United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Dr. Alois Wollenmann House

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 1150 Main Street | N/A | not for publication

city or town Ferdinand | N/A | vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Dubois code 037 zip code 47532

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ **national** ___ **statewide** X **local**

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

IN DNR-Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Dr. Alois Wollenmann House
Name of Property

Dubois, Indiana
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- [X] 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
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	2	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	2	**Total**

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: Swiss Cottage
Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements/ Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE: Sandstone
walls: WOOD: Shingle
METAL: Aluminum
roof: ASPHALT
other: BRICK

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Dr. Alois Wollenmann house is a two story, roughly square plan, frame residential building constructed in 1903. Its style combines elements of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century Swiss Cottage revival with Craftsman detailing. The materials include decorative shingles as well as turned balustrades and brackets. The foundation is of sandstone and brick. The interior of the house features Late Victorian/Craftsman style wood finishes and a brick fireplace plus other period elements which have been retained. The dwelling is situated on a full square block in the small town of Ferdinand, Indiana in Dubois County. The Wollenmann house sits at the approximate center of the block between East 12th, East 11th, Main and Maryland Streets. Set at the edge of the business district, the main elevation of the dwelling faces Main Street, approximately northwest. The town grid is oriented at an angle from true north.

The lot also contains a one story, rectangular plan garage, with metal siding and roof, as well as a small shed attached to the garage (Photo 0005.) On the north corner of the lot is a rectangular, one story concrete block commercial building(Photo 0007). The site contains several medium and large trees which decorate the landscape, as well as some smaller shrubs. The building is elevated slightly above street level on ground which is covered with a well-maintained lawn.

The Wollenmann house is in good condition, retaining many of the distinctive decorative features which contribute to its architectural significance. The only major change is a one-story rear kitchen and sun room addition, constructed approximately between1950-1970. This addition nestles in a sensitive manner on the east side of the building within the width of the rear elevation.

Narrative Description

The Wollenmann house was constructed as a residential dwelling and still retains the distinctive characteristics of this type of building. The original part of the building is nearly square in plan with a full porch on the western or primary elevation.

The home is located in a mixed use area, with residential buildings primarily located to the north and east. To the west, Main Street contains commercial as well as some private professional service businesses. In addition to serving as the main commercial area, Main Street is a state highway, SR 162, which provides access to and from Interstate 64, located to the south of the town of Ferdinand. SR 162 is approximately perpendicular to the right of way of I-64.

Ferdinand is a rural town of approximately 2,300 population located in Dubois County, just a little over a mile north of I-64. It is situated 12.7 miles southeast of Huntingburg, Indiana and 13.3 miles west of Birdseye, Indiana. Dubois county seat, at Jasper, Indiana is approximately 13.5 miles to the northwest. The community is also the location of the Monastery of the Immaculate Conception, the home of the Sisters of St. Benedict and an internationally-known building of high architectural merit

As previously mentioned, there are two additional buildings on the city block within which the Wollenmann house is located. The first, a c.1970 wood frame garage and shop, is a long rectangle in plan with a low gable roof. The building has a modern corrugated metal roof and is sided in modern corrugated metal. There is a small, four fixed light window at the rear of the building. The entrance to the garage, off Maryland Street, provides access for vehicles at the gable end. A single post separates the two spaces and provides support for the roof and truss. A personnel door on the south west side

provides access to the rear of the building. At the rear, toward the house, a small, modern, portable metal storage building, rectangular in plan, with a gable roof, provides additional storage, connecting to the house. Behind this, is an open wooden shelter with a gabled roof covered in corrugated metal (Photo 0004.)

The second building on the lot is a concrete block, c. 1970 rectangular, one story concrete block commercial building(Photo 0007.) The building has a low gabled roof, with modern siding in the gable end. The main door at the right faces main street with a large display window at left.

The Wollenmann house, nearly square in plan and slightly raised above street level, is an imposing building. The foundation of the original portion is of dressed, rough finished sandstone. A wooden belt course serves as a water table above the foundation. The walls are clad in fishscale shingles separated at approximately the second floor line by a wide decorative belt course. This course consists of a horizontal wood beaded board, above which is narrow, vertical, tongue and groove siding. This element is capped by a second, beaded stringcourse which is aligned with the lower sills of the second story windows(Photo 0002.)

The massing of the main portion of the house is a compact two-story block with a medium pitch gabled roof. Four gabled dormers pierce the eaves on both side elevations, providing light into the upper story. The dormers on the north elevation are widely spaced while those on the south are close together. The eaves are wide and overhang the building, supported by decorative, open brackets. The bracket supports are a combination of curved and vertical elements, corbelled at their bases. At the corners of the house these brackets are close on either side of the corner and extend downward the length of the decorative belt course described above. Cornerboards complement this feature. Above, at the eaveline, there is a molded, decorative frieze.

The roof is covered in modern asphalt shingle in a variagated brown color. There are two brick chimneys. One, a medium tall, double wide feature is situated on the central ridge line of the building and can be discerned within the house, especially on the second floor (Photo 0014.) It appears to serve the large fireplace in the parlor. The second, smaller chimney is located on the south side of the roof, back toward the rear addition.

The front elevation of the house, facing Main Street, consists of two, double light casement windows at left of the main door and a single, similar window to the right on the ground floor (Photo 0001.) The main door is just right of center and consists of a single paneled door with a plain wood surround and slightly projecting cornice. A modern storm door protects it from the elements. The second story contains four evenly spaced openings, nestled between two of the decorative brackets which support the wide eaves. The left openings consist of wood casement windows with upper and lower lights in each half. At center right, a panel door with two upper lights leads to the balcony from an alcove off the southwest bedroom. At far right is another window similar to the others. These windows, like most throughout the house have simple surrounds and slightly projecting cornices. Above these windows, at the attic level is a recessed single, small segmental arched window with an arch surround topped with a dentiled gabled cornice. A balconet is supported by brackets with a delicate swag apron.

Other than the previously mentioned attic window, the fenestration on the second floor, rear elevation consists of a pair of two/over/two light double hung windows (Photo 0003.) The lower floor is obscured by the addition. On the sides of the building, the fenestration includes a single window in each of the dormers on the second floor. These are exactly the same as those on the rear elevation. The first floor on the East 12th Street or northeast side contains three evenly spaced windows. The southwest or East 11th Street side has two large windows, similar to those on the opposite side and a smaller window in the approximate center (for privacy in the bath area.) All of the main windows in the house are two/over/two light double hung.

