

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

JAN 28 2011

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Proctor House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 7037 E State Hwy 64☐ not for publicationcity or town Marengo☐ vicinitystate Indiana code IN county Crawford code 025 zip code 47631

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide ___ local

Signature of certifying official _____

Date _____

Title _____

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official _____

Date _____

Title _____

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register___ determined eligible for the National Register___ 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)

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 1 | private |
| | public - Local |
| | public - State |
| | public - Federal |

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1 | building(s) |
| | district |
| | site |
| | structure |
| | object |

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		district
	1	site
		structure
		object
1	1	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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Building/Domestic/Single dwelling

Government/Post Office

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Building/House Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Federal w/ Victorian Elements

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Stone & Unpeeled Log

walls: Brick

roof: Composition Shingles

other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

Built in the 1830s by William Proctor, local businessman, postmaster, and key figure in local development of the early and mid nineteenth century, the house he built and is now known as "The Proctor House" is located at the eastern edge of the small southern Indiana town of Marengo, in Crawford County. The two story Federal design I house is situated at the foot of a long slope, 100 feet south of a modern rail line, which runs roughly parallel to SR 64, between Milltown and Marengo. Access is a short paved road, exiting Indiana SR 64, which runs in front of the house, with the rail line parallel between the house and the highway. Behind or to the south of the house is a long sloping ridge, rising above the valley east of Marengo. This area has long been the source for limestone and has several current and former quarries nearby. The Proctor House was associated with historical commerce, transportation and postal stage routes in the mid-nineteenth century. It is representative of a prosperous merchant and is one of only a few contemporary examples of the community's past.

A family cemetery is adjacent to the property, just out of sight of the house through a stream and wooded section. The cemetery is not part of the nomination as its ownership is private – descendants of the families buried therein, although the present owner of the house, the Crawford County Historical Society, maintains the stones and grounds of the cemetery. Original owners and descendants of those related families are interred in this cemetery. More will be included in the narrative portion of this nomination.

Narrative Description

The house is Federal design with a central front door and hall, constructed of brick, reputedly made on site. The construction pattern on the front of the house is "true Flemish bond", according to Tom Johnson, architect for Keystone Restorations of New Albany. Two brick chimneys located on the gable ends served the house's heating needs. The cellar is limestone, presumably quarried nearby, combined with brick. The floor joists are constructed of unpeeled logs. The house survived a variety of changes and additions through the years, including the addition of Victorian era design elements, such as the "eyebrow" moldings or bracketed hoods over the front windows. More radical additions included a porch and patio-like space on the west or right side facing, complete with carport, and low brick wall around the pavement. Two more additions to the rear of the house included a bathroom, and two-story section with a shed kitchen on the first floor and a bedroom above. The carport, porch, and low wall have since been removed. Future restoration plans include removal of the latter two story addition, allowing the house to regain its original appearance of a modest brick Federal home of the 1830s.

The first floor is separated into two parlors, the formal parlor to the left of the entrance. The original fireplace mantle, as well as the six-panel door and beaded trim are consistent with Federal design. The house had a small porch added to the northwest corner, to the right when facing the house, where a door led into the sitting room of the first floor. Even though all of those additions have since been removed, the door in the brick wall continues to provide primary access to the house. This door appears to be original to the house, allowing for two entry points to the first floor; one in the center front, and one from the immediate right side front corner.

The second story appears to have provided bedrooms. To the immediate left of the staircase on the second floor is a narrow room, presumably used as a child's bedroom. A door on the north side of the room gives access to a larger room with a fireplace opening on the east side of the room. A door opposite leads into a small hall above the staircase which connects to the hall alongside the staircase and which gives access to the northwest bedroom, also containing a fireplace. A cupboard has been built into the west wall of this room. See accompanying floor plans to illustrate arrangement of rooms.

As the house presently stands, the second story addition has a bedroom behind (to the south or rear) of the house and is accessed through the original bedroom on that side of the house. It is situated above the kitchen addition of the first floor. Further descriptions of the construction elements and family history are appended in a continuation of the narrative.

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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Transportation

Architecture

Period of Significance

1812-1852

Significant Dates

1812 – Construction of nearby Blockhouse

1832 – Beginning of Construction of House

1835 – Wm Proctor receives commission of
Postmaster

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

William Proctor

Cultural Affiliation

English - American

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Period of Significance (justification)

1812 – 1852 Settlement period – 1812 – Blockhouse built for community protection from Indians in nearby location. Proctor purchases land September 1, 1831 (deed); Partner and brother-in-law Absalom Wood operated mercantile business 1831 – 1843 until Wood's death; Proctor serves as Postmaster from 1835 to 1852.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

The Proctor House is largely significant due to its association with early Indiana history and settlement. This house was built along a stage route and served as a way stop in the 1830s. It was so noted in several early documents detailing the postal routes (1839 map by David H. Burr, from the David Rumsey collection – see appendix for copy). Several small communities that grew up in the immediate vicinity were known first as Big Springs, which was laid out in 1839 by David Stewart. The first post office was known as Tuckersville, later changed to Proctorville when William Proctor became postmaster on January 12, 1835. As was often the case, as the Commission for Postmaster changed hands, the physical location of the post office changed as well. The small earliest communities were perhaps as little as one or two miles apart, but maintained distinct boundaries and associations for the citizens. The most recent town's name was changed once again in 1852 to Marengo, which it continues to this day. In the 1830s to early 50s, the post office was located in William Proctor's store or home, lending his name to the entire community of "Proctorville".

