

FINAL

**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

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

**1. Name**

historic ELSTON, Col. Isaac C., House

and/or common DAR Chapter House (Dorothy Q Chapter), Elston Memorial Foundation

**2. Location**

street & number 400 East Wabash Avenue \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Crawfordsville N/A vicinity of congressional district Seventh

state Indiana code 018 county Montgomery code 107

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Elston Memorial Foundation

street & number 400 East Wabash Avenue

city, town Crawfordsville N/A vicinity of state Indiana 47933

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office, Montgomery County Courthouse

street & number Main at Washington Streets

city, town Crawfordsville state Indiana 47933

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes ☒ no

date \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

## 7. Description

### Condition

☒ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

### Check one

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

☒ unaltered  
☐ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Elston House is a two story structure of frame construction in the eastern stick style. It is located near the downtown area in what was a wooded area known as Elston Grove. It is immediately adjacent to Lane Place (National Register, 1981), which is in a one block park and shares a driveway with the Elston House. The house sits on a brick foundation and faces south. Horizontal and vertical boards have been placed over the horizontal clapboards. The house is characterized by large brackets, and a wide porch with square posts and brackets that form circular arched forms. All windows are one over one, doublehung sash, some having shutters. The house has been painted in its original colors, a red body with green trim.

The house has an irregular plan, typical of the period. The main, south facade exhibits three different planes. On the right is a second story cantilevered, gabled bay which projects from the middle plane. This cantilevered bay contains one window on the second story, sheltered by a bracketed shelf which is under an attic story window. The attic window is flanked by diagonal, curved boards applied over vertical siding. Above the window, in the apex of the gable, are shingles which slope out to shelter the window. Raking trim is a plain cornice, with brackets at the lower ends. Both windows in this cantilevered bay are shuttered.

The cantilevered bay is supported by oversized brackets, and shelters a window on the first story. On the same, middle plane as this window are the entrance onto the front porch and a second story window. The curves formed by the porch brackets frame the main entrance, with its stained glass windows set into double doors. At the upper corners of the porch entrance are square wood panels with etched designs, above which are inverted bracket forms applied to the clapboard siding. Above the second story window, which is accented by its board trim, is a boxed gutter supported by brackets, followed by a hipped roof, which culminates in a small gable. This gable features twin attic windows, separated by a post with incised decoration like that on the porch posts.

The third plane of the main facade recedes about four feet from the middle plane, although the front porch on this section is on a plane continuous with the rest of the porch. The porch roof slopes back to meet a second story window, again with board trim and surmounted by a bracketed boxed gutter and hipped roof.

The west side of the house is all on one plane, except for a section which projects at the southwest corner, and has a cantilevered sunporch at the second story. The west side has an entrance with a small canopy, in addition to several windows, and a dormer approximately in the middle of the roof.

Features of interest on the east side of the house include a second story oriel window, and a porch-like shelter over a rear window.

An enclosed porch on the back serves as the rear entrance.

The interior features a large, open stair hall, with an upholstered bench. The first floor includes a library, drawing room and music room, all with elaborate fireplaces featuring the use of tile, marble and mirrors, and all with inside shutters. A kitchen, dining room, pantry, morning room, and second stairway are also located on the first floor. Most woodwork is of oak, except for the drawing room, which appears to be cherry.

The second floor contains seven rooms, and one and one-half baths. Rooms at the front of the house have inside shutters. The attic has one plastered room, presumably a maid's quarters.

An ornate furnace is located in the partial basement.

## 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1882 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

**Statement of Significance** (~~in its significance~~) The Colonel Isaac C. Elston House, built between 1880 and 1883, is significant for its historic association with a family prominent in the development of Crawfordsville. The house is architecturally significant as a superb example of the eastern stick style, and for the excellence of its craftsmanship, detailing, and high degree of integrity.

