United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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 Crowe-Garritt House

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object	being considered	Accessible yes: res yes: un no	progress	agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation _X_ other: Storage
4. Owner	of Prope	erty			
name H	lanover College				
street & number					
city, town H	lanover	vici	nity of	state	Indiana 47243
5. Locatio	on of Leg	al Desc	riptio	on	
courthouse, registry o	of deeds, etc. Jef	ferson Count	v Courtho		
street & number		n at Jeffers			
city, town	Mad	ison		state	Indiana 47250
6. Repres	sentation	in Exis	ting S	Surveys	
4141	one			erty been determined el	egible? yes _X
date				federal sta	te county loc
depository for survey	records				

state

7. Description

Check one _X_ original site ____ moved date .

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance The Crowe-Garritt House is a two story frame structure which displays the growth and evolution of a vernacular farm house into a more formal residence during the early 19th century. The original structure had a five bay facade, slightly asymmetrical, but having a balanced proportional relationship. As the house was enlarged, a more rigid symmetry was created by the addition of a two story veranda and one story extensions from each end of the facade. A two story ell was added to the central block of the residence, also of frame construction. All roofs of the house are gabled. Window sash in the original part and the additions are mostly 6 over 6, double-hung, with very narrow muntins. The veranda on the facade has six wooden columns on each floor. The first floor columns are of a more substantial proportion, square, with simple Greek Revival capital. The second floor columns are chamfered posts with simple ornamental, gingerbread brackets paired at each column. The porch rail is a wooden lattice. There are four chimneys on the house, one at each end of the central wall of the ell.

The balusters, railing and newel post on the main stairway in the entry hall have been removed, although it is possible that remnants may be found in the attic or basement. Other decorative elements in the interior include two Federal mantel pieces in the principal rooms flanking the entrance hall, a decorative baseboard throughout the main portion of the house, and, most notably, croissettes at the upper corners of the interior doors and windows. The remaining hardware was mass produced in the late 19th century. All of the original light fixtures are gone. Floors throughout the house are random width, tongue-and-groove poplar. The walls were plastered over hand split lath. There is a cellar beneath most of the house. A basement fireplace and simple room finish beneath the one story addition on the west of the facade may indicate the location of a basement cooking kitchen. The fireplace is of the same stone as the foundation of the house and has a very large fire box, approximately $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide.

Structurally, the Crowe-Garritt House has been altered in the course of expansion of the original house. Addition of the ell included a compact interior rear stairway and a two story porch, now partially fallen in. A small bay was added at the rear of the west wing, probably in the 1890s and some modifications were made for the installation of indoor plumbing. Basically, however, the historic fabric of the house remains mostly intact. The site includes .717 acres of gently sloping land with a variety of mature native trees, including poplar, persimmon, black walnut and maple.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—C	heck and justify below		
prehistoric	archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic		Iaw Iiterature Iiterature IIItary III music	re religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) The Crowe-Garritt House is significant to the history of Hanover College as its place of origin, and as the home of its founder and two other persons long associated with the College.

The Crowe-Garritt House was the residence of John Finley Crowe from 1824 to 1860, of his son-in-law, Joshua Bolles Garritt, from 1860 to 1918, and Garritt's daughter, Leila, from 1918 to 1934. Crowe founded a school that later became Hanover College, the oldest four year liberal arts college in Indiana, on January 1, 1827, when two boys appeared in a loom house a few feet away from Crowe's home. A bronze marker was erected on the spot and dedicated at Hanover College's centennial celebration in 1927. It is on land belonging to the house. Crowe came to Hanover as pastor of the Hanover Presbyterian Church in 1823, one year before he built a two-room cabin which came to be a two story, ten room structure by the time he died in 1860. Crowe was vice-president of Hanover College, a member of its faculty, and college agent in charge of raising money.

Joshua Garritt, who taught Greek and Latin at the College for 50 years, remodeled the house somewhat but did not change the basic structure. He is at the top of the list of Hanover's professors with the longest tenure of teaching. Leila Garritt was Hanover College's librarian for 26 years (1885-1911). She was active in making plans for Hanover's first library building that was completed in 1903.

After 110 years in the Crowe-Garritt families, the house was sold in 1934 and nearly razed in 1961 when the purchaser finally deeded it to Hanover College, thanks to the efforts of several alumni. It was again scheduled for demolition by the College in July, 1979. However, the following month Robert Ireland, a former member of the Hanover College faculty, secured an option to buy the property. He hopes to preserve it as a private residence.

The house, together with the church (then called the College Edifice), was the center of the Hanover campus until 1857, when the College moved a half-mile east to its present campus overlooking the Ohio River Valley. It housed as guests many prominent people. Among them were Crowe's grandsons, John and Stanley Coulter, internationally known biologists, who lived with their uncle and aunt while attending Hanover College, 1866-1871.

The home's stately, two story porch has been a Hanover landmark for generations of Hanoverians.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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In the Hanover College Archives are manuscript letters and documents written by Crowe's daughter, Esther, and by three of his grandchildren, Mary VanNuys, Leila Garritt, and Joshua C. Garritt. The first two chapters of John G. Coulter's book, The Dean (West Lafayette, IN: Purdue University Alumni Association, 1940) treat Crowe briefly, discuss the

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11. Fe	orm Prepare	d By			
name/title	Robert E. Ireland	d			• •
organization	Holder of option	to buy the pro	perty date	November	8, 1979
street & numb	er P.O. Box 377		telepho	one	
city or town	Hanover		state	Indiana	47243
12. St	ate Historic	Preserva	ation Of	ficer C	ertification
	significance of this proper				
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founding of the college, and treat extensively John M. Coulter and Stanley Coulter's experiences while students at Hanover College. One of the appendices to Frank S. Baker's book, <u>The Hanover Presbyterian Church</u>, <u>1820-1970</u> (Mentone, IN: Superior Printing Co., 1970) is entitled, "The Crowe-Garritt House." It was prepared from the manuscript materials mentioned above, plus other data from Sadie Crowe Gilchrist Allison, a great granddaughter of Crowe. In Baker's <u>Glimpses of Hanover's Past</u> (Seymour, IN: Graessle-Mercer Co., 1978) there is extensive data on Crowe (pp. 22-28, 80-84), on Joshua Bolles Garritt (163-165), and on Leila Garritt (154-156).

Item number

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street; thence south 110 feet to the place of beginning, containing .717 acres.