

The Baldwin-Buss House

The house on the Merino property is known historically as the Baldwin-Buss House. It is one of Hudson's most significant buildings, both historically and architecturally. Built in 1825, in nine years, it will be 200 years old. It is, indeed, an old house – but it is by no means just another old house.

Architectural significance. Hudson has become known nationally as a community that has preserved so many of its 19th-century buildings that it has a unique character of its own – one that reflects its history and its small-town roots. In other words, Hudson's architectural significance is in the aggregate; we have a body of historic buildings designated as an historic district. There are some notable public buildings. But, although many are typical of their time periods, there are only a few domestic buildings that stand out as exceptional examples of an architectural style. The Baldwin-Buss House is one of them.

Its designer/builder was the most famous craftsman in the Western Reserve at the time. Lemuel Porter built the Congregational Church in Tallmadge, which is a property of the Ohio Historical Society, and the President's House on the campus of Western Reserve Academy, once Western Reserve College. In 1825, for Augustus Baldwin, Mr. Porter designed a most elegant Federal-style temple front of flush boarding, adorned with reeded Ionic pilasters, Adamesque draping, and detailing from Asher Benjamin's famous pattern books.

When the United States government employed scholars and architects during the Depression to find the most significant buildings in America and record them for posterity, the Baldwin-Buss House was one of those chosen. It was the only building outside of the Academy campus they chose to record. The drawings appear in many books and are kept in the Library of Congress.

Historical significance. Augustus Baldwin, who commissioned Lemuel Porter to design the house, was one of Hudson's first and most prominent merchants. He became Treasurer of Western Reserve College, and is the person for whom Baldwin Street is named. Augustus' father was Judge Stephen Baldwin, one of the five original proprietors of Hudson – those men who bought the township from the Connecticut Land Company and arranged for its settlement. David Hudson was the only one of the five proprietors to actually settle here. Judge Baldwin sent his sons.

Hudson was laid out like the Connecticut towns its founders knew – with a common Green, upon which the public buildings and the homes of the most important citizens faced. And facing the Green is just where Augustus Baldwin's home was built. He knew that his high-style house was a showpiece, and that its presence on the Green gave his community a sense of sophistication other frontier towns lacked.

My hope is that the Baldwin-Buss House will remain facing the Green. The Merino family have every right to maximize the profits on their property. But a building of this significance is also an asset of the community. It should remain on its original foundation, as the National Register of Historic Places (of which it is a part) requires. * **And were it restored so that one and all could see its elegant façade, the Baldwin-Buss House would bring architectural buffs from many places, and be the show-stopper Augustus Baldwin intended it to be.

* See attached National Register Standards

** The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for rehabilitation read, in part:

Recommended. Retaining the historic relationship between buildings and landscape features of the setting. For example, preserving the relationship between a town common and its adjacent historic houses, municipal buildings, historic roads and landscape features.

Not Recommended. Removing or relocating historic buildings or landscape features, thus destroying their historic relationship within the setting.”



NATIONAL REGISTER BULLETIN

HOW TO APPLY THE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

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U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service

II. NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

Criteria for Evaluation

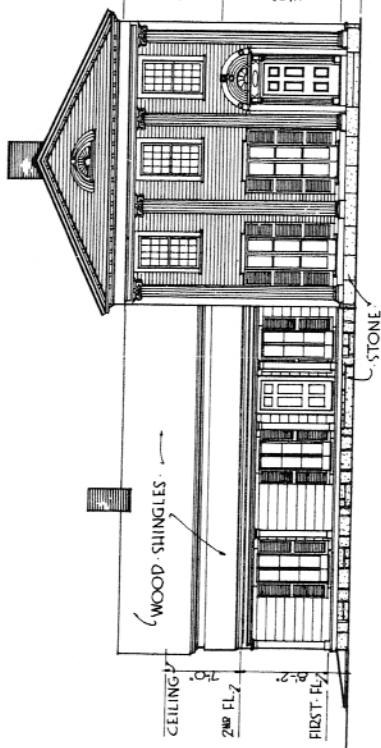
The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. That are associated with the lives of significant persons in or past; or
- C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. That have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