The front elevation also features an ornate, full front porch. (Photo 0001.) The porch is constructed of wood, with a wood floor supported by stone piers and with the bulkhead infilled by brick laid in an open lattice pattern. Above, a wide board conceals the ends of the floor joists. Five posts hold up the half-hipped, wide eaved roof. Rafters are expressed at the eave, typical of craftsman styling. Each of post rests on a base, consisting of a wood, paneled square pier. The post tapers toward the center, with a molded band, then tapers outward again to blocklike tops between widely angled braces. Each post upholds a thin cushion with cyma reversa profile. The porch railing is composed of square balusters with a single coping board above. At the second floor level, a simply styled balcony runs the full width of the elevation, with low, square railings. The wide belt course previously described matches the location of the balcony and serves as a wainscot on the elevation wall. Above, at the attic level, a highly decorated balconet supported by three scrolled brackets, frames the window in the gable end. The balconet is nicely framed between two of the large eave brackets. Scrolled work forms modified garlands and drop ornaments along the lower edge, while turned posts comprise the railing and corner posts.

The northeast or E. 12th Street elevation, in addition to the fenestration discussed above, features the same wooden fishscale shingles on the walls with a continuation of the decorative wood belt course at the second floor line. This elevation (Photo 00006) also contains two symmetrically placed dormers and the same brackets and other decorative elements. The mid-to late 20th century addition, on this elevation, contains a multi-light entry door and, to the left, a single window.

The rear addition to the house is one story, rectangular in plan, with a low gabled roof. It is of frame construction clad in wide aluminum siding, painted the same salmon color as the rest of the house. On the southwest side, there are small, one/over/one windows grouped together, forming a well-lit sun room. Also on this side of the addition is a side door with a simple stoop and metal overhanging porch roof. Other windows in this addition are small, double hung with narrow surrounds. On the east side a second door enters into the kitchen area of the addition and a larger window provides light into this room.

The southwest or E. 11th Street elevation also features the same fishscale shingle walls, with the distinctive wood belt course as the other elevations, however, the fenestration on this side of the main building includes three windows, two large, two/over/two light windows and a small, three/over/one light window in the present bathroom which probably dates to the 1920s or later.

INTERIOR SPACES

The basement consists of a small portion of the original building, excavated to house the heating units and a large, full basement under the new addition at the rear of the building (Photo 0008.) A stair at the approximate center of the original building provides access.

One enters the first floor of the building from the porch and is immediately in a small entry hall. The hall floor is of small, white octagonal tiles with a Greek key border surrounding in light blue-grey (Photo 13.) Immediately in front, as one enters, is the stair to the second floor. It is located just right of the center of the building. The stair hall is clad with narrow beaded, horizontal board siding, (also sometimes called car siding), stained a medium to dark mahogany. The stairs are carpeted.

From the hall, going left, one enters the main parlor. This room contains a grand brick fireplace which is set into the east corner of the room (Photo 0009.) The fireplace has a segmental arched opening, with a row of decorative terra cotta tiles in the same brick color at the mantle level. Baseboard moldings are wide board, with a quarter-round finish at the floor. The floors are narrow board, pine, tongue and groove wood. The walls in this room are plastered and have a high belt molding of stained mahogany at the height of a picture rail. A flat, stained mahogany crown molding and a similar base molding frame the room. A boxed beam ceiling adds interest and grandeur to the main parlor (Photo 0010.) Light pours into the room from the four windows, two on the front of the building and two on the side. The double light casement windows in the parlor and other rooms of the original building's first floor have original hardware and locking devices.

A wide opening leads from the parlor to the dining room. Three, nine-panel mahogany doors serve to close off the two rooms as desired. Two are hinged to fold back (Photo 0010.) The floor covering in this room is of sheet linoleum. The dining room is paneled up to chair rail height in the same beaded narrow siding found in the entry, but here it is installed vertically with a simple rail at the top. The wainscoting joins the floor with no baseboard save a simple quarter-round. Heat vents in this room and the main parlor (as in other rooms on this floor) consist of an older, in-floor gravity vent as well as newer, surface mounted modern vents. The wall cladding above the wainscoting consists of the same narrow, beaded wood siding fitted horizontally. The same detailing, using narrow beaded siding, is also present on the ceiling, which runs from northeast to southwest, all in the same direction. The demarcation between wall and ceiling is decorated with a wide corner molding. In this room, all the wood siding is painted a medium taupe. Two large windows, one on the east wall and one on the south wall, in the south corner of the room provide light. They are surrounded by a stained wood frame. A door in the south side of this room leads to the new kitchen in the addition.

A second door, in the northwest corner of the room leads to the pantry hall and bath. The latter is inserted into the larger room (see floor plan) and is sided with modern wood-grained paneling. The balance of the room is clad with the same wood siding found in the dining room, in this case painted a light blue. The bath contains a post-1960 modern tub/shower, sink and commode. An original, nine-panel door leads from the pantry hall into the rear addition. It is painted, with a wood surround punctuated at the upper corners with roundels.

A second similar door leads into the den at the north corner of the building. This nearly square, small room demonstrates the typical molding found in the parlor. It has stained wood crown and base moldings, a nine-panel door of the same distinctive pattern as all the other original doors, and a doorway surround featuring a wide board frame, corner roundels and decorative moldings at the base of the door jambs (Photo 0013.) The plaster walls have been covered in wallpaper.

The rear addition is nearly evenly divided between the kitchen and the sun room. The former has built in cabinetry on three sides, with windows at the rear and side. There is an in-wall oven. The cabinets have plain doors and chrome hardware typical of their period. The back splash and counter are formica. A side door leads from the kitchen, on the east side to the yard and garage. A second door leads to the sun room who interior is sided with modern wood paneling. There is a modern composite tile ceiling. The south and west walls of the room are lined with modern full light windows below which are built in cupboards on the southwest wall. A door leads to the outside at the north west corner of the room. The floor has been covered in modern linoleum tiles.

Interior Second Floor

The second floor is reached from the central stair at the front of the house (Photo 0014.) Immediately at the top of the stair is a small hall and landing which also contains the stair to the attic (Photo 0015.) The steps to the attic are of wood, and turn in the corner to continue upward. All of the walls and ceiling on this floor are covered in the same narrow board wood siding which has been noted in the rest of the house. Here, it is painted an ivory color. A window in the back of the house provides light. The chimney continues, exposed, up through this part of the second floor. This floor contains wooden casement windows with original hardware, including an interesting locking device, featuring a vertical metal bar, with mechanisms top and bottom, controlled at the center. Note, the same window hardware can be found on windows in the original part of the ground floor.

Immediately to the north of the hall are two bedrooms which share a closet. The bedroom at the rear of the house contains an alcove which appears to have been altered from its original state (Photo 0017) as the floor and wall patterns are different. The front bedroom also shares the same painted wood siding on the walls (Photo 0018) as in the other rooms. All of the bedrooms have wide plain board base and crown moldings. The ceilings follow the roof line and light in this case is

provided through the dormer windows. Doors on this floor are simpler; four panel style, with simple wood surrounds. A short hall provides access between the bedrooms (in addition to the closet.)

Off the hall, the bathroom on this floor is utile in nature, with a footed tub, which was probably installed when the house was built and modern commode and sink, including some built-in features. The front bedroom in the south west corner of the second floor has the same wood siding, wall and trim as the other two bedrooms. In this case, the room is painted a yellow-green(Photo 0016.) Two windows light the space and a door leads to a small alcove which also serves as the entrance to the balcony at the front of the house. This door, like the others is a simple, four panel element with a simple surround.

Two of the upstairs rooms have round floor vents to allow heat from the lower floors to rise up. They are rather decorative, with openwork in a floral pattern. In raised letters, the patent number and the company, the Adams Company of Dubuque, Iowa declare their origin.

With the exception of the mid-late twentieth century addition, the Wollenmann house is in excellent original condition. The addition has been sensitively made, fitting within the profile of the home and providing the additional space necessary for modern living, without desecrating the original structure. While some of the original exterior shingling on the main block is deteriorated it is easily repaired. The property has good integrity of location, being situated exactly as it was originally built. The building also demonstrates excellent integrity of design, materials and workmanship. With the exception of additional traffic on Main Street, the setting is nearly intact, as a mixed-use neighborhood in a small rural town. It's well able to demonstrate association with the lives of the original owners. The use of wood typical of the period and the stately fireplace both contribute to the feeling of an upper-middle class home of the era. Thus, the property has adequate integrity to convey the significance of its style and design.

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.
- [x] 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.)

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1903

Significant Dates

1903

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Keith, Walter Jewett, Architect

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance, in accordance with the guidelines in Bulletin 16A is the date of construction of the property. The building's significance is related to its design, as an example of the eclectic revival of the Swiss Cottage. It is also associated, through its original owner, Dr. Wollenmann and his family, with the history of medical practice in the town of Ferdinand. Although they no longer occupy the house, it still recalls their origins and their lifestyle.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)
N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Alois Wollenmann House is significant under Criterion C because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a Swiss cottage style of architecture, popularized by Andrew Jackson Downing, as interpreted during the early twentieth century. It also displays the influences of the Craftsman movement. This variant of the popular style is rare in rural areas such as Ferdinand, Indiana. The building demonstrates a high level of craftsmanship and represents an unusual Indiana example of the work of Walter Jewett Keith, an architect who practiced in Minneapolis, Minnesota. As the founder of a nationally distributed magazine on home building, Keith promoted the eclectic styles of the era to an audience of home owners and builders.

The Wollenmann House is significant on the local level for its quality of craftsmanship and design and gains additional significance for its association with figures important in the local history of Dubois County, Indiana.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Dr. Alois Wollenmann House is an excellent example of a Swiss cottage mode, one of the several Romantic styles Downing promoted as appropriate designs for the American landscape. Such buildings, according to Downing, with "Their broad roofs, open galleries, and simple and bold construction are significant of strength and fitness, in a country at once picturesque and pastoral. "[i] Downing's ideas of aesthetics stemmed from the Romantic movement that dominated artistic output from the late 18th century to the mid-19th century in Europe and America, encompassing fine art, literature, music and philosophy.[ii]

Elements of the Swiss cottage and Swiss farmer house which were touted by Downing as particularly appropriate to the rural setting include the roofs and galleries mentioned above. However, Downing decried basement stables, often found in the farm house examples, because, in his words: "...no intelligent American farmer would tolerate (them) in his dwelling." [iii] His example of the style was a simplification of the European Swiss Chalet. According to him, the true Swiss Cottage was always built of wood, with a great deal of ornamental work in the brackets, as well as other parts of the building. It was bold and striking in outline. He envisioned the "true" site for such a style would be either, in a bold and mountainous country, on the side, or at the bottom of a wooded hill, or in a wild and picturesque valley. For Downing, such a setting would give the architecture "spirit and meaning which will inspire every beholder with interest,..."[iv] The Wollenmann House, set in a scenic valley in southern Indiana, fulfills the latter site criteria. The building also conveys the detailing Downing described. The example used to demonstrate this style in *The Architecture of Country Houses* was designed by an Albany, New York architect, G. J. Penchard. It did not show open fireplaces, but rather flues for stoves, a fact which Downing lamented, considering that it favored economy over health and cheerfulness. He would have built it, like the Wollenmann example, with an open fireplace in the living room or parlor. A notable element of the Swiss cottage featured in Downing's publication

[i] A. J. Downing, *The Architecture of Country Houses*, New York: Da Capo Press, 1968 (reprint of 1850 edition) P. 150
[ii] Schwartz, Eva
"The Father of Americn Landscape Architecture", FOCAL POINTS, Barbara Israel Garden Antiques, May 2011, http://www.bi-gardenantiques.com/news/11-05/index.shtml.
[iii] Downing, P. 150.
[iv] Ibid., Pp. 123-124.

and shared by the Wollenmann House, is the extensive use of shingles cut in a decorative pattern. Shingles, according to Downing, were a very durable material. [v]

Although evocative of original Swiss Chalets, and the cottage recommendations of Downing, The Wollenmann House also represents an interpretation of the style, as seen through the lens of the early twentieth century. It shares a number of design details of the Craftsman era, including the use of wide, wood eaves, expressed rafters and other elements. Inspired by the work of the California architects, Greene and Greene, among others, the style features the extensive use of wood and wide, overhanging eaves supported by decorative braces, among other details. The American Arts & Crafts movement was influenced by the English Arts and Crafts movement and early training in the manual arts.[vi] The European movement was led by the English architect William Morris (1834-1896), as well as by the English Arts and Crafts Exhibition Society, which was formed in 1888. Rejecting English and German functionalists' impersonal ethic, they sought to design residences in which all the elements inside and out received artful attention. In particular, the use of natural materials, such as wood, was stressed. [vii]

According to original drawings in the home of Verna Wollenmann, a granddaughter of Alois Wollenmann, the house plans were drawn by The Keith Company. This firm was formed by Walter J. Keith, an architect who lived and worked in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Born in Minneapolis on August 17, 1866, he was educated in the local public schools. Keith had a long and prolific career as an architect, but he began it in the humble role of a postal clerk in the Minneapolis post office. He must have been energetic, though, since he rose to become an inspector for the United States Customs Department. Then, in 1889, at the age of 23 he entered architecture. [viii] His first appearance as an architect in Minneapolis was in 1890 as a partner with Fred H. Dodge in the firm of Dodge & Keith. From 1890 to 1894 he joined with George Bertrand, forming the company, Bertrand and Keith. By 1896 he had struck out on his own with a company called W. J. Keith, later the "Keith Company" or other variations of his name.

