

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 Neely House
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 739 East Washington Street N/A not for publication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 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 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:

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:)

Neely House

Morgan 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

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling, COMMERCE/TRADE: Professional

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne

foundation BRICK

walls WOOD: Weatherboard

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)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c. 1895 - 1949

Significant Dates

c. 1895

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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:

Neely House
Name of Property

Morgan IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	16	549990	4364280	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
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 Joanne Raetz Stuttgart
organization _____ date 4/30/99
street & number 759 East Washington Street telephone 765-349-1537
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 Jerry and Lisa Leemkuil
street & number 739 East Washington Street telephone 765-349-0309
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 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.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section number 7 Page 1 Neely House, Martinsville, Morgan County, IN

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Exterior

The Neely House is located in the East Washington Street Historic District, at 739 East Washington Street, on the south side of the street. Its immediate neighbors contribute to the historic character of its setting. To the west is a Dutch Colonial style house in a poor state of repair and covered with synthetic siding. To the east is a Tudor Revival style cottage sensitively preserved. Directly across East Washington Street is a Queen Anne Style house very similar to the Neely House but disguised by aluminum siding and a 1950s porch. The lawn is bordered on the north by the city sidewalk (a WPA project), on the east and south by gravel alleys, and on the west by the neighboring lawn. A new red brick sidewalk connects the Neely House with the public sidewalk. A mature sycamore tree is found in the front lawn, and around the foundation are found Victorian period plants: hosta, roses, ferns, tulips and hyacinths, hydrangea, and, during the summer, a variety of annuals. In the back, a new concrete patio moves the kitchen outdoors in season. The rear lawn is bounded by a treated lumber fence. At the southwest corner is found an ancient bridal wreath spirea. The rear lawn also features a mature white magnolia and a red maple tree.

The Queen Anne style Neely House has a cruciform plan and is two stories in height, with a central pyramidal asphalt roof intersected by cross gables on the west and east sides, and a pair of cross gables on the north/front. The rear portion of the roof is hipped. The foundation is brick, now stuccoed with unpainted cement. The siding is painted burgundy weatherboard.

The Neely House displays Stick-style ornamentation with vertical and horizontal boards accented by new ivory paint. Between the first and second floor windows on the prominent front gabled bay is a decorative checkerboard with 63 florets framed by scalloped trim. The two side gables and prominent front gable are filled with horizontal rows of notched shingles. The smaller, projecting front gable features a sunburst. Under the cornice are exposed eave boards; they are painted dark green to contrast with the ivory soffit.

Windows throughout the house are one-over-one double hung sash, with the exception of a smaller, single pane window in the east stairway. Fixed sash windows are found in the gables: one each in the side gables and three in the front gable. All windows are trimmed with plain boards painted ivory. Aluminum storm windows are found on all windows except those in the gables. On the south wall of the house, a second floor window has been removed and the opening filled

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with cedar siding.

The front entrance is not original to the house. It consists of a painted panel door with a four-pane fanned window. Two-pane sidelights flank the door, and overhead is found a rectangular three-pane transom. The width of the entrance leads the current owners, Jerry and Lisa Leemkuil, to believe that originally there were double doors; they are searching for an historically appropriate pair of doors with which to replace the existing single door. The rear kitchen entrance is a new steel framed glass door.

On the southeast corner of the house is found a cement block, two-car garage addition; because of the double roof line on the east side, it appears to originally have been a detached garage. A previous owner was told the current first floor laundry/bathroom and hall addition that connects the garage with the house was originally an open porch that was enclosed. A shed-roofed second floor room exists above the addition.

In 1997, the Leemkuils, removed synthetic siding from the house, exposing the historic facade which was subsequently restored. A 1950s wrought iron porch railing and supports were removed and replaced with stock columns, cut-out balusters and a banister--both on the main porch and upper balcony. The steps leading from the new brick sidewalk to the porch have been painted to complement the four paint colors--burgundy, foam green, dark green, and ivory--Lisa selected for the house. The beautifully and sensitively transformed Neely House has become a focal point in the East Washington Street Historic District and inspires other home owners to repair, maintain and paint their houses in historically appropriate ways.

Interior

The first floor of the Neely House consists of a front vestibule with staircase and four rooms: a front parlor, sitting room, dining room and kitchen. Floors and woodwork throughout are oak; the kitchen floor, however, is pine. All have been refinished to their original honey color. All walls and ceilings except those in the kitchen retain their original plaster. All radiators and windows are original.

The front vestibule leads to the sitting room and front parlor. Its focal point is an oak staircase with turned newel post and balusters that ascends along the east wall of the house. In the stairway are two windows: one single pane sash at the level of the first floor, and a one-over-one

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double hung sash at the level of the second floor landing. A pair of oak pocket doors with Eastlake hardware separate the vestibule and front parlor. This room is decorated with rose covered wallpaper and a swag border below the cove molding and picture rail. The oak woodwork is embossed with oak leaves and acorns; corner blocks have a fan pattern. A one-over-one double hung sash window is found in the west and north walls. The passage between the parlor and the dining room to the south is open; the paired doors have long been removed and cannot be found. Victorian oak fretwork is now found in the opening; it was found in the house by Lisa Leemkuil, refinished, and reinstalled.

The dining room walls are painted dark green above a wallpaper border and wainscot. All woodwork is embossed. A one-over-one double hung sash window is found in the west wall. The passage to the adjoining sitting room to the east is open; the original paired doors have also been removed and are lost. When the Leemkuils purchased the house in 1996, this passage had been blocked with a built-in bookcase. They removed the bookcase and restored the original opening. On the south wall is a passage to the kitchen; the door is missing, but the transom window and hardware remain.

The sitting room walls are hung with floral wallpaper and a complementary border. A window is found in the east wall. A passage on the north leads to the vestibule; its original door has been removed and is missing, but the transom and hardware remain. All woodwork is embossed. In the northeast corner of the room, a door to the front porch has been removed. It is believed that Jacob Neely used this room as his law office, with the door providing a public entrance. The door appears to have been removed prior to about 1945, when the synthetic siding is believed to have been installed.

Of all the rooms on the first floor, the kitchen is most altered from its original. The Leemkuils gutted the kitchen, installed new wiring, plumbing and drywall; replaced a missing window over the sink; uncovered and refinished the pine floor; and put in a steel framed glass door to the patio. To cheer up the room, Lisa selected white paper with a fruit pattern, painted the cabinets white, and filled the kitchen with period furnishings to complement the new appliances. A secondary, back staircase ascends from the southeast corner of the kitchen, with the staircase to the three-room, brick-walled basement tucked under it. The basement door is solid paneled wood with Eastlake hardware.

From the northeast corner of the kitchen, one passes into the laundry/bathroom addition. This addition was completed during the 1960s.

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The second floor of the Neely House consists of two perpendicular corridors, three bedrooms, a walk-in closet, and a bathroom. All floors are pine. Woodwork is either plain, fluted, or embossed. A paneled door with window leads from the north end of the main corridor at the head of the main staircase to the upper balcony. (The new Queen Anne replaces an aluminum screen door.)

The front bedroom is decorated with antiqued rose wallpaper and border. A one-over-one double-hung window is found in the north and west walls. The woodwork in this room is embossed; corner blocks are fanned. A modern ceiling fan hangs from the ceiling. A paneled door with transom window and hardware closes off this room from the corridor. A paneled closet door is found on the south wall.

The east bedroom is painted white. Molding is embossed; corner blocks are fanned. A one-over-one double-hung sash window is found in the north and east walls. A modern ceiling fan hangs from the ceiling. The room is decorated with period furnishings.

The main north-south corridor has plain oak floor molding and embossed door moldings. The original north and south doors are missing. The secondary east-west corridor connects the main corridor with the walk-in closet, bathroom, and master bedroom at the rear of the second floor. Period rose glass light fixtures hang from the ceiling.

It is believed that the walk-in closet was the original bathroom; when restoration was underway, an old toilet paper hanger was founded mounted to a wall, with plumbing running behind a partition in the southeast corner of the room. The window and door trim is embossed and now painted white. Beaded wainscoting surrounds the room. An original passage to the adjoining room on the west (the current bathroom) has been filled by a built-in cupboard.

The bathroom features embossed woodwork (now painted white); a one-over-one double hung sash window on the west wall, and the original claw-foot bathtub. The Leemkuils also gutted this room, as the previous bathroom was fairly primitive. They removed a window behind the toilet on the south wall, had the plumbing updated, and a radiator installed. There had previously been no heat in this room. They laid carpet on the floor, wallpapered the plaster walls, and filled it with a combination of authentic and reproduction pieces.

The master bedroom is painted dark green. It features a large but shallow closet with paneled door in the north wall. The paneled door to the corridor retains its transom window and

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hardware. A modern ceiling fan is mounted on the ceiling. Woodwork is embossed. Like the other rooms in the house, this one is decorated with Victorian period pieces.

The back staircase has been spruced up with the addition of paneled wainscot, wallpaper and a molded oak rail. The steps, previously painted dark brown, have been faux-grained to resemble oak.

Lisa and Jerry Leemkuil would like the Neely House included in the National Register of Historic Places as an individual property because, unlike the outstanding and notable Queen Anne style houses elsewhere in the East Washington Street Historic District, it retains its interior integrity, while the exterior has been sensitively restored to a near-original appearance.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Neely House is significant under Criterion C because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Queen Anne style of architecture and represents one of the finest intact examples of this style in the East Washington Street Historic District. It was omitted from the 1993 *Morgan County Interim Report*, presumably because at the time of the survey it was disguised by synthetic siding. The siding was removed and the exterior restored in 1997 by the current owners, Jerry and Lisa Leemkuil.

The Queen Anne style has several identifying features, including a steeply pitched roof of irregular shape, variation in texture on the exterior wall surfaces, an asymmetrical facade—usually with a dominant front-facing gable—and a partial- or full-width front porch. The style was among the most common domestic styles in America from roughly 1880-1900, owing in large part to the availability of mass-produced gingerbread and standardized lumber. In Martinsville, the style was preferred by members of the professional class, with impressive examples being built primarily in a four block area of East Washington Street. The Neely House is among the finest extant examples of the Queen Anne style in Martinsville, both because of its restored exterior features and its nearly unaltered interior plan. Two other comparable houses—one at 490 East Washington Street (O) and the other at 540 East Washington Street (N)—have both undergone significant interior alterations that violate the original architectural integrity of the properties. With the exception of a garage and utility room addition on the southeast corner, the Neely House has changed little since it was built c.1895. The period of significance is c.1895-1949.

Martinsville, the county seat of Morgan County in central Indiana, is laid out in a traditional grid pattern. The courthouse square occupies a block in the center of the downtown commercial district. Industry historically was located on the west, northwest and south sides of the city, adjacent to railroad lines. Middle and upper middle class neighborhoods were located northeast and east of downtown. To the northwest, west and south were working to middle class neighborhoods. Hills on the north side of the city defined the limits of development.

The East Washington Street Historic District (previously listed in the National Register), in which the Neely House is located, developed in a linear fashion, extending eastward ten blocks from the south side of the courthouse square. In 1889, the Home Lawn Mineral Springs Sanitarium was established in the 500 block of East Washington Street, and its architectural, cultural and social prominence helped to define the district. Along East Washington Street were found the fine late-

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nineteenth-century (Italianate, Second Empire, Queen Anne) and early twentieth-century (Free Classic, Craftsman, Bungalow, Tudor Revival) homes of Martinsville's most important professionals and businessmen. Many doctors employed at the Home Lawn called the maple-lined street home, as well as several lawyers, including Governors Paul Vories McNutt and Emmett Forest Branch, and business owners such as Eugene Shireman, owner of Grassyfork Fisheries, and Charles Patton, owner of Old Hickory Furniture Company.

The longtime residence of attorney Jacob Neely, the Neely House is believed to have been built by Josephine Rosengarten between 1894 and 1897. On March 24, 1894, Josephine paid \$600 for this property and an adjoining lot to the south. It is likely that the house was built soon after. It appears to have been in existence by December 1897, the month Josephine's mother, Mrs.

Amanda Malvina Hammans, died "at the home of her daughter." Mrs. Hammans' funeral service took place "at the residence on East Washington street."

Josephine Lake was born in 1854; on January 15, 1874, she married Charles O. Rosengarten, the son of German immigrants. In 1874, Charles and his father were partners in a mercantile business. In 1880, Charles and Josephine and their daughter, Minnie, born in 1875, were living in Morgantown where Charles was employed as a book keeper. A second child was born to Charles and Josephine, but nothing else is known about the family until 1897, the year both Charles and Josephine's mother died, the latter at least in the house at 739 East Washington Street.

