

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Cragun, Strange Nathaniel, House

other names/site number Boone County Historical Society

2. Location

street & number 404 West Main Street

N/A
N/A

not for publication

city or town Lebanon

vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Boone code 011 zip code 46052

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this x 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 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide x local

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

Indiana DNR – Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____

Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register

 determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register

 other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

S.N. Cragun House
 Name of Property

Boone County IN
 County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
 (Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

Category of Property
 (Check only one box.)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	district
0	0	site
0	0	structure
0	0	object
1	0	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION&CULTURE: museum

SOCIAL: civic

SOCIAL: meeting hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne

Materials
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: BRICK

walls: WOOD; weatherboard

roof: ASPHALT

other: _____

S.N. Cragun House
Name of Property

Boone County IN
County and State

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The S. N. Cragun House stands on a 60-by-120-foot lot on the north side of West Main Street, two blocks west of the courthouse square in Lebanon. The street in the immediate vicinity of the house is a mixture of residential and commercial buildings. An alley runs along the east side of the property and also on the north. On the lot to the west once stood a large two-story house that was demolished long ago; today it is a parking lot. The two-and-a-half story T-gabled frame house, which remains remarkably intact, is a fine example of late Queen Anne, with its large wraparound porch and round corner tower.

Narrative Description

The main south façade of the S. N. Cragun House (photo 1) rises two-and-a-half stories over a slightly raised basement of brick with awning-type one-light windows. The original wood frame windows in the house proper are consistently one-over-one doublehung sashes. The original clapboard siding is intact. A wooden porch with a balustrade, balustrade frieze and eight turned posts extends across the entire width of the front gabled portion and around part of the east elevation. Wide steps with banisters lead onto the porch to the oversized main entrance door featuring a beveled glass window. Above the entrance to the porch is a gabled pediment with arabesque bas-relief. At the southeast corner above the porch rises a two-story tower topped with a conical roof. Behind—just north of the tower on the second floor—is an open balcony with a balustrade, a full turned post at the outer corner and two turned half-posts where the balcony meets the walls of the house. Access to the balcony from within is by a single door facing south; there is an oval window with stained glass facing east onto the balcony. Beneath this balcony is a side door facing south, opening onto the east side of the porch. The front (south) gable has a return on the west (none on the east because of the tower) at the top of the second story. Inset into the gable on the third story is a balcony within a segmental arched opening with a balustrade across the front. The part of the south façade west of the gable (see photo 2) contains one bay; on the first floor is a door facing south leading onto a side porch with a hipped roof supported by two turned posts and featuring a balustrade and a balustrade frieze that match those on the main porch.

The west elevation (photo 2), five bays, displays the above-mentioned side porch. The saltbox-shaped gable has a cornice return at the top of the second story, but its north end intersects a small shed roof supported by brackets over the two northernmost windows (see photo 3). A small square addition (photo 3) extends off the northwest corner of the house; it has but one window, located in its south wall.

The rear north elevation (photo 4) has three unevenly spaced window openings and an entrance reached from a raised porch. The small L-shaped porch, each section having a hipped roof, has a balustrade all around and a single set of steps with banisters. East of the porch is an entrance to the basement (now closed off) beneath a pair of wooden doors. On the second story there is a central gabled dormer with returns.

S.N. Cragun House
Name of Property

Boone County IN
County and State

The east elevation (see photo 1) features a curved projecting bay on the lower two stories. Similar to the west elevation, the gable end on the south has a return at the top of the second story; the north gable end is elongated, effectively a saltbox, and intersects with a small shed roof supported by brackets over the two northernmost windows.

One enters the house through a large paneled door on the south into a small reception hall (photos 5,6) with a winding staircase on the right (east), double pocket doors into the front parlor on the west, and straight ahead, on the north, a doorway into the library (photo 7). The entrance door window contains beveled glass. The southeast corner of this space contains a curved bay (the bottom of the tower) with three one-over-one doublehung sash windows. The stairs, with turned balusters and plain balls on pedestal bases topping the newel posts, rise northward from here and turn west. As noted earlier, the stairwell boasts a stained glass oval window at the second floor level.

Most of the first floor connecting doors feature lavish fretwork across the top (see photos 7,8,9,10), which seems somewhat inconsistent with the rest of the house. When the Boone County Historical Society acquired the house, they found this trim in the attic and installed it. The trim fit perfectly, which may suggest it was indeed original. The floors are largely covered with carpeting, some wall-to-wall, some leaving space around the edges to expose the parquet patterns on the perimeters of the rooms (photo 11).

