

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 Hastings Schoolhouse
other names/site number Washington Township District #12

2. Location

street & number 1/5 mile south of intersection Hacker Creek Road and Liberty Church Rd. N/A not for publication
city or town Martinsville 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 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

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)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	Total

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

- building
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Indiana's Public Common and High Schools

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: School

SOCIAL: Clubhouse

VACANT Not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Gable Front

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

STONE: limestone

roof ASPHALT

other

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)

EDUCATION _____

ARCHITECTURE _____

Period of Significance

1870-1947 _____

Significant Dates

1870 _____

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

Architect/Builder

Douglas, Perry F.: Builder _____

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: _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 & 8 Page 1 *Hastings Schoolhouse, Morgan Co., IN*

Section 7 - Description

Hastings Schoolhouse, 1870, is a gable-front, rectangular plan brick building measuring 22' x 33'. The exterior masonry walls are three courses thick, laid in common bond. The foundation is of the same soft, red, handmade brick as the walls. The gable roof is covered in green asphalt shingles, the original wood shakes can be seen under the synthetic material. Plain wood fascia boards mask the wall-roof junction, forming a simple plain frieze and soffit.

The building faces west, with the main facade dominated by the original four-panel wood door with overhead rectangular transom. The only decorative feature of the exterior is the raised brick hood over the transom. A set of three concrete steps is sinking into the ground before the door. An attic vent hole in the gable has been boarded shut. The side walls - north and south - are each pierced with two symmetrically placed windows; they appear to have been originally two-over-two lights but the glass is missing in most cases and the windows are deteriorated. Some panes have been replaced with plywood panels, which are now themselves falling out. Each window has a stone sill and segmental arch laid in header brick. Green louvered shutters once hung in pairs for each window; four individual shutters remain: a single shutter on the south wall and three on the north wall. The east, or rear wall, is pierced by two windows, devoid of shutters. An internal brick chimney emerges on the west end of the roof ridge.

A Roosevelt wood privy with cement floor and stool with wood seat is found in the north yard. The roof is of asphalt shingle.

The interior of the schoolhouse remains a single open room. The plaster walls retain a plain paper wall covering throughout, and coat hooks remain in the southeast corner. All moldings around window and door openings are plain painted plank boards. The original tongue and groove wood floor is visible but traces of floral linoleum remain under the west windows. Two electric lights, c. 1950, were added to the ceiling. The desks and chalkboards were removed long ago. A single wood bench under the south windows may date to the school's active use. Other items, such a decrepit piano, furnace stove, tables and a range date to the school's use as a home economics clubhouse in the 1950s.

Portions of the southwest corner of the building are deteriorated, however, overall, the school remains a viable building in good condition.

Section 8 - Statement of Significance

The Hastings Schoolhouse, omitted from the *Morgan County Interim Report* (1993), is good example of an eligible property type (one-room schoolhouses) identified in the Multiple Property Documentation Form Indiana's Common and High Schools. It is one of eight (out of a total of 21) remaining schoolhouses in Washington Township of Morgan County. Five of the eight are now dwellings. The Cross Schoolhouse (109-386-60023), listed in the National Register in 1983, is operated as a museum. The Long schoolhouse (109-386-60038) is the only other vacant structure. The Hastings Schoolhouse meets Criterion A for its association with the development of a significant educational trend, the district school system, and is a good example of the most typical property type illustrative of that trend, a one-room rural schoolhouse.

New funding available because of the 1867 school act was used to replace existing schoolhouses in Morgan County,

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Section number 8 & 9 Page 2 *Hastings Schoolhouse, Morgan Co., IN*

such as the Hastings Schoolhouse. The original school lot (pt E ½ SW ¼) was donated by Reese and Elizabeth Hastings to the school trustees of Washington Township on October 25, 1855. It is believed that a schoolhouse was erected shortly thereafter. It is likely that a rural schoolhouse built at this date would have been log, or possibly frame, but nothing is known with any certainty.

During the first half of the 1870s, the Washington Township trustee was Perry F. Douglas, a brick mason of note who built many schoolhouses in Morgan County, including several in Washington Township. It is believed that the little red Hastings schoolhouse was built by Douglas; it dates to about 1870. This date, together with its small size and unusual placement of windows, plus a known chronology of Morgan County's other schoolhouses, leads to the belief that the Hastings Schoolhouse was the first brick schoolhouse built in Morgan County. Unfortunately, neither supporting newspaper accounts nor trustee records exist for this period.

Marvin and Betty Maxwell report that the Hastings schoolhouse was last used during the 1926-1927 school year; the next year, students were transferred to the Martinsville schools, about five miles away. Betty remembers that the schoolhouse was then used by the Pollyanna Homemakers Club as a meeting house—as a “Clubhouse,” according to the faded sign above the door in a 1966 photograph taken by and in the possession of Dr. Warren E. Roberts. Betty's mother was a member of the club, and Betty remembers her going to meetings in the old schoolhouse until sometime in the early 1940s. Betty explains that by that time, the schoolhouse had fallen into such disrepair that the members started meeting in each others homes. For special meetings, or occasionally in the warmer months, the members would again meet in the old schoolhouse. By the 1950s, the schoolhouse had been completely abandoned by the Pollyanna Club.

Today, the schoolhouse is referred to by some area residents as the Pollyanna Schoolhouse. Since the Pollyanna homemakers left, the schoolhouse has been vandalized both inside and out. Marvin and Betty Maxwell have done what they could to protect the building—and to protect people from getting hurt in it—by boarding up the window and locking the door. For a number of years, Marvin penned his pigs in the schoolyard but protected the schoolhouse from damage by wrapping the base of the walls with heavy gauge wire fencing. Since a heart attack curtailed Marvin's farming, the pigs have been sold and the schoolyard has gone back to the wild.

The current ownership of the schoolhouse is not entirely certain. According to Shannon Wiggins at Action Title in Martinsville, three parties have legal claim to the property: Washington Township, Marvin and Betty Maxwell (Marvin is the great-grandson of Reese and Elizabeth Hastings) and the Metropolitan School Corporation of Martinsville. Following the closing of the schoolhouse in 1927 and a 1949 legislative ruling that declared all abandoned rural school properties the property of the acting local school corporation, the Hastings Schoolhouse fell under the ownership of the Metropolitan School Corporation. However, the Corporation apparently never filed the official papers to secure ownership; consequently, three parties share a claim to the property today.

In December 1996, the Morgan County Historic Preservation Society requested donation of the Hastings Schoolhouse. The three parties agreed to relinquish ownership to the nonprofit organization in exchange for its promise to preserve the building. The donation is in progress, awaiting a survey to determine a corrected legal description.

Section 9-Bibliography

Allison, Loretta. 1992. National Register nomination for Wilbur School, Morgan County, IN.

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Section number 9 & 10 Page 3 *Hastings Schoolhouse, Morgan Co., IN*

Boone, Richard G. 1892. *A History of Education in Indiana*. New York: D. Appleton & Company.

Gulliford, Andrew. 1991. *America's Country Schools*. Washington, D. C.: Preservation Press.

Lynch, William O. 1945. "The Great Awakening." *Indiana Magazine of History* XLI: 109-130.

Madison, James. 1986. *The Indiana Way, A State History*. Bloomington, IN: I.U. Press.

Morgan County Interim Report. 1993. Indianapolis: Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana.

Stuttgen, Joanne Raetz. 1994. *One-Room and Two-Room Country Schools of Morgan County, Indiana*. Unpublished manuscript. (Funded by an Indiana Heritage Research Grant, a joint effort of the Indiana Historical Society and the Indiana Humanities Council.)

Section 10 - Geographical Data - Verbal Boundary Description

A parcel of land in Section 24, Township 11, north of range one west in Morgan County, Indiana. One-half acre total, beginning a point on the west edge of Hacker Creek Road located 83 feet south of a concrete bridge over a ditch, thence 123 feet west, thence 66 feet south, thence 123 feet east to the west edge of Hacker Creek Road, thence 66 feet north to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

This is the boundary of record at the Morgan County Courthouse.

Other Property Owners

Because the title is unclear at this point, the following parties should be considered co-owners in addition to the owner listed on the form:

Mrs. Betty Maxwell, 3780 Hacker Creek Road, Martinsville, IN 46151
John Neal, Trustee, Washington Township, 159 W. Morgan, Martinsville, IN 46151