

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FINAL-COPY

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Cockrum, William M., House

AND/OR COMMON  
Cockrum Hall

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
627 West Oak Street

CITY, TOWN  
Oakland City

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
8th

STATE  
Indiana 47660

VICINITY OF  
CODE  
018

COUNTY  
Gibson

CODE  
051

**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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Oakland City College

STREET & NUMBER  
Lucretia Street

CITY, TOWN  
Oakland City

VICINITY OF  
STATE  
Indiana 47660

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION (Oakland City College)**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Gibson County Courthouse, Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER  
Broadway and Main Streets

CITY, TOWN  
Princeton

STATE  
Indiana 47670

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
None

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT

GOOD

FAIR

DETERIORATED

RUINS

UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED

ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cockrum House is an Italian Villa style structure constructed in 1876. The two story brick structure is located on Oak Street in Oakland City.

The two story main block is square with a one story rectangular section on the north side and a three story square tower attached at a 45 degree angle to the southwest corner. The tower and main block have hip roofs while the rear section has a gable roof. The main block has a large central chimney, and the rear portion has two smaller chimneys.

The main block of the structure has two windows on each floor of each side except the north. These are double-hung windows with two over two lights, limestone sills, and brick segmental arches with corbelling which suggests dentils. The exceptions to this window style are double, round-arched windows set in recessed panels on the third level of the tower and the small square windows on the north side and above the main entrance in the tower. This later window seems to have been altered, perhaps when the porches were added. The main entrance has a rectangular transom inscribed with "W.M. Cockrum."

The Italian Villa style is indicated by the square tower, round and segmental arched windows, and boxed cornice with dentils and double brackets.

In the late nineteenth century a one-story open porch with wooden pillars was added to the south and east sides. A porch was also added to the west side of the rear section. In recent years the wooden pillars were replaced with iron decorative supports. Earlier in this century, the west porch was enclosed so that the exterior now has French doors and casement windows.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      1876

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The William Cockrum House is important for its architecture and historical associations. The structure is important locally as a representative of the Italian Villa style of architecture. The fact that the tower is attached at an angle to the main block makes the Cockrum House unusual. According to family tradition, Cockrum designed the structure, using pattern books as a guide. The treatment of the tower, the brick corbelling over the windows, and central chimney lends credence to this account since the style seems to have vernacular touches.

The Cockrum family was very important to the development of Oakland City. James W. Cockrum migrated to Gibson County, Indiana, from North Carolina in 1816. The elder Cockrum and Warrick Hargrove platted Oakland City in 1856. Cockrum was involved in the cotton trade, owned several steamboats and a number of flatboats, and farmed. In addition to his successful business activities, Cockrum and his sons championed a number of causes. They were active in the anti-slavery Underground Railroad, maintaining a stop at their farm and participating in raids against slave catchers. More than a half a century later William Cockrum recorded his experiences in The Underground Railroad.

Another cause which the Cockrums' promoted was education for all people. They helped to found Oakland City College and donated generously to it. The Cockrum family also was noted for their opposition to the liquor interests; they were able to keep Oakland City dry until 1881.

William B. Cockrum was born in 1837 and joined his brother as a partner in a mercantile concern that dealt primarily in pork and leaf tobacco. With the coming of the Civil War in 1861, he joined the 42nd Regiment of the Indiana Volunteer Infantry and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. After being severely wounded during the Battle of Chikamauga, he was captured and held several months in Libby Prison until released in a prisoner exchange. After the war he was the chairman of the commission which was formed to preserve the Chickamauga Battlefield as a national park.

In the decades after the war, Colonel Cockrum turned to farming and manufacturing barrel stoves while retaining his interest in humanitarian causes. The existing Cockrum House was constructed in 1876 to replace a frame residence which was burned in 1875 by people who favored bringing saloons to Oakland City. When Cockrum died in 1924, he left the house to his children in a life estate, and in 1960 when his last daughter died, the structure was given to Oakland City College. Since 1960 it has been used as the Music and Fine Arts Building.

The Cockrum House is significant for its vernacular representation of the Italian Villa style of architecture and for its historical associations with Colonel William Cockrum.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Cockrum, William M. A Pioneer History of Indiana. Oakland City, Indiana: J.W. Cockrum Printing Co., 1907.
- Cockrum, William M. The Underground Railroad. Oakland City, Indiana: J.W. Cockrum Printing Co., 1915.
- History of Gibson County, Indiana. Edwardsville, Illinois: Jas. T. Tartt & Co., 1884.

