

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FINAL

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name West-Harris House
other names/site number The Ambassador House

2. Location

street & number 10595 Eller Road N/A not for publication
city or town Fishers N/A vicinity
state Indiana code IN county Hamilton code 057 zip code 46038

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 2-1-99
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____
Date of Action _____

West-Harris House (Ambassador House)

Hamilton IN

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

- private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal

- building, district, site, structure, object

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing and 4 rows: buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling, DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure

VACANT

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

19th & 20th c. REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

foundation: BRICK, walls: WOOD: Weatherboard, roof: ASPHALT

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

LAW

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1880-1948

Significant Dates

c.1895

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Harris, Addison Clay and India Crago

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

West, Thomas

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

West-Harris House (Ambassador House)
Name of Property

Hamilton IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.956

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	6
---	---

5	7	9	8	5	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	4	2	1	5	3	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

3

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

2

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

4

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ann Milkovich McKee and Carol Ann Schweikert
organization Fishers Historic Preservation Committee date 3/26/97
street & number One Municipal Drive telephone 317-578-4694
city or town Fishers state IN zip code 317-776-1239 46038

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Town of Fishers, (contact Wes Bucher)
street & number One Municipal Drive telephone 317-595-3120
city or town Fishers state IN zip code 46038

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 1

West-Harris House
Hamilton County, Indiana

BUILDING DESCRIPTION

The West-Harris House is an ell-shaped 2-story single family residence with a large attic space. It was constructed in two phases. The original portion was initially a log structure built around 1826. It included much of the main block of the building as seen today, including the four main rooms. The second phase, done around 1895, included the stair hall, 2-story kitchen ell with rear porch and the attic space. The house is constructed using the post and beam technique in the original section and a stick wood frame in the addition. Both sections are covered with horizontal siding on the exterior and plaster on the interior. It has a brick foundation and currently an asphalt shingle roof. The house is a simple design with the exception of a large Palladian window in each gable end at attic level.

The main facade, south, is two and one-half stories in height and 6 bays wide. The facade can be divided in half vertically with each side being a mirror image of the other. On the first level, the bays are defined by the pattern of a door with a six over six double hung window on each side. The second floor repeats the placement of the windows. The attic level is defined by two dormer windows, each roughly centered over the entry doors. A large unadorned central chimney mass rises above the peak of the roof. The facade is bounded at the corners by simple, classically inspired pilasters. The pilasters are articulated with a projecting wooden base and two horizontal bands representing the capital. They are fluted at the second level. The roofline is defined by an entablature formed by two pieces of wide flat trim. A one story porch was removed from this facade at some point, but it can be seen in a photograph dating from c. 1895.

The west facade can be divided into two sections: the main body of the house and the kitchen ell. The main body of the house is two bays wide. It shares the window size and type with the main facade. The striking feature of this portion of the facade is the large Palladian style window on the gable end of the roof. The use of the entablature and returned eave detailing creates a pediment out of the gable end, further emphasizing the window. While the Palladian window is centered on this portion of the facade, the windows below are offset, reflecting the different phases of construction. The kitchen ell is two bays wide and two stories in height. It is capped by a cross gable roof which is slightly lower than the main roof. The windows are typical to the house and are evenly spaced on both floors.

The north facade of the house can also be divided into two almost equal in width sections: the main house and the gable end of the kitchen ell. The main house portion has a door centered on the first floor and a window centered over it on the second floor. The gable end has three windows, one on the first floor located toward the northwest corner of the house and two on the second floor. One of the second floor windows is located directly above the first floor window. The other, slightly taller window is offset from the northeast pilaster, a similar distance to the offset of the other windows from the northwest pilaster. The detailing of both sections is typical of the rest of the house.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 2

West-Harris House
Hamilton County, Indiana

The east facade is similar to the west facade with a couple of exceptions. The most noticeable variation is a large bay window. The bay window mimicks the detailing found on the rest of the house with the addition of dentils defining the projecting roofline. The kitchen ell also varies the regular placement of windows on the first floor by utilizing a door and oversized window. There is evidence of a one story porch along the ell which is confirmed through historic photographs. It appears to have been a screened porch, possibly a sleeping porch.

The interior of the house can be divided into four areas: the main block of the house, the stairhall, the kitchen ell and the attic space.

