

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 10 1978

DATE ENTERED SEP 20 1978

**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**

HISTORIC Honey Creek School

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

NE of Bloomington on  
Low Gap Road, North-Benton-Township

CITY, TOWN

Bloomington

XX VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

9th

STATE

Indiana

CODE  
018

COUNTY  
Monroe

CODE  
105

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Monroe County Community School Corporation

STREET & NUMBER  
315 North Drive

CITY, TOWN  
Bloomington

VICINITY OF

STATE  
Indiana 47401

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Monroe County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER  
Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN  
Bloomington

STATE  
Indiana

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
None

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" 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 DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

The Honey Creek School stands in a hillside meadow above Low Gap Road in Monroe County, Indiana.

The building consists of a hipped rectangular mass with a projecting gabled bay centered on the main (west) elevation. The gabled wood-shingled roof is punctuated by a small belfry with a low pyramidal roof and a brick chimney at the intersection with the main roof. The north rake of the gable is extended even with the main elevation in order to shelter the entrance, which is a solid leaf on the north facade of the gabled projection.

The structural system is balloon framing on a fieldstone foundation wall. Elevations are very simple, with narrow clapboard siding trimmed with plain boards on the corners and around openings; the eaves are simple projections with exposed rafters. Fenestration consists of a single two-over-two double-hung sash in the center of the west facade, and five four-over-four windows with lower hopper sash on the north elevation.

The interior consists of a single large classroom entered through a small vestibule. A wainscote of beaded car siding extends entirely around the classroom; the slate blackboard is mounted across the east wall and part of the south wall. The enframements of the windows and doors are smooth boards with a simple edge mould. All doors are solid leaves with five horizontal rectangular panels. The classroom is heated by an iron stove in the center of the floor and illuminated by four electric lamps hung from the twelve-foot ceiling. All of these interior fittings are original; the cast iron, wood-trimmed student desks are antiques which match those originally used.

In 1975 a major restoration effort repaired deteriorated features of the building. A new roof was installed; rotted siding was repaired; the belfry was reconstructed; a new foundation was constructed; and the chimney was repointed. This work has restored the building to its 1921 appearance.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input 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 1921

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Otis Lee & Joseph A. McClary

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Honey Creek School has been associated with education for almost 125 years, making the property locally significant.

The earliest school on the property was a crude log structure which was erected in 1854 on land donated by Ezekiel Hendrickson to the township. Located near Honey Creek, this building used halves of logs for benches and an open fireplace; there were no desks. In 1879 a larger frame building replaced the log structure. The frame school was located on a hill about 50 rods above the creek on land donated by the heirs G.W. Riddle.

By 1921 the second Honey Creek School had deteriorated to the point that a new building was necessary. The present frame structure was constructed in the summer and fall of 1921. Otis Lee was the contractor, and Joseph A. McClary was the carpenter. Lumber came from the area, and gravel for the foundation was carried up from a sandbar in Honey Creek. All the windows for the classroom were placed in the north wall to reduce glare. The first classes were held in the new building in January, 1922.

The fact that a third one-room school house was constructed at the Honey Creek site in 1921 suggests how late in the twentieth century the rural portions of Indiana were isolated from the school consolidation trends in the urban areas. Until the 1940's the educational experience at Honey Creek was more like that of the 1870's than rural education of the 1960's. The structure housed eight classes and a stove in the center of the room supplied heat and a place to warm noon lunches. Children carried water from springs on nearby farms until W.P.A. workers dug a well in the 1930's. Pupils continued to walk and ride in horse-drawn wagons until the first motorbus route began in 1927. Kerosene lamps supplied the only supplement to natural light until electricity came to rural Monroe County in 1941.

Throughout the 1930's reunions of Honey Creek students and teachers were held every year. However, the Honey Creek School was existing on borrowed time. In 1945 the school was closed, and the pupils were transferred to Unionville School in Benton Township. The abandoned building was forgotten and ignored until the mid 1970's when the Monroe County Community School Corporation and the Association for Childhood Education International restored the building as a graphic demonstration of the education experience in the early twentieth century. A number of neighboring school systems are also making use of this "historical laboratory".

The Honey Creek School is a late example of the one-room schoolhouse once common in Indiana. Although its plan is typical of such structures, it is unusual to find a later example of this type which is constructed of wood rather than masonry. It is also unusual to find elements of the Bungalow mode, such as exposed rafters and timber brackets, used for a school design. The structure is notable in part merely because it has survived; extant

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- 1856 Atlas of Monroe County, Indiana. Bloomington, Monroe County Historical Society, 1975.
- Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Indiana. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1968. Reprint of 1876 edition.
- Deed Records, Monroe County Courthouse
- Honey Creek School Reunion Scrapbook kept by Mrs. Harvey Beck of Bloomington, Indiana.
- "Honey Creek School Dedication: 1854 to the Present and Future". Bloomington: Monroe County Community School Corporation, 1976.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.79 Acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Hindustan QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 6	5 5 1 1 2 0	4 3 4 8 4 2 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE  
 David A. Staver, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

ORGANIZATION  
 Monroe County Community School Corporation

DATE  
 December 30, 1975

STREET & NUMBER  
 315 North Drive

TELEPHONE  
 (812) 339-3481, ext. 40

CITY OR TOWN  
 Bloomington

STATE  
 Indiana 47401

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL      STATE      LOCAL XX

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 *Joseph D. Child*

TITLE Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer DATE 3-29-78

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

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

*R. B. Pettig*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 9/20/78

ATTEST: *William Lalovich*  
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE Sept 18, 1978

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

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brick schoolhouses are much more common.

The Honey Creek School is significant for its long local associations with primary education. It is a reminder of the period in Indiana history before the consolidation movement when most people received their basic education in one-room schools supervised by township trustees.