Keith maintained a "plan factory", a stock of hundreds of building plans which clients or builders could purchase for a fee. By 1899 he had developed enough of these plans, that he could fill many of the pages of *Keith's Magazine*, published by his younger brother, Max LeRoy Keith. The magazine continued well into the early 1930s. It was a compilation of home designs, columns about various houses, gardens and homely tips for both the home owner and builder. Even though he became known for the masses of house plans he generated, in the early years of his career, Keith appears to have created individual plans for homeowners, advertising that he would custom design a home from the client's ideas. He is credited as the architect of record for several notable buildings in Minneapolis and the surrounding area during the latter years of the nineteenth century and the early years of the twentieth. A sampling of these includes the Sumner McKnight residence at 2200 Park Ave. which was built in 1891, A Victorian home at 2115 Kenwood Parkway built in 1890, and the George Christian country house in Ferndale, Lake Minnetonka which came along in 1899. Trinity Baptist Church in Minneapolis was built in 1904, and the Powers Dry Goods Company was erected in 1906 (demolished in 1993). All of them are considered notable architectural accomplishments.

According to a new history of Minnesota architecture, Keith was incredibly prodigious. In 1899 alone he is said to have had 750 commissions, worth $2.5 million, including substantial buildings such as churches, schools, town halls as well as residences. As a result of this amazing volume of business, as well as real estate development, he became a wealthy man.

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[v] Ibid., Pp. 124-128.
[vi] Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses, P. 454.*
[vii] Lester Walker, *American Shelter, An Illustrated Encyclopedia of the American Home, Pp. 136, 180.*
[viii] Albert N. Marquis, Ed. *The Book of Minnesotans,* Chicago, IL: A. N. Marquis and Co., 1907, P. 274

He built and owned the fashionable Minneapolis Plaza Hotel about 1905 (demolished in 1960.) His own residence was one of his works, built in 1911. He was wealthy enough to build a 50 foot launch to cruise on Lake Minnetonka. [ix]

Keith's architectural output was not limited to Minnesota projects, but included projects throughout the Midwest and Great Plains. A Railroad Depot in Wilton, North Dakota, was built 1899 or 1900 for the Bismarck, Washburn and Great Falls Railroad. A library in Duray, Colorado was designed about the same time and the Ipswich State Bank in Ipswich, South Dakota was constructed between 1900 and 1905. [x] This was probably the result of his widening range of influence, as a contributor or author of periodicals or newspaper articles. Among these are: *Keith's Architectural Studies, Walter J. Keith's Portfolio of Practical Homes (c. 1920), Historic Architecture for the Home Builder* and various magazines on homebuilding. Walter J. Keith's younger brother, Max LeRoy became the vice president of their publishing company and later bought Keith's Magazine, operating it with contributions from Walter. During his time in Minneapolis, the architect's office was at 917 Hennepin Avenue in Minneapolis. Walter Jewett Keith died in Pasadena, California on April 5, 1951.

Keith's architectural plans and the magazine had wide distribution. It is not surprising that, in 1903, when Dr. Alois Wollenmann decided to build a house on a lot originally owned by his father-in-law, he chose a design which recalled his native Switzerland. It is possible that the design was created especially for this site, but more probably, they were selected from one of Keith's magazines or catalog books. The drawings bear the legend "Design No. 473", followed by the sheet number and "The Keith Co-Architects". A search of drawings in on-line issues of *Keith's Magazine* did not reveal this plan; however these only begin in 1905. The design was probably in one of his earlier journals or catalogs. One of these, called *The Home Builder* was published as early as 1898, but was not available for review.

Walter J. Keith was a prolific designer and mass producer of architectural plans for residences, but few of his documented homes have been identified in Indiana. His homes, while aimed for a wide range of budgets and life styles, have a high degree of quality. A home in the City of Oberlin, Ohio, the Cargill-Blanchard House of 1905, located at 273 Oak Street, was the home of the Oberlin College Treasurer for many years, then later the home of a professor of history at the college. At the other end of the spectrum, a home built in 1901 in Grand Forks, North Dakota was one of the finest in the city. It was a design by Keith taken from *Keith's Magazine.* The home was built for Lois "LuLu" Griggs Pringle, the daughter of a rough and tumble Mississippi River steamboat captain, Alexander Griggs, who became known as the "father" of Grand Forks.[xi] Keith's work has not been fully documented, but it is clear that there is a wide variety, both of styles and settings. A quick glance at the devotion to detail shown in *Keith's Magazine* reveals many reasons why it became so popular.

By 1920, when Keith published his *Portfolio of Practical Homes,* his numbering system had gone well into the thousands. In an advertisement for his services, he claimed to have over 2000 drawings prepared for ordering. These included not just homes, but offices, at least five theatres, banks, garages, churches, hotels, schools, apartment houses and of course residences. The Wollenmann House, numbered only 473 would have been an early example. In *Portfolio,* Keith proudly proclaimed his compelling philosophy: "...any local dealer can beat outside bids –and your local builder can give you better material and construction for less money...**If you give them good plans to figure"**

"KEITH, the ARCHITECT", he boasted, "is your humble servant", urging clients to write directly and avoid delay. But even with the massive quantity of designs he promoted, his enthusiasm for every venture was engaging:

"... when you write please tell me your most cherished thoughts of what you wish your new home to be like, for I want to make it an 'individual' home that shall somewhat embody your personality, for that is what makes a *real* home.

[ix] Alan K. Lathrop, *Minnesota Architects: A Biographical Dictionary,* University of Minnesota Press, 2009.
[x] Information from Barbara Bezat, Northwest Architectural Archives, gleaned from the "Architects Research Files" at the archives, May of 2010.
[xi] http://www.bbonline.com/nd/511reeves/history.html (accessed 2/28/2011)

...One of my chief pleasures is the thought of the many warm friendships thus formed, not only in the United States but in distant lands as well. I am very much in love with my work. I never tire of it and it grows more absorbing every day." [xii]

With such enthusiasm, it is no wonder Walter J. Keith lived a long and prosperous life, leaving this world at the ripe age of 85. It is very possible that the Wollenmann House may have been a "one of a kind" design. In the first few pages of *Portfolio*, Keith explains that if the customer does not see what he likes in the catalog, he may "write me your requirements and I will work it out for you," preparing not just sketches but working drawings. While this may have been more rhetoric than actual fact, it is true that the Wollenmann House has a unique character, not found in any other dwellings in the town, nor around the area, so far as it can be determined. Unfortunately, the scope of this nomination did not permit an investigation into possible archives of the Keith practice. Yet, even without such documentation, the detail, styling and craftsmanship of the building stand out and makes the residence highly significant, especially in its setting and locale.

