

PH0364410

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED FEB 5 1976  
DATE ENTERED MAY 28 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

*Lackey -*  
HISTORIC *The* Overbeck House

\*\*

AND/OR COMMON

Lackey-Cockefair-Overbeck-Mattheis House

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

520 East Church Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge City

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

10th

VICINITY OF

STATE

Indiana

CODE

018

COUNTY

Wayne

CODE

177

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

\_\_DISTRICT

\_\_PUBLIC

\_\_OCCUPIED

\_\_AGRICULTURE

\_\_MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

\_\_COMMERCIAL

\_\_PARK

\_\_STRUCTURE

\_\_BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

\_\_ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_RELIGIOUS

\_\_OBJECT

\_\_IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_GOVERNMENT

\_\_SCIENTIFIC

\_\_BEING CONSIDERED

\_\_YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_INDUSTRIAL

\_\_TRANSPORTATION

\_\_NO

\_\_MILITARY

\_\_OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Gerald B. & Phyllis B. Mattheis

STREET & NUMBER

398 North Plum Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

VICINITY OF

STATE

Indiana

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Wayne County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main & 4th

CITY, TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Indiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Indiana Historic Preservation Program and Survey

DATE

1972-1974

\_\_FEDERAL  STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

CITY, TOWN

Indianapolis

STATE

Indiana

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE C. 1835

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Overbeck House was built in the 1830's east of the West fork of the Whitewater River and one block south of the Old Cumberland Road (now U.S. 40) with the Old Milton State Road (now Meredith St.) along its west property line. The house fronts to the north on what is now East Church Street (originally platted as S. Front Street) and is so situated at the foot of Pearl Street that it is seen from the Old Cumberland Road. It is a three-bay off-center townhouse with voids and solids divided in thirds; a two-story gable of braced-frame construction with regular and balanced proportions. Originally a three room house of parlor, upstairs bedroom and large attached kitchen or keeping room, it was enlarged with a two-story wing to the rear, possibly about 1850. Three feet of the original bedroom were used to make a hall to the rear wing and to enlarge the landing at the top of the stairs into a small room. This added dividing wall between the hall and bedroom has no support beneath it; consequently the floor of the bedroom sags. A simple mantel over the bricked-in fireplace and a double doored closet with 20" wide poplar shelves are features of the bedroom.

The parlor has a 6' wide fireplace extending into the room with open bookcase beside it, and three windows with 9 panes over 6, most of the glass being old and wavy. The south wall of the parlor was removed, except for two supporting columns, and a new wall that includes double sliding doors was constructed across the old 17' x 20' keeping room, providing a 13' x 17' dining room and a narrow 6' x 17' library between the dining room and parlor. The library and dining room both have exterior doors from the east side porch and square west windows of 8 over 8 sashes. The floors are ash in the four downstairs rooms. Woodwork is painted poplar. Remnants of the old original keeping room fireplace may be seen in the crawl space and behind the present exterior chimney that was probably built when a furnace was installed. The studio at the rear has two unusual windows of 4 over 5 sashes flanking a conventional 6 over 6 window. A shallow open fireplace with pot hook and shallow enclosed cupboards on either side are features of the studio. Narrow back stairs ascend from the studio into a hall along the east side of the bedrooms. There are 5 rooms, a bath, dressing room and 2 open porches upstairs.

The front stairway is open and features a simple cherry banister. It ascends from the entrance hall (which also has a solid door to the east porch). Most of the doors retain their original brass hardware and two of the exterior doors have large locks made by the Carpenter Company. The window sashes and original blinds or shutters are intact. There were probably open double porches to the east at one time, parts of which were enclosed after 1880 to provide a narrow downstairs kitchen, with bathroom and dressing room directly above. The roof was extended with wide overhangs and a stoop to restore the house to its original Federal appearance. The building has been entirely reroofed. The poplar weatherboarding, window glass and plaster all need repair in places. The chimneys have been pointed and sills are to be jacked to level floors. New plumbing, wiring and heating are planned to make a family residence. The 17' x 31" basement has a cement floor, much natural light and egress into a shed built on the rear of the house with shingle design stamped metal roof and cement floor is in fair condition. The Overbeck kiln has been returned to its place in the kiln house. A one-car garage is the only other outbuilding. The 3/4 acre of group has trees and plans of many varieties.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

c. 1835

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Ira Lackey

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

One of the early homes in East Cambridge, the Overbeck House is an intact typical home of the 1830-40's era, canal boom house. This Federal style townhouse has a Greek Revival entrance, the detail of which is in an 1832 builder's guide written by Asher Benjamin of Boston and described by him as a "Venetian entrance". Its builder, Ira Lackey, constructed several homes in the town and was a signer of the town plat drawn in 1836. Mr. Lackey opened the first store in East Cambridge in 1835, or earlier ('33 or '34). In 1859 Lackey's widow sold the property to Elisha Cockefair, a woolen mill operator of Union County, who opened a mill in East Cambridge. The property was purchased by John Overbeck in 1882, who brought his family of six daughters and one son to town after farming in Jackson Township for 15 years. The property was owned by the family for over 80 years, not being sold until 1965.

After their parents' deaths, four of the sisters, Margaret, Elizabeth, Hannah and Mary Frances, started an art pottery in the home about 1911 and it continued for over 40 years until 1955. Margaret was an art teacher at DePauw University. They used the name Overbeck Pottery, taken from the original German name of their ancestors, "Von Overbeck". Their monogram uses a cipher of the letters OBK. A basement room was used as the workshop and classes were conducted there. A cupboard lined with tin, used to store the greenware pieces, is located under the studio fireplace. One of the sisters was an invalid and a simple lift was constructed to move her between floors. The apparatus remains in its location in the upstairs dressing room.