By June 1900, according to the federal census, Josephine was living at 589 East Morgan Street in a house that she owned. The census does not include a listing for 739 East Washington Street; presumably, the house was vacant. Interestingly, Josephine's neighbors at 609 East Morgan Street were Judge John C. and Ruth McNutt; Ruth was the daughter of Jacob M. Neely, who assumed ownership of the house at 739 East Washington Street on February 14, 1905.

Jacob Meyer Neely was born in Brown County, Indiana, on December 6, 1840. He served 18 months as a private in the Civil War, a member of Company C of the 22nd Indiana Volunteers. On January 31, 1863, he married Sarah A. Prosser, also of Brown County. In 1868, they moved to Morgantown, Indiana, where Jacob engaged in the harness business. He later was appointed postmaster and occupied this position for 20 years. The Rosengartens were also residents of Morgantown during this time, and they almost certainly knew Jacob Neely and his family.

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On January 1, 1891, the Neely family took up residence in Martinsville. Jacob had been appointed deputy to the new county clerk, Dr. R. C. Griffitt of Morgantown, who had been elected the previous November. In 1894, Jacob Neely became chief deputy in the office of the county auditor and in 1898, he was elected clerk of the Morgan County court.

In June 1896, Jacob was widowed. Living with him at 739 East Washington Street were his daughters Margaret and Myrtle. By 1910, according to the federal census, the residents of the house were Jacob M. Neely, age 69, widower, attorney; Myrtle E. Woody, daughter, age 37, widow, housekeeper; Grace Woody, granddaughter, age 15; Ruth Woody, granddaughter, age 12; and Mary Elgin, employee, age 66, single, dressmaker.

Jacob Neely's eldest daughter, Ruth, married John C. McNutt in Morgantown on July 7, 1886. They moved to Martinsville in 1898. Her husband became a prominent attorney and judge. Their only son--Jacob Neely's grandson--was Paul Vories McNutt, who served as governor of Indiana from 1933-1937. He had a distinguished political career, including serving as ambassador to the Philippines from 1937-1939 and 1945-1947 and administrator of the Federal Security Agency from 1939-1945. Historians believe that Paul Vories McNutt would have become president of the United States if he had not declined the Republican presidential nomination in 1940 to support Roosevelt.

By 1920, according to the federal census, Jacob Neely was employed as secretary of the Home Building Association. Myrtle Woody was head of housekeeping at the Home Lawn Sanitarium, and Margaret Neely was the clerk/receptionist. Also living in the house in 1920 was Grace Woody, who would never marry and go on to become the first female physical education instructor at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. Woody Hall is named after her.

Jacob M. Neely died at his East Washington Street home on Sunday, March 6, 1921. He was survived by his four children and four grandchildren. Among them, Myrtle and Margaret and Myrtle's children, Grace and Ruth, were living in Martinsville, presumably at 739 East Washington Street. Jacob left no will, so his son-in-law, John C. McNutt, acted as administrator, valuing the estate at \$1,000 for personal property and \$4,000 for real estate. On May 20, 1924, a quit-claim deed transferred the property at 739 East Washington Street to Myrtle Woody and Margaret Neely. Margaret transferred her share of the property to her sister on January 4, 1932.

It is believed that it was during the 40-year period of Neely family ownership that the house acquired the garage and utility room addition and was covered with synthetic siding.

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The property was sold out of the Neely family on April 2, 1945. The new owner was Dr. Jay Grimes and his wife Ruth. Dr. Grimes was a physician at the Home Lawn Sanitarium. A loyal employer and friend of the Walter A. Kennedy family which owned the Home Lawn and Martinsville Sanitariums, Dr. Grimes appears to have donated the property at 739 East Washington Street to the Charles S. Kennedy Foundation, Inc., on July 2, 1951. Charles S. Kennedy was the youngest child of Walter A. and Mary Eloise Kennedy; he died at age 19 in a tragic car accident south of Martinsville. The Foundation was established in his memory and later, in 1957, the Kennedy family donated the Martinsville Sanitarium to the Christian Church to be used as a geriatric care facility; today it is the Kennedy Living Center.

The Neely House exchanged hands several times between 1951-1997, when it was purchased by its current owners, Jerry and Lisa Leemkuil, in November 1996.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

739 East Washington Street, Martinsville, Indiana. *Also* Lot 5, Wilson's Addition to the City of Martinsville.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This is the historic boundary and legal description of the property on file in the Morgan County Courthouse Annex.