The main block of the house has two rooms on each floor with a central chimney mass providing the placement of fireplaces in both first floor rooms. The first floor rooms have simple wide chairrails and baseboards which, along with the entry doors, date to the original structure. The east room was altered with the addition of the bay window and treatment around the fireplace of a built-in bookcase cabinet. The fireplace openings in both rooms have been altered with the use of modern brick to reduce the opening size. The second floor rooms are unadorned except for the baseboards and door and window surrounds. These rooms have visible chimney masses, but no remaining evidence of fireplace openings. All four of these rooms have small square bump-outs which run from floor to ceiling at the outside building corners. These are in keeping with the larger corner members typical in post and beam construction.

The stairhall runs full length along the north side of the house's main block. Both front rooms on the first floor have doors which connect to it, and there is speculation that these might have been the location of either exterior doors or windows. The stairhall acts as the main hub of the house, providing west end access to the basement under the kitchen ell and to the kitchen itself. There is also a small pantry/storage room under the stairs at this end. On the east end, there is a door leading out to the rear porch. The stairs, in keeping with the rest of the house, are simply detailed with an unadorned banister and turned ballusters. On the second floor, there are two modern bathrooms located at each end. The one at the west end is accessible from the hall while the other is only accessed from the front room. Both front rooms, as well as two small rooms over the kitchen ell, are connected to the hall.

The kitchen ell contains a large open area used for food preparation. The counter/appliance layout in this area was completely remodeled in recent years. There is evidence that a chimney ran up the north wall, but no physical sign of it exists except for a section in the attic. A built-in china cabinet with large glass doors was located in the southeast corner of the kitchen. This cabinet was removed during the move of the building and will be re-installed with the rehabilitation project. Adjacent to the kitchen and behind the basement stairs is another small room. Cabinets with above fixed windows line the wall shared with the stairs. The second floor space is divided into two small rectangular rooms oriented north/south. These rooms share the same simplicity found in the front rooms.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 3

West-Harris House
Hamilton County, Indiana

The attic space is accessed through a pull down ladder (c.1895) in the middle of the second floor hall. The attic covers the entire footprint of the house. Its size and height allowed for its use as storage. The original shake roof is visible through the rafters. Two brick chimneys are visible, one along the north gable and one central to the front rooms.

The outbuilding is a single story rectangular building constructed out of rubble stone. There was a cold storage basement accessed through a narrow opening in the floor. The roof is a simple gable with flared eaves and triangular dormer vents. The only openings are a door and small window on the main, south, facade, two small windows on the east facade, and a small window on the north facade. The building's most recent use was as a 2-room cottage. It is commonly referred to as both an ice house and a summer kitchen.

While the buildings are currently vacant, a complete rehabilitation project is being undertaken. Historic elements are being restored or replicated following the Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for Rehabilitation. Historic photographs and physical evidence are providing the information for reconstruction of the exterior porches on the house. New photographs will be provided upon completion of the project.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 4

West-Harris House
Hamilton County, Indiana

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The West-Harris House is significant for its connection with Addison C. and India Crago Harris. The Harrises were prominent citizens in Indianapolis around the turn of the century. Mr. Harris served as minister to Austria-Hungary under President William McKinley and was a respected lawyer in Indiana. Mrs. Harris was active in the arts and social circles in Indianapolis. They purchased the farm in 1880 and used it as their summer home. The West-Harris home is the only extant Harris residence, as their primary residence on Meridian Street was torn down around 1940.

The original portion of the home was built in 1826 by Thomas and Sarah West, early settlers in Hamilton County. This early section, made of rough-hewn logs, is at least partially intact beneath the existing siding. This section is two rooms wide, one room deep. Based on other typical structures built in Indiana during this time, it was likely 2-stories high. In 1827 when Thomas West died, the property was divided among his heirs. The various parcels remained in the West family until 1871 when the home was purchased by William Hartman. During the nine years he owned the property, he purchased several sections of the original farm from West heirs and reformed much of the original farm. In 1880, Addison C. Harris purchased the farm at an auction. The appearance of the home at this time is unclear, but based on property values, it had probably changed very little from its original construction. Around 1895, the Harrises undertook a major renovation of the home to its current appearance, except for the missing one-story front porch.

Addison C. Harris was born in 1840 on a farm in Wayne County, Indiana. His great-grandfather, Obediah C. Harris, helped found the Quaker Church in Indiana in the early 1800s. Harris received his early education in a local Quaker school and attended Northwestern (now Butler) University, graduating in 1862. After studying law under Barbour & Howland and taking a course under Judge Samuel E. Perkins, he was admitted to the Indiana Bar in 1865. Addison Harris married India Crago of Connersville, Indiana in 1868.