The parlor (photo 9) in the southwest corner of the house boasts the afore-mentioned double pocket doors from the reception hall (photo 8) and another set of pocket doors (photo 9) into the dining room to the north. The trim here, as in all the rooms, consists of broad baseboard, but no crown nor wainscoting. The door and window surrounds are grooved and feature a bullseye pattern at the top corners, which is consistent throughout the house. In the northeast corner of the parlor is a tile fireplace with an ornate oak mantel (in contrast to the rest of the wood trim, which is stained pine), one of three on the first floor, all different from one another. There are large one-over-one, doublehung sash windows in the south and west walls of the parlor.

Northward from the parlor through double pocket doors is the dining room (see photo 9). The trim is identical to that in the parlor. There are two large one-over-one, doublehung sash windows in the west wall. A single door in the north wall leads to the kitchen area; a double pocket door in the east wall leads into the library. In the northeast corner of the room is another tile fireplace with an oak mantel, which differs from the one in the parlor. In the southwest corner a door with a single light leads southward onto a side porch on the west of the house.

The light-filled library features a double bay window containing two one-over-one, double hung sashes. In the northwest corner is yet another tile fireplace with an oak mantel (photo 7). In the southeast corner is a smaller door that leads southward onto the side of the front porch.

Another double pocket door in the north wall (photo 10) leads into a corner chamber (possibly a den or a bedroom originally) that now serves as the office of the Boone County Historical Society. The east wall has two one-over-one, doublehung sash windows; the north wall has one. Off the chamber's northwest corner is a small modern bathroom. Blueprints indicate that a bathroom was always located here, but it may have been larger. It is possible that the south wall of the bathroom was moved northward to accommodate space for storage in this corner chamber, and this storage space may have replaced a closet in the southwest corner of the chamber along with an adjoining

S.N. Cragun House
Name of Property

Boone County IN
County and State

pantry immediately west of it that would have served the kitchen. This space is today a connecting hall between the kitchen and the northeast corner chamber (the BCHS office).

The kitchen (photo 12) is in the northwest corner of the first floor with two windows--both one-over-one doublehung sash--in the west wall. Opposite on the east wall are built-in cabinets and, toward the north, a door to the back stairs. In the northwest corner is the entrance to the pantry, actually a one-story shed addition that was not part of the original plans but may have been original or a very early addition to the house. Also in the north wall is a door to the back porch.

The entrance to the kitchen north from the dining room is on a diagonal; there is a transom above the door. This allows a tiny space outside the southeast corner of the kitchen in which is located the door to the basement stairs.

The basement has a very low ceiling, approximately six-and-a-half feet, exposing the two-by-eight floor joists. The basement has a concrete floor and is so filled with boxes and shelves laden with town and county records that it is difficult to navigate or even see (photo 13). In the north wall toward the east is an entrance, now blocked, direct to the outside.

The second floor, reached primarily from the stairs in the reception hall, has a center hall plan. The doors to the rooms off each side of the hall have transoms. All the woodwork here is painted, but one may assume it is the same pine that is in so much abundance downstairs. The modest trim—baseboard, door and window surrounds—is similar to that on the first floor.

The southeast chamber (photo 14), dubbed the sewing room, is beneath the tower and features curving walls with three adjacent one-over-one, doublehung sash windows. The southwest chamber (photo 15), a bedroom, has a closet in the north wall, one one-over-one, doublehung sash window in the west and two in the south. The middle chamber to the west (photo 16) presumably had been a bedroom but is now used as a research room with a large table, shelves and files filled with resource materials. The middle room to the east (photo 17), which is in the bay on the east side of the house, has a door leading southward onto the balcony.

There is a door, which appears not to be original, in the hall north of the middle chamber on the east that leads to a small storage space, east of which is a closet serving the middle chamber (and accessible only through that room). The blueprints—to which, it must be remembered, the original house did not always adhere—suggest there may once have been a tiny water closet here, but the space currently is filled with shelves. The northeast corner of the second floor is currently interpreted as a bathroom to show off bath-related furnishings and collections, but there is no connected plumbing. In the blueprints the space is labeled “unfinished” and could have been a maid’s room.

