

THE HOMES OF SAMUEL & ELIZA MOORE

Samuel Moore lived in four houses in Mooresville during his lifetime (1799-1889)—three of which he occupied with his wife, Eliza Moore.

- **1823 Log Cabin:** Samuel Moore's first home was a log cabin he built just east of his first trading post, another log structure Samuel began using in 1822 that had previously belonged to the blacksmith Charles Vertrees. The trading post was situated upon a hill approximately where today's VFW Post #1111 now stands (on South Indiana Street), and Samuel's log cabin homestead was on a hill a few hundred feet due east, on land that is south of today's South Street. Before constructing his cabin home, Samuel boarded with another early pioneer, Asa Bales, Mooresville's first postmaster and co-founder of Westfield, Indiana.
- **Main Street House:** In 1824, Samuel Moore constructed his general mercantile establishment, which was the first wood-frame, brick business building in Mooresville, on the northeast corner of Main and Indiana Streets, where Paul Hadley Memorial Park now stands. He used the profits generated from his trading post between 1822 and 1826 (\$3,000) to build and improve the structure and enlarge his inventory. Around the time of his marriage to Eliza Worthington (April 15, 1828), he built a wood-frame house on the north side of East Main Street, next to his general store, approximately where Sam Wade constructed the local post office in 1909 (10 East Main Street). Samuel's general store and home were the only surviving downtown structures following Mooresville's Great Fire of 1842. A physician's office to the west, and a dwelling to the east, were torn down to check the fire spreading.
- **Madison Street House:** Sometime after the Great Fire of 1842, Samuel & Eliza Moore moved their family to Samuel's farm on Madison Street, just south of East High Street. They built a single-story, wood-frame house approximately where today's Pioneer Pointe shopping plaza now stands. Built before the Indianapolis & Vincennes Railroad came through town, the structure contained a long north room (30 feet-by-12 feet) and a middle room, with east, north, and west windows, and a solid door with a glass transom on the north side. The lot was 100 feet wide with a 20-foot wide alley running along the entire west side (this became Madison Street, connecting with High and South Streets). This plot became part of Mooresville's third addition (May 23, 1849). Samuel and Eliza lived in this house until moving into the Conduitt-Moore home at 35 West High Street in late 1853-early 1854 (see below). Elwood Lawrence bought the property from Samuel in 1884. Subsequent owners included Jabez Comer, H.C. Scarce, Nancy

Manker, Alonzo Wheeler, Robert McKee, and Paul Farmer. The house was demolished in 1968.

- **West High Street House:** In 1852 Samuel and Eliza Moore gave their daughter, Mary M. (Moore) Conduitt, two lots on West High Street to build her home with her husband, Washington Conduitt. In late 1852-early 1853, Washington Conduitt constructed a 12-room, gable-front, Greek Revival style house (with three halls and pantries) at 35 West High Street. Due to the steep slope at the rear of the property, a large cellar was built with a laundry furnace, vegetable bins, and storerooms. The couple had only lived in the home a short time when Mary died of pneumonia (October 13, 1853). Washington had been to Cincinnati to purchase goods for Samuel's general store, where he also purchased a beautiful parlor clock as a house-warming gift for his wife. She died just as he returned. Heartbroken, Washington decided he could no longer reside there, and so Samuel and Eliza purchased and moved into the home in late 1853-early 1854, focusing attention on landscaping the property (to ease the pain of the recent family deaths—Mary in October, 1853, as well as Samuel and Eliza's daughter, Jane M. [Moore] Newby, who died, along with her newborn son, Frank Newby, in August and September, 1853, respectively). The house walls were thick, with yellow poplar trim and hand-made bricks. Samuel and Eliza lived there until their deaths (1873 and 1889, respectively). Thereafter, their daughter, Margaret "Maggie" (Moore) Fogleman, her husband, David Fogleman, and their daughter, Mary Ida Fogleman, occupied the residence. Ida Fogleman sold the property in 1950 due to declining health. The house is the only former Moore home that still stands today.

SOURCES:

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- Fogleman, Ida. (1950) "The Story of the Wife of Our Town's Founder: A Tribute to My Grandmother, Eliza Worthington Moore, Parts I-II," *reprinted in The [Mooresville] Times*, August 1, 1984, p. 11A (Becky Hardin, editor).
- "Mooresville—[Miss Ida Fogleman] Will Sell Home," *Mooresville Times*, August ____, 1950.
- Fogleman, Margaret W. "About Mooresville: Many Facts Gleaned From Records and Good Memories" (1884), *reprinted in Early Mooresville: Centennial Souvenir, 1824-1924*. Mooresville, Indiana: Town of Mooresville (1924).
- MPL Indiana Room vertical files.

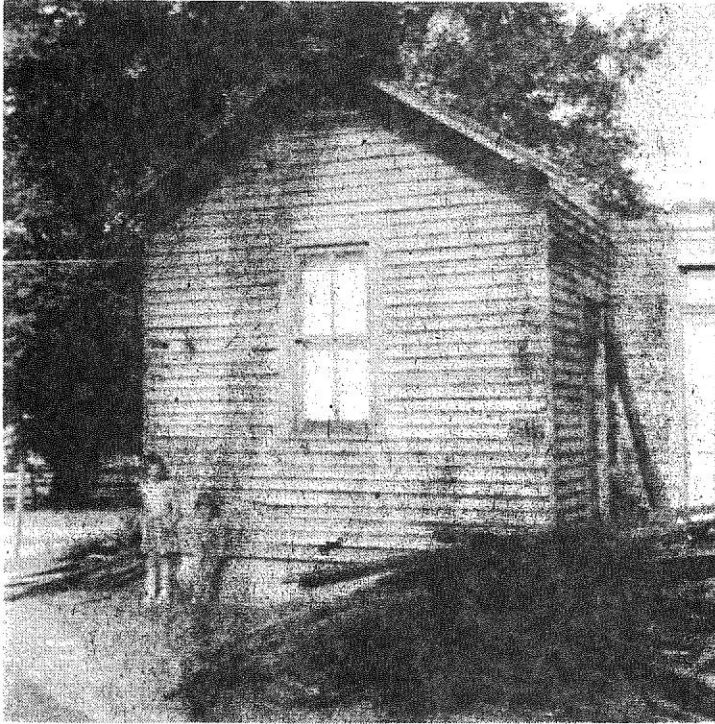


Figure 1. Samuel & Eliza Moore's home (constructed circa 1843) on Madison Street, between East High and South Streets, approximately where Pioneer Pointe Shopping Plaza stands today. The structure was demolished in 1968. The Moores moved into the house sometime after the Great Fire of 1842 destroyed most of downtown Mooresville, sparing only the Moores' general store and house on East Main Street.



Figure 2. The Conduitt-Moore house at 35 West High Street, which is the only Moore home still standing today.



Figure 3. The Conduitt-Moore house at 35 West High Street as it appeared in 2009.

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