

FINAL

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# 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 Hite-Finney House

other names/site number 109-386-64066

### 2. Location

street & number 183 North Jefferson Street  N/A not for publication

city or town Martinsville  N/A  vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Morgan code 109 zip code 46151

### 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 36 CFR 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.)

*Patricia R. Roberts*

11-20-95

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

State of 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:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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:)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Hite-Finney House  
Name of Property

Morgan County, Indiana  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival  
LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate  
OTHER: 2/3 I House

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK  
walls BRICK  
STONE: limestone  
roof ASPHALT  
other CONCRETE

**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.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographical 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

c. 1855-1902

**Significant Dates**

c. 1855

1875

1902

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Hite-Finney House  
Name of Property

Morgan County, Indiana  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	6
---	---

5	4	9	3	3	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	3	6	4	2	7	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
Zone Easting Northing

3 

--	--

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

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

  
Zone Easting Northing

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 Joanne Raetz Stuttgen, President

organization Morgan County Hist. Pres. Society date June 15, 1995

street & number P.O. Box 1377 telephone 317-349-1537

city or town Martinsville state IN zip code 46151

#### 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 Bill and Sandy Crousore

street & number 183 North Jefferson Street telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Martinsville state IN zip code 46151

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or to 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

HITE-FINNEY HOUSE  
Architectural Overview

The Hite-Finney House consists of a brick 2/3 I house with an integrated ell with wing, plus a later connection of a summer kitchen and laundry room, a front c.1875 drawing room wing, and a twentieth century kitchen wing (Fig. 1).

Rated as "outstanding" in the Morgan County Interim Report, the house is located at the southeast corner of the intersection of North Jefferson and East Pike Streets, one block from the Morgan County Courthouse Square. The front facade faces west, with a side hall entrance against the south wall (Fig. 2); a secondary side hall entrance is centrally located on the north wall (Fig. 3). At the rear of the main house on the south side of the east wall is located a third original entrance.

It is believed that the Hite-Finney House was built between c.1855. As it appears today, the house has a c.1875 Italianate-influenced drawing room wing located in what was once an inside corner formed by the intersection of the rear wing and south gable side wall of the 2/3 I house (Figs. 1, 2).

Behind the original wing and jutting out from it on the south is a c.1902 rectangular kitchen addition (Figs. 1, 2). The kitchen received a porch on the east (rear) wall before 1916. Some years later in the 1930s, the porch was enclosed and a frame lean-to garage built against it on the east wall.

The c.1875 brick summer kitchen once stood approximately 11 feet behind the original wing; before 1896 it was connected to the main house by an enclosed frame breezeway. The summer kitchen received an east extension prior to 1888 when a frame work room/wash room was constructed (cf. Figs. 1, 4).

About 1930, a cement block garage was built on the northeast corner of the main house (Figs. 1, 2, 3).

All of the above extensions exist as of the date of this narrative.

In the main house, there are two interior brick chimneys: one emerges from the intersection of the gable roofs of the 2/3 I house and ell; the other emerges from the roof ridge of the ell at the east wall. The wing and the drawing each have one chimney, as do the brick summer kitchen and the frame wash room addition. Two other interior chimneys, one in the wing and another in the c.1902 kitchen addition, have been removed above roof level.

Today the house is painted a pale mauve with complementing trim of a deeper shade of mauve and mint green. Paint on a protected original exterior wall in the attic above the wing and c.1875 drawing room addition provides evidence that the house was painted white very early in its history, and it remained white



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

until receiving its current colors in 1994.

The following architectural description begins with the west (front) facade, then goes on to the north, south, and east facades, treating each individual unit as an entity, until the point of beginning is reached.

Architectural Description

West (Front) Facade

The main house is a 2/3 I house form with an integrated ell with a wing. The house faces west, with an entrance near the south wall (Fig. 2). To the left of the entrance on the first floor are two six-over-six windows, each with a limestone sill and lintel. Directly above these windows are two identical windows, and above the door is another.

The walls of handmade orange brick are laid in common bond, alternating seven courses of stretchers with one course of headers. The foundation is brick. Below the asphalt-covered tin roof is a thick, Greek Revival-inspired wood cornice, with returns on the gable side walls.

