

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FILE
COPY

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 Carnahan, Magnus J., House
other names/site number 027-663-32143

2. Location

street & number 511 East Main Street N/A not for publication
city, town Washington N/A vicinity
state IN code IN county Dayiess code 027 zip code 47501

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>2</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>2</u>	<u>1</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.

Patrick R. Ralab
Signature of certifying official
Indiana Department of Natural Resources

7-23-91
Date

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)

DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

QUEEN ANNE

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

STONE: limestone

roof ASPHALT

other METAL

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMERCE

Period of Significance

c. 1900-1915

Significant Dates

c. 1900

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Person

Carnahan, Magnus J.

Architect/Builder

unknown

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

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bingham, Thelma, Daviess County Historical Museum. Telephone interview, 20 April, 1990.

Fullerton, Helen McCarthy, Martin County Historical Society. Letter, 12 April, 1990.

Fulkerson, A.O., Editor. History of Daviess County, Indiana. Indianapolis: B.F. Bowen and Company, 1915.

Sanborn Map Company. Washington, Daviess County, Indiana, Maps. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1887, 1896, 1909, 1921.

PDIL approved 8-16-90 #10610 IN, parts 2 & 3 approved 10-24-90.

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

Acres of property less than one

UTM References

A

1	6
---	---

4	8	5	2	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	2	7	8	4	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lot 53, Block 24 of the Original Plat.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This is the original boundary for the historic property, and includes the house and carriage house.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Laura Thayer, Historic Preservation Consultant

organization n/a date June 14, 1991

street & number 3905 N. 500 W. telephone 812/372-6806

city or town Columbus state IN zip code 47201

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page 1 Magnus J. Carnahan House

The Magnus J. Carnahan House is located at 511 E. Main Street, on the southwest corner of S.E. Sixth Street, in Washington, Indiana. The house faces north. The Washington Commercial Historic District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is located one block to the west (photo 1). To the east is a residential area, composed mainly of 19th and early 20th century houses. The Carnahan House is located on lot 53, block 24 of the original plat. The house is situated roughly in the center of the lot (photo 2). There is a carriage house located at the southeast corner of the site (photos 2, 5). There is also a metal storage shed (photo 5) located just north of the carriage house. There are several small trees and other plantings, which were planted in 1990 (photo 2).

The Queen Anne style house was constructed between 1896 and 1902. Sanborn maps show that there had previously been a different house on the site. The Carnahan House is a two-and-a-half story brick building with a raised basement. The base of the house is faced in rough cut limestone. The roof is complex in shape, and covered with asphalt shingles. There is a round, conical roofed tower in the center bay of the three bay facade (photo 2). The plan is irregular.

In the east bay of the main (north) facade, there is a one story wood porch with four steps leading up to it (photo 9). The porch is composed of a shed roof supported by round, classical wooden columns with pressed metal capitals. In the half gable on the east side of the porch roof, there is pressed metal work which resembles wooden scroll work. The porch has a wide entablature.

Above the porch is a balcony of similar design. The post and railing of this balcony were installed during a recent rehabilitation (1989-1990). Prior to the rehabilitation, it had a wood, battered post, and wood railing, both in poor condition. It seems likely that these were added sometime after the house was built, and that the original post was similar to first story porch posts.

The main entry to the house is in this bay. It has the

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page 2 Magnus J. Carnahan House

original double, paneled wood and glass doors. Above the opening, as is the case with all first floor openings, is a stone label molding. The lintel of each label molding is smooth stone and the vertical return is rough stone. On the second story of this bay is a transomed, paneled wood and glass door.

In the tower, there are three windows on each floor (photo 2). Windows are double hung with one light in each sash. There are lamb's tongue moldings on each sash. This is typical of all windows in the house, unless otherwise described. On the first floor, the window lintel extends continuously above all three windows. The label return assumes the form of a continuous band between the windows. Below the westernmost of the three first floor windows is a basement window. Basement window openings were extended in length as part of the rehabilitation. New basement windows are double hung, wood windows with one light in each sash (photo 3).

