

## THE OLD SWOPE HOME

From the book "From Then Til Now" by Kenneth McCutchan.



Sketch by Jerry N. Baum  
From a Photograph in 1975

One other lovely old house that I must mention was the Erskine-Swope house. It was built by Andrew Erskine, second son of the pioneer family, probably in the 1820s. He was married to Abigail Ewin (or Ewing) in 1825 and their first two sons were born in 1827 and 1830. The original log house contained four rooms, and the handsome two-story porch was built across the front from which there was a magnificent two upstairs and two downstairs. Some time later rooms were added in back and in front, view. The house when finished was mainly in the Federal-style of architecture, although, according to Wilbur Peat, in *Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century*, the two-story gallery was not common in this area.

One curious feature is that the house was built exactly astride a section line. Legend has it that Mr. Erskine did this on purpose because he did not want to live adjacent to a public road. This prevented the extension west of what is now called Millersburgh Road.

The house passed into the Swope family through a series of untimely deaths. In 1856 William H. Erskine, the eldest son of the builder, married Sarah Ann Hornby. Before he died three years later (age thirty-two), he fathered one son, Henry Erskine, who became the sole heir to his grandfather's property upon the death of the old gentleman in 1864. In 1867 Henry's widowed mother married Albert A. Swope. Then, before Henry reached his twenty-third birthday he died, leaving the property to his mother and stepfather. After a few more years the mother died, and the estate went to her husband, Mr. Swope, who later married a second wife, Margaret Whitehead.

After the Swope family finally abandoned the house in the 1940s, it was occupied by renters for several years and then stood empty, finally falling into complete ruin. The old barn, which was also part log, was torn down about 1955 and the house finally came down in 1957.