

City of Bloomington Common Council

Legislative Packet - Addendum

Issued on Wednesday, 15 December 2021

Wednesday, 15 December 2021

Regular Session

6:30 pm

**Please see the notes on the [Agenda](#) addressing public meetings during the public health emergency and possible alternative committee referral actions by the Council. For a schedule of upcoming meetings of the Council and the City's boards and commissions, please consult the City's [Calendar](#).*

***** Amendment Form *****

Ordinance #: 21-46
Amendment #: Am 01
Submitted By: HAND
Sponsored By: TBD
Date: December 14, 2021

1. The Ordinance 21-46 shall be amended as follows:
 1. Any reference to “James Faris” shall be replaced with “Reverend James Faris” wherever it occurs.
 2. The year “1852” shall be replaced with the year “1842” wherever it occurs.
 3. The phrase, “ordained minister of the Covenanter church” shall be replaced with the phrase “pastor of the Bloomington Reformed Presbyterian Church” wherever it occurs.

Synopsis and Reason for Amendment

Amendment 01 comes at the request of the Department of Housing and Neighborhood Development and Scott Faris, the great, great, great grandson of Reverend James Faris, who provided additional information about Reverend James Faris and the year the building was constructed.



**City of Bloomington
Office of the Common Council**

Items related to Ordinance 21-46

Additional historical documents provided by Scot Faris, great, great, great
grandson of Reverend James Faris

Map of Bloomington and Perry Townships, Monroe County, Indiana

(as drawn by Rev. Daniel C. Faris as he remembered from his boyhood days-- 1843-1863. and later)

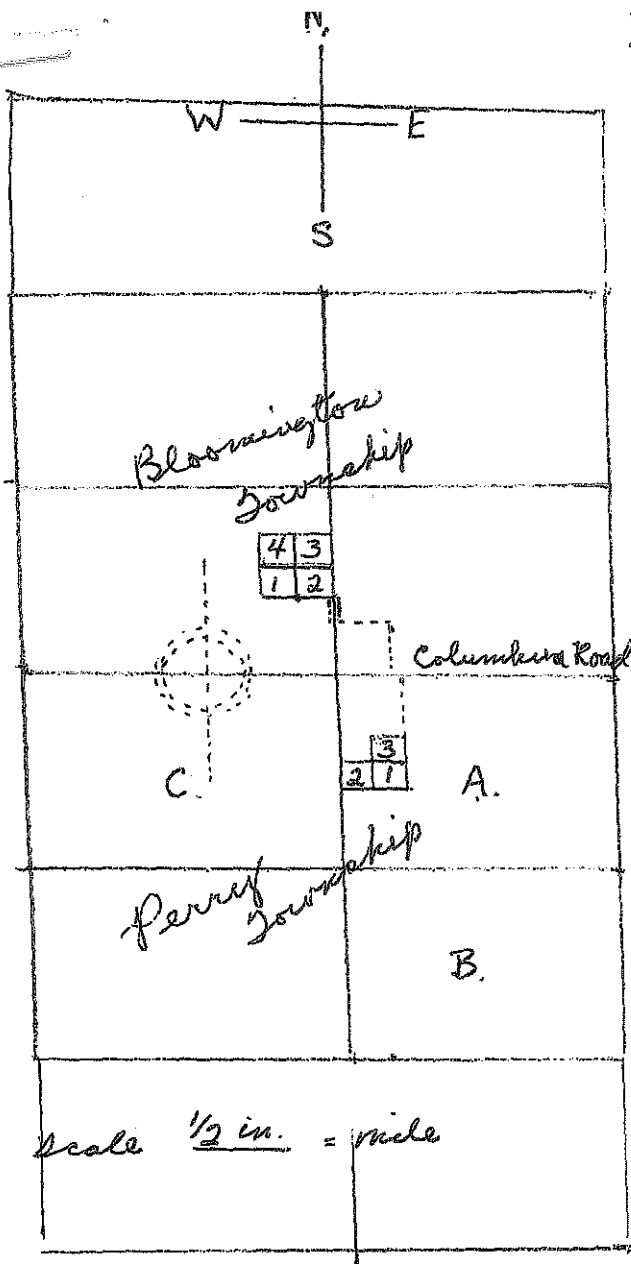
Each township is six miles square, and was originally divided, I think, into six school districts, each two miles ^{wide} from North to South and three miles long from East to West.

I was born in the district marked A in the N.E. corner of Perry Township. The school house was in the middle of our district. So it was in the district South of us (B) and in the West of us (C). This was

probably the arrangements in all the districts.

The Columbus Road was in the line between the two townships. That must have been, I think, what is called a "correction line."

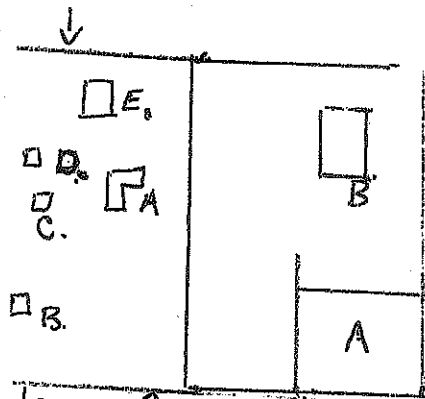
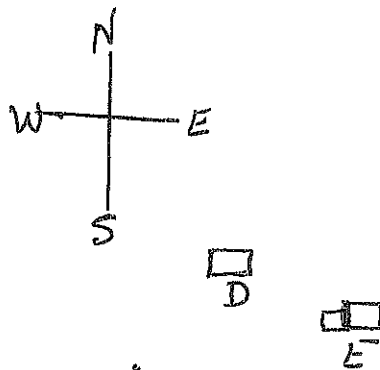
My father's farm in Perry Township ("the new place") is marked on this map with the figures 1, 2, 3. Each of these is a 40 acres. No 1 is that on which the house stood. No 3 is a 40 acres which Father bought later from "Bill Duncan, and we always called that "the Duncan place." The old place lay in Bloomington Township. The south line was a mile north of Columbus Road. The old log house stood on the 40 acres marked No. 1. Our road to the old place was



of the road marked by the dotted lines.

Bloomington (the town) is indicated by the circle of dots. The Court House stands not far from the center of the circle.

- A. House
- B. Old Plank
- C. The meat house
- D. The hen house
- E. the barn



← western part of the S.W. 40 acres

James
FARRIS
S.E. 40
Acres

This is the western part of the S.W. 40 acres of the farm of Thomas Smith

- A - the grave-yard
- B. the church
- C. the spring
- D. - the barn
- E - the dwelling house

The church and the grave yard were on land that had been part of Uncle Tom's farm

In the fall of 1826, James Paris and his brother-in-law, T. Smith, lately married, moved to Bloomington, Indiana where he bought and improved 160 acres of land one mile north of Bloomington. He afterward bought 80 acres of school land, sold at auction. The first farm he improved with a substantial log house and a good frame barn, and this place was occupied till the spring of 1842. Here the older children were born. The last 13 year of his life were spent on the new place.

When in Bloomington, standing at the South East corner of the Public Square (the block on which the Court House stands) if you go two blocks south and then turn to the left and go due east about a half a mile you will be at the beginning of what I knew as the Columbus Road. From that spot going one mile east you will find a road running south. Follow that for one mile and you will be at the South East corner of my father's "new place." From that corner-stone walk 160 rods due west, thence 80 due north, thence 160 due east, and thence due south (along the road before traveled) 80 rods to the place of beginning and you will have walked around the 80 acres of school land, sold at auction.

At a spot about 100 yards west of the east line of the farm, and about the same distance north of the south line, on a limestone foundation, was built the "commodious brick house" of which Brother David speaks. It was unfinished for at least ten years later, I think. It was unfinished when it was first occupied in the spring of 1842. Here, I suppose the only daughter then died Sept. 17, 1842. It was in this unplastered brick house that the family consisting of Father and Mother, and James, David, John, Thomas and Sammy were living when at break of day, at the Summer solstice, June 21, 1843, I made my first appearance and took up my abode there. By calculation the day of the week was Wednesday. (I have always been an early riser.) It was probably in what we called "the sitting room" (but which was also, as far back as I can remember, my father's and Mother's bedroom), that I first drew breath, and with my cries broke the stillness of the morning of the longest day of that year. In that room probably, two or three hours later, when I had been washed and dressed and the room put to rights, Father and the boys, with Grandmother Smith and some of my aunts, her daughters, gathered for worship, and my ears first heard the singing of praise and the voice of prayer which soon grew to be familiar sounds, as I heard them morning and evening, day by day.

The house had a two-story part, the length of which was from east to west, and a one story ell at the South side, the western wall of the ell being in line with the west end of the main building. The dimensions of the higher part were, I think, about 20 by 36 feet; and the ell, which was the kitchen, was about 16 feet square. In line with the eastern wall of the kitchen a brick partition was across the higher part in both stories, dividing each story into two rooms. That below, west of the partition, was "the sitting room", already mentioned, and that east of the partition was known as "the big room." The outside walls of the two-story part were, I think, twelve inches in thickness, while the partition, and the kitchen walls were but 8 inches thick. The end walls were built up to the roof and formed the gables. The roof, according to the custom of the place at that time, was not steep, but had, probably, a rise of one foot in two. The roof of the ell had the same slope. Its gable end was toward the South. From the peak of each of the three gables rose a chimney about three feet higher than the ridge of the roof. There were cornices at the eaves, but no projections beyond the gables, the finishing at the ends of the house being a narrow board, probably not more than three or four inches wide, laid flat against the brick work, and extending from the sides of the chimneys down to the cornices. The edges of the shingles (which were rived and shaved) extended, probably about an inch beyond the finishing board, and the eaves reached a few inches beyond the cornices, where the water dropped in tin gutters which conveyed it to tin spouts, through which it was carried to the ground.

