

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

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FEB - 7 2000

NATIONAL REGISTER, HISTORY
& EDUCATION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Handwritten initials

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 Property

historic name Heck - Hasler House
other names/site number _____ 081-057-00024

2. Location

street & number 6612 North 575 East N/A not for publication
city or town Franklin vicinity
state Indiana code IN county Johnson code 081 zip code 46131

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]
Signature of certifying official/Title

1/25/00
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:

- 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:) _____

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall
3/15/00

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

- private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal

- building, district, site, structure, object

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing and 4 rows: buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling, DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure, AGRICULTURE/SUBSIST Agricultural Outbuilding

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling, DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate

foundation STONE: Limestone

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other WOOD

METAL: cast iron

Narrative Description

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

Heck - Hasler House
Name of Property

Johnson IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	16	586980	4380200
	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 Karen Cochran Hasler
 organization _____ date 2/16/99
 street & number 6612 North 575 East telephone 317-535-9431
 city or town Franklin state IN zip code 46131

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 same as above
 street & number _____ telephone _____
 city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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.

8. Statement of Significance

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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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE _____

Period of Significance

c. 1868 _____

Significant Dates

c. 1868 _____

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

Architect/Builder

Unknown _____

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

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Section number 7 Page 1 *Heck-Hasler House, Johnson County, Indiana*

Section 7-Description

The Heck-Hasler House, located in rural Clark Township, Johnson County, Indiana, is an Italianate c.1868 T plan structure comprised of two stories, attic and basement. (photo 1) The home was constructed on a large mound of earth excavated from the adjacent fields due to flooding of the low, swampy topography. Presently, surrounded by large farms, three acres of land are all that remain of the original extensive farmland. This site is ½ mile from the township school and approximately three miles from the small town of Rocklane (Clarksburg), a welcomed feature for those who lived before automobiles. Materials used in the construction include bricks for the walls, and a limestone foundation. The hip style roof has asphalt shingles. Three chimneys pierce the roofline. (photo 2) Only three dependencies remain on the property, smokehouse, summer kitchen and milk house; however, they give this home an authenticity that would be lacking with their absence. These remain in excellent condition. The interior of the house would be considered modest by today's standards but for c.1868 farmhouses would have been considered above average. Many existing trees on the property were planted in the c.1875 era, i.e. five ailanthus which were very popular at that time and are now four foot in diameter. Brick walks connect the dependencies to the home and circumscribe its exterior.

Limestone blocks form the foundation and basement walls with large slabs of this same stone used for the porch floors and steps. Small rectangular windows on each side of the basement contain an outer and inner window that are wide enough apart to form an inner ledge for insulating purposes. Four long, narrow porches having seven outside entries with transoms attest to the importance given to cross ventilation during that period. Opposing windows also aided in cooling the home prior to air conditioners. The original (likely two-over-two) windows were replaced in the 1980s with transomed casement windows on the first and second floors.

Four bays facing east and one facing south form the front facade with a one-story cast iron fronted porch inset into the south side of the facade sheltering the entryway. The porch is intricately detailed with slender colonettes, and an arcade of lattice work. Quatre-foil roundels fill the spandrels and each frieze bay has three such roundels as well. The windows have flat stone sills and lintels. (photo 10) The second floor windows and balcony access doors are in alignment with the downstairs bays. A friezeboard is interrupted by horizontal octagonal frieze lights and single wood brackets. (photo 9)

Another narrow porch on the west side of the south facade contains four bays that are configured door/window/window/door. Square wooden columns and scrollwork on the canopy decorate this porch. The second floor bays are in alignment with the first floor bays but are all windows. (photo 8)

The west elevation has no porch or bays. (photo 7)

To the west side of the north elevation has been added a narrow wood and glass entry porch that maintains

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the architectural integrity of the home. Above this porch, the second floor has three equally placed bays. The east side of the north facade has two bays, both windows, which are repeated on the upper floor. (photo 3)

The brick dependencies add much to the ambience of the Heck-Hasler house. (photo 6 and 4) Separate entryways lead into the milk house and the summer kitchen; however, these buildings share a roof. Both have one bay on the north facade. (photo 5) The summer kitchen's original fireplace and the milkhouse's cooling trough are still operable. Both of these rooms have brick floors. (photo 17) A smokehouse also remains on the property having one entryway to the east, one bay west, and one bay south.

Two main entrances into the Heck-Hasler House are located on the front porch and lead to either the front parlor or to the dining room. All rooms have four paneled faux painted doors that were kept closed in the winter to conserve heat. One door conceals the front stairway and another a small bedroom with half bath. The doors and windows have walnut scroll edged surrounds and wide walnut baseboards. The doors to closets have deep storage above and room entry doors have transoms. (photo 12) The original wide ash floors can be found in each room except the utility and kitchen that have ribbon flooring consisting of walnut and ash. Inner and outer walls are of three brick thickness. Ceilings are uniformly ten feet high and the walls and ceilings are plastered with the ceilings painted and walls papered. (photo 13) A Queen Anne curly maple replacement fireplace survives but the other fireplaces have been removed. (photo 11) The south facing, east entry leads to the front parlor, also used as the farm's office. Another entry facing east leads into the dining room. Located next with an entry way onto both the south and north porch was the families' kitchen.