The client for this project, Dr. Alois Wollenmann, was also an interesting and unique individual. Born in Neuenkirchen, Switzerland, according to his grandson, he studied medicine in Switzerland and then later, in Germany. After relocating to America, he became the doctor for the monks at Saint Meinrad, near Ferdinand, in southern Indiana. He continued his medical education at the University of Kentucky School of Medicine and, about the same time, met and married Fidelia Petronella Kempf. Her father taught at the University of Louisville School of Medicine but had previously served the community of Ferdinand as a physician. Dr. Kempf had moved to Ferdinand soon after its founding in in 1840 by the noted German pioneer priest, Father Joseph Kundek. The couple moved to Ferdinand to begin a family. [xiii]

Eventually Dr. Wollenmann established his practice in a building at the southwest corner of the block on which the present Wollenmann House is located. That building also housed the town's first drug store and later, the Ferdinand Post Office. The enterprising Dr. Wollenmann operated both of them, plus a watch repair business. By 1903, Alois and Fidelia had two sons, Max and Werner, and were expecting a third child. When the new daughter was born, tragedy struck. Both the mother and child died. But Dr. Wollenmann stayed in the house until his death in June of 1912. The tradition of medical practice continued at the site through Alois and Fidelia's sons. Their son Max became a doctor and Werner lived all his life in the home and operated a drug store in Ferdinand. After his death, his two daughters continued to own the property, until recent times. [xiv]

According to his grandaughter, Dr. Alois Wollenmann was a generous physician who contributed much to the county's health. He cared for all who needed it, including Native Americans and African Americans. She recalled a young African American woman who worked for the doctor, later becoming the postmistress. Ultimately, she married and moved to Detroit.[xv] Fidelia Wollenmann also served the community as a druggist and later, her sons continued the family involvement in health services. According to a contemporary history, Dr. Wollenmann was also active in the county medical society, serving as a censor. [xvi] The Wollenmann House serves as a physical reminder of the many contributions of this family to the life and health of the citizens of Ferdinand and Dubois County. This association adds significance to the home.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

Ferdinand is located in central southern Indiana, in Dubois County. Formed in 1818, the area which now encompasses the county was first part of Knox County, then later subdivided into Gibson and Pike Counties. A portion of the latter was dedicated to form present day Dubois County. Native Americans developed trails through this country in ancient times.

[xii] Walter J. Keith, *Portfolio of Practical Homes*, Minneapolis, MN: Keith Publishing Co. , 1920.
[xiii] http://ferdinandhistory.org/wollenmann.html. Prepared by the Ferdinand Historical Society (accessed 8/20/2010).
[xiv] Ibid.
[xv] Interview with Verna Wollenmann, August 22, 2010.
[xvi] George R. Wilson, *History of Dubois County from its primitive days to 1910...*,Jasper, IN: G. R. Wilson, 1910., Pp. 376-377.

These, and the White and Patoka Rivers, as well as the presence of a Buffalo Trace made the land desirable. The Trace, formed by the annual migration of thousands of buffalo from Illinois to the salt licks of Kentucky, served as a road for early travelers. It was located in the northern portion of what would become Dubois County. The Territorial Governor, William Henry Harrison (later U.S. President) traveled this trail, spending evenings at various camps and forts along the route which ultimately connected the Ohio River to the territorial capital at Vincennes.

By 1801, permanent Caucasian settlers had begun to migrate into present day Dubois County and Fort McDonald was established near the Trace. The first land entry was made in 1807. Soon settlements began to crop up. Jasper was settled in the 1820s and became the county seat in 1830. Initial county government was conducted in a residence near Fort McDonald. After the first Jasper court house was destroyed, it was rebuilt in 1844, under the supervision of Reverend Joseph Kundek. [xvii] The pioneer priest was an important developer of several towns and many churches in Southern Indiana, including Ferdinand. Established in 1840, the town was a resting place for travelers who landed at Troy, along the Ohio River and wished to go to the county seat at Jasper, north of Ferdinand. During the first half of the nineteenth century, Troy was a busy shipping port along the Ohio. The early merchants and settlers of Ferdinand were largely German speaking, with a strong tradition of Catholic worship. The town is located within Ferdinand Township, which, like the town had its origin in the establishment of a Catholic church, St. Ferdinand, in April of 1840, by Father Kundek. [xviii]

Father Kundek left a lasting impression upon southern Indiana. The beloved priest was indefatigable, forming missions and churches throughout the region. According to contemporary sources, he had a confident appearance, about five foot ten inches tall, with light brown hair and blue eyes. Born in a province of Croatia in 1810, he studied in a diocesan seminary, was ordained and then worked for two years in his home diocese. But the needs of the pioneers in the raw lands of America drew him to the wilds of Indiana. In 1837, he left family, friends and homeland to work in the mission country of southern Indiana. He was first sent to minister to a flock of about 15 families in the town of Jasper, arriving in 1838 as the first pastor of St. Joseph's church. All of the families were German-speaking and their new pastor was the first to be able to communicate in their language.

This was the beginning of an energetic effort by Kundek, who raised funds through European sources, purchased land and built buildings, founding settlements all around the southern Indiana countryside. He traveled on horseback from parts of Illinois to as far east as Madison on the Ohio River. The town of Ferdinand, named after the then reigning emperor of Austria, was one of several he founded. He wrote the deed himself, a unique document, stating that he resolved to lay off a new town under the German name, "Ferdinand". Viewing the multitude of Germans settling in southern Indiana, he thought that they could pronounce it easily, speaking only their native tongue.

During a visit to Europe, seeking funds for the American missions, Father Kundek plead with the monks of Maria Einsiedlen, Switzerland to establish a monastery in America. His wish was granted and the abbot bought 160 acres in nearby Spencer County for St. Meinrad's abbey. Father Kundek was the first good friend to this wonderful facility which ultimately trained many American priests. By 1857, Father Kundek's health had begun to fail and he eventually passed away, on December 4th, 1857. His death was mourned by the whole region. [xix]

[xvii] http://www.duboiscountyin.org/history.html.
[xviii] Wilson, Pp. 370-371.
[xix] Ibid., Pp. 197-206.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Downing, A J. *The Architecture of Country Houses.* New York:Da Capo Press. 1968 (reprint of 1850 edition).

_____*Cottage Residences, Rural Architecture & Landscape Gardening.* New York: Library of Victorian Culture (reprint), 1967

Foster, Gerald. *American Houses, A Field Guide to the Archtitecture of the Home.*New York: Houghton Mifflin &Co., 2004

Goodspeed Brothers. *History of Pike and Dubois counties, Indiana.* Chicago: Goodspeed Brothers, 1885.

