

Nathaniel Cline House (Gilbert Antill House)
Wayne National Forest
Benton Vicinity ^{County Rd. 65}
Monroe County
Ohio

HABS No. OH-2417

HABS
OHIO
56-BENT.V
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Great Lakes Support Office
1709 Jackson Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68102

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

NATHANIEL CLINE HOUSE (GILBERT ANTILL HOUSE)

HABS No. OH-2417

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Location:

Wayne National Forest
South Side of County Road 68
Benton Vicinity
Monroe County, Ohio
USGS Rinard Mills Quadrangle
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Significance:

The Nathaniel Cline House (Gilbert Antill House) is significant because of its architectural character. Despite the many alterations and modifications, its unique architectural features survive, including decorative wooden trim, Tuscan windows and door surrounds, first and second floor porticos, and angled wooden trim at the doorways, all of which represent an unique method of construction in this area.

Description:

The Nathaniel Cline property consists of two tracts of land on each side of County Rt. 68. Most of the buildings (including the main house) lie on the south side. A barn, garage, and collapsed wood-frame house built by Vachel B. Mason in the 1890s sit on the north side. The farmstead is located about twenty miles east of Marietta, set on a steep hillside overlooking flat, creek-bottom land. The driveway turns off the county road below the house and curves up to the left between the house and a cluster of outbuildings. A split rail fence along the edge of the drive divides the house and yard from the outbuildings and the rest of the farm.

There are several outbuildings that serviced the farmstead. The only structure related to the house itself is a small wooden shed just to the west (side) of the building. It measures about 8' x 8' and has a shallow gable roof surfaced in corrugated metal. A single door on the side facing the house interrupts the vertical wood siding. Clustered to the east, across the driveway, sit a garage, shed, granary, and barn. The garage is two-bays wide with two pairs of swinging doors centered below the gambrel roof. The garage rests on a concrete block and concrete foundation, with vertical wood siding and an asphalt roof. To the northeast of the garage is a smaller shed. This wooden structure is set on limestone piers and has a dirt floor. Three large openings face the south and a shallow shed roof is surfaced with corrugated metal. Like all of the Cline outbuildings, the shed is sheathed in vertical wood siding.

The Nathaniel Cline House is a decorative, white, two-story structure that sits on a hill overlooking bottom land along County Rt. 68. The house has an "L" configuration, (three rooms on each floor), with a one-story kitchen located between the arms. There is an enclosed one-story porch addition to the east side of the kitchen as well as a small one-story bathroom addition to the rear of the west arm. The bars of the L are gabled, with intersecting shed roofs over the kitchen and shallow shed roofs over the bathroom and porch additions. The house is set on a fieldstone foundation and is clad with weatherboard siding and a corrugated metal roof.

The south facade of the house is unique for the area in terms of its composition and decorative features. It is three bays wide, with doors located in the central bay on both the first and second floors and two-over-two, double-hung windows trimmed with shallow wooden pediments located on either side. The central bay is further distinguished by diagonal ship-lap siding, which sets it apart from the rest of the horizontally-sided structure. The principal feature of the facade is the front porch, which runs almost the entire width of the house and rises to support a second-story porch over the central bay. The porch is capped by a gable accented with decorative wooden trim. The balusters that remain on the second story are flat boards in a gingerbread style, with curving lines allowing the cut-outs to read visually as strong as the solids.

The west elevation consists of the gable end of the front and the side of the arm running perpendicular to it. There is a double and a single window on the first and second floors, respectively, placed slightly off-center from the fanlight centered under the ridgeline in the gable end. These windows are three-over-one, double-hung sash and are markedly different from other two-over-two windows in the wall plane. Further to the right are four additional openings: a pair of windows on the second floor with a single door and window on the first. The same wooden trim exists around all of the windows. There are no windows on the side of the shed-roofed bathroom addition in the rear.

The east elevation of the house is less regular. It consists of a gable end and the long side of the perpendicular arm, set back about twenty feet, with the rambling additions of the kitchen and porch between the two. The gable end wall contains a fanlight located below the ridgeline, with a window centered below on each floor. Like their counterparts on the other side, these two windows depart from the two-over-two type in favor of the more decorative three-over-one. In the half-story area above the side porch is a fixed, four-pane window. The windows in the porch area are a later

addition with wide sliding aluminum windows placed beside the door. There is one window on the rear elevation of the house, located in the center of the bathroom addition.

The condition of the house is very deteriorated. It has been vacant for some time and has many missing features and broken windows as a result. The character of the building has also been altered. A large picture window was cut into the facade, destroying the original fenestration and balance of the house. Furthermore, the visual interest of the porch has all but been erased, with plain vertical slats replacing the original decorative balusters on the first story and most on the second floor missing or broken. Many of the doors, windows, and most of the siding on the west side of the house have been removed by trespassers. However, the front elevation, due to the siting of the house on the hill and the unique two-story entry, still retains its visual impact.