The entrance is the most ornamental feature on the front facade (Fig. 5). It consists of an Italianate-inspired wood door with large arched window<sup>1</sup>, decorative panels flanked by attenuated, engaged Doric columns believed to be original to the house, side lights, and a rectangular transom. The entrance has been altered: recessed during remodeling in the first half of the twentieth century and pushed back again to its original location by the current owners. Since c.1930, a cement step and large limestone block supported by a brick foundation have provided access to the door. The brick foundation is believed to have been part of the foundation for a frame porch with Queen Anne influences that was constructed before 1888 around the west and north sides of the house (Figs. 15-20, 21). The porch was removed sometime during the 1950s.<sup>2</sup>

It is believed that a Greek Revival portico similar to but smaller in scale than the portico that appears today on the south entrance of the c.1875 drawing room addition (Fig. 6) was originally located on the front entrance of the main house and

---

<sup>1</sup> The window is Italianate influenced. The doorbell is patented 1860. The filigreed metal door knob is Queen Anne. Dr. Warren E. Roberts, site visit with author, March 18, 1995.

<sup>2</sup> A Finney family photograph dated Christmas 1950 in an album owned by Ruth Finney McGuire clearly shows the Queen Anne porch still in existence. Sandy Crousore, personal interview with author, March 14, 1995, Martinsville, Indiana.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

removed with the construction of the Queen Anne porch.<sup>3</sup> Charles Finney says that the Queen Anne portico which today is found over the north entrance was originally located on the west (front) entrance. It was relocated when the porch was removed during the 1950s. Also in the 1950s, the entrance was adorned with a new Federal-style broken pediment, which was removed in 1993 (see Morgan County Interim Report: 82, no. 066).

North Facade

The Queen Anne portico and side hall entrance is centrally located in the north wall created by the merging of the ell with the 2/3 I house. Flanking the entrance on the first floor are four six-over-six windows, two in the ell and two in the first floor room of the 2/3 I house. Each window has a limestone sill and lintel. Above each first floor window and the central door are six-over-six windows; there is a total of five windows on the second floor: three in the ell, of which one is in the side hall, and two in the 2/3 I house.

Interestingly, the fenestration of the north facade is representative of a full I house (Fig. 3); however, the main house appears to have been conceived as two 2/3 I houses: one facing west, the other facing north (cf. Fig. 1).

Like the 2/3 I house, the ell has a thick Greek Revival-inspired cornice, which tucks under the cornice on the gable side wall of the 2/3 I house to create a match to the cornice return.

A cement foundation collar wraps the west and north walls of the main house. It was probably created after the removal of the wrap-around porch in the 1950s to shed water away from the building.<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> Where the existing Greek Revival portico may have been originally located is a mystery. It appears slightly too wide and tall to have been found over the west entrance and while the north entrance could have accommodated its width, it appears that its height would have interfered with the second story windows. It is possible, but certainly unproved, that the portico may have been found on the west entrance of what is believed to be an original wing extending south from the ell. Cf. Fig. 1. In any case, it seems fairly certain that the original front entrance had a Greek Revival portico very similar if not identical to that which now exists.

<sup>4</sup> Charles Finney, personal interview with Sandy Crousore, March 15, 1995, Martinsville, Indiana. Sandy Crousore, telephone interview with author, March 16, 1995, Martinsville, Indiana.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

East (Rear) Facade

According to Charles Finney, since the 1930s a cement block garage (Figs. 1, 3, 4) has been located at the northeast corner of the ell, abutting its east (rear) gable wall. This gable wall is pierced only with an entrance at the southeast corner, an entrance original to the main house.

Extending to the south of this entrance is a wing (Figs. 1, 4) believed to be original to the main house as indicated by the uninterrupted bond on the east wall. The brick size and bond pattern is also identical to that found on the main house.

An entrance is located slightly south of center; a six-over-six window is to the north. The door of the wing is aligned with the door of the former brick summer kitchen, originally separate from and located 11 feet behind the wing but attached to it with an enclosed frame breezeway since c.1896 (Figs. 1, 4).<sup>5</sup> The enclosed breezeway is rectangular in form, being wider than it is deep, with an entrance flanked by two windows in a north bay.