Marquis, Albert N., Ed. *The Book of Minnesotans, a biographical disctionary of leading men.* Chicago, IL: A. N. Marquis and Co., 1907.

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Olinger, Wilfred M. *Ferdinand News,* November 26, 1981.

Sondermann, Albert F. *Business Activities in Ferdinand, Dubois County, Southwestern Indiana.* Ferdinand, IN: A. F. Sondermann, 1965.

Walker, Lester. *American Shelter, An Illustrated Encyclopedia of the American Home.* Woodstock, NY: The Overlook Press, 1981.

Wilson, George R. CE. *History of Dubois County from its Primitive Days to 1910..* Jasper, IN: George R. Wilson, 1910.

INTERNET SOURCES:
www.bbonline.com/nd/511reeves/history.html
http://ferdinandhistory.org/wollenmann.html
http://www.bi-gardenantiques.com/news/11-05/index.shtml
http://www.duboiscountyin.org/history.html
http://www.archive.org/search.php?query=beautiful homes magazine (For pdf's of *Keith's Magazine* and other information about Walter J. Keith.)

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 # _____
____recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

_x_ State Historic Preservation Office
____Other State agency
____Federal agency
____Local government
____University
____Other
Name of repository: _____

Dr. Alois Wollenmann House
Name of Property

Dubois, Indiana
County and State

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 037-566-57030

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property <one acre
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	512160	4230620	3			
2				4			

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
Beginning at the southeast corner of Twelfth and Maryland Streets, then continuing in a southeasterly direction along the eastern line of Maryland Street, to the junction with Eleventh Street, thence turning in a northeasterly direction, follow the north side of Eleventh Street to its junction with Main Street, thence turning in a northwesterly direction along the west side of Main Street to its junction with Twelfth Street, turning in a southwesterly direction along the south side of Eleventh Street and following along this side to the place of beginning.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary for this property has been drawn to encompass the entire block which has traditionally been associated with the Wollenmann house and other properties originally owned by the family.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Camille B. Fife, President
organization The Westerly Group, Inc. date March, 2011
street & number 225 East Main Street, P. O. Box 404 telephone 812.273.8826
city or town Madison state IN zip code 47250
e-mail wgimadison@aol.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

(The following information is the same for all photographs)

Name of Property: Dr. Alois Wollenmann House

City or Vicinity: Ferdinand

County: Dubois **State:** IN

Photographer: Camille B. Fife

Date Photographed: August, 2010

Note: The grid of the town of Ferdinand is skewed slightly, thus the home is also not square with the cardinal points. Some approximation has been assumed.

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

EXTERIOR PHOTOGRAPHS

IN_Dubois Co._ DrAloisWollenmannHouse_0001
Looking approximately east from Main Street toward the front elevation of the home.
1 of 18.

IN_Dubois Co._ DrAloisWollenmannHouse_0002
Looking north, northeast from East 11th Street toward the approximate south elevation of the home.
2 of 18.

IN_Dubois Co._ DrAloisWollenmannHouse_0003
Looking north from the corner of East 11th and Maryland Streets toward the approximate south east corner of the building, showing the later addition at the rear.
3 of 18.

IN_Dubois Co._ DrAloisWollenmannHouse_0004
This image, looking north, northeast shows the garage structure at the rear of the house.
4 of 18

IN_Dubois Co._ DrAloisWollenmannHouse_0005
Looking west, this photograph shows the northeast elevation of the rear of the house and the grounds.

5 of 18.

IN_Dubois Co._ DrAloisWollenmannHouse_0006
Looking south, southwest from East 12th Street, this photograph shows the approximate north east elevation of the house.
6 of 18.

IN_Dubois Co._ DrAloisWollenmannHouse_0007
This photograph, looking due south from the corner of Main and East 12th Streets shows the small block building at the north corner of the lot.
7 of 18.

INTERIOR PHOTOGRAPHS- BASEMENT

IN_Dubois Co._ DrAloisWollenmannHouse_0008
Looking approximately south, this photograph shows a view from the old basement into the new, with its concrete block foundation and walls.
8 of 18.

INTERIOR PHOTOGRAPHS – FIRST FLOOR

IN_Dubois Co._ DrAloisWollenmannHouse_0009
This image, looking approximately west, shows the corner fireplace in the main parlor.
9 of 18.

IN_Dubois Co._ DrAloisWollenmannHouse_0010
Looking north, northeast, this photograph shows the wood doors and wide opening between the parlor and dining room.
10 of 18.

IN_Dubois Co._ DrAloisWollenmannHouse_0011
Looking west toward the cupboards and other cabinetry on the dividing wall in the rear kitchen addition.
11 of 18.

IN_Dubois Co._ DrAloisWollenmann House_0012
Looking south toward the south east corner of the sunroom in the rear addition.
12 of 18.

IN_Dubois Co._ DrAloisWollenmannHouse_0013
An image, looking east from the den toward the door leading to the entrance hall or foyer.
13 of 18.

IN_Dubois Co._ DrAloisWollenmannHouse_0014
Looking north, northeast, down the central stair hall. Note the stained bead board siding which is used throughout the second floor and which lines the stair hall.
14 of 18.

IN_Dubois Co._ DrAloisWollenmannHouse_0015
Looking south west toward the stair leading to the attic. The original plan did not call for a stair.
15 of 18.

IN_Dubois Co._ DrAloisWollenmannHouse_0016
Looking north in the western bedroom toward the front wall of the house.

16 of 18.

IN_Dubois Co._ DrAloisWollenmannHouse_0017
Looking west in the back bedroom toward an area that was delineated on the original plan as a third bedroom.
17 of 18.

IN_Dubois Co._ DrAloisWollenmannHouse_0018
Looking south from the north corner of the eastern, front bedroom showing the entry door and the entrance to the shared closet.
18 of 18.