In the northwest corner is another small space with a partial slanted ceiling on the north, now interpreted as a children’s playroom (photo 18). It has one window in the west wall. Its entrance from the center hall is partly intruded upon by the rise of the enclosed attic stairs, which one enters at the north end of the hall. There are three windows facing north; the hall ends in the dormer on the north. Beneath the rise of the attic stairs is the door to the back stairs leading to the kitchen.

The T-shaped attic is large and unfinished, exposing the rafters and joists (photo 19). It is used for storage and is somewhat difficult to navigate.

S.N. Cragun House
Name of Property

Boone County IN
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1893

Significant Dates

1893

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Skinner, G. A. (c.1868-1909)

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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Period of Significance (justification)

The Cragun House was constructed in 1893 for S. N. Cragun and his family. Contemporary sources indicate that it was considered one of the finest houses in the town. Cragun and his wife continued to live in the house until their respective deaths, and their only surviving child, Dwight, occupied the house until his death in 1971.

S.N. Cragun House

Name of Property

Boone County IN

County and State

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The S. N. Cragun House is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C as a fine example of a late Queen Anne dwelling. It represents the substantial home of a prominent and influential middle class citizen at the turn of the twentieth century. Remarkably intact, the asymmetrical house displays many of the characteristics that define the Queen Anne style, most notably its corner tower topped with a conical roof. The interior is especially impressive, albeit of less rich materials than one might expect. Most of the lavish trim is in fact pine, stained a variety of colors simulating more expensive woods.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

The S. N. Cragun House well represents a home of substance and style, suitable for a prominent county seat newspaper owner and a former respected educator. Whether the gentleman was conservative and practical or merely miserly cannot be known, but the fact is that most of the interior wood is not what one generally expects to find in such a home of this era. Nevertheless, many of the decorative elements are certainly ornate, including parquet flooring and tile fireplaces with oak mantels.

Strange Nathaniel Cragun (known as "S. N." throughout his adult life) was born in rural Boone County in 1857, the seventh child of prominent Eagle Township farmer Hiram Cragun (1816-1884) and Reiter Dooley Cragun (1826-1914). While most of his brothers pursued farming, S. N. sought a career in education. Three years at the Zionsville Academy and a term at Purdue University set him up to become a teacher in 1874 at the tender age of seventeen. In 1879 he applied for and won admission to West Point, but resigned after two years because of poor vision. He resumed his educational career as a principal, first in Whitestown, then Zionsville. In 1883 Cragun became principal of Lebanon High School and married Adelaide Booher (1857-1932), daughter of a Whitestown farmer. Two years later, Adelaide gave birth to twin girls Opal and Ethel. Opal died of scarlet fever in 1891, only a few weeks after the birth of her only brother Dwight Booher Cragun (1891-1971).

That same eventful year, Cragun, having achieved some prominence as the county superintendent of schools, purchased the oldest newspaper in the county, the Lebanon Patriot, a proponent of the Republican party. He ran the paper for over twenty years, selling it in 1913 when it became apparent that his son had no desire to follow him in the business. Cragun also owned a printing plant and a small factory, the Dairy Cream Separator Company, as well as a number of rental properties.

In 1893, S. N. Cragun engaged G. A. Skinner, a young architect from Lafayette, to design a fine new house in the 400 block of West Main Street, on the same lot where they had been living in a much more modest dwelling. S. N. and Adelaide and their two remaining children moved in, but Ethel died shortly before she turned 12 in 1897, like her sister, from the aftermath of scarlet fever. Cragun continued to be an active and influential citizen in Lebanon and, indeed, in the state of Indiana. In

S.N. Cragun House
Name of Property

Boone County IN
County and State

1899 he organized and served as director of the Citizens Loan and Trust Company. Cragun also was director of the First National Bank for over two decades and served two terms as treasurer of the Lebanon School Board. Governor Samuel Ralston in 1916 appointed him to the State Tax Board, where he helped amend the state's tax laws. Like many prominent men of his era, Cragun was an active member of several lodges, especially the Freemasons, but also the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America. He also served as trustee of the Centenary Methodist Episcopal Church.