The brick summer kitchen is a one-room rectangular gabled building (Figs. 1, 4). It is possible that it and the c.1875 drawing room addition were constructed at the same time, as they have in common a bond pattern--nine courses of stretchers, one course of headers--brick size, and brick window archivolt. The summer kitchen retains two six-over-six windows on the north side wall; an original window and an interior stove chimney remain on the south side wall.

On the east (rear) wall of the kitchen since before 1888 has been located a rectangular frame extension (Figs. 1, 4), likely used as a wash room or laundry room<sup>6</sup>; what was originally an east entrance to the summer kitchen, as indicated by the worn limestone sill, now connects the two rooms. The north wall of the wash room extension has a door, which was originally a window, and window. The east wall is not pierced. The south wall has one window and a door, both of which appear to be original.

Since the 1930s, a frame garage has obscured the south wall of the frame wash room and a portion of the south wall of the summer kitchen. The garage was built against what was once a porch on the east side of a c.1902 frame kitchen wing. Today the porch is enclosed and serves as a closet in the c.1902 kitchen.

---

<sup>5</sup> Cf. Sanborn Map Company fire maps, 1888 and 1896.

<sup>6</sup> Charles Finney reports that his mother always referred to this room as the wash room. Sandy Crousore, personal interview with author, March 15, 1995.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

South Facade

The c.1902 frame kitchen wing (Figs. 1, 2) was built onto the south wall of the enclosed breezeway, through which the kitchen was accessed from the main house. The kitchen's east wall was originally pierced by a door and one window to the north of the door; the south wall was pierced by one central window (which is now infilled); and the west wall, which visually extended the front facade of the main house, was pierced by a full size entrance located just north of center, a smaller entrance north of this door that led outside and down to the cellar beneath the wing of the main house, and two windows to the right of the full size entrance. The window adjacent to this entrance was shortened during remodelling in the 1950s. It is believed that the frame kitchen wing received its brick-look tin siding about 1940.

The northwest corner of the kitchen abuts the south wall of the brick wing of the main house (Fig. 1). The wing's south gable side wall was originally not pierced, but today has a small window and cellar entrance below ground level; Charles Finney believes that both window and entrance date to the late nineteenth century. The years-long neglect of an internal brick chimney has caused serious decay of this original wall.

Whatever door-window arrangement may have existed on the original west (front) wall of the wing, which is believed to have consisted of two rooms, was obliterated with the addition of a formal drawing room to the southwest wall of the main house about c.1875 (Figs. 1, 2). This addition combines the main house's Greek Revival ornamentation--the thick wooden cornice--with Italianate features then in vogue: decorative brackets supporting the cornice of the frontal bay window and restrained brick window archivolt.

The brick drawing room addition is rectangular in form and has a gable roof. The bricks, which are larger than those found in the walls of the original house, are laid in common bond, alternating nine rows of stretchers with one row of headers. The south gable wall has a central door, now sheltered with what is believed to be an original Greek Revival portico moved from an unknown entrance.

The west (front) wall of the Italianate-influenced addition features the three-bay window with decorative brackets. This wall is engaged with the gable side wall of the main 2/3 I house. This gable wall is not pierced. Its cornice is ornamented with heavy, bold Greek Revival returns.

Description of Interior

Front 2/3 I House

First Floor Room

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

The front 2/3 I house consists of one room and one side hall each on the first and second floor. The first floor room was converted into a master bedroom during the 1950s; consequently, it is not easy to ascertain how the room might have originally appeared. However, since it was the room in immediate proximity to the front entrance, it is believed to have been a formal, public room.

It is likely that it was remodelled c.1875, when the house was updated to reflect the Italianate style then popular. It is possible that a bold plaster cornice frieze dating to c.1855 and a later ceiling medallion dating to c.1875, both similar to those found in the lower room in the ell (cf. Figs. 7, 8) and in the c.1875 drawing room (cf. Figs. 9, 10), may have been found in this room. However, neither a frieze nor medallion are in evidence today. The original 15" Greek Revival base molding and window and door trim still exist.

The most ornamental historic feature of the room is the handcrafted panelled mantelpiece with marble mantel (1950s vintage) and Italianate fireplace insert patented 1865. To the north of the fireplace is a recess, likely once a china cupboard or library shelf. A matching cupboard or shelf would have been originally located on the other side of the fireplace as well, but in the 1950s it was converted into a passage providing access to a bathroom. Over this passage were hung plywood cabinets; identical cabinets were also installed on the opposite side of the fireplace. See Figure 11.