On the second floor of the tower, there is a continuous, smooth stone band below the windows that extends around the house. There is also a stone molding below these windows. Above the set of second floor windows is a stone band. Above that, lined up above each of the second floor windows, is a transom with a leaded glass window. Between the second floor transoms and the third floor windows is a wide frieze, which continues around both sides of the tower until it meets the roof. Above the band, on the attic level, are three contiguous, small, square windows. There is a label return on the east and west ends of this set of windows. Between each window is a classical column.

In the west bay of the main facade, there is one window each on the first and second floors (photo 1). There is a basement window directly below these windows. On the roof above these windows is a dormer window with decorative pressed metal work in the gable. Between the tower and the gable, on the roof, there is a dormer with this same type of decorative pressed metal.

The northwest corner of the house is cut away from the basement to just above the level of the first floor

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page 3 Magnus J. Carnahan House

windows (photo 3). There is a basement window and a first story window on this angled wall. Two large stone brackets meet to support the corner of the house above the first story.

The west side of the house is three bays wide (photo 3). In the northernmost bay, there is one window each on the first and second floors. On the north side of the first floor of the center bay is a curved bay window, with two window openings, which have an arrangement similar to the windows of the first floor of the tower. Below each of these windows is a basement window. Above the bay window are a set of three, small, double hung windows with stone sills. On the south side of the first floor of this bay is a transomed, paneled wood and glass door. Above this, on the second story, is a window. In an attic gable that caps the center bay, there is a set of two double hung windows. These windows, installed during the recent rehabilitation, are wood, vinyl clad, double hung windows. There is masonite siding in the gable. The gable originally had pressed metal work, and a single, wood, double hung window. In the southernmost bay of this facade, there is a window on each floor. There is a basement window below these.

The rear (south) facade (photo 4) is three bays wide. The limestone facing only covers a small section of the base of this facade, on the east side (photo 4). The balance of the base is brick. On the first floor of the westernmost bay is a typical window. There are no windows on the second floor of this bay. In the center bay, there is a transomed, paneled wood and glass door on the first story. Above this is a window opening with a new window which is a replication of other, original, windows in the house. This opening had been altered to accommodate an exit door sometime during the period when the house was used as a medical clinic (from the 1940s to the 1980s). During the recent rehabilitation, the opening was bricked in at the bottom and returned to use as a window opening, as it had been originally.

In the easternmost bay of this facade, there are no windows on the first floor. There is a double hung window on the second floor. At the top of this facade is a gable

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page 4 Magnus J. Carnahan House

similar to the one on the west side, except that it has the original, pressed metal siding rather than masonite. Instead of a pair of windows, there is one, double hung wood vinyl clad window in the gable. At this point, the plan of the building jogs back to the north, and out to the east. On the short east section of the jog, there is a window on the first floor. On the south section of the jog, there is a window on the second floor.

The east facade (photos 2, 5) is two bays wide. The southern bay has a three opening bay window on the first floor, and a set of three windows on the second floor. On this bay, there is a set of steps which leads to a wood and glass basement door. On the south end of the northern bay, there is a window opening with a new window that replicates other, original windows in the house. This opening had been an exit door when the clinic occupied the building. There is evidence, however, that there was originally a bay window at this location. Sanborn maps show a projection in the plan at this location. There has been some brick infill around the opening. And, there is a break in the stone band above the opening. The window is located on the landing of the stairs between the first and second floors. There is a basement window below.

In the center of this bay, there are no windows on the first floor. There is a small, double hung window on the second floor. On the north end of this bay, there is a window on each floor. There is a basement window on the north end of this bay. The bay is capped with a gable exactly like that on the west side of the house.

There is a wide wood frieze and dentiled cornice which extend around the building (photo 2, 3, 4). There are small, wood brackets under the gables on the west, south, and east sides. The houses has two chimneys, both interior. One is located on the north slope of the west gable. The other is on the west slope of the roof at the extreme rear of the house. Both chimneys are tall and narrow, and feature decorative brick work.

The basic configuration of the house has remained intact throughout its history, although walls have been added and removed, and door locations have changed to accommodate

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page 5 Magnus J. Carnahan House

new uses. Originally, the basement was divided into six areas, three on the east side and three on the west. There was a stair leading down to the basement from the first floor room on the southwest corner of the house, and an exterior entry from the east side of the house. The boiler room was in the southeast corner of the basement. When the clinic was located in the house, several new partitions were added in the northeast area of the basement. These have been removed. There are now two apartments on this floor. One is comprised of the southern two areas of the west side. The other occupies the northern two areas of the east side, and the northernmost area of the west side. The former boiler room is now a laundry room. The floor is carpeting over a concrete slab. Walls are drywall. The ceiling is a suspended acoustical tile ceiling.

