



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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name Stillman P. Groat House

Other names/site number Cain's Castle/ The Castle House / CU05-016

Name of related multiple property listing N/A  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

## 2. Location

Street & Number 432 North 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue

City or town Broken Bow State Nebraska County Custer

Not for publication  Vicinity

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:  national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:  A  B  C  D

Michael J. Smith SHPO/Director 01-28-2015  
Signature of certifying official/Title: Date  
Nebraska State Historical Society  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Commenting Official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title State of Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

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

Joe Larson H. Beall 3.24.15  
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

Stillman P. Groat House  
**Name of Property**

Custer County, Nebraska  
**County and State**

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply)

- Private
- Public-local
- Public-state
- Public-federal

**Category of Property** (Check only **one** box)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

**Number of Resources within Property** (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	2	Buildings
_____	_____	Sites
_____	_____	Structures
6	_____	Objects
7	2	Total

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register** N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN/Victorian  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Rusticated cast concrete block, wood, asphalt shingle roof.

Stillman P. Groat House

Custer County, Nebraska

**Name of Property****County and State****Description**

**Summary Paragraph** (Briefly describe the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

The Stillman P. Groat house is a one and a half story, concrete block Queen Anne style house located in Broken Bow, Custer County, Nebraska. The façade is dominated by a large wrap-around porch, conical turret in the southwest corner, and octagonal tower in the northwest corner. Large ionic columns place the house in the Free Classic subtype of the Queen Anne Style. The house retains its original interior organization and materials, and has not been significantly modified since its construction, save for a small addition to the rear of the building. The house is located on a large lot, which include several decorative river-rock objects which date to the construction of the house and contribute to the property's historic integrity.

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable.)

Setting and Overview

The Stillman P. Groat House is located in Broken Bow, Custer County, Nebraska. Built by Stillman P. and Gertrude Groat, the house is a grand two story Queen Anne residence built in 1906 during Broken Bow's building boom. The town is located in the center of the state and situated between the Loess Hills and the Sand Hills of Nebraska. As the county seat of Custer County, it quickly developed as and continues to be a center of trade and commerce for central Nebraska. The agricultural economy of the area is focused on the raising of livestock and the cultivation of corn, wheat, soybeans and alfalfa. While the Groats maintained a ranch in Custer County at the time this house was built, the business entrepreneur Stillman P. Groat (referred to most commonly as S.P. Groat), also purchased a large part of north Broken Bow for development from the Lincoln Land Co., he owned the entire Opera Block that contained his name sake hardware and furniture store (S.P. Groat and Co.), the North Opera House (of which he was owner and manager) and an undertakers business all which proved quite successful at the time. This success is reflected in the architecture of their 1906 home, which features elegant details of the Free Classic form of the Queen Anne style, including grand iconic fluted columns on the porch and in the interior and differentiated wall surfaces on the exterior. The varied and complicated roofline gracefully incorporates a gablet window, a second story gabled porch, a prominent second story octagonal tower as well as the conical turret which is the center point of the classical wraparound porch. The Groat House is a good example of the Queen Anne style of architecture in Broken Bow, Nebraska. As engaging as the house is on the outside, so too is the inside with many unique and diverse eclectic features.

Exterior

The Groat House is a two story, rusticated concrete block building with a concrete block foundation and an asphalt shingle roof. The house is essentially a cross gabled structure with the highest ridgeline running east to west, or from the front to the back. The more submissive gables run north and south across the front of the house, with a small second story porch with a baluster railing and simplified fretwork under the gable that faces south toward downtown Broken Bow. The north gable is wood frame with a one over one double hung window. Upon the framework of this cross gabled form, the house also is graced with an upper story tower that features the planes of the octagonal room they form inside. The tower has three windows that are one over one double hung, with the widest one situated in the middle. The house also has a wraparound porch with its own conical turret, and is supported by fluted ionic columns set on concrete block bases. Both tower and turret have tin finials of different design. The floor of the porch is wood, with a wood ceiling overhead. The south and northwest walls are canted with large windows, and a door on the southeast end of the porch enters the house into the dining room.

The doors and windows of the Groat house all have a concrete keystone lintel. While the bulk of the concrete blocks were formed to create a rusticated appearance, the lintels are all smooth concrete. The windows on the first floor are two over two double hung wood windows that still retain their original storm windows and hardware. The wide west facing front door is oak with a large beveled pane of glass and ornate carving below, and the matching spindled screen door is still in place. The south façade contains a small triangular gablet window that opens into one of the bedrooms upstairs to provide

Stillman P. Groat House

Custer County, Nebraska

**Name of Property****County and State**

light and air. The rear (east) façade contains a simple frame gable with a pair of double hung windows, as well as a rusticated concrete block enclosed entry to the kitchen that was added later and replaced a decayed wooden porch. The addition is slightly differentiated from the rest of the house in that it was built using smaller salvaged rusticated concrete blocks of the period and has a sliding glass door. The addition is small, perhaps only a third to one half the size of the kitchen inside, and is hidden from view by the rest of the house when viewed from the street.

