

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

received MAY 27 1982

date entered

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

1. Name

historic C. C. Crowell, Jr., House

and/or common C. C. Crowell, Jr., House (WN02-3)

2. Location

street & number 2138 Washington Street N/A not for publication

city, town Blair N/A vicinity of congressional district Second

state Nebraska code 31 county Washington code 97

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. James Brent Gilbert

street & number 2138 Washington Street

city, town Blair N/A vicinity of state Nebraska

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Clerk, Washington County Courthouse

street & number 16th and Colfax Streets

city, town Blair state Nebraska

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date On-going federal state county local

depository for survey records Nebraska State Historical Society

city, town Lincoln state Nebraska

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 Christopher C. Crowell, Jr., House is located on State Highway 91 in a residential neighborhood on the western side of Blair (1970 pop. 6,106), the county seat of Washington County. The residence, completed in August, 1901, is transitional in style, exhibiting Queen Anne massing and floorplan with Neo-Classical Revival details.

The one-and-one-half story house is a modified rectangle with clapboarding on the first floor, shingles in the gables and dormers, and diamond-shaped shingles in the pedimented gables. The cross-gabled roof is made additionally complex by the use of dormers and wall dormers on the east and west sides. The two-bay front facade has a one-story wrap-around porch. The porch entrance is emphasized by a pediment with low-relief decoration. The porch's paired columns, wooden railings, and dentilled cornice have been removed; however, the current owners have plans to replace the missing components. Neo-Classical Revival elements include the modillioned cornice in the gables and pediments; dentilled cornice on the porch, west bay window, and east dormers; and rounded and small arched window with keystone-like elements.

The interior also reflects the use of Queen Anne and Neo-Classical Revival elements. The floorplan is a typical Queen Anne arrangement of two parlors, dining room, entrance hall, and kitchen on first floor. Victorian features include floors inlaid with walnut parquet and panelled sliding doors (see photo #4). In juxtaposition are classically-influenced features in the simple oak woodwork, oak newel post with dentilled and egg-and-dart detailing, columned oak fireplace with mirrored overmantel (see photo #5), and oak sideboard permanently installed in the dining room with simple post and lintel lines and stained-glass side panels in the geometric of "mission modern" manner.

The good condition of the property is the result of the work of the current owners who are doing continuing maintenance and restoration work on the interior and exterior: a new wood shingle roof was recently installed and later paint on the woodwork has been removed.

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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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 1901 **Builder/Architect** N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The C. C. Crowell, Jr., House is significant to the commercial history of eastern Nebraska for its association with the Crowell family, and to the architectural history of Blair as one of the few products of the Queen Anne style in the city.

The Crowell family and their lumber, grain, and elevator businesses were prominently associated with the early development and commercial growth of the city of Blair for seventy years. The first Crowell associated with Nebraska was Prince S. Crowell, grandfather of the subject, who was one of the Massachusetts investors who assisted John I. Blair in financing the Sioux City and Pacific Railroad in Iowa and its Nebraska connection, the Fremont, Elkhorn, and Missouri Valley Railroad. John I. Blair founded the town which bears his name in 1869 as a railroad town between the Iowa border and Fremont.

C. C. Crowell, Sr. (1844-1910), son of Prince Crowell, came to Blair in the same year as the city's founding, and engaged in the grain business. A lumber business was added in later years, and the Crowell Lumber and Grain Company grew extensively under his management, becoming the largest such operation in the area. It and the subsequent grain elevator company eventually operated lumber yards and elevators at fifteen different locations along the Fremont, Elkhorn, & Missouri Valley Railroad (Buss & Osterman, p. 858).

His son, Christopher Columbus Crowell, Jr. (1874-1943) inherited the management of both companies upon the death of his father and expanded the businesses until there were twenty-three branches in eastern Nebraska. He was born and educated in Blair and began working for his father at the age of twenty. During the 1890's, he managed the branch office at Newman Grove, but in 1901 he returned to Blair and constructed this house for his young family. He was also prominent in civic affairs, serving on committees or boards for the Y.M.C.A., the Methodist church, and the Crowell Memorial Home (the C. C. Crowell, Sr., House which his father had donated to the Methodist church as a home for the aged). The headquarters of the businesses were moved to Omaha in 1910; however, Crowell and the companies continued close ties with Blair.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Blair, NE

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	4	7	3	8	1	9	0	4	6	0	2	8	5	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H

Zone				Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 9 and 10, Block 99, Blair Town Plat, including all of the historic real estate associated with the property.

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Penelope Chatfield, Preservation Historian

organization Nebraska State Historical Society date January, 1981

street & number 1500 R Street telephone 402/471-3850; 471-3270

city or town Lincoln state Nebraska

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Morven O'Quinn

title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society date

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

William Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register date 7/19/82

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration