

FINAL

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Craig, William Houston, House  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number 1250 East Conner Street N/A not for publication  
city, town Noblesville N/A vicinity  
state IN code IN county Hamilton code 057 zip code 46060

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

[Signature] 4-9-90  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE: business

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne  
Romanesque Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE  
walls BRICK  
STONE: limestone  
roof STONE: slate  
other TERRA COTTA  
METAL: copper

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Craig House was built in 1893. It is located on State Road 32 (Conner Street), the main east-west street through Noblesville, on a city lot just three blocks east of the courthouse square. The immediate environment is late 19th century residential in character, with mostly frame cottages standing on this portion of Conner Street. The house was moved to its present site on March 5, 1988. The original site was directly across Conner Street, next to the Presbyterian Church (see map). The church planned to demolish the house; the current owners purchased, moved, and rehabilitated the house (A Part I, II, and III have been approved). The lot has been landscaped with compatible Victorian-era plantings, such as wisteria and forsythia.

The Craig House is a massive 2 1/2-3 story brick house. The house exhibits characteristics of both the Queen Anne and Romanesque Revival Styles. The plan, which consists of a cubical core masked by multiple projections, porches, and a circular tower, is essentially Queen Anne. The use of contrasting textures and materials is also indicative of this style. Rock-faced stone details and the emphasis on masonry construction provides a Romanesque Revival influence.

The main facade faces south onto Conner Street (photo 1). Dominant features of this elevation include a projecting 2 1/2 story gabled section to the left (west) balanced by a three story semi-circular tower at the southeast corner of the house. The house rests on a foundation which is veneered in fieldstone and capped by a rock-faced limestone water table. Walls feature red face brick laid in stretcher bond contrasted by "rock-faced" brick beltcourses. The textured brick is used for quoins at corners and around windows and for beltcourses at the sill and lintel levels of the second story.

The gabled projection has one large one-over-one double-hung window on each story. Rock-faced stone sills and lintels mark the opening (This is the usual type for most of the windows of the house). The second floor window has a bowed lintel and the upper sash has stained glass.

The gable end has a broad triple round-arched arcade of stained glass windows surmounted by a wide wood entablature. Above this is a diaper work of red terra cotta tiles (photo 6).

See continuation sheet

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A section of the main block connects the gable to the tower. There is a window on the first story and blank textured brick panel above. The massive tower has three windows on the first and second stories. The sash and lights are bowed to follow the semi-circular plan. Extra belt courses and a saw-toothed brick coursing emphasize the tower. The third story is of frame construction (Photo 4). It was three pairs of double hung, stained glass windows divided by Tuscan pilasters. A steep conical roof surmounted by a large copper finial completes the tower (Photo 5).

The main block of the house has a steep hip roof with a small flat deck in the center. Slates cover the roof. Regular courses alternate with hexagonal courses, and the tower roof has hexagonal slates. Metal ridge caps with decorative crestwork trim the roof.

A one story porch covers part of the south elevation and wraps around to the west elevation. To the south, a low gabled portion projects from the porch, which joins to the hip roof of the remainder of the porch. There is a balcony above the porch gable. The porch is supported on stocky columns which rest on brick plinths (Photo 8). The columns are round but have a wide octagonal band in the middle. A balustrade encloses the porch.

The west elevation has three portions: a projecting gable to the north (left), a 1 1/2 story shed roofed section, and the adjoining section with the porch (Photos 9 and 10). Above the porch is a chimney with beltcoursing, terra cotta diaper work, and a blind arcade (Photo 3). One window on each story is placed to the right (south) of the chimney. A gabled dormer stands to the left of the chimney.

The shed roof section corresponds to an interior staircase. It has paired windows with stained glass transoms topped by a segmental brick arch. The main entry and a small arched window are located on the short south wall of this section.

A gabled projection abuts the shed roof area. In plan, it is semi-hexagonal; its corners are chamfered. There is one window on each face of the wall on both stories. The first story center window is a small fixed stained glass window. The most

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interesting features of this gable are the dressed stone corbels marking the upper corners. The gable end has a round arched window in the middle.

The east elevation features a small porch which shelters a side entry (Photos 11 and 12). The porch is half gabled and matches the front porch in detail. A massive chimney rises above the porch. It has a blind arcade with stilted arches.

A projecting gabled section is roughly centered in this elevation. The gabled section is detailed similarly to the west gable, but it lacks the first story stained glass window.

The gable adjoins to the main block to the north. There are several windows in this section.

The north or rear elevation of the house is utilitarian in appearance (Photo 13). Lesser quality brick seems to have been used on this elevation. An offset gable dominates this elevation. The first story has a door offset between two windows. The second story has three windows. There is a small window in the gable. Fenestration on the north elevation varies in width and placement.