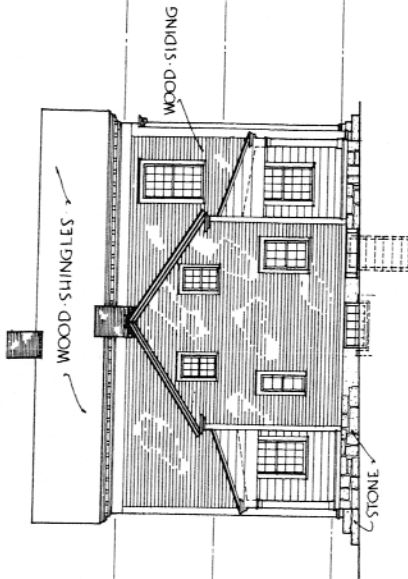
Criteria Considerations

Ordinarily cemeteries, birthplaces, graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years shall not be considered eligible for the National Register. However, such properties *will qualify* if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria or if they fall within the following categories:

- a. A religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance; or

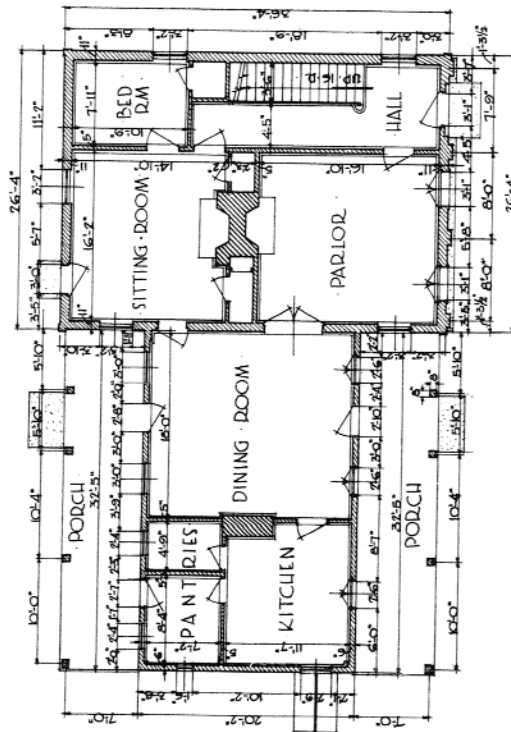


EAST FRONT ELEVATION

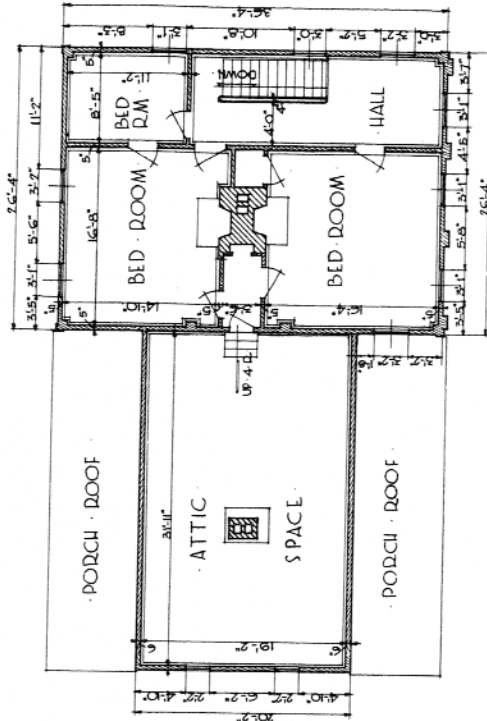


SOUTH SIDE ELEVATION

ONE EIGHTH INCH EQUALS ONE FOOT



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

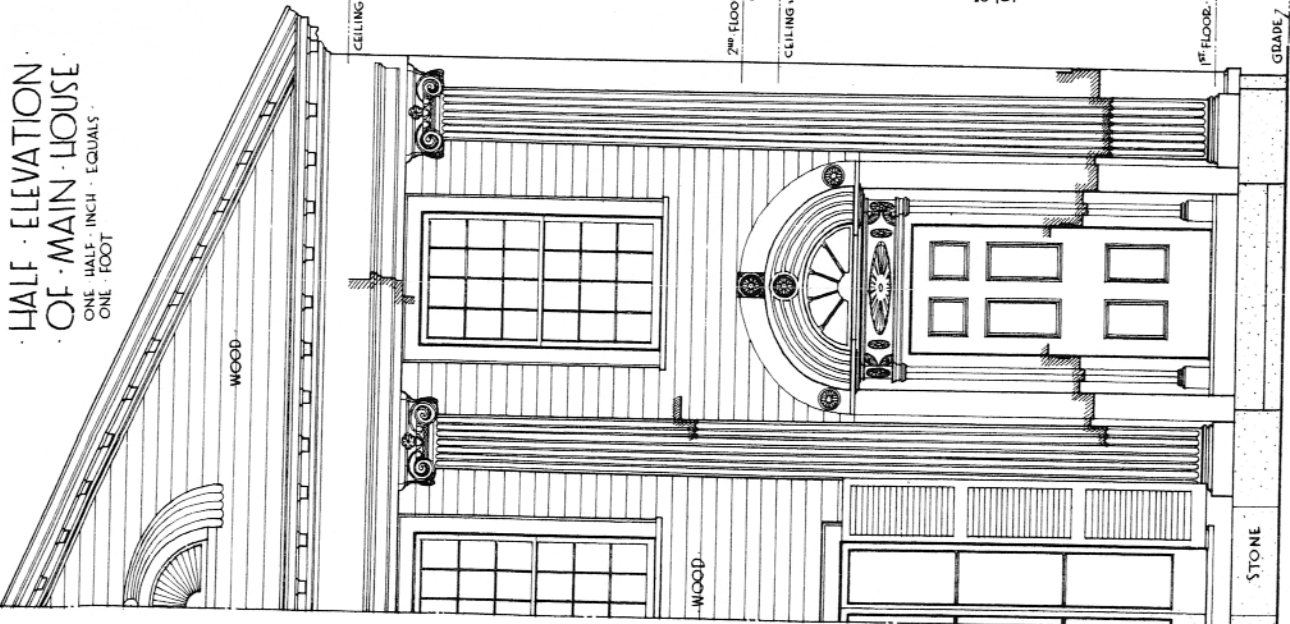


SECOND FLOOR PLAN

METRES

FEET

HALF ELEVATION
OF MAIN HOUSE
ONE HALF INCH EQUALS
ONE FOOT



Rosalie Buchanan, Del.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF NATIONAL PARKS, BUILDINGS, AND RESERVATIONS
BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN

BALDWIN—BUSS HOUSE HUDSON · OHIO

NAME OF STRUCTURE

SURVEY NO.
22-4
FD-15 (REV. 8-3-34)

HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 2 OF 2 SHEETS

INDEX NO.

ROOF

PORCH · ROOF

SECTION THRU
MAIN CORNICE
AND ADCHITRAVE
MOULDING
THREE INCHES EQUALS ONE FOOT

HALF
ELEVATION
OF SAN
MOTIF IN
PEDIMENT
ONE AND
ONE HALF
INCHES
EQUALS
ONE FOOT

ELEVATION OF WING
CORNICE AND PORCH
DETAIL
THREE INCHES EQUALS
ONE FOOT

SCALES: 1/2" = 1'-0" ELEVATION OF MAIN HOUSE
1" = 2'-0" METRES

SECTION THRU MAIN ENTRANCE
THREE INCHES EQUALS ONE FOOT

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