The entry hall is in the northeast corner of the first floor. An L-shaped stairway in the entry hall was originally open, but has been enclosed, probably when the clinic was in the house. This stair is partially visible at the left in photo 6. The entry hall has the original ceramic tile floor which is white, pink, and green, with a laurel motif in the center.

The remainder of the first floor is divided into two apartments. Originally, as a single-family house, the building had two parlors on this floor, one in the tower (photo 10), and one in the northwest corner. In the center of the east side, adjacent to the stair, was a hallway. In the center of the west side was the dining room. The kitchen was in the southwest corner. There was another room, possibly a downstairs bedroom, in the southeast corner (photo 11). The two parlors are now the living room (photo 10) and bedroom of an apartment which is accessed from the main entry. The kitchen of this apartment is located in the former hallway. The former dining room has been partitioned to accommodate a bath and dressing area.

The second apartment on this floor is accessed from the entry on the west side of the building. The living room, dining room, and kitchen of this apartment are located in the undivided former kitchen of the house. The bedroom of

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page 6 Magnus J. Carnahan House

the apartment is located in the southeast corner room (photo 11). An angled wall has been added to the northwest corner of this room to enclose a closet and mechanical equipment. There is a bathroom located off the south end of this room.

Throughout the first floor, baseboards, door and window moldings, and paneled wood doors remain intact. In the former parlors, beautiful parquet floors composed of several varieties of wood, have been restored. These, as well as typical molding treatments, are visible in photo 6. Ceilings are suspended acoustical tile. Plaster ceilings on this floor were damaged, when tile was glued onto them, during the building's tenure as a clinic.

The second floor originally had four bedrooms, one each in the tower, the northwest corner, the southwest corner, and the southeast corner. There was a hallway at the top of the stairs, which returned to access stairs to the attic. There was also a rear hallway. A bathroom was located south of the northwest room. Most of the second floor remains as originally constructed. The most prominent exception is that the rear hallway has been turned into a kitchen.

The second floor is divided into two apartments. The two northern rooms and the bath are the living room/dining room, bedroom, and bath of one apartment. The floor is of hardwood covered with carpet. There are no moldings around the windows. This is their original condition. There are wood paneled doors throughout (photo 12). The original plaster ceiling remains in good condition above the suspended acoustical tile ceilings. The baseboards on this floor were removed when the house was occupied by the clinic. New wood baseboards approximate the appearance of those on the first floor. Typical second floor treatments can be seen in photo 7, a view of the southwest room. Walls on this floor, as on the first floor, are plaster for the most part. During the recent rehabilitation, some extremely damaged plaster walls were replaced with drywall.

The attic of the house was originally open, except for the room in the tower, a room in the east gable, and a room in

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page 7 Magnus J. Carnahan House

the south gable. A bathroom has been added in the southeast corner. A kitchen has been installed in the center of the west side, and closets have been built off the two existing gable rooms. The attic originally had a plaster ceiling, but it was removed sometime when the building was occupied by the clinic. A new ceiling is drywall. The original plaster walls and wood baseboard remain intact. There are two new skylights in the attic, one in the kitchen, and one in the rear bedroom. These were located so as not to be visible from the street. The kitchen skylight is on the south slope of the west gable. The other skylight is located on the east slope of the south gable.

Directly to the rear of the house is a metal shed of recent construction (photo 5). South of this, facing on S.E. Sixth Street, is the original carriage house, which has been converted to a doctor's office. Like the house, the carriage house is a brick structure with rough cut limestone facing around the base. It is one-and-a-half stories high. The structure has a gable roof, with gables on the north and south sides. Two dormers, one each on the east and west sides of the roof, have been added. The large carriage house doors were originally located on the east side. This side of the building has been filled in with brick, and windows and a door added. The west side also has a door and windows. The interior of the building has been extensively altered to accommodate the doctor's office.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 1 Magnus J. Carnahan House

The Magnus J. Carnahan House, is significant under criterion B for its association with Carnahan, a prominent Washington businessman of the late 19th and 20th centuries; and under criterion C as an outstanding example of the Queen Anne style in Daviess County.