The ridge of the roof was called "the comb." It was not protected by boards, but the shingles on one side of the roof being out down even with the ridge those on the other side were left projecting about three or four inches beyond the ridge, thus keeping the rain from falling there.

There were no doors in the ends of the house, nor were there any windows there even in the gables. So the attics were dark. In the lower story there was a door in the middle of the north side of the main building and another straight across from it in the south side. On either side of the north door were two windows, those toward the West in "the sitting room", and the other two in the "big room", which had two in the south side over against these. In the upper story were ten windows, five on the north side above the door and windows of the lower story, and five on the south side. This gave four windows to the western room upstairs, and six to the eastern. The two at the south end of the western room had between them the ridge of the kitchen roof. The one looked out on the western slope of the roof, and the other on the eastern. Through these windows we sometimes went out, or reached out, and spread apples to dry. The kitchen had a door in the east side and one opposite to it in the west, and, I think, four windows, one on either side of each door.

The windows had two sashes, the upper being longer than the lower. It had nine lights of glass and could not be lowered, while the other had but six panes and could be opened by raising it. They were not weighted, and when raised had to be opened by a prop set under. There were transoms, I believe, over the outside doors in the big room.

When the foundation, at least that under the big room, was laid it was put down deep enough to furnish room for a cellar of a good depth; but only part of the earth was dug out at the time of building. The cellar was entered only from the outside of the house, the door being through the foundation wall on the south side near the east end. It had two, I think, narrow windows on the north side. While the ground about the house was almost flat on the other sides of the house, at the south side it was sloping, and in that direction a drain was dug from the bottom of the cellar through the door, the farther end coming to the surface near the bottom of the slope.

The lumber for the floors of the house was matched (or tongue and grooved). The planks were about an inch thick, and planed on their upper sides, and firmly nailed, the nails being driven into the planks beside the tongue, so that after the groove was pressed up close the nail could not be seen.

The kitchen and the lower story of the main building were floored with white ash, a very hard kind of wood, in order, I suppose, the better to withstand the wear. The upper floors were of yellow poplar, which is of about the same hardness as spruce. All the floors were unpainted.

The "sleepers", on which the lower floors were laid, and the joists which supported the upper floors, were of sawed poplar 2 Or 3 inches thick and 8 or 10 inches wide. They were not planed.

Each chimney, in the lower part of the house, had a fireplace, which was the only mode of heating for some years after I was born. I mean in our home. Others, may, for anything I know, have had cook stoves. My mother's boiling and baking were all done in the open fire places of the kitchen and sitting room. The fireplace in the kitchen was higher and wider than those in the sitting room and the big room and there was room for the crane, from which hung two or three hooks of iron, some longer than others, and the tea kettle and other kettles, for boiling hung on those hooks over the blazing wood fire. Each pot hook had a hook at each end, one by which it hung on the crane, and the other by which the kettle hung up. It was from these hooks that certain parts of letters we were learning to write were called pot hooks, viz: the low part of the letter h, and the last leg of the letters m and n and p; and first stroke of u, v, w, and y, because of their resemblance to the hooks which hung on the crane in the kitchen fireplace.

The "big bed" stood in the North East corner of the sitting room with its head toward the North. Under it, in the day time was the "little Bed", which at night was drawn out at the foot of the big bed, and these the two children older than the baby slept. Sometimes in the day time I have crawled into the little bed and slept; but my recollection is that I never felt good after one of these naps. The little bed had casters and could be moved out or in with ease. Mother kept the stockings for all the family between the straw tick and the feather-tick of the big bed -- at the foot of it.

The door that led from the sitting room into the big room was in the South East corner, I think, near to the south door of the big room. The stairway was along the west half of the south wall of the sitting room. At the corner it turned with three cornered steps, and the landing on the upper floor was at right angles to the first steps. It was boarded up all but two or three steps at the bottom, which were in the sitting room, a door above them closing the stairway. Under it, I think, was a little closet. The highest of the steps in the sitting room was my first pulpit. I remember the most eloquent part of one of my sermons preached there which was, "The iron rod of the meeting house," and "The iron fetters of jail." for these two things, in my childish view, presented the most sublime thoughts.

Standing with its back against the lower part of the enclosed stairway was the bureau. It had, I think, four drawers, the upper one being deeper, and

On baking days the Dutch oven was placed on the outer part of the hearth. Coals were shovelled on top of the oven, and the heating was kept up by new coals if necessary, until the loaf was baked. In this big oven she usually made "black pones" (raised corn bread, baked until the outside was black). She had another, which we called the deep skillet, in which she baked flour bread. We had another kind of corn bread which we called "johnny cake". It was baked on an oak board about two feet long, seven or eight inches wide and about half an inch thick. With the good teeth that I had, when a child, this hard johnny cake, well buttered I considered a great luxury; and how I would enjoy now a slice of one of those pones with a fat slice of fried bacon!

D.C. FARIS .