

FINAL

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Indiana
COUNTY: Wayne
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Conklin-Montgomery House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Conklin-Montgomery House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
302 East Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Cambridge City

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Tenth

STATE:
Indiana

CODE:
18

COUNTY:
Wayne

CODE:
177

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Robert B. Montgomery & Pauline Montgomery husband & wife

STREET AND NUMBER:
302 East Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Cambridge City

STATE:
Indiana

CODE:
18

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Recorder's Office, Wayne County, Indiana

STREET AND NUMBER:
Court House, 4th & Main Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Richmond

STATE:
Indiana

CODE:
18

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Indiana Historic Preservation Survey and Plan

DATE OF SURVEY: 1972
 Federal
 State
 County
 Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Indiana Department of Natural Resources

STREET AND NUMBER:
202 North Alabama Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Indianapolis

STATE:
Indiana

CODE:
18

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Indiana
 COUNTY: Wayne
 ENTRY NUMBER:
 DATE:
 FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

1. Exterior. The Conklin-Montgomery House is a 2 story brick 10 x 12 void regular hip and end gable roofed town house. Its principal elevation is the north elevation facing the National Road. The main entry on the north elevation is a 2 story distyle in antis recessed frontispiece of superimposed orders with a balcony at the second floor level. The lower order is Greek Ionic, the upper Greek Doric. There are secondary entries on the east and west elevations. The norther entry on the west elevation leads to a large parlour which was probably Conklin's counting house. The east elevation entry has a Gothic style wooden cut-out type porch surrounding it. The south elevation has a two story recessed entryway supported by superimposed orders, which was originally open to the ground level as a carriageway for goods hauled to Conklin's commission and forwarding house. The roof line is quite unusual. The east elevation is a gable end. The west elevation is hipped. The main cornice is basically Greek Ionic. All sash are 6 x 6 lights and appear to be original to the house. The exterior doors, except for the single panel north door, are common 4 panel doors. The kitchen is located in a 1 story attached brick gabled ell on the south elevation, topped by a bell tower.

2. Interior. The first floor plan consists of two parlours flanking the entrance hall from the north entry. Behind the two parlours on each side of the house are located two more rooms, whose use pattern is unclear. These rooms and a second set of two rooms are separated by the carriageway, which is now floored over at the first floor level. Exterior 4 panel doors with over-door lights give access to the carriageway from each set of rooms. The second floor plan consists of six similar chambers and a large loft type room over the carriageway. The northwest parlour is traditionally referred to as the "counting house". It has no working fireplace, the mantel in the room being a dummy mantel. The fireplace trim throughout the house is of Grecian design, showing some traces of LeFever's books. The best mantel in the house is in the northeast parlour. It is a semi-free-standing columnar mantel with an interesting center ornament on the mantel freize. The standing trim consists of a reeded architrave with corner blocks containing inscribed circles after Asher Benjamin's style. All interior doors are 4 panel doors. The main stairway which rises directly inside the north entry is circular. It has an excellent newel post and fine balusters.

3. Accessory Buildings. A 1 story latticework gazebo of pre Civil War vintage is situated in the east garden, which is laid out in 18th century parterre style. Other early outbuildings have disappeared.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) ca. 1836-1838

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

1. Architectural Significance. The Conklin-Montgomery House is the best-preserved combination counting house and home in the Midwest. It is an unique piece of architecture for Indiana. In this structure banking, merchantile and residential requirements have been functionally related to make an articulated and sophisticated major work. The choice of detailing, organization of voids and solids, and the unusual carriageway and roof treatment indicates that the structure was intended to have a dual function from its inception. The Conklin-Montgomery House shows the New York origin of its owner in its details and trim. It is one of a kind in Indiana. It was the home and business house of a wealthy merchant and money lender, built just prior to 1840. It is unrelated to any other Wayne County structure in style and design. It is a fine example of a peculiar form of architecture.

2. Historical Significance. Conklin-Montgomery House was built as a residence and counting house by Benjamin Conklin ca. 1836-1838. Conklin was a storekeeper in nearby Vandalia who relocated to the National Road and specialized in money lending and in commission and forwarding on the Whitewater Canal. He was considered wealthy for the time. He maintained his business offices in the house until his death in the early 1860's. The house was sold out of the family in 1864. It was later repurchased by Harriet Conklin, Benjamin's daughter in 1889. It was acquired by its present owner in 1944, in poor repair. The Montgomery family has restored the house to much of its original appearance since that time.

Benjamin Conklin was a major personality in his community. He was one of the original proprietors of the Town of Cambridge (now Cambridge City). He was politically and commercially active in Indiana government and business until his death.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

W. Peat, Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century(1962); A. Young, History of Wayne County, Indiana (1872); Wayne County Transfer Books (Jackson Twp.) 1840-46, 1846-50 (Cambridge City) 1850-54, 1854-59, 1859-64, 1864-69, 1869-74

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 , "	0 , "		39° 48' 45.5"N	85° 09' 53"W	
NE	0 , "	0 , "				
SE	0 , "	0 , "				
SW	0 , "	0 , "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 0.50

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Indiana	18	Wayne	177
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Thomas J. Reed,

ORGANIZATION: **Swannsborough Limited** DATE: **July 5, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Rt. #1, Box 405

CITY OR TOWN: **Richmond** STATE: **Indiana** CODE: **18**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS