examples, particularly in the South, often have Italianate brackets added at the cornice line.

WINDOWS - Small frieze-band windows, set into the wide trim beneath the cornice, are frequent.³

Greek Revival was the predominant choice for residential buildings in the United States in the early to mid-1800s. In Illinois, this style reached its peak in the 1840s and 1850s but continued to be built well into the 1860s.⁴

The Small-Towle house was constructed during the transitional years between the classical Greek Revival and the more decorative Italianate

³ McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1998.

⁴ Brown, William T. *Architecture Evolving: An Illinois Saga*. Chicago: Teach'em, Inc., 1976, p. 25.

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period. Although much of the wing's ornamentation is Greek Revival in design, the details are taken from the later Italianate movement. The bay window in the upright is an element commonly found in the Italianate style that gives the façade a more varied, undulating surface not found in pure Greek Revival homes. Although the underlying structure shows characteristics of the Greek Revival style, this basic format was modified to incorporate Italianate design elements that were in fashion during the time of the home's construction.

The upright and wing configuration of the Small-Towle house is in keeping with the asymmetrical subtype of Italianate architecture described in the McAlester guide:

PRINCIPAL SUBTYPES:

ASYMMETRICAL - these are compound-plan houses, usually L-shaped, without towers. Roofs are cross-hipped or cross-gabled....About 20 percent of Italianate houses are of this type.⁵

The footprint of the Small-Towle House, prior to the addition of the kitchen ell in the 1920s, was an L-shaped form for Italianate homes referred to in architectural style guides. Upright-and-Wing homes appeared during this same period and, because they are homes with later additions, T-shaped L-shaped plans are standard.

Pattern books may have influenced the method of construction and final design of the Small-Towle House. These manuals included building plans, elevations and details that were commonly referred to by homebuilders during the 19th century. Asher Benjamin, Minard Lafever and Andrew Jackson Downing published some of the first books of this type in the early 1800s. Both Benjamin and Lafever published plans for Greek Revival homes constructed of wood rather than masonry, providing a less expensive option for the average homeowner. Patterns for the Upright-and-Wing composition were included as a standard variation on the pure Greek temple form.⁶ Downing's Cottage Residences (1842) and The Architecture of Country Houses

⁵ McAlester, p.211.

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(1850) included a category of "Bracketed Cottages" and promoted asymmetric floor plans for his vernacular buildings.⁷ The Small-Towle House and several other homes throughout Wilmington have the same massing and overall design that could likely be modeled from a stock pattern book.

Several Upright-and-Wing homes remain in the town of Wilmington, but the majority of these properties have been altered in manners that have compromised their historic integrity. Two homes, located at 803 Jackson and 419 E. Baltimore, have a main entrance located in the upright portion of the façade. This is indicative of an Upright-and-Wing constructed before 1850. Although these homes may pre-date the Small-Towle House, the Jackson Street example has aluminum siding and the house on Baltimore Street lacks the ornament seen on the Small-Towle House.

This is also the case with the post-1850 Upright-and-Wing homes still standing in Wilmington. A nice example is just a few doors down from the Small-Towle House at 609 County Road. The wing on this home is only one story in height and the front porch was enclosed. A window bay similar to the one on the Small-Towle Houses upright was constructed at 120 N. Washington Street. This home has a compound plan, but the two sections are of equal height with intersecting roof gables, which makes this a Gabled-Ell rather than an Upright-and-Wing. The alterations to this home include aluminum replacement windows and stucco walls.

In its current condition, the Small-Towle House is probably the best surviving late 19th century Upright-and-Wing home in the town of Wilmington. The property has been well maintained over the years and retains nearly all of its original materials. The home also exhibits architectural elements found in both Greek Revival and Italianate architectural houses and accurately portrays a typical historic housing style for the area and the period of construction.

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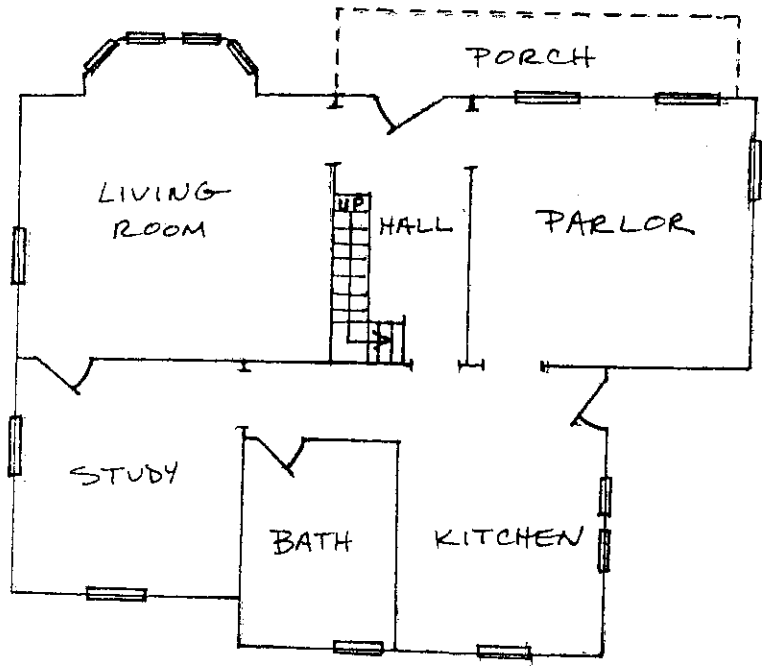
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

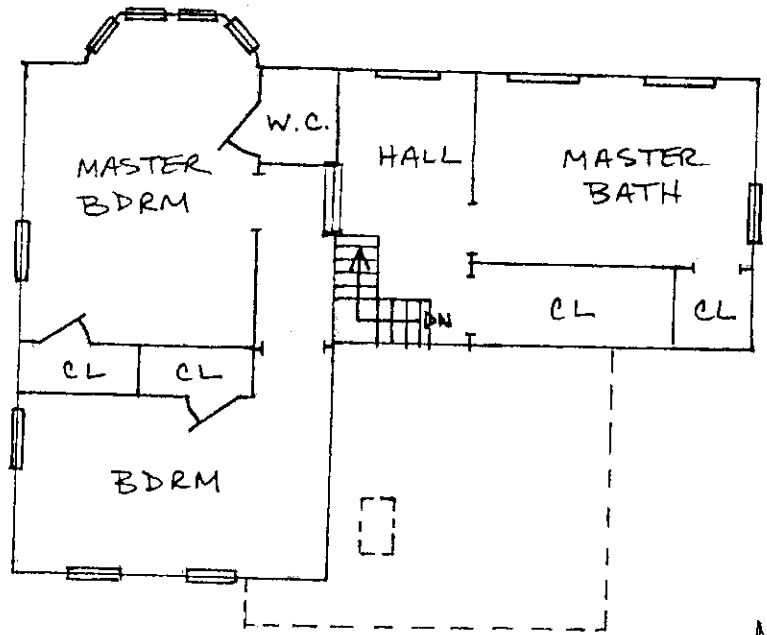
Lot 3 in Block 3, in Whipple's Addition to Wilmington, according to the plat thereof recorded August 10, 1848 in Book "O", Page 341, as Document No. 7898 in Will County, Illinois.

Boundary Justification

The property includes the house, outlot and surrounding land historically associated with the Small-Towle House.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

SMALL-TOWLE HOUSE
 WILL CO., WILMINGTON, IL