On the west side, a long narrow room with the original cabinets/shelves served as the butler's pantry. The large utility room abutting the butler's pantry was also an access to the back stairs and inside basement stairs. (photo 14) Two more outside entries, one to the south porch and one to the north porch are located from the utility/workroom.

The front stairway landing could be used for a bedroom or parlor. Two bedrooms lead from this landing parlor and a third bedroom, now a bath and hall, also is accessed from here. (photo 16 - 15) The small west side bedroom was designed for a hired man and until 1975 was not accessible to the east wing. Entry to the attic stairway can be obtained via this "hired man's" room. A small closet under the attic stairway contains original signatures of past residents including Peter Heck's and the date of 1888. The attic is floored with quarter sawed ash but not currently heated nor used.

The home maintains a major degree of its original integrity. In 1975, a few alterations were completed to modernize the home including a new kitchen and bath where the north porch was sited. At some time during the 70s or 80s, all windows were replaced with contemporary casement type windows. A large barn/garage was built in 1980 and is the non-contributing building on the property; however, it blends into the historic atmosphere of the property. Other alterations, completed in 1995, include the glass porch that

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blends well with the home's Italianate style.

Section 8-Statement of Significance

The Heck-Hasler House is eligible for the National Register for its outstanding architecture. The Italianate home style was not uncommon during this c 1868 era but in the Clark Township area of Johnson County it is the only existing brick structure of this style not in disrepair.

The Heck-Hasler Farm, in a broader sense, represents the agricultural prosperity of Johnson County. A rich agricultural belt extends through most of Johnson and Shelby Counties, including Clark Township and eastern Johnson County. The area had the necessary ingredients for an extended period of farm wealth just before and after the Civil War, continuing well into the 20th century. Rich soil, relatively flat terrain, and access to markets were key factors. Many tributaries made access to water for cattle an easy matter. Indiana's primary railroad, the Indianapolis-Madison line, reached Edinburg in southeast Johnson County in the 1840s, giving area farmers an advantage over other regions of Indiana. Access to Madison meant access to southern or eastern markets. Corn and cattle were the staples of the farm economy in the area by the mid-19th century.

Families throughout this belt had amassed wealth over the years and they built many fine farmhouses in the 1860s and 70s. Ninevah Township and Blue River Townships in the southeast corner of the county have several impressive Italianate style homes from this time period. Several resemble the Heck-Hasler House, such as the Mullendore Farm on 200 East (c.1865). In Needham Township, just south of Heck-Hasler Farm, several frame Italianate homes with similar scale, massing, and details exist.

The Heck-Hasler Farm has no peers in Clark Township, however. The cast iron porch adds to the architectural significance of the home, since few examples of iron work on rural homes survive. The Heck-Hasler House clearly embodies a high-style Italianate house in plan, massing, materials, and detail. Although recent remodelings have altered some of the character-defining elements of the home, it still remains the most impressive Italianate house in the township.

Clark Township is rich in Indiana history. Early settlers entering Johnson County used the Wetzel Trace, which is located about ½ mile from the Heck-Hasler House. A parcel of land near this trace was one of three sites considered by the Commissioners appointed by the state legislature meeting in Corydon to select a site for the new capital, Indianapolis. Members included John Tipton, Gov. Jennings, Gen. Joseph Bartholomew, Col. Jesse Dunham and William Conner. Some of the members used the trace to arrive at William Conner's home for the meeting concerning this selection.

In 1820, John Hendricks surveyed Clark Township making the land available for sale. This area was low, swampy, and very rural, it was slower to be settled than the remaining portions of Johnson County. Because the land where the Heck-Hasler House is located was covered with immense forests and dense thickets with bogs and swamps, it was regarded as irreclaimable. Known as the Great Gulf, it was used

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by residents of the surrounding counties as a game resort with drives of different types of wildlife to be hunted. Until the 1860's the land was not farmed to any extent.

The land was deeded to Joseph Dupree by the United States of America in 1832 as signed by President Andrew Jackson and passed down to his daughter Parthenia Powers and her husband William Cutsinger. Peter Heck, 29, and his wife Jane, 24, came from Shelby County, Indiana with his parents Daniel, 66, and Nelly, 54, and four young children 4, 3, 2, and 2 months in 1860, purchasing the land from the Cutsingers who moved their operations to Edinburgh. All tax records from 1868-1872 are missing from the Johnson County Courthouse so an exact date of construction is impossible. The tax assessment shown in 1873 is four times greater than that shown in 1865, the date of the land purchase.

Mr. Heck established himself in the business of breeding and trading cattle as well as farming. Peter and Jane raised twelve children, some of whom also farmed in this area. Ownership of the home remained in the Heck family for 68 years passing to Fred and Elsie Parsley who also were farmers.