Harris formed a partnership with John T. Dye in 1865 and practiced with him until 1879. Except for one or two short partnerships, he practiced alone thereafter. He served as President of the Indiana Bar Association in 1904. Harris was also active in Republican politics. He was elected to the state Senate in 1876 representing Marion County and re-elected in 1878. Addison served as a Presidential elector in 1896 and later as President of the Columbia Club. In 1899, his involvement in the Republican party and friendship with Charles Fairbanks, then U.S. Senator from Indiana, earned him the appointment by President McKinley as minister plenipotentiary to Austria-Hungary under Emperor Frans Joseph. He served as minister until McKinley's death in 1901 when returned to his law practice.

Harris was also active in promoting higher education. He briefly taught law before going into practice with John Dye. In 1894, he helped found the Indiana University School of Law. He taught at the school and served as its president from 1899-1904. He was also a Purdue University Trustee from 1905-1916 and president of the board from 1909-1916.

Mr. Harris's hobbies included his farm on Allisonville Road and fly fishing. He particularly enjoyed fishing trips to the Tippecanoe River and Canada. He had recently returned from a fishing trip to Canada when he suffered a stroke and died on September 2, 1916.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 7

 West-Harris House
 Hamilton County, Indiana

BIBLIOGRAPHY

"A.C. Harris Named," Indianapolis News 10 January 1899, p. 1.

"Addison C. Harris, Noted Lawyer and Former Diplomat, Is Dead," Indianapolis Star 3 September 1916, p. 1,7.

"Alumni of Law School Pay Tribute to Memory of Harris," Indianapolis News 7 September 1916, p. 8.

"Early Indianapolis Lawyers," Union Title News August 1948, p. 1-2.

"Hoosier Named," Indianapolis Journal 11 January 1899, p. 1.

"Institute to Receive Important Painting," Indianapolis News 3 January 1918.

Johnston, Thomas R. and Helen Hand. The Trustees and Officers of Purdue University, 1865-1940. Lafayette: Purdue University Press, 1940.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1985.

"Mrs. Harris, 99, Widow of Ex-Ambassador, Dies," Indianapolis Star 13 June 1948, p. 21.

Reed, George Irving, ed. Encyclopedia of Biography of Indiana Vol. 1. Chicago: Century Publishing Co., 1895.

Report of the 20th Annual Meeting of the State Bar Association of Indiana. Indianapolis: Order of the Association, 1918.

Seeds, Russell M., ed. History of the Republican Party of Indiana Vol. 1. Indianapolis: Indiana History Co., 1899.

Shepherd, Rebecca, Charles W. Calhoun, Elizabeth Shanahan-Shoemaker, and Alan F. January, eds. A Biographical Directory of the Indiana General Assembly Vol. 1, 1816-1899. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Bureau, 1980.

Taylor, Charles W. Biographical Sketches and Review of the Bench and Bar of Indiana. Indianapolis: Bench and Bar Publishing Co., 1895.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 8

West-Harris House
Hamilton County, Indiana

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Part of the Northwest Quarter of Section 10, Township 17 North, Range 4 East, in Delaware Township, Hamilton County, Indiana, being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the Northeast corner of said Northwest Quarter Section; thence South 89°06'43" West on and along the North line of said Northwest Quarter Section, a distance of 1117.37 feet to the Northerly extension of the common line between Eller Trails Section 1 and Eller Trails Section 2, the plat of said Section 1 recorded as Instrument No. 9631995 in Plat Cabinet No. 1, Slide No.697, and the plat of said Section 2 recorded as Instrument No. 9734279 in Plat Cabinet No. 2, Slide No. 2, in the Office of the Recorder of Hamilton County, Indiana; thence continue South 89°06'43" West on and along said North line, a distance of 360.07 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING; thence continue South 89°06'43" West on and along said North line, a distance of 220.00 feet; thence South 00°00'00" East parallel with the East line of said Northwest Quarter, a distance 387.30 feet to the Northwest corner of said Eller Trails Section 2; thence North 89°06'43" East on and along the North line of said Section 2 and parallel with the North line of said Northwest Quarter, a distance of 220.00 feet; thence North 00°00'00" West parallel with the East line of said Northwest Quarter, a distance of 387.30 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING; said described tract containing 1.956 acres, more or less.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The preceding legal description delineates a parcel within a larger tract of land owned by the Town of Fishers. This larger tract of land is being developed as a new passive activity Town park with the Ambassador House embodying one of the park's themes, heritage. The parcel described as the boundary description for the Ambassador House is the area of land which is considered the site for the house and outbuilding. This area is set aside within the Park Master Plan for gardens associated with the period of significance of the house. Both buildings and the gardens will be intepreted as a unit.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number ___ photos ___ Page 9

