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Green House  
Will County  
Plainfield, Illinois

HABS Ill.147

HABS  
ILL,  
99-PLAIN,  
1-

*Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings*

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District No. Ill.1.

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Earl H. Reed, District Officer  
435 North Michigan Ave., Chicago

GREEN HOUSE

Plainfield, Will County, Illinois

Owner: Angelo Cucci.

Date of Erection: About 1834.<sup>L 2.</sup>

Architect: Unknown.

Builder: Dennison Green.

Present Condition: Good.

Number of Stories: One and half.

Materials of Construction: Wood exterior.

Other Existing Records: Photographs.

Additional Data: (See following pages).

GREEN HOUSE  
WILL COUNTY  
PLAINFIELD, ILLINOIS

99-PLAFI

DISTRICT NO. ILL. 1.  
NORTHERN ILLINOISEARL H. REED  
DISTRICT OFFICER

1-

Project No. Ill. 147

Edward F. Jansson.

SOURCEMrs. Belle  
George

Mr. Dennison Green came from Oneida, N.Y. in 1836. He was born in Westford, N.Y. in 1809, married in 1831, came west by boat from Buffalo in 1836 to Chicago. He was a blacksmith, and was not impressed by the sand wastes of Chicago, so came on to Joliet in 1836, and to Plainfield in 1840.

Plainfield is a very old town and was on the route of the Ottawa-Chicago stage. An old inn, now remodelled, still stands as well as many old houses and some shops. Dense groves of walnut and oak prompted the building of a saw mill here, and some of the early settlers in Plainfield say that much of the early lumber used in building Chicago was cut at Plainfield.

(1841)  
About this time there was built in Henrietta, N.Y., a house which was attracting quite a bit of attention. It was a Greek Revival design, square in plan, each side measuring 60', and had an imposing Doric portico on the front. The owner was Mr. Elihu Kirby, a wealthy merchant, who was Mrs. Belle George's maternal grandfather.

The builder of the Kirby house is unknown, although a copy of the architect's plans were up until a few months ago in the possession of Mrs. Howard N. Snapp, 421 Richard St., Joliet, Ill. These drawings cannot now be located and may have been destroyed.

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b. 11 1833

The Plainfield mill had been operating only a short time when Mr. and Mrs. Dennison Green returned from a visit to Henrietta, N.Y. with some plans patterned after the Kirby House, and gave an order for material for the new house in Plainfield. The revisions cut the size from 60' to 36', and left off the portico. The design was followed in general, even to having divided shutters on all attic windows. The siding is pine, the studs and joists are sawed walnut and the girders are adzed ash.

Mr. Green was a deacon in the Baptist Church and his stone blacksmith shop was a station on the underground railway. He had a fast horse and many a runaway slave was sheltered in the attic above the smithy and carried the next night to another station a few miles north.

The present owner, Mr. Angelo Cucci, an Italian, bought this house thirteen years ago from Mrs. Belle George, wife of Homer George, a farmer now living two miles east of Plainfield on Illinois Highway #66. The title came to Mrs. George from her father, Judson Green, who inherited the house from his father Dennison Green, the first owner.

By Edward F. Jansson

Approved Earl J. Jansson