Today this room is used as part of the current owners, Bill and Sandy Crousos', antique and floral shop.

#### Side Hall

Along the south wall connecting the first and second floors of the front 2/3 I house is a new pine staircase, installed by the Crousos in 1993. It replaces the original staircase, apparently removed during the house's extensive remodelling c.1875. During this time, the entire side hall floor, including the portion that would have originally been under a first step, was covered with brown, tan, red, white, and blue encaustic tiles (Fig. 12).<sup>7</sup> There were also indications on the interior of the south wall that a staircase had once been located in the side hall. A plaster ceiling medallion was still intact in 1993, at which time it was removed by Robert Tracy McGuire, Charles Finney's nephew. The medallion was given to Bill and Sandy

---

<sup>7</sup> Identified by Mark A. Dollase of Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana during a site visit with author, March 30, 1995.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 7

Crousore.

An original exterior entrance, indicated by the presence of a worn limestone sill, is located beneath the staircase in the east wall near the interior wall shared by the first floor room and the side hall.<sup>8</sup>

Second Floor Hall and Room

The staircase ascends along the outside wall from the first floor to a landing, where it turns and ascends to the second floor along the inside wall. A small hall lighted by a window is located at the head of the stairs. In the absence of the original front staircase, the upper hall floor had been extended across the original stairwell; an original window above the rear entrance of the side hall was made into a door to allow passage into a small attic room above the c.1875 drawing room addition. The attic room is believed to have been used as a closet; today it is used as an office.

The second floor room is located north of the hall, directly above the first floor room. The second floor room has been altered from its original condition; the walls have been covered with drywall and the window and door moldings have been replaced. Before the Crousorees purchased the property, the second floor of the house had been converted into and used as a rental apartment. The Crousorees are working to reverse the changes and reclaim the interior of the house as it was originally conceived.

The second floor room has no fireplace; instead, it appears to have been originally heated by a stove. A flue is found in a stove chimney located in the interior wall shared with the north side hall. A passage from the second floor room to the side hall is found near the north exterior wall.

Ell

First Floor Room

Today used as a kitchen, the first floor room in the ell has a heavy Greek Revival-inspired plaster cornice frieze (Fig. 7) and ceiling medallion with esthetic detailing (Fig. 8). It is

---

<sup>8</sup> This exterior entrance is intriguing because in the absence of a historic interior passage connecting the first floor rooms of the 2/3 I house and ell, it appears that a person would have to go outside in order to travel between the two rooms. The limestone sill would indicate that the entrance was not protected by a porch, which might otherwise have been a practical link between the two rooms.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 8

unknown whether the frieze is original to the house or whether it was added when the house was remodelled c.1875. (If it is original in this rear room, it is very likely that the first floor room in the front of the house, now devoid of any plaster ornamentation, also had a plaster frieze and quite likely also a medallion.) Both the frieze and medallion are very similar but not identical to the frieze and medallion found in the c.1875 drawing room.

The wood base molding, which is 15" high, and window and door molding is Greek Revival in its influence, surely original to the c.1855 house. Hardwood flooring has been laid over the original tulip poplar flooring; the narrow width of the floorboards would indicate the flooring to have been installed around the turn of the century.<sup>9</sup>

The faux-grained mantelpiece surrounding the fireplace, centrally located on the west wall, dates to approximately 1870 (Fig. 13).<sup>10</sup> The fireplace has been slightly enlarged from its original size, most likely to accommodate an insert that burned wood or coal. It is believed that even as early as c.1855, the Hite-Finney House was heated primarily with stoves, as fireplaces exist only in the two first floor rooms. The upper floor rooms, the original two rooms in the rear wing, the summer kitchen, wash room, and c.1902 frame kitchen addition are all equipped with stove chimneys.

During the 1950s, a bathroom was added to the first floor by appropriating the southeast corner of the ell's first floor room (cf. Fig. 1). The walls are plasterboard. A door is located in the north wall of the bathroom addition, against west wall of original room. The bathroom also incorporates a portion of the ell's side hall and the space under the staircase. Another door connects the bathroom with the first floor room in the front portion of the house; the passage was created from the recess on the south side of the fireplace (cf. Fig. 11).