To the west is the side of the west gable. It has a transomed doorway and window on the first story and one window on the second story.

The interior of the Craig House features Queen Anne style oak woodwork. The most impressive space is the entry or stair hall, which forms an L-shaped circulation core in the house (see plans). The stairs begin facing the main entry, but turn east at a lower landing and continue to the second floor. The staircase is elaborately paneled and has a railing composed of a stickwork grill with cutout panels (Photos 16 and 17). The entry wall becomes a hallway to the north, where a second staircase is located (Photo 20).

Two rooms open off the hall to the south (Rooms 101 and 102) were probably parlors. To the east is another room which is semi-hexagonal in plan. Room 105 was probably the dining room (Photos 23 and 24).

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The second floor has four larger rooms, which were bedrooms, accessible from the L-shaped hallway. An enclosed stairway leads to the attic. Although it features many stained glass windows, the attic was, and is, unfinished.

Common interior finishes include inlaid hardwood floors (Photo 25), fluted baseboards, and paneled doors. Windows and doorways have fluted surrounds and bulls-eye corner blocks surmounted by stylized scroll blocks (Photo 24). Pocket doors are found in rooms 101, 102, and 103. Typical of the Queen Anne style, fireplaces with elaborate mantles are found in the most important rooms. Each is unique (Photos 21-23, 27, and 29).

A major rehabilitation of the Craig House has been completed recently. As part of the project, the house was moved across Conner Street and placed on a new basement. The original fieldstone was veneered to the foundation. Missing porch columns were replaced using one extant pilaster and old photographs. Two new rear porches were built to replace missing ones. Other general exterior work was done to return the building to a high state of maintenance. On the interior, new wiring, plumbing and HVAC systems were installed. Minor changes were done to the plan. The first story pantry was converted to a bathroom, and on the second story, walls were changed in several closets.

The Craig House remains very intact on the exterior and interior.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

ARCHITECTURE

1893

1893

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

N/A

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The William Houston Craig House, 1893, is significant under Criterion C because it is among the finest Queen Anne homes in Hamilton County, Indiana. The massive scale and elaborate details of this house are unusual for both Noblesville and Hamilton County. The wealth displayed by the Craig House is generally indicative of the sudden burst of prosperity Noblesville experienced during the 1890s as a result of the discovery and exploitation of natural gas. The house was moved in 1988, however, the project was done in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. The Craig House remains eligible for its outstanding architecture under criterion consideration B.

The Craig House exhibits most of the elements of the Queen Anne style, including assymetrical massing, contrasting building material textures, and, on the interior, elaborately milled oak woodwork. This residence is locally outstanding because it is a significant variation on the usual Queen Anne mode. The Harrell House and the nearby Craycraft House (both listed on the National Register), together with the Craig House, are perhaps the three best examples of Queen Anne in the county. The Craig House differs from these others by its substitution of frame construction and elaborate exterior woodwork for masonry construction. The use of heavy, rock-faced stone details, textured brick coursing, and stocky porch columns indicate a substantial transition to the Romanesque Revival style. While other Central Indiana cities (especially Indianapolis) have several such transitional style homes, the Craig House is the most impressive residential example in Hamilton County.

Although Noblesville was founded in 1823, the town developed most rapidly during the "Gas Boom" of the 1890s. Natural gas was discovered in 1887 near Noblesville. It was soon known that natural gas was present in abundance throughout central Indiana. Industries were attracted to the area and local economies prospered as a result. The unfortunate practice of open flames at wells soon wasted this resource, and by about 1905, the "Gas Boom" was  over. See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Haines, John F. History of Hamilton County, Indiana  
Indianapolis: B. F. Bowen, 1915.

Hamilton County Interim report. Indiana Historic Sites and  
Structures Inventory. Indianapolis: Historic Landmarks  
Foundation of Indiana, 1978.

Helm, Thomas B. History of Hamilton County Indiana.  
Chicago: Kingman Bros., 1880.

See continuation sheet

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Indiana Historic Sites and  
Structures Inventory

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A 1,6 5,8,4 5,1,0 4,4 3,3 0,9,0  
Zone Easting Northing

C \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

D \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

L. N. Granger Addition, Lot 7, in Noblesville, Indiana.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This is the parcel to which the house was moved in 1988. It does not  
include non-contributing resources or substantial acreage.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Sandra Elliott date September 25, 1989  
 organization Owner telephone 317/773-6403  
 street & number 399 North 10th Street state IN zip code 46060  
 city or town Noblesville