S. N. and Adelaide lived out their days in the house on West Main; S. N. died in 1926 and Adelaide six years later. Their son Dwight had come home to live shortly before his father's death. In 1928 Dwight married Mabel Martin, who had been employed in a clerical position at the Dairy Cream Separator Company. The younger Cragun dabbled in a number of occupations and managed the properties that he inherited. Armed with a master's degree in economics, Dwight Cragun wrote numerous articles on finance and worked for various financial institutions much of his life. He and Mabel had four children, Benjamin, Dwight, Colleen, and Claudette. Dwight Sr. died in 1971 at the age of 80; Mabel remained in the house until just before her death in 1987. The following year, their children presented the house to the Boone County Historical Society.

A native of Tippecanoe County near Romney, the architect G. [George] A. Skinner is somewhat elusive, probably because his career was cut short. He is listed in the Lafayette city directories in the 1890s as an architect and sanitary engineer and at the time of his death was employed as a draftsman for the Sterling Electric Company, where he had worked for seven years. Possibly the practical needs of a having a wife and children required having a steady job as a chief draftsman, and his income as a young architect was too erratic. Skinner is credited with at least one other building in Indiana, the two-story Mallon Building in downtown Francesville (Pulaski County), constructed in 1899, which is listed in the National Register. Tragically, he died at the age of 41, accidentally electrocuted in August 1909.

The Cragun House is not the only Queen Anne dwelling in Lebanon, which boasts several fine high-style residences in that genre, such as 319 East Washington Street, and another, somewhat less grand, at 225 South Street. These tend, however, to be clustered on the east side of downtown. The dwellings west of downtown were, as a rule, far more modest, carpenter-builder types. The use of an architect would have been rare. Having reached a certain level of success, S.N. Cragun apparently wanted a stylish house emulating those in the more substantial neighborhoods of Lebanon—a house to be noticed. And the house is a true Queen Anne, with its asymmetrical profile and roofline, its substantial wraparound porch with ornamentation (albeit conservative), its corner tower and second floor balcony, its stained and beveled glass windows. It would have fit in well in the affluent neighborhoods, but on the near westside of Lebanon, the Cragun House was a standout.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

S.N. Cragun House
Name of Property

Boone County IN
County and State

N/A

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Christ, L.M., *History of Boone County, Indiana*. Indianapolis: A.W. Bowen and Company, 1914.
Hardin and Spahr, comp. *Early Life and Times in Boone County, Indiana*. Lebanon 1887.
A Portrait and Biographical Record of Boone and Clinton Counties, Indiana. Chicago: A.W. Bowen and Company, 1895.
Skinner, G.A. "Residence for S. N. Cragun, Esq." Blueprints, 28 February 1893.

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 # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: Boone County Historical Society

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 _____
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Smith's Addition, Lot 8, Block 1.
The lot is bounded by Main Street on the south, an alley-the first alley west of West Street-on the east, the alley that runs parallel between Main and Washington streets on the north, and the east edge of the parking lot (Lot 7) on the west.

S.N. Cragun House
Name of Property

Boone County IN
County and State

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
This is the historic boundary of the property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Glory-June Greiff, Consulting Historian
organization Historian-at-Large date 11 June 2010
street & number 1753 South Talbott Street telephone 317-637-6163
city or town Indianapolis state IN zip code 46225
e-mail glory@indy.net

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

PHOTOGRAPHS submitted are archival 5 x 7 black-and-white prints.

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Name of Property: S. N. Cragun House

City or Vicinity: Lebanon

County: Boone County State: IN

Photographer: Glory-June Greiff

Date Photographed: March-April 2010

Negatives on file with Historian-at-Large, 1753 South Talbott, Indianapolis IN 46225

Description of Individual Photographs and number:

Photo 1 looking NW at main (south) façade & east elevation

Photo 2 looking ENE at west elevation

Photo 3 detail, west elevation, pantry exterior

Photo 4 looking SE at north and west elevations

Photo 5 interior, looking SSW toward front door from stairs in reception room

Photo 6 interior, looking SE into reception room

Photo 7 interior, looking N from reception room into library

Photo 8 interior, looking ESE from parlor into reception room

S.N. Cragun House
Name of Property

Boone County IN
County and State

- Photo 9 interior, looking S from dining room into front parlor
- Photo 10 interior, looking NNE into northwest chamber, now office
- Photo 11 interior detail, parquet floor pattern between dining room and front parlor
- Photo 12 interior, looking NW into kitchen
- Photo 13 interior detail, looking S into basement from its north entrance
- Photo 14 interior detail, looking SE into southeast ("sewing") room, second floor
- Photo 15 interior detail, looking NE from within southwest bedroom, second floor
- Photo 16 interior detail, looking W into middle west room, second floor
- Photo 17 interior detail, looking SE into middle east room, second floor
- Photo 18 interior detail, looking WNW into northwest room, second floor
- Photo 19 interior detail, attic rafters and joists