#### Side Hall

The side hall in the ell is believed to be identical to the original side hall in the front 2/3 I house. An original staircase is located against the west wall, with a narrow hall paralleling it on the north (Fig. 14). The exterior door, molding and baseboard is original. The poplar flooring is also original. Today, the hall has been shortened with a plasterboard

---

<sup>9</sup> Dr. Warren E. Roberts, site visit with author, March 18, 1995.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 9

wall; behind the wall and incorporating the remainder of the original hall is the 1950s bathroom (cf. Fig. 1) with its mid-century pink lavatory and bathtub. A pink toilet has been replaced. A decorative shelf and cubby hole is infill of a door that once connected the c.1875 drawing room with the side hall.

Second Floor Hall and Room

The ell's original staircase ascends from the first floor, making a 180 degree turn at a small landing, and continuing up to the second floor hall, which separates the two rooms on the second floor of the main house. This hall is lighted by a window.

The ell's second floor room, like the room in the front 2/3 I house, has been altered: plasterboard covers the walls and the wood base, door, and window molding has been replaced by plain, painted pine planks. The original wide poplar flooring remains but has been painted. A door has been made from an original window in the south wall and leads into the attic above the rear wing and drawing room addition. The window was lost when a second roof was constructed over both the wing and c.1875 drawing room addition.

Rear Wing

A one-story rear wing perpendicular to the ell on its south side (Figs. 1, 4) is believed to have originally consisted of two rooms because of the existence of two stove chimneys, one located on the east wall and the other on the south wall, and a brick foundation for a missing wall.<sup>11</sup> A bulge in the east wall also indicates the location of a wall that has been removed. It is believed that this rear wing is original to the house because the exterior brick bond is not interrupted and the bond pattern and brick size is identical to that of the main house.

However, the interior ornamentation seems to contradict this. The wood base board and door and window molding is more ornate than that found in the known original portions of the house. Furthermore, the molding has been hung over the plaster walls; in the other rooms of the house, the walls were plastered after the molding was hung. These discrepancies are probably explained by a 1932 fire that damaged the enclosed breezeway, c.1902 kitchen and the rear wing. Charles Finney says that after the fire, these three rooms were rebuilt and redecorated. He

---

<sup>11</sup> It is believed that the southernmost of the wing's original two rooms was used as a kitchen and that the room was equipped with a fireplace. The chimney in the original south room has a wide flared base below floor level.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 10

reports that the wing's existing molding, particularly the wood crown molding, was installed following the fire.<sup>12</sup>

According to Dr. Warren E. Roberts during a site visit on March 18, 1995, the wood floor dates to about 1900. Charles Finney and his sister, Ruth Finney McGuire, remember that their mother, Blanche Finney, had the floorboards renailed and the surface refinished during the 1930s.

c.1875 Drawing Room

The floor serves to visually unite the rear wing and drawing room (cf. Fig. 1), which is more formal than the former, retaining its Italianate period frontal three-bay window, Greek Revival-inspired elaborate plaster cornice frieze (Fig. 9), and esthetic ceiling medallion (Fig. 10). Even the door knobs and hinges are decorative, bearing Queen Anne filigree and the hinges, the elongated finial and pendant popular during the late nineteenth century.

On the south wall is located an exterior entrance; it is sheltered by the Greek Revival portico (Fig. 6) believed to have been relocated from an unknown entrance. An original rear entrance in the front (west) side hall, converted into an interior door during the c.1875 remodelling, is located in the west wall at its extreme north corner (cf. Fig. 1). A second interior door once provided passage between the drawing room and the original north side hall; it is believed to have been cut into the wall before c.1910.<sup>13</sup> It was closed off in the 1950s when the bathroom was built between the two first floor rooms. Today, on the drawing room side the doorway has become a recessed shelf; on the bathroom side it has become a linen closet and storage cubby hole.

Enclosed Breezeway, Brick Summer Kitchen, Wash Room and Garage

Behind the rear wing, on its west wall, is located the enclosed frame breezeway that connects the main house with the former outbuildings (Figs. 1, 4). The breezeway is entered

---

<sup>12</sup> Sandy Crousore, personal interview with author, March 18, 1995, Martinsville, Indiana.