History:

The Nathaniel Cline property is located within the Marietta Unit of the Wayne National Forest in Monroe County, Washington Township, Ohio. Monroe County was one of several Ohio counties derived from Washington County, the first organized county north of the Ohio River, which comprised approximately half the territory now included in the State of Ohio. Established on July 26, 1788, Washington County area lawmakers did not divide the area into townships until 1790. The first organized townships of Marietta, Belpre, and Waterford sat along the river with continued organization of the hinterland through 1861.

The first settlement in Monroe County was made in Jackson Township. The township, formed in 1815, was one of the four large original townships of Monroe County. As early as 1791, Philip Witten and his family had settled in the area on the Ohio River, opposite of what later became known as Williamson's Island. The area became an attractive settlement, and more families arrived between 1801 and 1812. Its earliest town, Cochranville, was laid out in 1846.

Washington Township, where the Cline property is located, was organized in 1832 and enlarged in 1851 when Noble County was formed. The first settlers in this area included the Cline, Knowlton, and Daugherty families. The Nathaniel Cline property is located in the southwest quarter of Section One, in the southeastern portion of Washington Township, Monroe County. The original settlers of the area, the Cline family, immigrated from Germany and settled in Pennsylvania before going west to Ohio in the early 1800s. In 1865, Nathaniel Cline acquired three tracts of land from

George Cline. Nathaniel Cline, the son of George (born 1804) and Emily (born 1822) Cline, was born in 1831. By 1870, he and his wife Ellen had eight children. An 1869 atlas indicates that Nathaniel Cline owned land south of Straight Fork, and S.A. (possibly Sarah A., born 1833) Cline owned land north of the fork. Various other members of the Cline family owned tracts of land in the area as well. The existing house located south of Straight Fork was probably constructed circa 1869 by Nathaniel Cline.

This 100 acre parcel of land south of the fork, generally known as Tract 2, was sold by Nathaniel Cline to B.F. Ohlinger in 1875. By 1888, B.F. Ohlinger had deeded the property by court order to Cynthia Dillon. The heirs of Cynthia Dillon passed this property to Charley Dillon in 1898, who immediately deeded it to Henry Dillon. In 1924, Daniel D. Dillon acquired the property, and retained ownership until 1949, when the property was acquired by Dena Dillon. The next year, Dena Dillon deeded the property to Aubrey and Hazel Antill. Aubrey Antill, born in 1910, had married Hazel Burkhart (born 1915) in 1935.

A separate property, known as Tract 1, exists north of straight fork. It was sold by Nathaniel Cline to Vachel B. Mason and his wife Eleanor Cline Mason in 1872 for \$750.00. This property was the site of a barn, garage, and house built during Mason's ownership. These structures still exist today in a dilapidated condition. Vachel B. Mason sold the property north of straight fork to Mary J. Cline, Nathaniel Cline's daughter (born 1865), for \$850.00 in 1880. Mary also acquired a smaller, adjacent tract from Henry M. Cline for \$36.00 in 1900. In 1920, Mary J. Cline deeded the property (and two other tracts) to John Wesley Cline (apparently a son), on the condition that he pay her heirs \$1,300.00 and promise to "keep" her until she died. When John Wesley Cline died in 1942, the properties were transferred to Sarah Matilda Cline. When Sarah died, the property went to Aubrey Cline in 1958. Aubrey Cline later deeded it to Hazel Antill in 1965.

When Hazel Antill died in 1966, the entire property, under one ownership since 1965, passed to her husband Aubrey. When Aubrey died in 1985, his son Gilbert (born 1937) inherited the property. Gilbert Antill and his wife Sally sold the property to the U.S. government in 1994.

Sources:

- Caldwell, J.A. *Atlas of Monroe County, Ohio*. Atlas Publishing Company, Mt. Vernon, Ohio, 1898.
- County Recorder's Records, Monroe County Deeds.
- Federal Census Records, Monroe County, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1890.
- Hardlines: Design & Delineation. "Inventory & Evaluation of Historic Properties in Wayne National Forest." U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service-Wayne National Forest, 1995.
- Hardesty, H.H. & Co. *Historical Hand-Atlas of Monroe County, Ohio*. H.H. Hardesty & Company, Chicago, Illinois and Toledo, Ohio, 1882.
- Marzulli, Lawrence J. *The Development of Ohio's Counties and their Historic Courthouses*. County Commissioners Association of Ohio, Columbus, Ohio.
- Noll, John B. *Map of Monroe County, Ohio*. Ehrgott Forbriger & Company, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1869. Reprinted/Compiled 1985 by Rita Bone Kapp, Ashland, Ohio.

Historian:

Hardlines: Design & Delineation
Columbus, Ohio
May 1997



