

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAY 22 1986
date entered JUN 20 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Newby, Micah, House

and or common Newby-Bick House

2. Location

street & number 1149 West 116th Street N/A not for publication

city, town Carmel X vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Hamilton code 057

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input 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 Dr. and Mrs. Stewart E. Bick

street & number 1149 West 116th Street

city, town Carmel X vicinity of state Indiana 46032

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hamilton County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Noblesville state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date April, 1978 federal state county local

depository for survey records Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana

7. Description

Condition

excellent

poor
 fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

Check one

unaltered

altered

Check one

original site

moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Newby-Bick house is located on West 116th Street, approximately one mile west of State Road 31. The residence stands on its original site surrounded by a grove of large maple trees, walnut trees, and one of the largest pear trees in the state (according to a local nurseryman). The house was constructed on the highest point of the site with ground sloping away on all four sides. The structure was purchased in 1980 by Dr. and Mrs. Stewart E. Bick, who have meticulously restored the house for their home.

Although the structure was in some disrepair, 95 percent of the architectural elements and 80 percent of the glass are still in existence and, for the most part, sound. Fortunately, the house never received an addition, although some updating had occurred within the structure in the form of plumbing, heating and wiring.

The architectural concept reflects elements of a simplified Italianate design. There are two porches facing west. Both retain original ornate architectural detail expressed in the posts, bracketing, and jigsaw work below the entablature. The entrance porch floor was originally wood but has since been replaced with brick. The west porch with the wood floor has been screened in.

Exterior doors are original and screen doors have been restored and/or replicated to the original designs. All doors are topped with transoms, both inside and out. Fenestration consists of, for the most part, matching two-light double-hung windows, cased on the exterior with 1 x 4 trim at the jambs. Head trim consists of a 1½" x 5" lintel capped with a heavy molded drip cap.

The house is covered with 1 x 5 inch poplar lapped siding, terminating at the corners with 1 x 4 corner boards topped off with a molded capital supporting two ornate brackets which, together with other symmetrically placed brackets, support the soffit of the roof overhang. The roof is a low pitched hip type, except for the shed roof across the rear of the structure. The shed roof overhang is also bracketed on the east and west elevations. The original is believed to have been slate; however, it has been replaced with asphalt shingles in a slate color.

The house is erected on a split fieldstone foundation with stones taken from the farm site. The house is painted, using Victorian colors with color contrast between the siding, corner boards, window trim and porch detailing.

Records indicate that the farm was acquired in August, 1871, by Micah Newby from his father, John Henley Newby. Although no precise date of construction is known, Ovid Newby, grandson of Micah Newby, documented that his father, John Absalom Newby, born 1877, was age four when the family finished the house. The old Clay Center School formerly stood directly across 116th Street, but was demolished about 1956.

During restoration of the building, while investigating the fabric, it was discovered that the house was framed in oak cut from the farm. The exterior walls are of balloon type construction and are sheathed with diagonal boards, several of which are up to 36" in width and are of native poplar. Tongue and groove, 1 x 6 flooring in the house is yellow pine. Ninety-five percent of the hardware is original, both the box locks on the exterior doors, and sash locks at the windows. Sash locks are dated May, 1872. Box locks on exterior doors are dated July 21, 1853. Interior trim in main rooms of the house consists of 1" x 5" casings topped with a cap mold at heads. Transom hardware is pivoted type.

The floor plan is a "T" shape and symmetrical except for the two porches on the west and the shed roof wing to the rear.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" 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	Builder/Architect
c. 1880	Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Micah Newby house is significant as a good example of the Italianate style in a rural balloon frame structure, and as the former home of Micah Newby, a successful entrepreneur and one of the first farmers in central Indiana to identify and develop a market for the mass production of butter.

Micah Newby was born December 18, 1837, in Hancock County, Indiana. He was married to Emily Pritchett Elliot and they had five children. About 1871 Newby acquired the first 40 acres of his farm from his father for \$500.00. He first constructed a log cabin and large dairy barn, and lived in the cabin while the house was being constructed. Newby acquired additional acreage in 1886, bringing his total holdings to 147 acres.

Newby designed and built his simplified Italianate house about 1880, and continued to live there until his death in 1926. Despite its age, the house retains most of its original integrity and fabric, having never been significantly altered or remodeled. The barn was later converted into a residence and is now under separate ownership.

Besides being one of Indiana's first mass producers of butter, Newby was also the primary marketer of butter in Indianapolis.¹ He had dozens of dairy cows and also bought extra milk from local farmers. Newby made two to three trips per week to Indianapolis to sell his butter to merchants. Most of his farm was devoted to raising feed for his large dairy herd.

Newby's attention to his home also applied to the land. He landscaped the property adjacent to the house with native trees, including sugar maple, black walnut, persimmon, crabapple and pear. Today, many of the trees are still alive and fully matured. According to local nurserymen, a 65 foot pear tree, measuring 9'8" in circumference, is one of the largest in the state.

Members of the Newby family, including John Absalom Newby and his wife, continued to live in the house for some time after the death of Micah and Emily Newby. The house later had several owners before being purchased by the Bicks in 1980.