West-Harris House
Hamilton County, Indiana

PHOTOGRAPH LOG

Photograph #: 1

Name of Property: West-Harris House

County and State where located: Hamilton County, Indiana

Name of photographer: Ann Milkovich McKee

Date of photograph: January 1998

Location of photograph negative: Ann Milkovich McKee

Description of view: Main (south) facade, looking north

Photograph #: 2

Name of Property: West-Harris House

County and State where located: Hamilton County, Indiana

Name of photographer: Ann Milkovich McKee

Date of photograph: January 1998

Location of photograph negative: Ann Milkovich McKee

Description of view: South and East facades, looking northwest

Photograph #: 3

Name of Property: West-Harris House

County and State where located: Hamilton County, Indiana

Name of photographer: Ann Milkovich McKee

Date of photograph: January 1998

Location of photograph negative: Ann Milkovich McKee

Description of view: East facade, looking west

Photograph #: 4

Name of Property: West-Harris House

County and State where located: Hamilton County, Indiana

Name of photographer: Ann Milkovich McKee

Date of photograph: January 1998

Location of photograph negative: Ann Milkovich McKee

Description of view: Rear (north) facade, looking south

Photograph #: 5

Name of Property: West-Harris House

County and State where located: Hamilton County, Indiana

Name of photographer: Ann Milkovich McKee

Date of photograph: January 1998

Location of photograph negative: Ann Milkovich McKee

Description of view: West facade, looking northeast

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number ___ photos ___ Page 10

West-Harris House

Hamilton County, Indiana

Photograph #: 6

Name of Property: West-Harris House

County and State where located: Hamilton County, Indiana

Name of photographer: Ann Milkovich McKee

Date of photograph: January 1998

Location of photograph negative: Ann Milkovich McKee

Description of view: Fireplace mantel in east front room, looking west

Photograph #: 7

Name of Property: West-Harris House

County and State where located: Hamilton County, Indiana

Name of photographer: Ann Milkovich McKee

Date of photograph: January 1998

Location of photograph negative: Ann Milkovich McKee

Description of view: Interior view of bay window in east front room, looking east

Photograph #: 8

Name of Property: West-Harris House

County and State where located: Hamilton County, Indiana

Name of photographer: Ann Milkovich McKee

Date of photograph: January 1998

Location of photograph negative: Ann Milkovich McKee

Description of view: Fireplace mantel in west front room, looking east

Photograph #: 9

Name of Property: West-Harris House

County and State where located: Hamilton County, Indiana

Name of photographer: Ann Milkovich McKee

Date of photograph: January 1998

Location of photograph negative: Ann Milkovich McKee

Description of view: Stairhall with view of typical interior door and the stair rail, looking west