The sisters did all the pottery work, even making their small hand tools. Their early pieces were mostly functional; vases, bowls, tea sets, candlesticks and tile. They also fashioned small figurines of humans, animals and birds. They worked with metal, wood, fabric, water colors and oil. Examples of all their work may be seen in the local public library. There was no mass production, for original design was emphasized in their handmade products of simple and classic lines. Overbeck Pottery is famous for its lovely, soft colors and distinctive glazes, the formulas for which were never revealed. For many years OBK pieces were granted first awards in state and national shows and were exhibited in most major cities and in Paris. Hundreds of visitors from around the nation called at the home and signed guest books, beginning in 1920. A book about the Overbecks and their pottery is being written by Dr. Kathleen Postle of Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana, who has indexed and photographed over 1,500 pieces.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- The Practical House Carpenter by Asher Benjamin 1832 Plate XXVIII p.65
- Young's History of Wayne County by Andrew W. Young 1872 p.248
- Art and Artists of Indiana by Mary O. Burnet 1921 pp. 302-303
- Art Pottery of the United States by Paul Evans 1974 pp. 203-205
- "The Bulletin" American Ceramic Society May 15, 1944, pp.156-158
- "Spinning Wheel" Antiques Magazine, May 1972, pp. 10-12

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 1

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	6,5,7	3,5,0	4,4,0,8	2,7,0	B					
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
C						D					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Phyllis B. Matteis, Co-owner

September 25, 1975

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

398 North Plum Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Indiana

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE January 29, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5/28/76

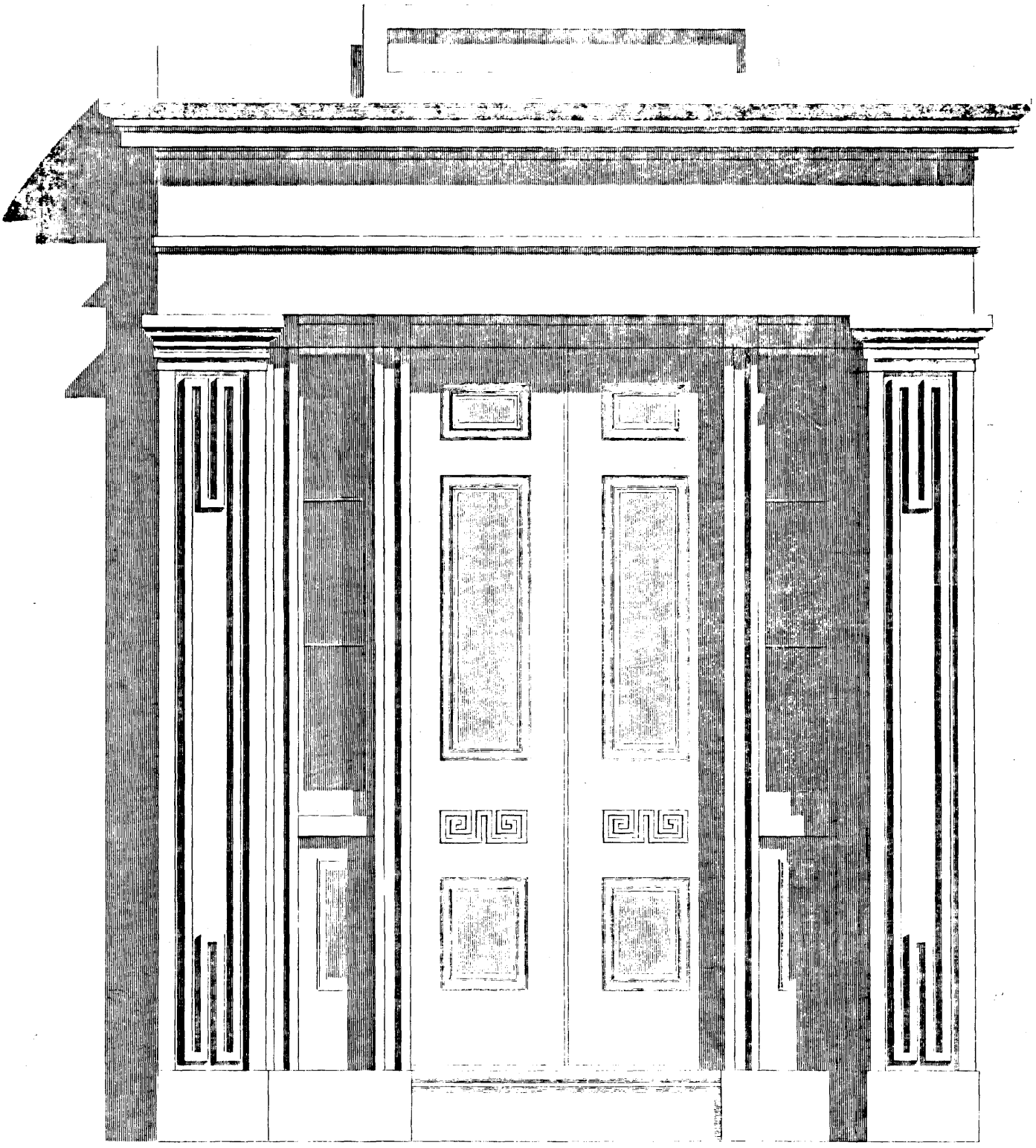
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

5.25.76

ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Asher Benjamin  
Entranceway

PHOTOGRAPHY UNIT

NPS Number 5/28/74

Title: Lackey-Overbeck House  
Wayne Co, Ind.

Loc. Close-up of front entranceway,  
showing detail of Asher  
Benjamin's "Venetian entrance".