Col. Elston's father, Major Isaac C. Elston, was an early pioneer in Crawfordsville, establishing a store and erecting a log cabin there in 1823. He was also instrumental in founding Michigan City, and helped with the development of Lafayette, Indiana. In 1850 he became president of the Crawfordsville and Wabash Railroad. Largely due to his efforts, the line was completed to Lafayette in 1852, and merged with the New Albany and Salem line. This railroad insured Crawfordsville's economic future. In 1853 Major Elston and his son-in-law, future U.S. Senator Henry S. Lane, established the first bank in Crawfordsville.

The Major's son, Col. Elston, was born in 1836, and was educated at Wabash College and the University of Michigan, then served during the Civil War under Col. Lew Wallace. He established the First National Bank of Memphis, Tennessee, in 1864, and a brokerage business in Cincinnati in 1866. He returned to Crawfordsville when his father died in 1867, and assumed control of the Elston and Company banking firm. In 1905 the bank became the Elston National Bank, which was later under the direction of his son, Isaac C. Elston, III, and which still exists as the Elston Bank and Trust Company.

Col. Elston was also president of the Poston Paving Brick Company, the Crawfordsville Wire Bound Box Company, Yount Woolen Mills Company, and was a director of the Oak Hill Cemetery Company and Union Trust Company of Indianapolis. He was also connected with the Logansport, Crawfordsville and Southwestern Railroad; the Bloomington and Western Railroad; and the Sand Creek Coal Company.

This house was constructed circa 1882 in Elston Grove, a large wooded grove south of the elder Elston's brick federal style house. This grove was also built upon by the Elston daughters, Joanna (married to Henry S. Lane) and Susan (married to Lew Wallace). The Lane house was listed in the National Register in 1981. The Wallace home no longer stands, but his nearby study is a National Historic Landmark.

The nominated house has been owned by the Elston Memorial Foundation since 1923, when ownership was transferred directly from the family. Many of the original furnishings are still in the house, and no major changes have been made. The house exhibits the outstanding characteristics of the stick style, including the projecting gable; vertical, horizontal and diagonal boards applied over the horizontal siding; and oversized brackets. It is one of the most outstanding examples in the state, particularly notable because of its unchanged condition.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

"Stately Elston Homestead has stood 140 years," by Polly Seymour. JOURNAL-REVIEW Bicentennial Series, September 17, 1975. Crawfordsville, Indiana

See Continuation Sheet

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.36 acres

Quadrangle name Crawfordsville, Indiana

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

1	6
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5	0	8	8	2	0
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4	4	3	1	9	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** Subdivision (a) Sec. 2. Record 125, P. 56.

Part of the East half of the Southwest quarter of Section 32 Township 19 North, Range 4 West, beginning at a point in the Center of Wabash Avenue, 372.9' East of the East line of Water Street in the city of Crawfordsville, running thence East 212', thence North 280.6', (cont'd)

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mrs. Remley Herr, Chairman of the Board

organization Elston Memorial Foundation date October 8, 1977

street & number R. R. 7 telephone 317/866-0616

city or town Crawfordsville state Indiana 47933

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

     national      state   X   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

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 2-24-82

For HCRRS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register



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

**National Register of Historic Places  
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Continuation sheet Elston House

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Reprinted in Montgomery County Remembers. Compiled and edited by Constance Kakavecos Riggs, 1976. Published by the Montgomery County Historical Society and Bicentennial Committee.

History of Montgomery County, Indiana (2 volumes, Indianapolis, A. W. Bowen & Co. [1913]).

Beckwith, H. W., History of Montgomery County (Chicago, H. H. Hall and N. Iddings, 1881).