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Boone County Historical Society

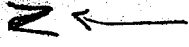
street & number 404 West main Street telephone _____

city or town Lebanon state IN zip code 46052

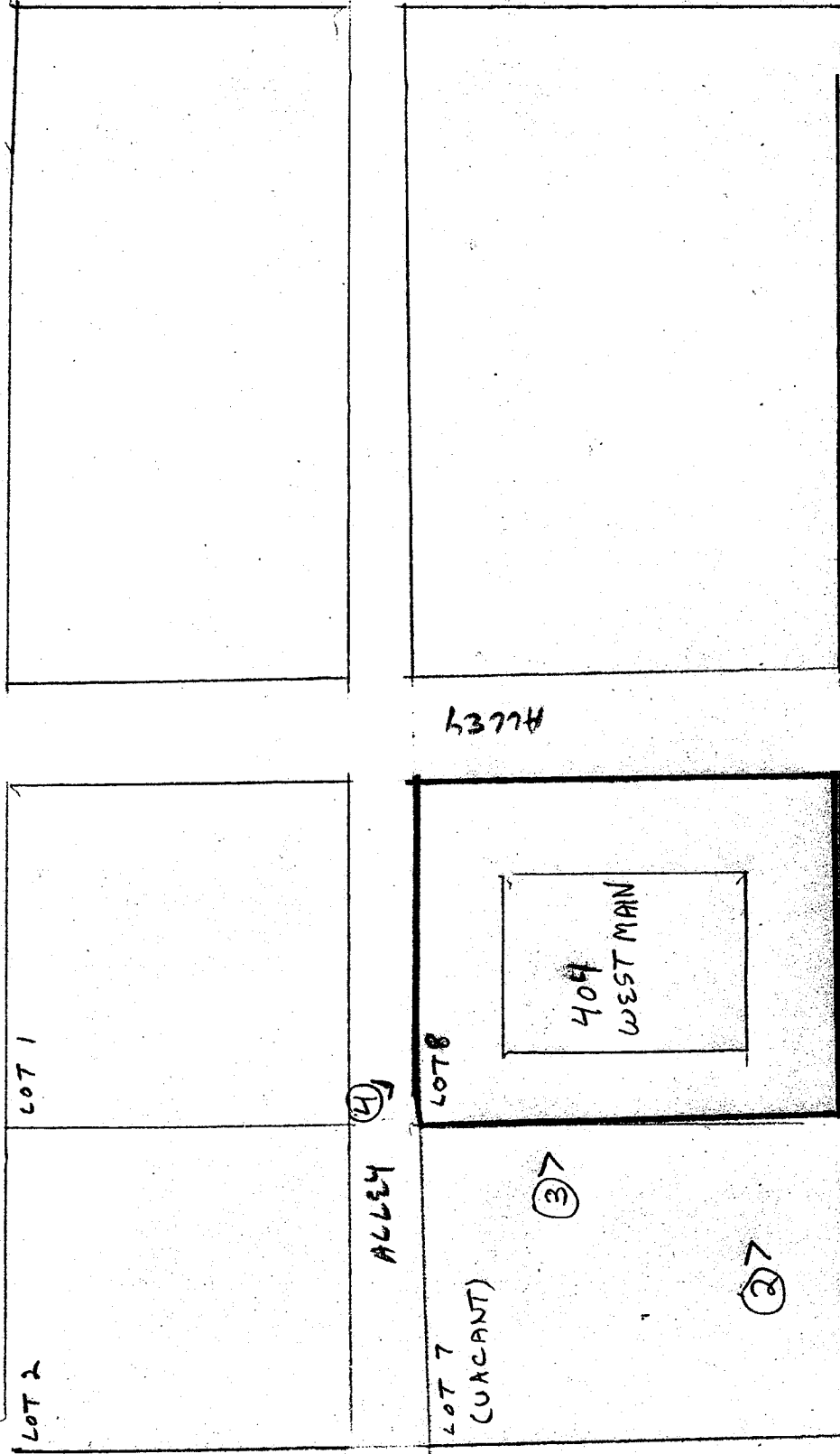
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