In the 1926 History of Crawford County by Hazen Hayes Pleasant, A.M., we read, "The town never grew very rapidly. The town was located about 14 miles north of Leavenworth on the Leavenworth-Paoli Road. A second county history, by John H. Weathers, an attorney in New Albany, written in 1889, also details some of this community's early history. During the early Territory years – shortly after 1800, Crawford County was included in Clark and Knox Counties. In 1809, Harrison County split off and nine years later, Crawford was formed from Harrison, Orange & Perry Counties. Most of this area was settled by colonists from the southern portion of the eastern seaboard; the states of Virginia, North and South Carolina, and inland states of Kentucky and Tennessee – or "upland southerners", some of whom squatted on this land prior to purchase and filing with the regional land offices. Malachi Monk, one such settler, squatted on this parcel of land for several years, participating in community affairs such as the building of a two-story block-house, built of round logs for the purpose of providing refuge from the Indians in the area.

Narrative Statement of Significance (provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance)

Social History – William Proctor was born in Pennsylvania about 1791 and his wife Mary Watson was also born in Pennsylvania a few years later, about 1803. Mary's sister, Anna Watson, married Absalom Wood. In 1825, William Proctor and Absalom Wood purchased thirty acres of part of NE, Sec 6, Twp 2S, Range 2E, from Malachi Monk, where they opened a mercantile business. Their supplies were transported by wagon from New Albany, according to Richard Eastridge, Crawford County historian. The Proctor-Wood mercantile lasted until the death of Wood in 1843.

William Proctor also served in several other capacities during his tenure as Postmaster. He was appointed in 1844 a trustee of the Crawford County Library, located in Leavenworth. He also served as a Trustee of the Seminary Board in 1843. The Proctor-Wood pioneer cemetery, located on the property, though under separate ownership, was established in 1835."

Transportation – The Proctor House was listed as stage stop on the Leavenworth - Indianapolis stagecoach line, which began in Leavenworth and proceeded to Fredonia, Milltown, Proctorville, Mt Prospect, Paoli, Orleans, Bedford, Springville, Bloomington, Martinsville, Port Royal, & finally Indianapolis. County historian Eastridge also notes: "A new road opened in 1836 to run east from the headwaters of the three forks of Little Blue River to intersect the existing New Albany-Jasper road (paralleling the Buffalo Trace) at the Proctor House. Proctorville's early establishment at these important cross roads speeded the development of transportation and commerce in the new State of Indiana. This house was the center of the town of Proctorville and was the focus point of the pioneer community."

Architecture – This brick Federal home undoubtedly stood out from its nearby neighbors as being rather more elegant and finished in this community of log and folk architecture. It was among the first three houses in Crawford County to be constructed of locally produced brick. The house retains many of its original materials and characteristics and represents an important period of Indiana's development, as well the economic and social development in the post-frontier period.

It stands today as an important reminder of the architectural form of the development era as well as of the social and transportation history of the community and of the state.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

This property is located in southern Indiana's karst region and is in close proximity to several large, formerly mined, limestone quarries, now in use for a variety of other uses, including the commercial rental and storage of food stores, military and emergency supplies, and many other large storage needs. Current commercial use of adjacent lands is of extreme value and a highly unique retro-fit of a natural landform. The lot had been owned by the town of Marengo and had been designated as being part of a development area or industrial park zone. That designation has been changed and the property given to the Crawford County Historical Society. In the interim, the house and area had grown up in thicket and underbrush, which has since been removed. The Historical Society continues to raise funds for the restoration, maintenance and increased use of the facility. In order to maintain the integrity of the house itself, modern uses will be removed from the house and additional facilities built nearby on the grounds of the house, such as a building to house modern restrooms, cooking facilities, public meeting space, and storage for the organization's supplies, records, etc. It is also located across the highway from Marengo Cave, which enjoys a significant tourist visitation, and which contributes substantially to the local economy.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form)

Baker, J. David The Postal History of Indiana, Vol 1; 1976; Leonard H. Hartman, Philatelic Bibliopole, PO Box 21397, Louisville, KY 40221 LC Cat # 76-10531.

Burr, David H. Map of Ohio And Indiana Exhibiting the Post Offices, Post Roads, Canals, Rail Roads, &c. By David H. Burr. (Late Topographer to the Post Office.) Geographer to the House of Representatives of the U.S. John Arrowsmith. Entered ... July 10th, 1839, by David H. Burr ... District of Columbia.; List No: 0104.010; Series No: 11; Pub Title: (The American Atlas).; Pub Reference: Phillips 4525, 1379a note; Streeter 3859; Wheat 441; Sabin 9438 (with lithographic views).

Eastridge, Richard. Crawford County Historian; Personal Notes

Jackson, Evelyn. Crawford Countian: XVIII, Issue 1 p 5 March 14 Speaker - Historic Landmarks – Gregory Sekula;
Stetter, Becky Crawford Countian XVIII, Issue 2 – Sept 1, 2005 Tom Johnson – Keystone Architects
Volume XVII, Issue III PAGE 10 Record of Transfer of Deed to Historical Society
XIX, Issue 3 pg 3 Photos of removal of Tree and Carport from West side of house
XIX, Issue 3 - Laura Renwick of Historic Landmarks & Ron Siller of RCS & Associates

Jackson, Evelyn. The Crawford Countian, xvii, issue iv; "Proctor-Wood Family Genealogy" Part 1

Jackson, Evelyn. The Crawford Countian, xvii, issue 1 p6; "Proctor-Wood Family Genealogy" Part 2

Jones, H.O. (Whitey). A Twentieth Century History of Crawford County – First of Three Volumes; Chelsea, MI: Book Crafters, Inc. 1984

Pleasant, Hazen Hayes. A History of Crawford County; 1926

Publication #119; September 2004; Sources of Historical Information on Post Offices, Postal Employees, Mail Routes, and Mail Contractors

Siller, Ron A. Restoration Assessment Report: Architectural Assessment; The Proctor House, 7037 Hwy 64, Marengo, IN. 47631: Floyds Knobs 2006

Weathers, John A. A History of Crawford County; 1889

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: Crawford County Library

Proctor House
Name of Property

Crawford, Indiana
County and State

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 025-414-05012

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 7.091
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	Zone	Easting	Northing	3	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	Zone	Easting	Northing	4	Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

A part of the Southeast quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 6, Township 2 South, Range 2 East and more particularly described as follows;

Beginning at a stone at the southeast corner of said section; thence along the section line North 1 degree 51 minutes 09 seconds East 356.50 feet to the southerly right of way of the Southern Railroad (assumed to be 50 feet from center of tracts); thence along said right of way North 42 degrees 31 minutes 25 seconds West 329.43 feet to a mag nail; thence South 46 degrees 08 minutes 03 seconds West 458.95 feet to a mag nail; thence South 0 degrees 10 minutes 58 seconds East 279.11 feet to a 5/8" rebar on the section line; thence South 89 degrees 47 minutes 31 seconds East 541.14 feet to the point of beginning and containing 5.723 acres more or less...

A part of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 5, Township 2 South, Range 2 East and more particularly described as follows;

Commencing at a stone at the southwest corner of said section; thence along the section line North 1 degree 51 minutes 09 seconds East 55.00 feet to the northwest corner of a cemetery and the true point of beginning of the tract herein described;

Thence along the section line North 1 degree 51 minutes 09 seconds East 301.50 feet to the southerly right of way of the Southern Railroad (assumed to be 50 feet from center of tracts); thence along said right of way South 42 degrees 31 minutes 25 seconds East 493.36 feet to a 5/8" rebar on the south line of the section; thence along the section line North 88 degrees 47 minutes 22 seconds West 310.06 feet to the southeast corner of the cemetery; thence along the cemetery line North 1 degree 51 minutes 06 seconds East 55.00 feet; thence North 88 degrees 47 minutes 22 seconds West 35.00 feet to the point of beginning and containing 1.368 acres more or less and subject to all right of ways and easements of record. Containing in all 7.091 acres more or less.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

Includes historical boundaries and specifically limited to present ownership by Crawford County Genealogical and Historical Society. Boundaries exclude a nearby family cemetery because the cemetery is owned by descendants of the families buried therein and is not under the ownership of CCGHS, though they are the current caretakers.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Peggy Brooks	date	December 15, 2010
organization	Consultant	telephone	812-937-2152 / 812- 686-5379
street & number	822 E CR 1575 N	city or town	Gentryville
city or town	Gentryville	state	IN
e-mail	pbrooks@psci.net	zip code	47537

Proctor House
Name of Property

Crawford, Indiana
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map. N/A
- **Continuation Sheets** N/A
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)
- Deed Transfer to Crawford County Genealogical & Historical Society (Appendix 1)
- David H. Burr - Map of Stage Route ca 1835-40 (Appendix 2)
- Family Histories - prepared by Evelyn Jackson, CCGHS member (Appendix 3)
- Elevations & Plans prepared by RCS & Associates for Restoration Assessment Report December 11, 2006 (Appendix 4)
- The Crawford Countian reports on visits from historic architects & Historic Landmarks staff (Appendix 5)
- Photo Legend & Floor plans (Appendix 6)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: The Proctor House

City or Vicinity: Marengo

County: Crawford

State: Indiana

Photographer: Michael S. Thompson

Date Photographed: August 17, 2009

Description of Photograph(s) and number: All facades and interiors of Proctor House – see CD and photo log

1 of ____.

Property Owner:

(complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name Crawford County Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc.

street & number PO Box 133

telephone Hugh Jackson 812-347-2260

city or town Leavenworth

state IN

zip code 47137-0133

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.