

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

For HCRS use only
received JUN 11 1980
date entered JUL 17 1980

**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 "Ashby"
and/or common Ashby Place

2. Location SW of Ladoga on SR 350E

street & number County Road 350E not for publication
city, town Ladoga mic. vicinity of congressional district 7th
state Indiana code 018 county Montgomery code 107

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Olen R. Gowens and Harley M. Reeder
street & number R. 1, Box 84-A
city, town Ladoga vicinity of state Indiana 47954

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse
street & number Main at Washington Streets
city, town Crawfordsville state Indiana 47933

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no
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 Ashby House is an Italianate style structure typical of the 1880's. The exterior of the house has been restored to its original appearance. The interior layout of the house had never been altered or remodeled until changes were made in the last few years for plumbing, mechanical, and electrical needs.

The house is brick with a limestone block foundation. A limestone sill separates the garden wall bond brick and the limestone foundation. Very little pointing has been done to the masonry. The main portion of the house is two stories with a full basement and is irregular in shape.

All of the original building materials came from the site. The brick was fired on the site in 1882. The trees on the site furnished all the wood for the construction and finishing of the house. The joists and beams are of solid oak. The brackets, soffits, and fascia are made of yellow poplar. Black walnut, cherry, chestnut, ash, and oak were used in finishing of the interior.

The main (east) facade is three bays wide, facing the road. The arched double doors with glass panels are located on the left side of the main facade. The doors have a segmented stone lintel. The portico and steps are of wood construction. The portico has a flat roof with small brackets under the eaves.

In the center of the west facade is a polygon bay extending the full height of the building. There is also an exit to the right of center on the first level of the west facade, which opens out to a wood portico. The roof of the portico is flat. The door has a single glass panel and a segmented stone lintel.

The building has a hip roof which is truncated over the two story portion. The roof was completely replaced during a restoration of the house (1977-1979). There are large and small brackets under the eaves. There is a large frieze, which is equal in height to the large brackets. There are two chimneys.

The kitchen and woodshed portion is only one story and located in the rear of the house. It is "L" shaped and has a hip roof with small brackets under the eaves. A veranda goes around two sides of the one story kitchen area.

All of the windows have long, double-hung sashes, with stone lintels and sills. The windows and lintels have segmented arches. All windows have segmented shutters except for the windows on the polygon bay.

All original walls, interior and exterior, are 17 inch thick masonry walls. The structure is in excellent condition, and the masonry walls are free of cracks. Because the interior walls start at the basement and continue all the way up to the attic, all three levels have identical floor plans, except for the kitchen area on the first floor.

The fireplaces have been reopened and mantels installed of the style and design of the era.

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Continuation sheet

Description

Item number

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The original eleven foot plaster ceiling had been badly damaged by rain and snow. Plumbing, electrical, and hot water lines for the new central hot water heating system were installed above new plaster ceilings to reduce the amount of disturbance to the structure.

The design over the outside windows and doors has been carried out in the woodwork over the doors and windows in the interior.

The environment and site remain the same as when the house was originally built with the exception of the loss of two large maple trees.

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 type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" 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 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	1883	Builder/Architect		

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Ashby Place is a notable example of Italianate architecture. In addition to its historical associations with the Ashby family, the structure is significant in Montgomery County as an excellent example of Italianate architecture. The hipped roof, segmental arched windows and doors, brackets, and irregular plan indicate a consistent use of Italianate elements. The structure is especially notable since it is larger and more substantial than most country houses, and it is also important because many 19th Century houses in rural areas are disappearing.

It is significant that a house of such magnitude and elegance should be built in a rural area. Ashby Place rivals the luxury and grandeur of the very finest contemporary houses of the urban areas, and furnished the Ashby family a country seat reminiscent of stately plantations. Its broad sweep of lawn, adorned with towering maples and oaks against the wooded background along Cornstalk Creek afforded a very pleasing and amiable setting for the hospitality of an affluent generation.

The bustling industrial growth and the western movement following the Civil War and the Reconstruction period had placed the Indiana farmer in a most favorable position. The demand for his grain, pork, beef, and other agricultural products to support this tremendous expansion and growth gave the farmer an eager and insatiable market for all he could produce while, at the same time, rewarding him most generously. The establishment of the railroads, the development of the Erie Canal and other waterways, brought the market to his door.

The Ashby family were among the first settlers in the area and have had considerable influence, culturally and economically. The family settled in the area in 1828. Thompson Ashby, father of the builder, was a friend of Miami Indian Chief Cornstalk. Thompson was one of the few whites of the time who championed the Indians' ancient rights to camp and hunt every summer along Cornstalk Creek. In addition to extensive farming operations, the Ashbys helped develop lumber, coal, and grain dealerships in Ladoga. Bertha Ashby, the last of the family born in the house, founded the Ladoga Library and the Brown County Library, and was head librarian at Indiana University until her retirement.

The existing structure was completed in 1883 for Robert L. Ashby, who had inherited the land from his grandfather. A Mr. Britton came from Crawfordsville, built a brick kiln, and spent the summer firing brick from red clay on the farm. Yellow poplar on the farm provided the lumber.

The Ashbys moved out of the house in 1902, and it was a tenant structure until 1952. The house was unoccupied from 1952 until it was purchased and restored by the present owners from 1977 to 1979. The restored structure has attracted a great deal of interest, and over 1500 visitors toured the structure in 1979.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Abstract of Title recorded in Montgomery County Courthouse, Crawfordsville, Indiana
 "History of Clark Township, Ladoga and Part of Scott Township, 1828-1971" by Mrs. Harold Walters.
 Recorded interview with Miss Bertha Ashby, daughter of the builder and born in the house
 April 14, 1890

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 4.47 **ACREEAGE NOT VERIFIED**
 Quadrangle name Ladoga **UTM NOT VERIFIED** Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	16	513020	4416260			
B						
C						
D						
E						
F						
G						
H						

Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Olen R. Gowens and Harley M. Reeder
 organization _____ date January 10, 1980
 street & number R. 1, Box 84-A telephone 317/942-2088
 city or town Ladoga state Indiana 47954

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Joseph D. ...*
 title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 5/12-80

For HCRS use only	I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	date <u>7/17/80</u>
<u><i>Dee G. ...</i></u> Keeper of the National Register		
Attest: <u><i>W. Ray ...</i></u> Chief Registrar		date <u>7/14/80</u>

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Geographical Data

Continuation sheet Verbal Boundary Description Item number 10

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Part of the east half of the southeast quarter of Section 22, Township 17 north, range 4, west of the second principal meridian, situated in Montgomery County, Indiana. Beginning 1221.8 feet north of the southeast corner of said east half at a spike in the center of County Road 300E and running thence south 89 degrees and 08 minutes west 496.72 feet to an iron pin, thence north 62 degrees and 04 minutes west 91.32 feet to an iron pin, thence north 89 degrees and 18 minutes west 50.96 feet to an iron pin, thence north 88 degrees and 48 minutes east 631.44 feet to a spike in the center of said County Road, thence south 317.10 feet to the place of beginning, containing 4.47 acres.