

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Hall/Crull Octagonal House

and/or common Walter Crull Farm

2. Location

street & number R.R. 3 (County Rd. 900, 1/4 mile east of County Road 300) N/A not for publication

city, town Rushville X vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Rush code 139

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Gary Crull

street & number 1332 Bronwyn Avenue

city, town Columbus N/A vicinity of state Ohio 43204

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Rush County Courthouse

city, town Rushville state Indiana 46173

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

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

depository for survey records N/A

city, town state

# 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date N/A

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

The Hall-Crull House is a two story frame structure located in a rural area near Rushville Indiana. The original section of the home was constructed in 1855 and featured an octagonal plan. A later addition to the house, located towards the rear of the structure, was constructed in 1865 along more conventional lines. Although currently covered with aluminum siding, the building's most important features, its octagonal style and its porch, remain plainly visible.

The main (south) facade of the house is given over completely to the recessed two-story porch. Both levels of this porch feature octagonal porch columns and balustrades with flat, paddle-like balusters. All of the other original facades not obscured by the 1865 addition contain a single pair of rectangular double-hung windows on each floor level. Historic photographs show that the building originally featured a plain frieze and modest scroll-cut cornice brackets, but these elements were lost when the siding was applied.

The four main rooms are located on each floor of the original octagonal section of the house. The living room, dining room, and first floor bedroom still feature fireplaces, as do two of the second-floor bedrooms. The 1865 addition contains the kitchen, bathroom, washroom, and a back porch. The home is situated on a heavily-wooded lot approximately 1/2 acre in area. A garage and barn are also located on this lot but both are relatively modern structures and are not included in this nomination.

## 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** Circa 1855 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Hall-Crull House is architecturally important as a rare example of the octagonal style of domestic architecture which found favor for a brief period during the mid-19th century. The octagon style was popularized by Orton Squire Fowler's book, A House for All, or the Gravel Walland Octagonal Mode of Building, published in 1848, but the style was short-lived and had largely died out by 1860. The Hall-Crull House is one of less than a dozen of this type known to be extant in Indiana.

Beyond the rarity of its octagonal style, the Hall-Crull House is unusual because of its recessed porches. In his book, Fowler advocated large porches, preferably encircling the octagonal house. While most Indiana octagons were more restrained in this regard, it was normally the practice to build the porches as projecting elements. The unique recessed porches of the Hall-Crull House, while not in keeping with Fowler's suggestions, help make the unusual shape of the structure more apparent.

The Hall-Crull House was built around 1855 by William S. Hall, a cabinetmaker who was also involved in local politics. Although born in Rush County, Hall spent much of his youth in Cincinnati, working as an apprentice with his uncle, Joseph Hall. He returned to Rush County late in 1836 and established himself in business. In February, 1839, he was elected Justice of the Peace for Washington Township, serving in that capacity until 1847. In 1853 he was elected Trustee of Washington Township, and continued to hold this office until 1878, except for a short period during the mid-1860's when he served as a member of the State Legislature. As Trustee, he was instrumental in the development of the local school system, and caused the construction of many new school buildings.

In 1928, this structure became the residence of the Walter Crull family. Although in recent years the home has been used as a rental property, it is still owned by a descendant of Walter Crull.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Mays Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

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

B 

Zone	Easting						Northing							

C 


D 


E 


F 


G 


H 


Verbal boundary description and justification

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 Gary Crull

organization N/A

date February 1, 1982

street & number 1332 Bronwyn Avenue

telephone 614/279-4983

city or town Columbus

state Ohio 43204

# 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 4-3-84

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY—NOMINATION FORM

Continuation Sheet Hall-Crull House

Item No. 9

Page 1

---

An Architectural and Historical Study of Washington, Union, and Noble Townships,  
Rush County, Indiana. Indianapolis: Indiana Junior Historical Society, 1970.

History of Rush County, Indiana. Chicago: Brant and Fuller, 1888.

Peat, Wilbur. Indiana Houses of the 19th Century. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1962, Plate 95.

Waggener, Bob and Emy. A Sampler Book of Rush County Landmarks, Homer, Indiana:  
Bob and Emy Waggener, 1966.

---

Hall-Crull House

Item No. 10

---

Beginning at a point 30' due east of the southernmost corner of the east facade, then proceeding north to a point 235' north of the north right-of-way line of County Road 900; thence west 100'; thence south to the north right-of-way line of County Road 900; thence east along that right-of-way line to a point 30' east of said house; thence north to the point of beginning.