United States Department of the Interior  
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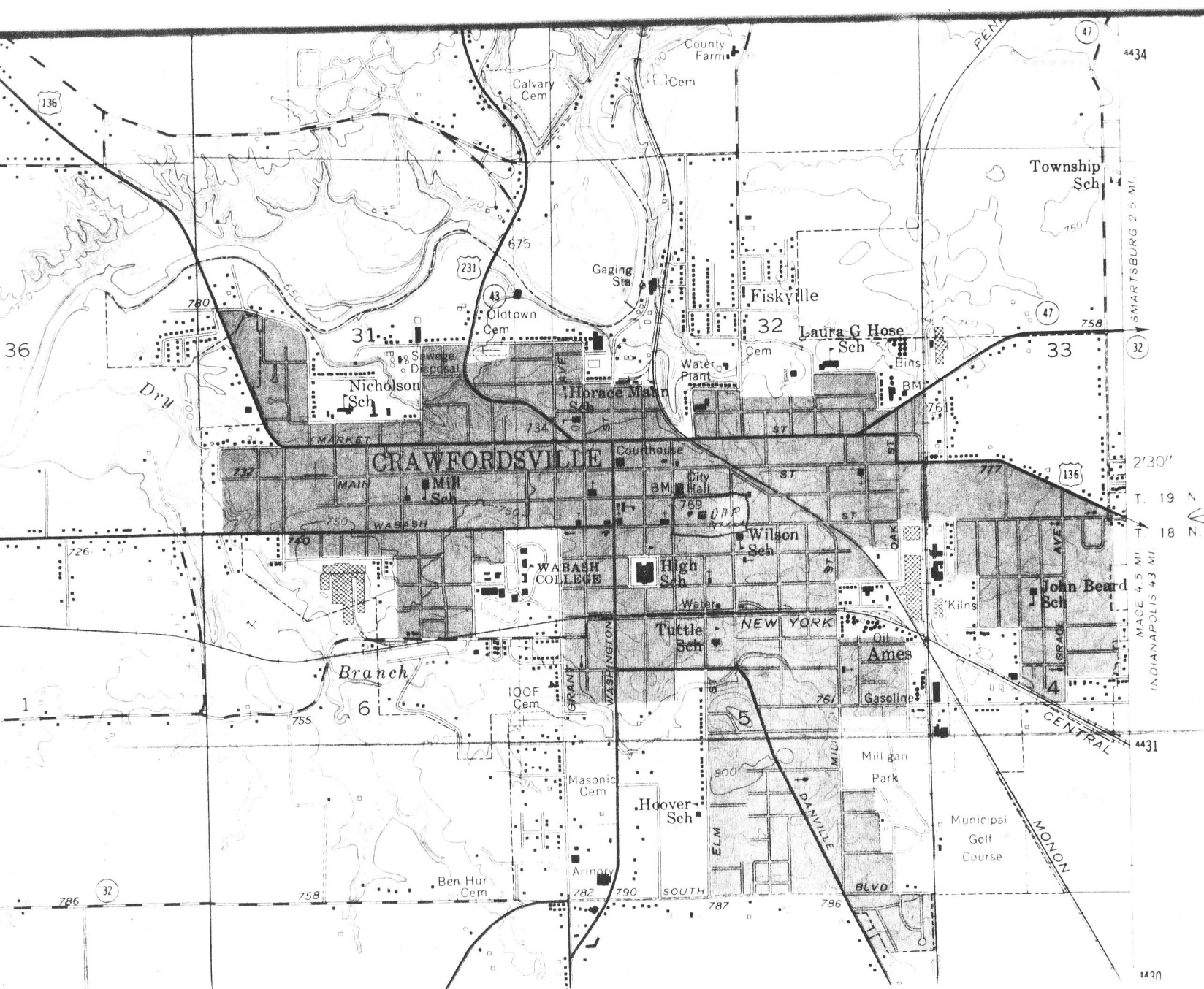
# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet Isaac Elston House

Item number 10 Ver. Bound. Descr. Page 2

thence West 212', thence South 280.6' to the place of beginning.



Col. Isaac C. Elston House  
 Crawfordsville, Indiana  
 UTM Reference:  
 16/508820/4431960