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FINAL

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Cross School

and/or common Cross School

2. Location

street & number Southeast intersection Voiles Rd. & Townsend Rd. N/A not for publication

city, town Martinsville X vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Indiana code 018 county Morgan code 109

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Retired Teachers Association of Metropolitan School District of Martinsville

c/o Mable Clare Arthur, Treasurer

street & number Harrison Street

city, town Paragon N/A vicinity of state Indiana 46166

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Morgan County Recorder's Office

street & number Courthouse

city, town Martinsville state Indiana 46151

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town state

7. Description

Condition
 excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one
 unaltered
 altered

Check one
 original site
 moved

date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Cross School is a simple, one-room, rectangular brick structure with a pitched roof. The entrance is on the north end, and is a single door set into a segmentally arched opening with a slightly projecting header course. A round attic vent is the only other opening on this facade.

The sides of the structure have three openings each, fitted with four-over-four, double-hung windows. Sills are stone, and window heads are segmental arches like that over the entrance.

The front steps are of limestone, and have been turned because of cupping over the years. The simplicity of the inside equals that of the outside, with plain wood trim around the openings, and a rail with hooks around the walls. The only modern additions to the inside are electric lights, added when the building was taken over by a Sunday school in 1941, and the blackboards, which had been removed by the Sunday school and were replaced in 1976 with boards from another school. All other interior features remain from the building's days as a public school.

The building was renovated in 1976. A new roof was installed, the interior and the outside trim were painted, the chimney was rebuilt and the floor braced, and some glass panes were replaced. Masonry was also repaired.

Also on the property is an original woodshed, and non-original toilets.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1856 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Cross School is a well-preserved example of a one-room country schoolhouse from the mid-nineteenth century. In 1854 the property was deeded to the Washington Township Trustees for the erection of a schoolhouse; the building is thought to have been built soon thereafter. It is the only known one-room brick schoolhouse in Morgan County.

The building probably got its name from the Cross family, who lived across the road. When the children were transferred to the Martinsville school system in 1941, the building was deeded to the Cross Union Sunday School, who used it for 25 years. The building was abandoned for ten years, before the Retired Teachers of the Metropolitan School District of Martinsville decided to restore it as a Bicentennial project in 1976. The property was deeded to the organization, and restoration work was done by retired teachers.

Fourth-graders from Martinsville spend a day at the school each fall, dressed in period costumes and experiencing a turn-of-the-century schoolday as part of their studies of Indiana history. Much memorabilia has been collected for deposit and use in the building. The building is also open to the public during the Morgan County Fall Foliage Festival Days each year. The Cross School thus provides an important educational resource for the community.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Martinsville Daily Reporter: February 18, 1976; May 15, 1976; June 26, 1976 and December 8, 1976
 Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction, 3rd & 4th Annual Reports (1855 and 1856).
 Indianapolis Star: October 29, 1978

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1/2 acre

Quadrangle name Martinsville, Indiana

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6
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5	5	3	2	8	0
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4	3	6	0	1	1	0
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Zone

Easting

Northing

B

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Zone

Easting

Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification Part of the West half of the Southwest quarter Section 13, Township 11 North, Range 1 East, described as follows, to wit: Beginning at the Northwest corner of said tract running thence East, 8 rods; thence South 10 rods; thence West 8 rods; thence North 10 rods to the place of beginning, containing one-half acre, more or less.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cyrus L. Gunn, President

organization Retired Teachers Association of the Metropolitan School District of Martinsville date January 2, 1981

street & number 740 S. Mulberry Street telephone 317/342-2400

city or town Martinsville state Indiana 46151

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature James M. Redout

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date April 21, 1983

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration