

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FINAL

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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

1. Name of Propertyhistoric name Vance-Tousey Houseother names/site number 029-347-34014**2. Location**street & number 508 West High Street N/A ☐ not for publicationcity or town Lawrenceburg N/A ☐ vicinitystate Indiana code IN county Dearborn code 29 zip code 47025-1916**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:)

Vance-Tousey House

Dearborn IN

Name of Property

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
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	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

EDUCATION: College

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL: Georgian

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

STONE: Sandstone

roof ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

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

Vance-Tousey House

Name of Property

Dearborn IN

County and State

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 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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

Period of Significance

1818-1830

Significant Dates

1818

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Vance, Samuel C.

Cultural Affiliation

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 Historic Sites and Structures Inventory

Vance-Tousey House
Name of Property

Dearborn IN
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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 685610 4328810
Zone Easting Northing

2

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 Chris McHenry

organization Dearborn County Historical Society date 01-17-00

street & number 508 West High Street telephone 812-537-4075

city or town Lawrenceburg state IN zip code 47025-4075

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 Dearborn County Historical Society

street & number 508 W. High St. telephone 812-537-4075

city or town Lawrenceburg state IN zip code 47025-1916

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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Vance-Tousey House, Dearborn Co., IN

Section 7 - Description

The Vance-Tousey House, c.1818, is a two story brick and sandstone dwelling. The house is a few blocks southwest of the courthouse in downtown Lawrenceburg, down the same street, High Street. Originally, Samuel and Mary Lawrence Vance had a spacious view out of their front door, down an alley of trees, to the bustling Ohio River. A farmyard, stable, and orchard once stood out back. As industries encroached and engulfed the property, this view was lost. Also, the Army Corps of Engineer's levee divides the house from its Ohio River context. The street grid of Lawrenceburg is skewed to meet a bend in the Ohio; for ease of reference, this description assumes a true south facing for the front elevation, even though it truly faces southeast.

The foundation and walls are of brick, laid four to one stretcher to header bond. The builder used sandstone for the water table, sills, opening surrounds, and other details. The asphalt shingle-covered roof is hipped on the main block and wings. The roof was covered in standing seam tin for many years. When the Dearborn County Historical Society decided to re-roof the house in the summer of 2000, workers found original wood shingles underneath the tin in the areas around the chimneys. The main block is fifty-six feet long by thirty feet wide; the west wing measures eighteen feet by thirty-six feet, and the east wing, including a later addition, is twenty-six feet by forty-seven feet.

Vance had the house constructed in the Adamesque Style. The front elevation has a late Georgian or Federal tripartite design: the two story, five-bay, main block flanked by one-bay, one-and-one-half story wings (photo 1). The middle three bays of the main block project forward four inches. The handsome main entrance and flanking windows are housed within this area on the first floor. Visitors approach the imposing entrance by way of five sandstone steps (photo 5). The stoop leads to the heavy paneled Christian door. Fluted Roman Doric engaged columns flank the door, and divide it from the intersecting-circle-paned sidelights. The columns and an anta or half pilaster on each side of the door support a broken full entablature with plain frieze. The wooden mutins of the semi-elliptical fanlight radiate out, and concentric mutins form a spider's web scalloped pattern. The wooden jambs surrounding the fanlight are carved with intertwining guilloche patterns. Dressed stone blocks incised with panels surround the entire semi-elliptical arched doorway. The keystone is also paneled.

On the main elevation, the raised panel keystone is repeated over each window. Each window opening also has a gauged brick flat arch lintel and stone sill. The first floor lintels are multiple coursed, with alternating header and stretcher brick, while those of the second floor have only header brick, even though the keystones are the same size. Basement window openings align with those on the first and second level; however, they have been altered in various ways. Window sash are mostly six-over-six design, however, the first floor sash are vinyl replacements, while those of the second floor seem to be c.1850 replacements. The purpose of the horizontal flanged strap of iron or steel over the front door is unknown, but likely relates to the industrial buildings which once closely hemmed in the Vance House. During the time when the house was part of a flour mill operation, the company mounted industrial water pipe across part of the facade, from the basement

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window right of the entrance, up to the first floor window header, and across to the east wing. The pipe is mounted on brackets attached to the masonry. Dearborn County Historical Society, the current owner, hopes to remove the pipe by the end of August, 2000.

A well-scaled Palladian window dominates the central bay of the second floor front (photo 6). The nine-over-six sash is flanked by sidelights like those of the first floor. Fluted Roman Doric engaged columns flank the sidelights and support a wooden full Roman Doric entablature with metopes, triglyphs, and the usual host of classical moldings and ornament. The blind tympanum has a sunburst of radiating wood slats. The stone work over the Palladian window has recessed panel blocks, jack-arch shaped end blocks, and a raised panel keystone.

The main block has a low-pitched hip roof, with fairly narrow eaves. Originally, the builder had installed a paneled frieze at the roof / wall junction to tie the wings and main block together visually. This is no longer visible from the exterior; however, Society members discovered several of the wood panels still in situ, contained within the east wing addition (photo 4). The frieze was eleven inches high, with sections divided to correspond to openings below them. For example, sections over the remains of the front window opening are thirty-eight inches long, with flanking nineteen-inch panels. The cornice surrounding the entire house is now plain, but originally, it had deeper eaves and modillions, as show in Wilbur Peat's *Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century*, published in 1962. The center pedimented cross gable matches the central three-bay projection. A lunette window fills the tympanum (photo 2). The flanking quarter-round sash with radiating panes are likely original, but the central three-over-three sash is likely a mid-1800s replacement. Originally, the radiating pattern was carried over to the central window. Chimneys flank the main block roofline. The 1958 HABS field notes indicate that the chimney tops were more elaborate originally. Today, they are plain and show numerous signs of hasty repointing work.

The unknown designer of the house intended a symmetrical composition, with the flanking wings giving the typical Georgian - Palladian three-part effect. The west wing retains this concept, but Seagrams and Sons officials altered the east wing in the late 1950s. They added a roughly twelve-foot, wrap-around addition to it. The front corner of this addition is chamfered. Because of the addition, the east wing is flush to the main block, while the west wing stands eleven feet back from the front wall. Each wing has a double-hung sash flanked by narrow sidelights, with a blind elliptical arch enframing the opening (photos 1 and 8). The sash are recent in date. The arches are multiple-coursed, like the front jack-arches, and have brick impost blocks and stone keystones. The tympanum brick does not fully match the brick of the body of the house. The east wing retains the tripartite window composition, though seemingly moved from its location twelve feet behind. The addition on this wing gives room for an extra double hung window to the west.

The east and west flanks of the house are similar, even though the exterior wall of the east wing dates from the late 1950s. The west side has several basement windows, most either converted to barred openings, with one cellar door hatch. The west wing has four symmetrically placed six-over-six windows with aligning three paned attic half-story windows. All openings have wood sills and plain dressed stone lintels (photo 7). The

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east side of the east wing has no attic level. It has four six-over-six windows, but the spacing is irregular. From the south, the addition has forty-three inches of wall; a window; then forty-four; window; twenty-five; window; ten feet, ten inches; then window; then six feet, ten inches of wall to the north corner. The east and west sides of the main block have no windows, however, the builder created recessed panels with shutters on each side to imitate symmetrically placed windows. The blind window panels are visible in photo 20.

The rear or north elevation nearly appears to be a different house altogether (photo 9). The flanking wings project sixteen feet toward High Street, and a one story, hip roofed, wood-columned porch lines the inside faces of the main block and wings. The porch has a concrete floor. Openings are plain on the rear elevation. The main block reflects the front elevation, with five openings: a central door and flanking windows. The second floor has five aligning windows. Openings on the ground floor have wood sills and lintels, but the second floor has soldier course lintels. The gable ends of the wings have paired double hung sash, and a single window in the upper half story (photo 3). Nailing blocks for the paneled frieze remain visible, and a blind round arch encircles the upper window lintel. The east wing has an additional ground floor window, marking the addition to this side of the house.

The industrial owners of the house in the last thirty years altered the interior of the house. However, its salient Federal characteristics remain in a number of key rooms. The basement was always a functional, utilitarian space (photo 10). Herringbone brick floors and the core of a massive cooking fireplace remain intact. Below grade, foundation walls and interior bearing walls are of uncoursed rubble sandstone (photo 11). The basement room divisions reflect those of the first floor rooms and wing rooms. Entrances to each wing basement from the High Street side are clearly visible, though they were blocked in years ago.

Guests of the Vances entered into the spacious stair hall (photos 13-16). The house is based on a center hall I-house type plan, with the extra massing of the multiple-room wings. Typical finishes include carpeted floors (over wooden floors), plaster walls and ceilings, high baseboards, and fluted and reeded door surrounds with bull's-eye corner blocks. The back of the doorway is ornamented with similar moldings, made to appear as Doric pilasters, instead of the corner block treatment. The archivolt molding has small impost blocks. Doorways lead to the front parlors and to the rear porch. Either the mill company or Seagrams installed a commercial grade sprinkler system throughout the building, and it is plainly visible in the stair hall.

The rear wall curves to receive the three-story spiral staircase. The rounded stair rail has a spiral scrolled end piece supported by a cluster of delicate tapered balusters. Heavy raised panels skirt the stairs to their first major turn, where the skirt wall turns perpendicular to the front door. The panels on this angled face are actually cupboard doors. The open-string stairs have applied wooden scrolls under each riser.

The parlor to the east of the stair hall has its original plan and height, but a past owner applied manufactured paneling to all walls, and removed a Federal mantelpiece noted in the 1958 HABS report. The chimney breast remains to show the location of the mantle. Windows in this area retain the bull's-eye treatment of the stair hall openings, with a raised kick panel beneath each window (photo 19). This is a typical detail for all

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surviving historic window surrounds. The west parlor has not fared as well. Past owners carved it into several restrooms, however, exterior window moldings and an original double-tiered cupboard or clothes press remains intact (photos 17 and 18).

The industrial owners of the Vance House altered the flanking wing sections of the house. They added additional frame partition walls, carpeted the floors, and installed artificial wood paneling on the walls. In the west wing, the past owners removed an original secondary stair and installed a pull-down attic style unit in another room. The wrap-around addition to the east wing is used for storage.

On the second floor, rooms have retained much of their original character, but have suffered from lack of maintenance. Woodwork is completely intact on the second floor main block. The floor plan roughly corresponds to the ground floor center hall configuration. A small room at the front center houses the Palladian window and divides this area off from the stair hall. The moldings, Doric columns, and other details of the Palladian window are similar to those on the exterior. The east room corresponds to the same room below, and the west third is divided into two rooms. Occupants could reach the east wing half-story by way of an original opening with a short run of three steps down from the main block. There was no second floor access from the main block to the west wing. Only the folding stairs permit access to the attic level of the west wing. Windows and doorways have the usual bull's-eye moldings and kick panels. Seagrams used the second floor for storage.

The attic of the main block is unfinished. The half-round pediment window lights the space. Several points of interest here are the massive rafters, fourteen by four inches in girth, the large beams which help support the spiral stairs, six inches square, and the wide variable width plank flooring, some up to nineteen inches wide. Vertical saw marks are evident throughout.

Note: Jeff Huntington and Michele James provided technical assistance in the preparation of this description.

Section 8 - Statement of Significance

The Vance-Tousey House, c.1818, is perhaps the most sophisticated example of Late Georgian/Federal architecture in Indiana. The house is also significant because of its association with Samuel Vance, founder of the town of Lawrenceburg. Vance played an important role in the settlement of Dearborn County.

Samuel Vance and the Platting of Lawrenceburg

Settlement in the Greater Cincinnati area began 1788, when a handful of pioneers arrived in flatboats. In 1789, the U.S. Army built Fort Washington on the present day site of downtown Cincinnati. General Arthur St. Clair took command of Fort Washington and began to amass troops to challenge the Indian threat. St. Clair named the nascent village in honor of the Society of Cincinnati, a group formed by prominent

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Revolutionary War officers. In 1811, steamboats reached the town, and an already burgeoning river trade expanded. Plans for the Miami-Erie Canal were under way, with the Cincinnati-Dayton section opening in 1829. Any suitable bottom lands near the area offered great opportunities as a secondary port.

Across the principal meridian forming the state line, Dearborn County held several such sites. Settlement, however, was postponed. Little Turtle crushed St. Clair's army in 1791, and settlement would not extend into this corner of the Northwest Territory until General "Mad" Anthony Wayne had decisively defeated the Indians. The Treaty of Greenville in 1795 offered land-hungry European-Americans more key lands to settle. The treaty opened Indiana to settlement, and in 1800, the Indiana Territory was established with Vincennes as the seat. Territorial Governor William Henry Harrison established Dearborn County in 1803. As other counties organized, the Indiana General Assembly carved away portions of Dearborn County.

One of Mad Anthony Wayne's compatriots at the Battle of the Fallen Timbers in 1794 was Samuel Vance. Vance found himself in command of Fort Washington in young Cincinnati shortly after the conflict. He retired from the U.S. Army to take advantage of the commercial opportunities of the area. The same year, 1802, Vance married Mary Lawrence. Ms. Lawrence's mother, Elizabeth Lawrence, was the daughter of General St. Clair, and she had remarried to General James Dill after being widowed. Vance went into business with his new father-in-law, Gen. James Dill. Vance was a cashier in one of Cincinnati's early banks, the Miami Exporting Company. His army and family connections served him well. Gov. Harrison, a friend of his, appointed Vance to serve as the first clerk of courts in Dearborn County upon the creation of the county in 1803. Vance obtained a valuable license to operate a ferry across the Ohio in 1805, the same year he was appointed to the Indiana Canal Commission, along with George Rogers Clark, Aaron Burr, Jonathan Dayton, Davis Floyd, and others.

Vance used his funds and connections to make his greatest contribution to settlement in Indiana, the platting of Lawrenceburg. Federal land records show that Samuel C. Vance purchased more than 1,200 acres in Sections 13, 14, and 15, Township 5 North, Range 1 west, encompassing all of present day Lawrenceburg. Court testimony in 1830 (Circuit Court Complete Record #1, Page 148 ff, Dearborn County) relates that Vance "for reasons unnecessary to explain here" had allowed the land to be entered in the name of Benjamin Chambers, and that Chambers had then deeded the land back to Vance in "late 1807 or the spring of 1808." Vance bought the land in 1801 and platted Lawrenceburg in 1802. Samuel named the town for his wife's maiden name, Lawrence.

Samuel and Mary's son, Arthur St. Clair Vance, married Lavinia Noble, daughter of Indiana Governor Noah Noble. Arthur and Lavinia moved to Indianapolis. This gave the Vances a connection to yet another well-placed Indiana family. In 1823, Samuel obtained the post of Recorder for the Fort Wayne Land Office from the U.S. Government. However, when Andrew Jackson came to office, he replaced Vance. Samuel made an unsuccessful run for U.S. Congress at one point. Like many land speculators in early Indiana, Vance came with little money and big dreams. He was often in financial difficulty due to his constant land purchases.

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Vance did succeed, amassing wealth from land sales and his other enterprises. Eventually, he built his house in Lawrenceburg in about 1818, although he maintained business interests in both Cincinnati and Lawrenceburg. His fine brick house, though altered through the years, still appears much as Vance would remember. Vance, no doubt, wished to make a statement about the future of his settlement when he built the home. His c.1818 house would have held its own against the most well-detailed homes of Cincinnati of that period. At the time of his death in 1830, he had lived long enough to see his plat grow to one of Indiana's larger towns of the early 19th century. The Whitewater Canal arrived in the 1840s, and the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad, in the 1850s. Lawrenceburg developed beyond Vance's original plat, yet, today, the street grid and lot patterns of the old plat remain as he planned them.

Architecture

Only a handful of early nineteenth century houses in Indiana can be categorized as highly as the Vance-Tousey House. Wilbur Peat, in his early and still definitive *Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century*, characterized the house: "...better than any other dwelling, [it] typifies the Federal mode." (Peat, p. 10) The 1958 HABS field notes states that the architectural and historical value of the house is "very high." In 1983, the *Dearborn County Interim Report*, Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory, rated the house "outstanding," the highest possible rating.

Depending on how one classifies them, Lawrenceburg has about a dozen examples of Federal style architecture. All are houses, and all save for the Vance-Tousey House are vernacular rowhouses, with the Federal detailing confined to doorways and perhaps interior woodwork. The Interim Report identified roughly twenty-five outstanding-rated Federal style homes in Dearborn County. With one or two exceptions, all are actually vernacular I-house, central passage, or double-pile homes, with a few simple Federal style flourishes.

The unknown architect of the Vance-Tousey House combined Georgian house planning and forms with the newer Federal style. Wilbur Peat clearly recognized the combined Georgian-Palladian and Federal character of the Vance-Tousey House, as well as its East Coast origins:

The wings extend toward the street...thus flanking the entrance court. This makes a good example of the American interpretation of the Roman Country House type of Palladio. In addition, the recessed window panels in the wings reveal again the interest in round arches, stemming, perhaps, from earlier examples by Latrobe and Bulfinch in the East. (Peat, p. 11.)

The origins of Indiana's examples of Federal architecture lie on the eastern seaboard, especially in the Mid-Atlantic region. It was here that America's builders and architects caught wind of the latest styles in architecture from England. Although the English largely rejected the continental Baroque and Rococo styles, the more restrained Palladianism of the Late Renaissance struck the proper chord in Protestant England.

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Indigo Jones was the leading proponent of Palladian design; his Banqueting House in Whitehall (1619-22) set the tone for mansions, public buildings, and even a few bridges. A century later, William Kent and Lord Burlington focused the Palladian movement by making literal copies of the Venetian architect's designs. Chiswick House (1725) was a near copy of an actual Palladian villa. Thomas Jefferson so admired the concept that he created his own version for Monticello (1770-1808). But by that time, Georgian Palladianism had already reached the Colonies in the form of details, easily copied from builder's guides. Its memory long lingered in the minds of the sons of these builders who reached the Ohio valley.

Likely, it was an accomplished builder or architect from Cincinnati who designed the Vance-Tousey House, and its design bears the distant mark of the Georgian period. The formal, three-part massing of the house is Georgian in spirit, as are the robust moldings. The heavy feeling of the Palladian window and front entrance owe a debt to similar treatments seen in many Eastern seaboard towns and cities.

The American Federal style developed from the Adamesque. The Adam brothers created a sensation in Britain by introducing a light, delicate form of classicism. Based on their studies of Roman sites, the Adams brothers found that classical architecture could be both lucid and graceful, rather than having the ponderous weight of Palladianism.

From the 1780s to the first decade of the 1800s, builders, pattern books, and architects brought examples of Adamesque work to the former colonies. In America, designers often combined the details of Federal to familiar forms of housing and public buildings. They revived the formal and vernacular housing types of the Georgian era by applying the newer vocabulary of the Adamesque.

The Vance-Tousey House shows Federal style influence in the use of elliptical arches, low pitched hip roof, and use of shallow relief, both in the flanking arches and for the step-backs of the front facade. The Adams introduced curvilinear shapes into the massing of the interiors and exteriors, a departure from previous English classical styles. The winding spiral staircase and curving walls of the stair hall are distant echoes of this fascination with curved spaces.

Later Owners of the House

After Samuel Vance's death in 1830, his daughter Catherine and her husband, Dr. Thomas Pinckard, opened an experimental school called the Washington Agricultural College, with the house as the main building. Advertisements for the school, which appeared in *The Western Statesman*, offered education to both boys and girls, with the girls housed in a separate building. Students would learn proper farming methods on some twenty-five acres of land, as well as receiving intense tutoring in the Classics; Greek, logic, mathematics and rhetoric.

Apparently, the school was not a success. In 1833, the Pinckards sold the property to Omer Tousey (Dearborn County Deed Record K, page 223, notes that the transaction included "...the mansion house,

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formerly the property of Samuel C. Vance." The transfer occurred October 16, 1833). Tousey was from Boone County, Kentucky. He and his brother moved to Lawrenceburg in 1823 and established a store. In just ten years, Omer earned enough money to retire from the mercantile business and devote his time to investments and real estate. Tousey seemingly had considerable political influence. He was appointed to help rescue a bank in Lawrenceburg when it faced financial difficulties. Omer twice served as President of the Lawrenceburg branch of the State Bank of Indiana. The Touseys led an opulent lifestyle. An account of the Tousey family tells of lavish Christmas balls held in the house.

Although the Touseys had no children of their own, Omer was an uncle of to-be Governor Thomas G. Porter. Young Porter reputedly spent much of his boyhood living with the Touseys. A biography of Porter, printed in the *Lawrenceburg Press* during Porter's gubernatorial campaign on June 14, 1880 states that Porter's mother had died while he was a young boy, and his uncle Omer had adopted him. The Touseys and Porter remained close; Tousey paid for his college education, and Porter was executor of Tousey's estate in 1868.

