

Wylie House
Corner of Second and
Lincoln Streets
Bloomington
Monroe County
Indiana

HABS No. IND-41

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

WYLIE HOUSE

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Location: Corner of Second and Lincoln Streets, Bloomington,
Monroe County, Indiana.

Present Owner: Indiana University.

Brief Statement
of Significance: This is a large brick house built in 1835, and
the home of the first president of Indiana University.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: Andrew Wylie, original owner.
Indiana University, present owner.
2. Date of Erection: 1835.
3. Builder, suppliers: George L. Troop, John McDonald, and
possibly Amos Huchey.
4. Sources of Information: Indianapolis Star, March 8, 1931.
Measured drawings of Wylie House, Indiana University,
Bloomington, Indiana, Project No. 5201: sheet 1, Basement
Floor Plan; sheet 2, First Floor Plan; sheet 3, Second
Floor Plan.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: Andrew Wylie
was the first president of Indiana University.

C. Supplemental Material: The following is a copy of an
agreement for the construction of the brickwork in the
Wylie House:

Articles of agreement made and concluded on this 26th day of Jan. 1835,
between Andrew Wylie of the one part and George L. Troop & Jno McDonald
of the other part.

First: Said Troop & McDonald are hereby bound to build the brick walls
of a house for the said Wylie during the ensuing summer.

Second: Said Troop & McDonald to find all the materials, of the best
quality - the work to be neat & substantial.

Third: All doors & windows to be arched the arch reaching through
four courses of brick work.

Fourth: The front to be done in Flemish bond.

Fifth: The said Wylie is hereby bound to pay the said Troop & McDonald at the rate of six dollars per thousand brick counted at the kiln. This is to cover the whole amount: no extra payment for arches nor any thing else.

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Sixth: Two thirds of the payment to be made when the work is done: of these one third to be in orders for storegoods on W. Nichols: the remaining third to be paid at the expiration of six months after the work is done.

In testimony of our agreement to the above articles the parties hereunto have subscribed their names the day and date as above written.

Andrew Wylie /s/

P. S. It is further agreed by the parties that the building be ready for the laying of brick by the first of July 1835 & that the brick work is to be finished by the middle of September next ensuing.

It is further agreed that said Troop & McDonald dig the cellar for the whole house, the said Wylie furnishing a cart & horse: Nothing is to be paid for the excavation or removal of the clay, the clay with the use of the horse & cart being considered worth the labor of removing it. The floor of the cellar is to be left level: but if on trial the clay be not found suitable for brick it is agreed that the excavation may cease & the use of the cart & horse be given up.

Further: Said Troop & McDonald agree that the work shall be so done that what is called tucking shall not be visible when the wall is built.

In testimony of our agreement to the above said Articles we have hereunto subscribed our names the day & date above written.

Andrew Wylie /s/
Geo. L. Troop /s/
John McDonald /s/

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: This is a large, 2-1/2 story brick house, built in 1835.
2. Condition of Fabric: The house is in fair condition, in need of both exterior and interior repair.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Over-all dimensions: The house is 2-1/2 stories high and L-shaped, with a 32' (3 bays wide) x 40' main block facing south, and a 34' x 21' wing to the east.
2. Foundations: Smooth cut stone laid in a regular coursed ashlar.
3. Wall construction: Brick laid in Flemish bond on the front and common bond on the sides and rear.
4. Porches, stoops: Small brick and stone entrance stoop, four steps high. Two-story porch along south side of wing, screened on first floor and enclosed on the second floor. Open wood rear porch, one-story high with second story balcony.
5. Chimneys: Five brick chimneys - two in each end wall of the main block and one in the end wall of the wing.
6. Openings
 - a. Doorways and doors: Paneled front door sheltered by a small, arched canopy supported by molded brackets with a plaster, half-dome ceiling. One north, rear door from the main block; one east, side door from the wing; two south doors from the wing leading into the porch.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Window openings have flat, brick arches. Wood windows are double hung with 6 light over 6 light sash. Louvered shutters on front of main block only.
7. Roof
 - a. Shape, covering: Gable roofs, covered with asphalt shingles.
 - b. Eaves: Simple boxed eaves.

C. Technical Description of Interiors

1. Floor Plans: The entrance to the main block is in the east or right-hand bay which leads to a large hallway with main stair. There are two parlors to the left in the main block and a dining room and kitchen in the wing. Second floor bedrooms follow a similar arrangement.
2. Stairways: Two straight run stairways - main stair in front entrance hall and rear stair between kitchen and dining room.

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3. Flooring: Wide board floors on first floor; oak floor 5-1/2" to 7" wide on second floor.
4. Lighting: Electric.
5. Heating: Central heating plus six fireplaces, some of which are closed up.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: The house faces south on a large, fairly level lot.
2. Outbuildings: The grounds include various sheds, shops, barn, chicken house, carriage house, etc.
3. Landscaping, gardens: Informally landscaped with trees, lawn, shrubs, and extensive gardens.

Prepared by H. Roll McLaughlin, Architect
Indianapolis, Indiana - 1959
AND
Osmund R. Overby, Architect
National Park Service - May 1961