¹Noblesville Ledger, June 15, 1926, p. 1

9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.89 acre

Quadrangle name Carmel

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	5	7	0	3	1	0	4	4	2	2	9	0	0
Zone		Easting					Northing							

B

Zone		Easting					Northing							

C

Zone		Easting					Northing							

D

Zone		Easting					Northing							

E

Zone		Easting					Northing							

F

Zone		Easting					Northing							

G

Zone		Easting					Northing							

H

Zone		Easting					Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please see continuation sheet

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title H. Roll McLaughlin, F.A.I.A.

organization Architect

date January 29, 1986

street & number 950 West 116th Street

telephone 317/846-8020

city or town Carmel

state Indiana 46032

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 4-30-86

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 6-20-86

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet Micah Newby House Item number 7 Page 1

The basement is accessible through a hatchway located in the floor of a small storage room next to the kitchen to the north. The excavated area occurs only under the dining room and present family room. Ceiling height is low, measuring approximately 5'6" to 5'8", floor to underside of joists. The exterior walls and two interior bearing foundation walls are hand split fieldstone. 6" x 8" hand hewn plates rest on the foundation walls and are oak notched to receive the first floor joists. Joists vary in size but are largely 2½" x 7" rotary cut and in sound condition. There is no evidence of dryrot or termite damage. The floor is concrete.

The plan layout consists of a front or north parlor backed by a dining room on the west (offset) and a stairway and bath on the east. To the rear is a kitchen on the east and a family room on the west, both under the shed roof area of the rear of the house.

The second floor plan generally follows the first floor plan in layout, consisting of the three bedrooms and one bath. To the rear over the kitchen is a child's room under the shed roof area with an open end to the west which looks down into the family room from the loft area.

The structure is in excellent condition and an asset to its rural environment.

Interior alterations are as follows:

First floor. Period cabinets have been placed on the east wall of the north room; a shower has been placed in the east bedroom which is now the bath; wood paneling has been placed and painted in the dining room and the southwest family room; and a brick hearth has been added to accommodate a wood stove which uses the original stove port.

Second floor. The north and center bedroom closets have been enlarged using the original doors; the east bedroom has been bisected to form an upstairs bath and a smaller bedroom; and the west side of the attic area under the hip roof has had the floor removed and a loft placed which overlooks the southwest lower level room.

Foundation. The original boiler door to the Clay Center School was placed in the foundation as a crawl space door in 1928.

The present studio building on the property was built as a garage in 1930. It was built by Micah's son, John, of ceramic block from Brazil, Indiana. It has a concrete floor. It was used as a rendering house, as well as a garage. The chimney in the garage was for that purpose. The Bicks have renovated it to a studio, adding windows which originated from an early (1910-20) Indianapolis schoolhouse and clapboarded the exterior similar to the main house. Dr. Bick designed and built the double doors to appear in design like the original barn door.

The former barn (now a residence) is adjacent to the nominated property, but is under separate ownership.

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Continuation sheet Micah Newby House Item number 9 and 10 Page 2

Map of Hamilton County, Indiana, compiled by W. F. Cottingham, C. E. Fariss and Beck, Publishers, Chicago, IL, 1896. J. D. Rauch, L. E. Draughtsman.

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory, Hamilton County, April, 1978.

The Peoples Guide. A business, political and religious directory of Hamilton County, Indiana. Cline & McNaffie. Indianapolis, 1984, page 354.

History of Hamilton County, Indiana. Illustrated. 1880. Chicago: Kingman Bros. w/ illustrations and biographical sketches. T. B. Helm, page 109.

Noblesville Ledger, 1926, June 14, page 1; June 15, page 1; June 22, page 4.

Ivan Newby, Deceased, 1985.

Ovid Newby, 12510 Clay Center Road, Carmel, Indiana.

Susan Loonsten Reese, Landscape Architect, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Wainwright and Hall, Abstractors, Real Estate and Investing Agents. Noblesville, Indiana. Original land abstract owned by Ovid Newby.

Item Number 10

Part of the Northwest Quarter of Section 3, Township 17 North, Range 3 East in Hamilton County, Indiana, more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the Northwest corner of the said Quarter Section; thence North 89° 10 minutes 55 seconds East (assumed bearing) along the North line of said Quarter Section 133.80 feet to the Southwest corner of the Southwest Quarter of Section 34, Township 18 North, Range 3 East in Hamilton County, Indiana;

thence North 89° 12 minutes 25 seconds East along the North line of the said Northwest Quarter Section 1728.22 feet to the place of beginning; thence continue North 89° 12 minutes 25 seconds East along the said North line 300.00 feet;

thence South 16° 59 minutes 40 seconds West (being approximately along an existing fence line) 341.32 feet; thence 89° 12 minutes 25 seconds West parallel with the North line of the said Northwest Quarter Section 195.73 feet to a point which lies South 00° 47 minutes 35 seconds East 325.00 feet from the place of beginning;

thence North 00° 47 minutes 35 seconds West 325.00 feet to the place of beginning, containing 1.849 acres, more or less.

Excluding, however, the present right-of-way of 116th Street.