Tousey's widow, Lucinda, lived in the house for some time after his death, but she moved to Indianapolis during the 1870s. She rented the house out for a time, then sold it to retired Kentucky attorney Col. James Willis (Deed record 31, page 464, July 25, 1874). Willis was active in local affairs. He is cited in newspapers in 1875 as a member of the executive committee for a group that promoted public lectures and raised money for local schools. In 1877, the local school trustees board appointed him a school visitor in 1877.

Rebecca T. Leyman bought the house at a sheriff's sale in 1881, after Willis passed away. Leyman sold the house to Warren Tebbs almost immediately (Sheriff's Deed Record #1, p. 159, Deed Record 40 p. 331, June 23, 1883). Tebbs made the house a rental property, and divided it into apartments by the turn of the century. Tebbs sold the property to the Lawrenceburg Roller Mills in 1908 (Deed Record 68, p. 489, Warren Tebbs to Lawrenceburg Roller Mills, June 18, 1908), and in 1926, the mill converted the house into their main office. The mill eventually added the addition and undertook other alterations as mentioned in section 7. Lawrenceburg Roller Mills manufactured several popular brands of flour, which were sold throughout the United States. It was the largest mill in Indiana in the early 1900s.

Various corporations owned the Lawrenceburg Mills through the years. The last owner was Joseph E. Seagrams Company. Seagrams closed their Lawrenceburg plant in 1996. The City of Lawrenceburg recently bought the house and its lot, and deeded it to the Dearborn County Historical Society (Deed Record 295, p. 438 ff, June 22, 1998). The Society uses the house as its headquarters and museum. They are gradually removing the twentieth century alterations to the house.

Section 9 - Bibliography

Books and Collections

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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Vance-Tousey House, Dearborn Co., IN

Section 10 - Geographical Data - Verbal Boundary Description

Being part of Inlot No. 156 and Inlot No. 155 of the Original Plat of the City of Lawrenceburg, located in the City of Lawrenceburg, Dearborn County, Indiana, described as follows;

Commencing at the Northeast Corner of Inlot 156 of the Original Plat of the City of Lawrenceburg, located in the City of Lawrenceburg, Dearborn County, Indiana, thence S 45 degrees 00'00"W, 2.45 feet to a rebar and the point of beginning, thence S 45 degrees 00'00"E, 183.53 feet to a rebar, thence S 45 degrees 00'00"W, 129.55 feet to the Westerly line of Inlot No. 155 of said plat, thence N 45 degrees 00'00"W along said westerly line, 18.53 feet to the North line of said vacated New Street, 7.00 feet, thence N 45 degrees 00'00"W 165 feet to a cross notch in the Southerly right-of-way line of High Street, thence N 45 degrees 00'00"E along the Southerly line of High Street 122.55 feet to the point of beginning, containing 0.519 acres, more or less.

Boundary Justification

The original parcel for the Vance property was much larger and included other buildings. None of these buildings exist, and new streets have encroached on the original estate. This is the largest parcel left that is associated with the house. It is the present legal boundary, as defined in the deed from the City of Lawrenceburg to the Dearborn County Historical Society.

Photographs

The following information is identical for each photo:

3. Milton Masing, photographer 4. July, 1999 5. Negatives stored at Dearborn County Historical Society, 508 W. High St., Lawrenceburg, IN 47025-1916.

Photo number and description:

1. Main facade, looking NW. 2. Lunette window detail, looking NW. 3. Rear elevation gable end, looking S-SE. 4. Frieze detail, remnant inside of addition, looking roughly W. 5. Main entrance, looking NW. 6. Palladian window, looking NW. 7. W. wing, looking E. 8. Blind arch on front of wing, looking N. 9. Rear elevation, looking SE. 10. Basement fireplace, looking N. 11. Basement stone wall, looking E. 12. Bricked-up basement door opening on rear gable end of wing, looking S. 13. Spiral stairs, interior, looking N. 14. Spiral stairs, looking up. 15. Stair hall interior, looking S. 16. Stair hall interior, looking N. 17. Cupboard, interior, looking W. 18. Cupboard, interior, doors open, looking W. 19. Window kick panel, interior, looking S. 20. General view of exterior, looking N.