Property Owner:

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

name TTHM Properties, LLC c/o Dianne E. Hoppenjans

street & number 7471 South 250 East telephone (812) 367-2908

city or town Ferdinand state IN zip code 47532

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.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including 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 the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

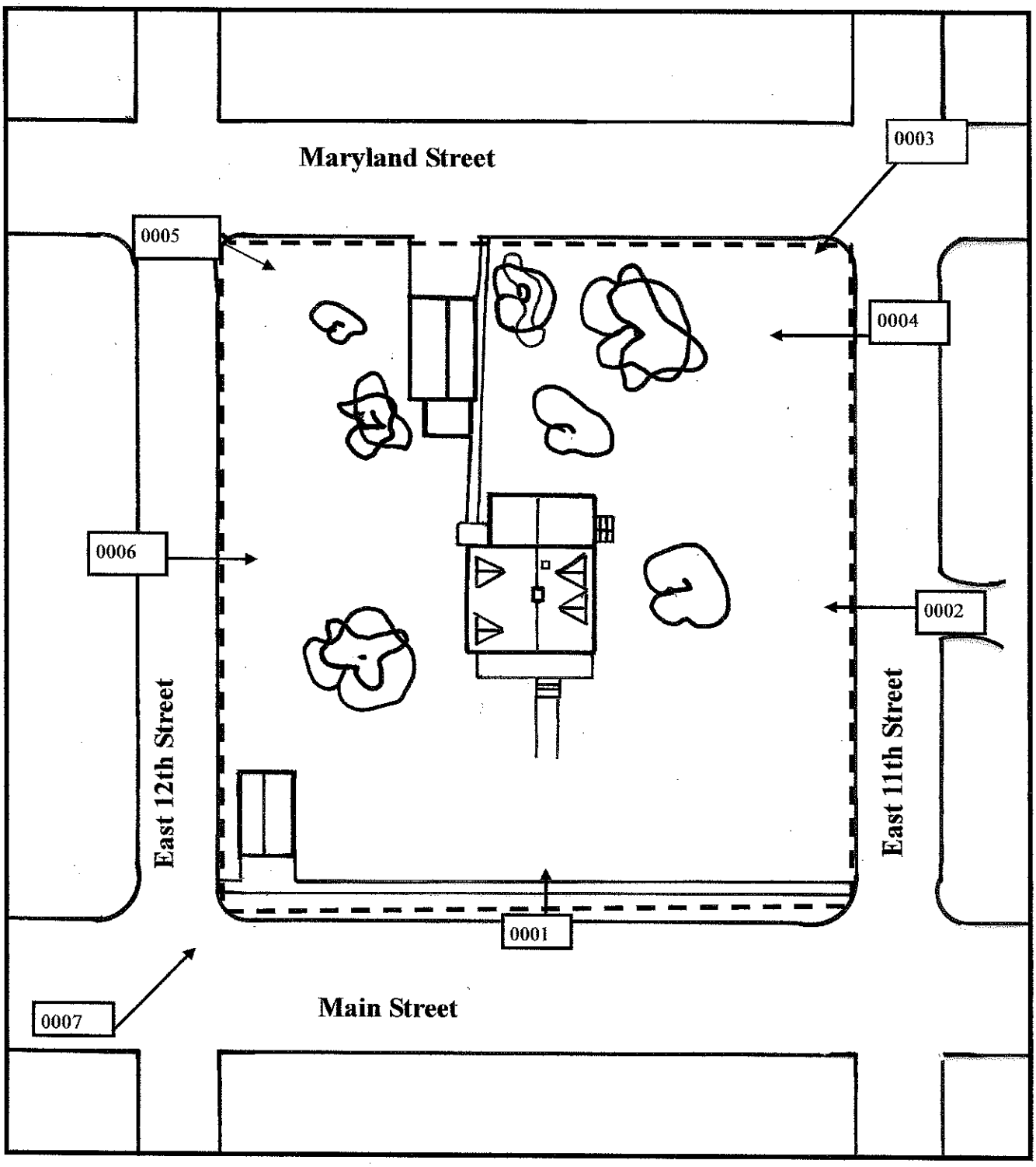
Dr. Alois Wollenmann House
1150 Main Street, Ferdinand, IN
Site Plan
Key to Photographs

Prepared by
The Westerly Group, Inc.
Madison, Indiana

LEGEND

Photographs 0001

Boundary



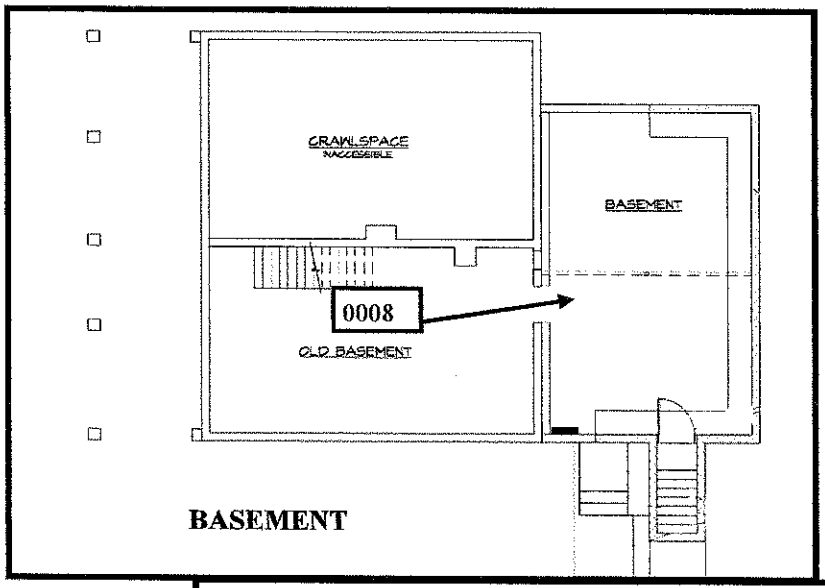
Dr. Alois Wollenmann House
1150 Main Street, Ferdinand, IN
Basement and First Floor
Key to Photographs

