

## Mobile Houses

In our "tear down and build new" world one does not hear much about house movers. In the past the practice was not as unusual as one might expect. It made sense to put energy into moving a house rather than putting energy, money, time, labor and materials into building new. It was also easier as there were less power lines and obstacles in the way along with less paperwork. It probably took less time, too.

The J. H. Moon House Movers was a company located in New Martinsburg that specialized in moving buildings to a new location. The picture on the front of this newsletter is a photograph of their team moving a house in the early 1900's. The house seems to be sitting in the middle of the street in front of 127 South Street. In the background can be seen the D. O. Miller home at the northeast corner of South Street and Second Street.

Houses were moved when the present McClain athletic field was constructed. When the new Kroger store (present day Save-A-Lot) was built in 1962, several houses were moved to Mirabeau Street. In 1968 a house was moved to Sunshine Drive to make way for the construction of the West End Minimart on West Jefferson Street.



One of the houses that sat where Rite Aid is was moved to 455 State Route 28 east of town in 1993. It was originally a kit purchased from Sears & Roebuck, shipped to Greenfield and built in the early 1920's



Before 1909 this house was located at 315 South Washington. That year it was moved across the back lots to its present location at 254 Pine Street. Mr. & Mrs. Lew P. Waddell and their daughter, Ruth, lived in the house and remained in it while it was being moved. The house was moved to make way for the construction of their new stone house at 315 South Washington.



This house, built about 1867 by a Dr. Wilson, originally sat on South Washington where the empty service station sits behind City Hall. It was moved to its present location on the southeast corner of North Washington and Spring Streets in about 1904 or 1905 to make space for the construction of the Hurd Building which was later destroyed by fire in 1938. The wood siding was cut and beveled into thin blocks resembling masonry. A newspaper article in 1969 stated that the construction consisted of eight inch square supporting timbers.