Photograph #: 10

Name of Property: West-Harris House

County and State where located: Hamilton County, Indiana

Name of photographer: Ann Milkovich McKee

Date of photograph: January 1998

Location of photograph negative: Ann Milkovich McKee

Description of view: Typical interior doorknob/backplate

Photograph #: 11

Name of Property: West-Harris House

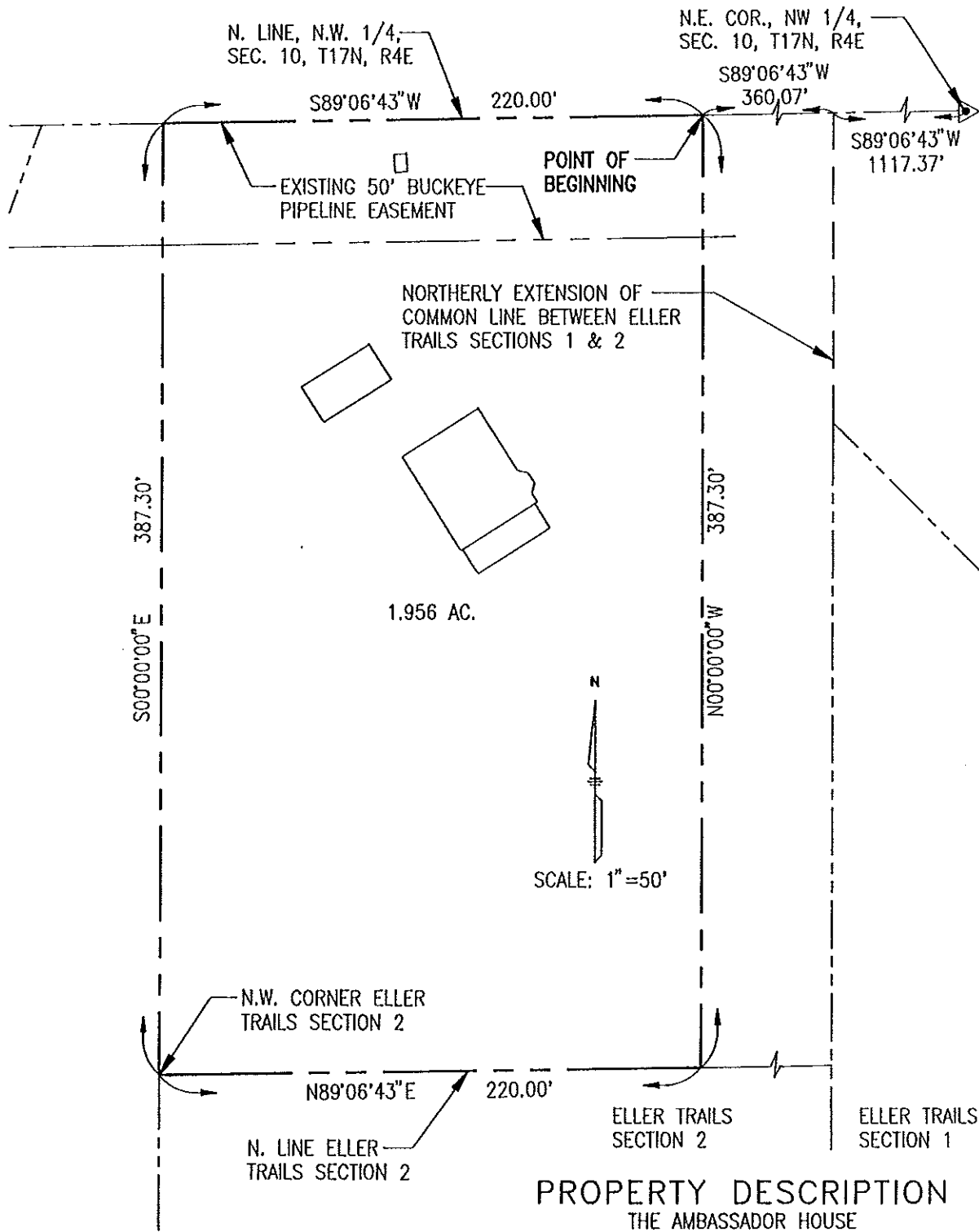
County and State where located: Hamilton County, Indiana

Name of photographer: Ann Milkovich McKee

Date of photograph: January 1998

Location of photograph negative: Ann Milkovich McKee

Description of view: South and east facades of stone outbuilding, looking northwest



N. LINE, N.W. 1/4,
SEC. 10, T17N, R4E

N.E. COR., NW 1/4,
SEC. 10, T17N, R4E

S89°06'43\"W

220.00'

S89°06'43\"W

360.07'

S89°06'43\"W
1117.37'

EXISTING 50' BUCKEYE
PIPELINE EASEMENT

POINT OF
BEGINNING

NORTHERLY EXTENSION OF
COMMON LINE BETWEEN ELLER
TRAILS SECTIONS 1 & 2

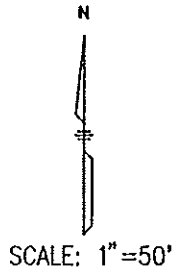
387.30'

S00°00'00\"E

1.956 AC.

387.30'

N00°00'00\"W



N.W. CORNER ELLER
TRAILS SECTION 2

N89°06'43\"E

220.00'

N. LINE ELLER
TRAILS SECTION 2

ELLER TRAILS
SECTION 2

ELLER TRAILS
SECTION 1

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION
THE AMBASSADOR HOUSE