WASHINGTON STREET

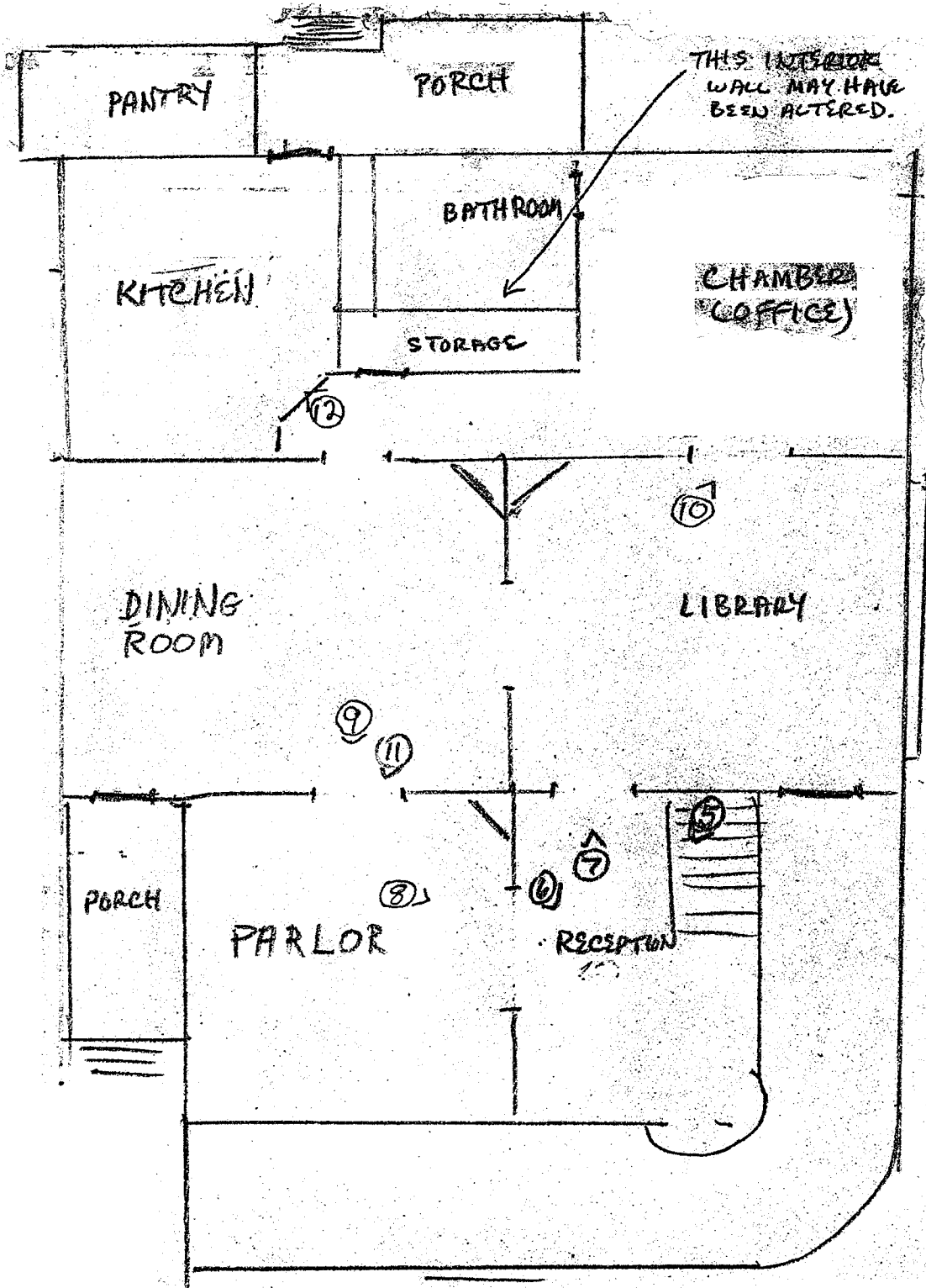


WEST STREET



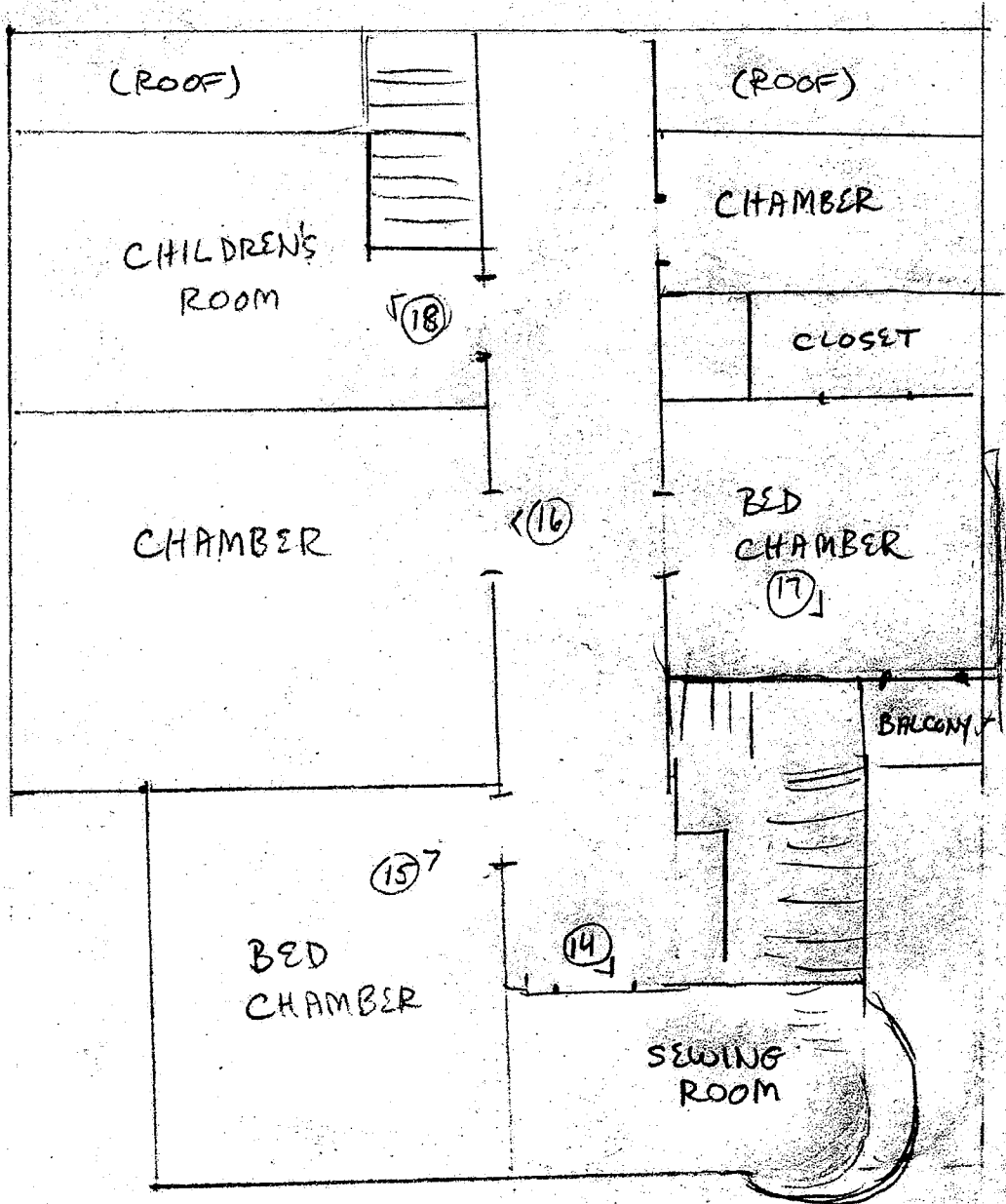
S. N. CRAIGUN HOUSE LEBANON, BOONE COUNTY, INDIANA

S. N. CRAGUN HOUSE - FIRST FLOOR
404 WEST MAIN STREET, LEBANON IN
BOONE COUNTY



NOT TO EXACT SCALE

S. N. CRAGUN HOUSE - SECOND FLOOR
404 WEST MAIN STREET
LEBANON IN
BOONE COUNTY



NOT TO EXACT SCALE



Cragun House, Boone County, IN photo 1



Cragun House, Boone County, IN photo 2



Cragun House, Boone County, IN photo 6



Cragun House, Boone County, IN photo 7