In 1975 Fred Ramsey purchased the home from the Parsley family and restored and updated it. In 1994, Vic and Karen Cochran Hasler purchased the home. Today the home is known for its lovely gardens as well as its handsome architecture. The Heck-Hasler House received an "0" rating in the Johnson County Interim Report published in August 1985 by the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

Section 9-Bibliography

page numbers in parentheses are direct references to the Heck family or house.

Abstract of Title, Heck-Hasler House. Collection of the owner.

Banta, D. D. *Historical Sketch of Johnson County*. Chicago: J.H. Beers, 1881. (p. 20, 163)

Banta, D. D. *History of Johnson County, Indiana*. Chicago: Brandt and Fuller, 1888. (p. 295)

John V. Bergen, Editor, *Atlas of Johnson County, Indiana, 1820 to 1900*, Franklin, IN: Johnson County Historical Society, 1983.

Branigin, Elba L., A. M. *History of Johnson County, Indiana*. Indianapolis: B.F. Bowen, 1913. (p. 763 - 765)

Indiana Historic Sites & Structures Inventory. *Johnson County Interim Report*. Indianapolis: Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, 1985.

Mary Bryan Association of Young Historians. *Johnson County, Indiana Architectural Study*, Franklin, IN: Johnson County Historical Society, 1990.

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Peat, Wilbur D. *Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century*. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1962.
(p. 5, 7, 99, 117-128)

Stienman, Odiane Heck, daughter of George Heck, Peter and Jane Heck's son (interview with author).

U.S. Bureau of the Census. U.S. Census of Population, Johnson County, Indiana, 1860.

1870 Index to U.S. Census of Population, Clark Township, Johnson County.

Section 10-Geographical Data-Verbal Boundary Description

Legal for: R.R. #2, Box 110-A Franklin, Indiana 46131

Part of the Southwest quarter of the Northeast quarter of Section 17, Township 13 North, Range 5 East of the Second Principal Meridian, described as follows:

Beginning on the East line of the said quarter quarter section 502.81 feet North of the Southeast corner thereof; thence North on and along the said East line 279.00 feet; thence deflecting 92 degrees 42 minutes left and running West 468.69 feet; thence South parallel to the East line 278.70 feet; thence East 468.69 feet to the place of beginning.

NOTE: The tract herein is shown as containing 3.00 acres, more or less, in the prior deeds in the chain of title.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the significant resources: the house and two 19th century outbuildings. A non-contributing barn-garage (c.1980) is also within the 3 acre plot. No justification can be made at this time for including other acreage which once was part of the farm.

Additional Documentation:

text of a biographical sketch about Peter Heck, from Branigin, Elba L., A. M., *History of Johnson County, Indiana*, 1913, p. 763 - 765:

Peter Heck, who was the son of Jacob and Mary Heck, was born in Ohio on July 28, 1825 and died on April 10, 1907. His parents were sturdy Germans from whom he inherited many of the characteristics for which that great nation is noted. He was one of eleven children. The family moved to Indiana when he was an infant and settled near Mt. Auburn, Shelby County, Indiana, where, on December 7, 1854, he married to Jennie Cutsinger. On October 7, 1855, they settled in Clark Township, Johnson County. Jennie Cutsinger Heck was born on June 16, 1836 and died on April 25, 1909. Peter Heck became the owner of six hundred and forty acres of land and was considered a very successful farmer. He inaugurated a system of giving to each of his twelve children forty acres of land or its equivalent in money though the

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boys earned the same by work. Upon his death, Peter Heck left an estate of three hundred acres.

The subject of this sketch spent his boyhood days working with his father on the home farm. He has increased his land from time to time and to the improvement of this, he has indefatigably devoted himself. In 1911, he built a fine, new barn, thirty-eight by sixty feet in size and has a neat and attractive residence set in the midst of a grove of locust and apple trees, the whole presenting a very attractive appearance. Mr. Heck gives his attention to the raising of all the cereals common to this locality, having twenty-six acres in corn, twenty-five acres in wheat and raising annually about forty head of hogs. By his efficient labor and successful management, his farm has become one of the most productive and valuable of this area in the county as well as one of the county's most beautiful and attractive rural homes.

Photos

The following information applies to all 17 photographs:

1. Heck-Hasler House
2. Johnson County, Indiana
3. Karen Cochran Hasler
4. April 1997
5. Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology

- #1 Camera facing west, main facade
- #2 Camera facing west/northwest, main facade
- #3 Camera facing west/southwest, main facade of milk house
- #4 Camera facing south, north facade including milk house, summer kitchen, smoke house
- #5 Camera facing south/southeast, northwest facade, milk house, summer kitchen
- #6 Camera facing north/northeast, south facade of summer kitchen, milk house
- #7 Camera facing east, rear facade of smoke house, main house
- #8 Camera facing north/northeast, south facade
- #9 Camera facing west, detail of entablature with scroll brackets, iron work on porch
- #10 Camera facing south, detail of stone, brick
- #11 Camera facing south, interior of front parlor
- #12 Camera facing west, interior of dining room
- #13 Camera facing west, interior of dining room
- #14 Camera facing west, back stairway
- #15 Camera facing east, upstairs rear hallway
- #16 Camera facing east, upstairs bedroom
- #17 Camera facing west, detail of fireplace in summer kitchen