<sup>13</sup> Cf. 1908 and 1916 Sanborn Map Company fire maps, Figs. 11, 12. It is possible, however, that the fire maps are incorrect. The wood molding and transom is identical to the other doors in the drawing room; consequently, the passage may date to c.1870.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 11

through a door centrally located in a three-bay projection; in the remaining two bays are located windows. The enclosed breezeway, according to Charles Finney, was used by his family as a dining room, as it adjoined the c.1902 kitchen addition.<sup>14</sup> It is used today as a dining room by the Crousore.

Because of the worn limestone sill in the west entrance of the former brick summer kitchen, it is believed that the enclosed breezeway/dining room evolved from a porch built on the west wall of the kitchen. The floor is narrow hardwood tongue-and-groove flooring; it was laid after the 1932 fire. A window once located on the west wall south of the door has been converted into a recessed display shelf. A corner cupboard with hardware from the 1920s fills the southwest corner.

A single door connects the enclosed breezeway/dining room with the c.1902 kitchen addition on the south, the main house's rear wing on the west, and the brick summer kitchen on the east.

The brick summer kitchen is rectangular in form (Figs. 1, 4), lighted by two windows on the north and one on the south, and equipped with a stove chimney located on the south wall. A storage cupboard is built against the east wall; by the construction of the door, its hardware, and wood molding, it appears to be original to the kitchen. A second cupboard is located in the southwest corner of the room; Charles Finney reports that it was moved to its original location in the southeast corner of the main house's rear wing after the fire in 1932.

The frame wash room was built onto the east wall of the summer kitchen (Figs. 1, 4) between c.1875, according to the Sanborn Map Company fire maps. Originally one open square room, it was divided to accommodate the house's first indoor bathroom during the early 1920s.<sup>15</sup> The bathroom occupies the northwest corner of the room.

The wood doors and molding are plain and not identical to that found in the brick summer kitchen. The interior plaster walls were covered with low-grade, wood-look panelling about 1985.

Against the south wall of the wash room and a portion of the

---

<sup>14</sup> Sandy Crousore, telephone interview with author, March 17, 1995, Martinsville, Indiana.

<sup>15</sup> Charles Finney remembers there always being a bathroom in the wash room, which would indicate it existed by about 1925, or by the time he was six years old and old enough to remember. Sandy Crousore, telephone interview with author, March 16, 1995, Martinsville, Indiana.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 12

south wall of the summer kitchen, a frame garage has been located since the 1930s (Fig. 1). It is accessed from the alley, the east boundary of the lot. Its west wall is the exterior wall of an enclosed porch built on the east wall of the c.1902 kitchen addition.

c.1902 Kitchen Addition

With the construction of the garage in the 1930s, the porch was enclosed and converted to a storage space off the kitchen built c.1902 (Figs. 1, 2) as a modern replacement for the brick summer kitchen. The new kitchen was divided into two rooms: a narrow room against the south wall was used as a pantry, and the large room used for cooking and food preparation. Charles Finney remembers that his mother used a six-foot cast iron cook stove through the 1930s, which was replaced by a kerosene or gas-burning stove, and finally by a modern stove in the early 1950s, when the pantry shelves were replaced with custom-made pink plywood, Formica-topped cupboards, which remain today.<sup>16</sup> At the same time, the larger room was fitted with a refrigerator, stove, and work surfaces.

Access to the kitchen from the main house was through the enclosed breezeway/dining room. A door to the outside is located in the west wall; two windows, one each in the pantry and larger room, are located south of the door. A shorter door is found north of the main door; Charles Finney says it was used solely for access to the cellar beneath the main house's rear wing.<sup>17</sup>

Today, the c.1900 kitchen is used as an all-purpose room.

---

<sup>16</sup> Sandy Crousore, telephone interview with author, March 17, 1995, Martinsville, Indiana.