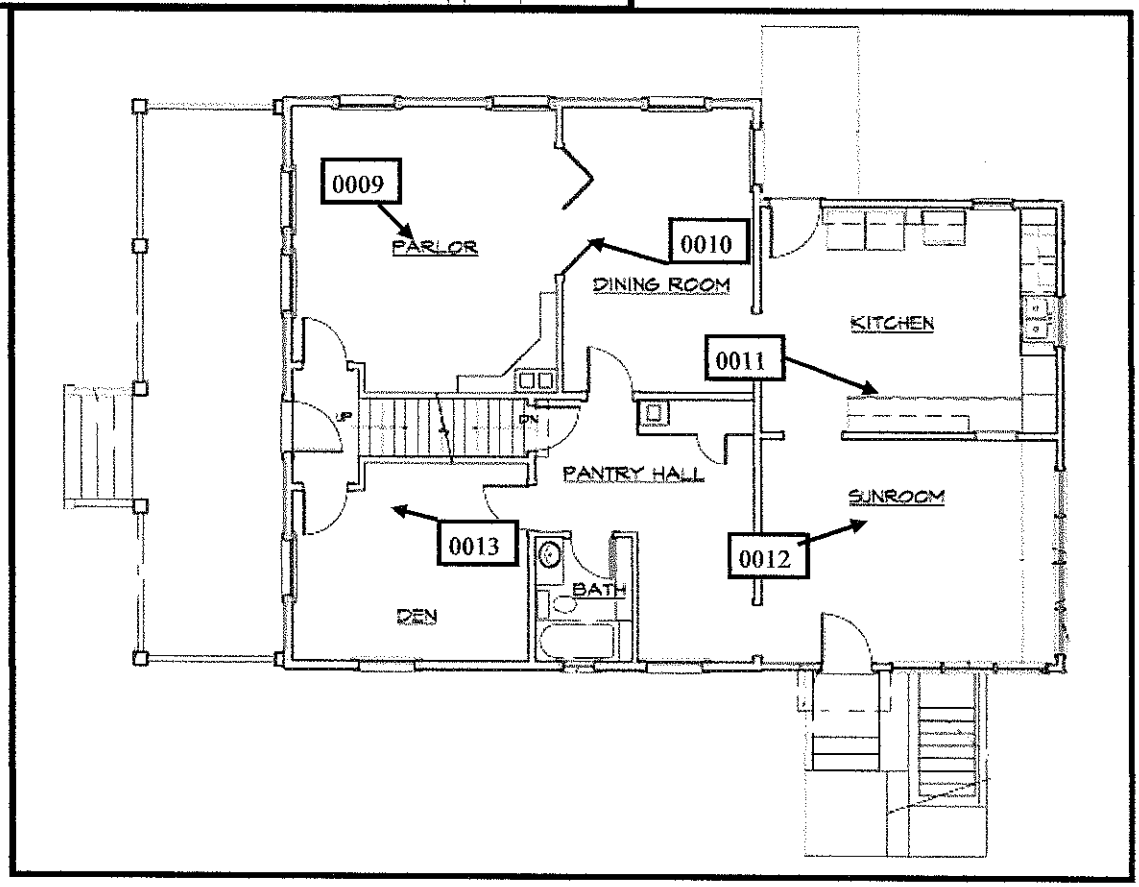
Prepared by
The Westerly Group, Inc.
Madison, Indiana (Plans Courtesy Ron Flick)

LEGEND

Photographs 0001 →

NORTH





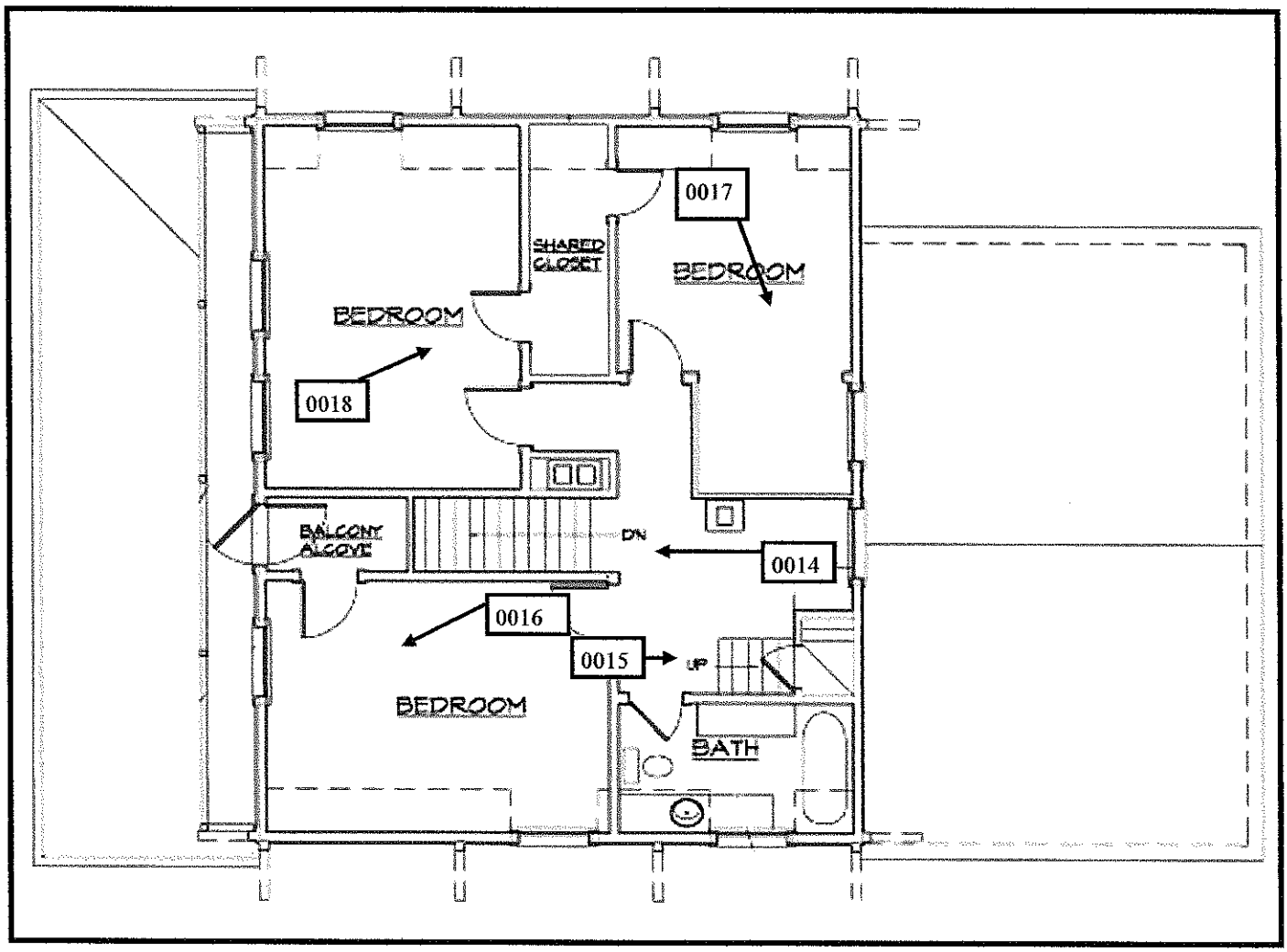
Dr. Alois Wollenmann House
1150 Main Street, Ferdinand, IN
Second Floor
Key to Photographs

Prepared by
The Westerly Group, Inc.
Madison, Indiana (Plans Courtesy Ron Flick)

LEGEND

Photographs 0001 →

NORTH



Dr. Alois Wollenmann House, Dubois County, IN #0001

Dr. Alois Wollenmann House, Dubois County, IN #0002

Dr. Alois Wollenmann House, Dubois County, IN #0003

Dr. Alois Wollenmann House, Dubois County, IN #0005

Dr. Alois Wollenmann House, Dubois County, IN #0006

Dr. Alois Wollenmann House, Dubois County, IN #0010

Dr. Alois Wollenmann House, Dubois County, IN #0013

Dr. Alois Wollenmann House, Dubois County, IN #0016