The Queen Anne style was popular in Daviess County roughly between 1880 and 1900. The Carnahan House is one of 45 houses of the style identified by the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory in Daviess County, and one of only seven, all located in Washington, which were given the rating "outstanding." Two of the seven, a house at 500 E. Hefron Street, built c. 1890, and the Elmore House at 706 E. Walnut Street, also built c. 1890, are two-and-half story frame houses with round corner towers. The other five - the Carnahan House, a house at 312 N.E. Fifth Street, built c. 1890, a house at 1314 Bedford Road, built c. 1895, the Dr. Nelson H. Wilson House at 103 E. National Highway, built between 1893 and 1896, and a house at 16 E. Walnut Street, built c. 1890 - are two-and-a-half story brick houses with stone trim, complex roofs, and irregular plans. The house at 1314 Bedford Road and the Wilson House are distinctive for elaborate spindle and scroll work, and decorative chimneys. The Carnahan House is the only one of the five brick houses that features a tower. It is also notable for exterior pressed metal work.

Carnahan was in the building supply business, and this is reflected in his house. Among distinguishing features are curved and leaded glass windows, parquet and ceramic tile floors, elaborate woodwork, and decorative brass hardware on windows and doors.

In addition to being significant for its architecture, the house is significant as the only known extant structure associated with Carnahan, a prominent local businessman. The house reflects the prosperity of Washington during the late 19th and early 20th century. Washington was first settled about 1812. It was named as county seat after Daviess County was created in 1816. Washington's location on an important state road soon made the settlement one of the largest and most prosperous county seats in southwestern Indiana. By 1850, the population had reached

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 2 Magnus J. Carnahan House

1,500. The coming of the railroad, and the discovery of coal, both in 1857, increased the importance of the town. Economic conditions were enhanced further by the establishment, in 1889, of the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad Shops. By 1900, the population of Washington had increased to 8,551. Prosperity in farming in Daviess County during the first 20 years of the 20th century is reflected in continued growth of the county seat. Setbacks in the coal industry, a recession in agriculture, and decreased use of shipping by rail led to a general economic decline in Washington starting about 1920. The Carnahan House is best evaluated during a period of commercial development which extended from about 1880 (after the nationwide economic depression of the 1870s) to about 1920.

During the 1880s and 1890s, there were several small lumber companies in Washington. Around the turn of the century, Carnahan purchased the Washington Lumber Company, one of the largest of these, located on the southeast corner of N.E. Third and E. Vantrees Streets. He changed the name to the M.J. Carnahan Company, and expanded the business to include a variety of building products. This was a time when farming, coal mining, and the shipping industries were at their peak. Successes in these industries insured that other businesses, such as construction, would prosper as well.

At the time Carnahan established his business in Washington, he was living in nearby Loogootee, in Martin County. There he had a hardware and building supply business which had become one of the largest and most important industries in the county. The company continued operations until it was closed in 1979. The complex of buildings which comprised Carnahan's Loogootee operation was destroyed by fire in 1980.

Carnahan's Washington business did well. Soon, he moved there himself, building the grand Queen Anne style house at 511 E. Main Street. Carnahan also had a private stable on the north side of E. Main Street, E. of Meridian Street. Both the stable and the complex of buildings which comprised the M.J. Carnahan Company have been demolished. It appears that Carnahan's chief competitor

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 3 Magnus J. Carnhan House

in the building supply business in the early 20th century was the Hatfield Palmer Lumber Company, which occupied buildings on the southeast corner of E. South and S.E. First Streets. These are also gone. The Washington Commercial Historic District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, contains approximately 90 contributing buildings, most of which were constructed between 1880 and 1920, reflecting the commercial prosperity of that period. Among these buildings are offices, banks, theaters, hotels, specialty and general stores, restaurants, and garages.

Carnahan died in 1915. His wife Margaret continued to live in the house until about 1920, when it was acquired by O.M. Vance. Around 1940, the Washington Clinic was established in the building. The house remained a clinic until 1989, when it was purchased by the present owner. It has recently been rehabilitated for use as an apartment building.