

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC Honey Creek School

AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Low Gap Road, North Benton Township

CITY, TOWN Bloomington VICINITY OF 9th

STATE Indiana CODE 018 COUNTY Monroe CODE 105

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Monroe County Community School Corporation

STREET & NUMBER 315 North Drive

CITY, TOWN Bloomington STATE Indiana 47401

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Monroe County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN Bloomington STATE Indiana

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE None

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

EXCELLENT

GOOD

FAIR

DETERIORATED

RUINS

UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

UNALTERED

ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Honey Creek School stands in a hillside meadow above Low Gap Road in Monroe County, Indiana.

The building consists of a hipped rectangular mass with a projecting gabled bay centered on the main (west) elevation. The gabled wood-shingled roof is punctuated by a small belfry with a low pyramidal roof and a brick chimney at the intersection with the main roof. The north rake of the gable is extended even with the main elevation in order to shelter the entrance, which is a solid leaf on the north facade of the gabled projection.

The structural system is balloon framing on a fieldstone foundation wall. Elevations are very simple, with narrow clapboard siding trimmed with plain boards on the corners and around openings; the eaves are simple projections with exposed rafters. Fenestration consists of a single two-over-two double-hung sash in the center of the west facade, and five four-over-four windows with lower hopper sash on the north elevation.

The interior consists of a single large classroom entered through a small vestibule. A wainscote of beaded car siding extends entirely around the classroom; the slate blackboard is mounted across the east wall and part of the south wall. The enframements of the windows and doors are smooth boards with a simple edge mould. All doors are solid leaves with five horizontal rectangular panels. The classroom is heated by an iron stove in the center of the floor and illuminated by four electric lamps hung from the twelve-foot ceiling. All of these interior fittings are original; the cast iron, wood-trimmed student desks are antiques which match those originally used.

In 1975 a major restoration effort repaired deteriorated features of the building. A new roof was installed; rotted siding was repaired; the belfry was reconstructed; a new foundation was constructed; and the chimney was repointed. This work has restored the building to its 1921 appearance.

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1921

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Otis Lee & Joseph A. McClary

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Honey Creek School has been associated with education for almost 125 years, making the property locally significant.

The earliest school on the property was a crude log structure which was erected in 1854 on land donated by Ezekiel Hendrickson to the township. Located near Honey Creek, this building used halves of logs for benches and an open fireplace; there were no desks. In 1879 a large frame building replaced the log structure. The frame school was located on a hill about 50 rods above the creek on land donated by the heirs G.W. Riddle.

By 1921 the second Honey Creek School had deteriorated to the point that a new building was necessary. The present frame structure was constructed in the summer and fall of 1921. Otis Lee was the contractor, and Joseph A. McClary was the carpenter. Lumber came from the area, and gravel for the foundation was carried up from a sandbar in Honey Creek. All the windows for the classroom were placed in the north wall to reduce glare. The first classes were held in the new building in January, 1922.

The fact that a third one-room school house was constructed at the Honey Creek site in 1921 suggests how late in the twentieth century the rural portions of Indiana were isolated from the school consolidation trends in the urban areas. Until the 1940's the educational experience at Honey Creek was more like that of the 1870's than rural education of the 1960'. The structure housed eight classes and a stove in the center of the room supplied heat and a place to warm noon lunches. Children carried water from springs on nearby farms until W.P.A. workers dug a well in the 1930's. Pupils continued to walk and ride in horse-drawn wagons until the first motorbus route began in 1927. Kerosene lamps supplied the only supplement to natural light until electricity came to rural Monroe County in 1941.

Throughout the 1930's reunions of Honey Creek students and teachers were held every year. However, the Honey Creek School was existing on borrowed time. In 1945 the school was closed, and the pupils were transferred to Unionville School in Benton Township. The abandoned building was forgotten and ignored until the mid 1970's when the Monroe County Community School Corporation and the Association for Childhood Education International restored the building as a graphic demonstration of the education experience in the early twentieth century. A number of neighboring school systems are also making use of this "historical laboratory".

The Honey Creek School is a late example of the one-room schoolhouse once common in Indiana. Although its plan is typical of such structures, it is unusual to find a later example of this type which is constructed of wood rather than masonry. It is also unusual to find elements of the Bungalow mode, such as exposed rafters and timber brackets, used for a

school design. The structure is notable in part merely because it has survived; extant

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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brick schoolhouses are much more common.

The Honey Creek School is significant for its long local associations with primary education. It is a reminder of the period in Indiana history before the consolidation movement when most people received their basic education in one-room schools supervised by township trustees.