<sup>17</sup> Sandy Crousore, telephone interview with author, March 17, 1995, Martinsville, Indiana.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

HITE-FINNEY HOUSE

The Hite-Finney House, c.1855, meets Criterion C as a fine example of a folk housing type-the 2/3rds I-House-with Greek Revival vernacular detailing. It is among the earliest remaining houses in Martinsville, as identified in the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory. Although still largely in its original state, the Hite-Finney House evolved with its owners as elements were added to the basic dwelling. These changes, such as the bracketed c.1888 side porch, drawing room addition, and interior details add to the history of the property and are included within the period of significance (c.1855-1902). 1902 is the date of the last existing substantial change of architectural merit and so ends the period of significance.

Morgan County was founded in 1821, although settlement occurred as early as 1818. In that year the Jacob and Cyrus Whetzel established a trail from Laurel (Franklin County) to a site near the White River in what would become Morgan County. This trail was used by many early settlers. Upland Southerners were the dominant group among the first settlers, and they brought with them the vernacular house types now commonly associated with settlement in Morgan County. These types include the single pen log house, hall and parlor, double pen, central passage, and other elaborations of these basic types.

I-houses and 2/3 I-houses are still found in rural areas of Morgan County. Fifteen outstanding examples were identified in the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory ("outstanding" being the highest rating). The 2/3 I-House type, which uses a side hall plan of typically three bays in width, was more suited to narrow urban lots although it is seen as a rural house type as well. Presumably, Martinsville once had a number of early I-houses and 2/3 I-houses, but most made way for later homes or have been obscured by later additions. The Hite-Finney House is the only "outstanding" 2/3 I-house in the city. The other example is of frame construction.

As with much folk architecture, decorative details of the c.1855 Hite-Finney House reflect the tastes of the time period in which it was built. In 1855, the waning years of the Greek Revival influence over domestic architecture were passing. Exterior moldings of the Hite-Finney House are Greek Revival in style. The side portico (photo 6), thought to have been moved from another entrance of the building, is a sophisticated use of classical elements. Engaged semi-octagonal columns framing the main entry are another example of classicism. Again, since only a handful of existing homes in Martinsville predate the Civil War, the Hite-Finney House is rare for its Greek Revival detailing. The courthouse, the Blackstone-Cure and Hensley Houses predate the Civil War. About 30 other buildings

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

seem to have features which suggest a pre-1860 vintage, these are mostly very simple vernacular structures.

In addition to reflecting the nature of early settlement and architectural tastes of its time, the Hite-Finney House also reflects the tastes and fortunes of its owners. Owners have altered and added onto the house to suit their needs, but the basic 2/3 I-house form and Greek Revival features have been maintained. Jacob Cutler had built a log cabin on this site in 1820, and it served as the first courthouse briefly (Blanchard, p. 83, places Cutler's cabin on the northeast corner of the square, on page 19, however, he places it just north of the northwest corner. the abstract of the Hite-Finney House seems to confirm that Cutler's cabin was at the northeast corner, on the Hite-Finney site).

In 1850, Milton and Margaret Hite bought the Cutler cabin and resided there. By 1855, the Hites had replaced the log house with a brick house (Margaret Hite, Obituary). Milton Hite was the postmaster of Martinsville in the 1840s, was engaged as a merchant and pork packer, and was one of several founders of a local bank in 1860 (Blanchard, pp. 94-95). By 1865, this bank became the First National Bank of Martinsville and Hite was vice-president. In 1867, he became president. Margaret Hite was said to have been among the first women to attend Indiana University (Bloomington). Her interests included politics, business, social concerns and current events. It is thought that the Hites had the Italianate style drawing room added to the house in about 1875. Other changes to the house were made after Milton died on September 27, 1877. By 1888, a porch connected the summer kitchen/wash room with the wing of the house, and a wrap-around porch covered the north and west sides of the house. The current north entrance porch was apparently located over the west entrance and was part of the wrap-around porch. The Greek Revival portico was located at the south entrance to the drawing room at this time. After Milton's death, Margaret served as bank president for several months. She continued to live in the house until her death in 1912.

In 1913, the property was sold to George Finney and his son Fred. The George and Alice Finney were owners and publishers of the Martinsville Democrat, the only Democrat newspaper in the county in the early 1900s. George Finney had served as a Lieutenant in the Civil War. The Finneys came to Martinsville from Columbus (Indiana) in 1895 and purchased the Morgan County Gazette, renaming it the Martinsville Democrat (George Finney, Obituaries). Finney faced many obstacles as a Democratic publisher and Roman Catholic in a heavily Republican and Protestant county, yet the couple was well respected according to sources. George died in 1916, but Alice continued to live in the house with son Fred and his family. Alice was active in the Christian Church in

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Columbus and was a member of the Relief Corps. When Alice died in 1927, the house was left to Fred and Blanche Finney and their children. Fred and Blanche continued to publish the family paper. In 1915, Fred Finney was a founder and first president of the Martinsville Businessmen's Association (precursor to the Chamber of Commerce). The same year, Fred helped organize a fund raising drive to pave the Martinsville section of the Dixie Highway. Fred Finney helped establish a BPOL Lodge in Martinsville and was its first Exalted Ruler. Fred also served in the Spanish-American War, played briefly in the New York symphony, and was Martinsville's postmaster from 1935-1950, during which time he supervised the construction of the existing downtown post office (Much of Fred Finney's activities are documented in his Obituary and in phone interview with Charles Finney). Blanche Finney was born in Green Township of Morgan County, and graduated from the Chicago Art Institute. She edited the Martinsville Democrat from 1935-1956. Blanche was also active in many social and charitable groups and the United Methodist Church (Blanche Finney, Obituary). Fred Finney died in 1962, but Blanche lived in the Hite-Finney House until her death in 1981. Fred Finney's grandsons Robert Tracy and John McGuire bought the property in 1987 after a period of outside ownership. After renting the house for a time, McGuire and Tracy sold the house to Bill and Sandy Crousore. The Crousore's are intent on rehabilitating the house which preserving its many features from various periods.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

Blanchard, Charles. Counties of Morgan, Monroe and Brown, Indiana: Historical and Biographical. Chicago: F. A. Battey Co., 1884.

Crousore, Sandy. Telephone interview with author. October 4, 1994. Martinsville, Indiana.

----- . Personal interview with author. March 14, 1995. Martinsville, Indiana.

----- . Personal interview with author. March 15, 1995. Martinsville, Indiana.

----- . Telephone interview with author. March 16, 1995. Martinsville, Indiana.

----- . Telephone interview with author. March 17, 1995. Martinsville, Indiana.

----- . Personal interview with author. March 18, 1995. Martinsville, Indiana.

Dollase, Mark A.. Site visit with author, March 30, 1995.

Finney, Alice. Obituary. Martinsville Daily Reporter. December 7, 1927.

Finney, Blanche. Obituary. Martinsville Daily Reporter. November 4, 1981.

Finney, Charles. Personal interview with Sandy Crousore. March 15, 1995. Martinsville, Indiana.

----- . Telephone interview with author. August 13, 1994.

----- . Telephone interview with author. June 11, 1995.

Finney, Fred. Obituary. Indianapolis News. March 2, 1962.

----- . Obituary. Indianapolis Star. March 2, 1962.

----- . Obituary. Martinsville Democrat. March 2, 1962.

Finney, George. Obituary. Indianapolis News. April 14, 1916.

----- . Obituary. Indianapolis Star. April 14, 1916.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 2

----- . Obituary. Martinsville Democrat. April 21, 1916.

Hite, Milton. Obituary. Martinsville Daily Reporter. September  
27, 1877.

----- . Obituary. Martinsville Republican. October 4, 1871.

Hite, Mrs. Margaret. Obituary. Martinsville Daily Reporter. July  
18, 1912.

Morgan County Scrapbook I. Ed. Becky Hardin. Mooresville, IN:  
Morgan County History and Genealogy Club, 1985.

Roberts, Dr. Warren E.. Site visit, March 18, 1995.

Sanborn Map Company (New York) fire maps: 1888, 1896, 1902, 1908,  
1916, 1927.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Hite-Finney House property is Lot 5, plus 12'4" of Lot 6, Block 10, City of Martinsville, Indiana.

Boundary Justification

The boundary lines are the original property lines of Lot 5, Block 10, City of Martinsville, Indiana. When George Finney purchased the Hite property on July 10, 1915, Lot 5 included 12'4" off the north side of the adjacent Lot 6.

Hite-Finney house, southeast corner of intersection of  
E. Pike streets, Martinsville, Morgan County, Indiana

ZONE 10  
E 549330  
N 4364270

T. 12 N.

T. 11 N.

4364

25'

4362

4361