(Continued on next page)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.66 acres, more or less

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	4,6,9	1,1,6	4,2	4,3	1,3,4	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING					ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C							D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mr. William G. Brown, Vice President

ORGANIZATION

Oakland City College

DATE

September 15, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Lucretia Street

TELEPHONE

(812) 749-4781, extension 22

CITY OR TOWN

Oakland City

STATE

Indiana 47660

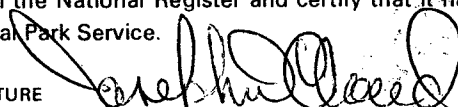
# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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

2-24-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

10

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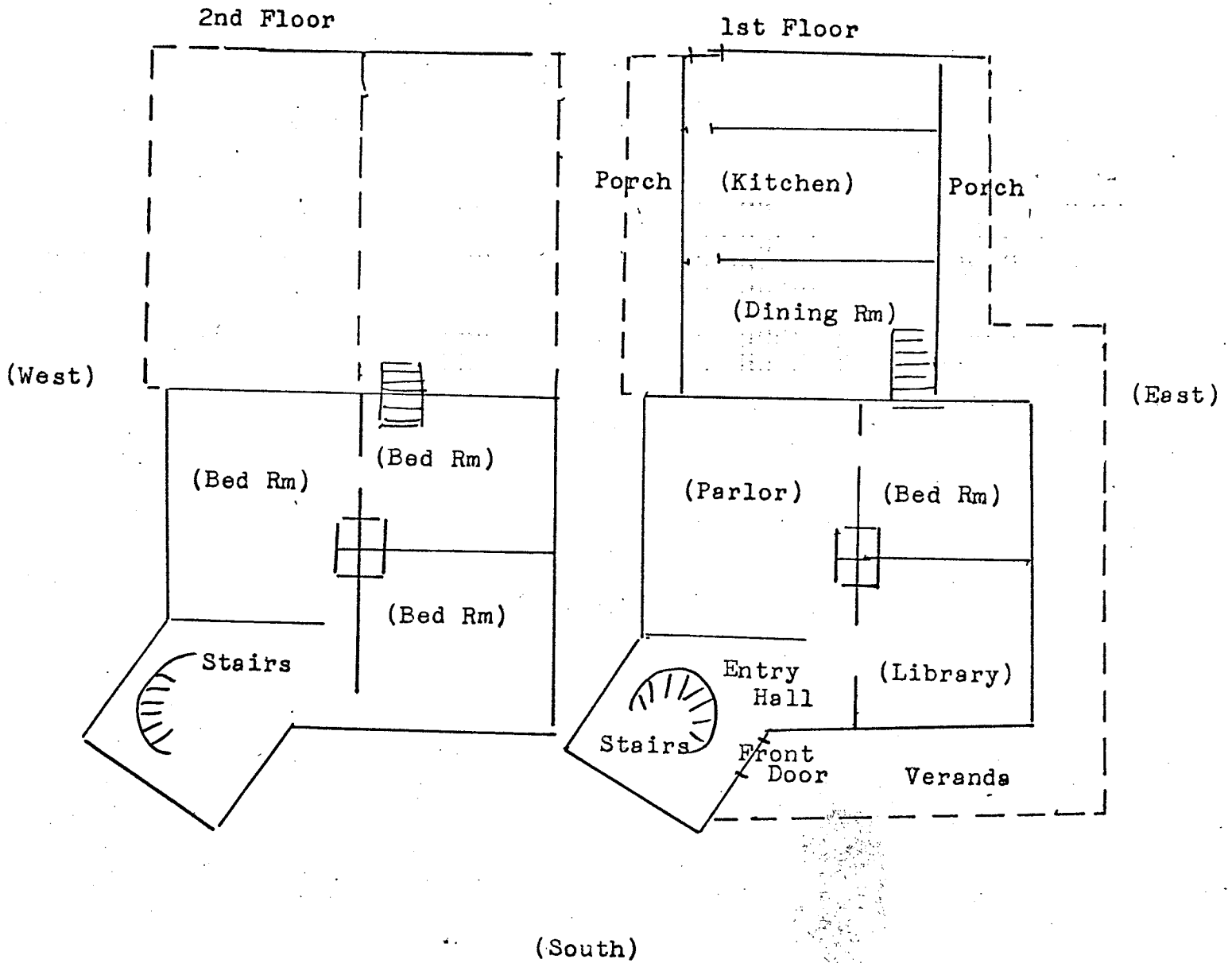
2

Stormont, Gil R. History of Gibson County, Indiana: Her People, Industries and  
Institutions. Indianapolis: B.F. Bowen & Co., Inc., 1914.

(North)

William M. Cockrum House, built 1876  
627 W. Oak Street, Oakland City, IN 47660

Floor Plan Sketch  
(showing present room arrangement)



Oak Street

WILLIAM M. COCKRUM  
HOUSE  
OAKLAND CITY, IND.  
UTM REFERENCE  
16469116 / 4243134 20