**Interior**

Upon entering this spacious and light filled house, the two large rooms situated along the front façade of the house are parlors or sitting rooms, separated by a wide open door way with two tall, fluted wooden ionic columns. The room with the front door has four large double hung windows, in addition to the large beveled glass opening in the door itself, which makes the room bright and airy. Three of these windows make up the entire south canted wall of the room, the center window being 74 inches wide and all windows are five feet tall. The house has broad baseboards and substantial trim around the doors and windows, including a cornice along the top, sometimes connected by a picture rail when there is space between them. The trim is all painted white. On the first floor, the hardwood floors are a bright long board maple. The light fixtures in the sitting rooms and dining room are all original. One features four laughing monks on the wrought iron fixture; the other features lights descending from the ceiling on chains with a wide metal girdle. Both of the sitting rooms have a canted wall with windows, one facing west and the other south. A pair of paneled pocket doors divides the northwest sitting room and the den, which shares the same trim. The floor of the den and kitchen, however, is a brightly finished Douglas Fir. The first floor bathroom is accessed through the den, and retains its original claw-footed tub. Other details may be present behind the wood paneled walls or above the dropped ceiling. The bath is one of the last rooms awaiting restoration by the owners.

The dining room seems to be the heart of the house, as many doorways seem to lead to this central room, including doors to the den, the southwest sitting room, the kitchen, the stairs to the second story, the sunroom, and an exterior door to the porch. Each doorway is different. The passageway between the sitting room and the dining room is broad, and has two more five paneled pocket doors. The exterior door to the porch is a heavy oak door with a central clear glass window surrounded by stained glass in shades of violet and green. A perfectly round seventy inch doorway provides passage into the sunroom and a restored swinging butler's door to the kitchen. A more modest four panel door separates the dining room from the den. The doorway to the stair way has a tambour door that resembles the top of a roll top desk: the door slides down from a pocket above. The doors in the house retain their original detailed and eclectic hardware.

In addition to doorways, the dining room has a built-in combination set of shelves and narrow closet. Within are six shelves, plus a drawer underneath and paneling above that reaches the ceiling. The room also has an original wooden Craftsman light fixture with green stained glass on each of the four pendant lights, and a lighted column of green, yellow and red stained glass in the center from which the pendants are suspended.

The sunroom is a small maple floored room that used to be separated from the kitchen by a wall and accessed only via the round doorway. The room has large windows, and it is thought that the original owner used the room for his exotic plant collection. Now the room shares a high ceiling with the rest of the kitchen, which has some modern counters, sink, and oven. A set of repurposed antique period oak colonnades were added to divide the kitchen and the sunroom at the original wall separation point. The refrigerator is kept in the adjacent room that was added on to the back of the house.

Approaching the stairs through the tambour door, one first notes that the stairs continue the use of the maple wood as they go up, and include one broad step that juts into the dining room. The stairwell, however, is lined with a darker paneled wainscoting that is further embellished with an egg and dart motif framing the panels. At the turn of the stair, an oculus window opens into the short hallway that leads from the den to the bathroom, and has a double hung window to the exterior. The round window provides light to the stair. A sharp turn to the right leads to winder steps that turn another 90 degrees. It is at this turn that the flooring of the stairway changes to Douglas Fir and continues to a large second story landing which is central to all the second story rooms. The last set of steps to the second floor has a substantial banister with no balusters, except for five along the top to prevent falls.

The first bedroom lies under the east gable facing the back of the house. The room has wide baseboards and door and window trim with rosettes in the corners. There is a pair of double hung windows, a closet under the north eaves and a second closet door on the south wall which connects to the small southeast bedroom. This small bedroom next door

Stillman P. Groat HouseCuster County, Nebraska**Name of Property****County and State**

contains the gable window that is visible on the south side of the building. The room has an angled ceiling under the roofline, and the adjoining closet under the south eaves that is almost as large as the room itself. The next bedroom is bisected by the cross gable, creating an L-shaped room. A historic wooden door with glass panes leads to the recessed second story porch under the south gable. The largest bedroom in the house resides within the octagonal tower, which has a ceiling twenty feet above the floor. The sides of the room slope upward toward the tip of the tower, and three big windows provide light to the room. A picture rail encircles the room at the top of the window trim. This bedroom's closet is offset into the northern tower roofline, is V shaped and contains a door that leads through to the upstairs bathroom. This doorway, when reopened, connects the master "tower" bedroom to the upstairs bathroom. The upstairs bathroom has multi-angled ceilings and a modern shower/tub and cabinets that will be replaced as part of the owner's renovation plan.

The house has a partial basement with a nine foot ceiling, steep stairs, a poured concrete floor and an internal cistern. Some wooden steps on the east side of the square basement lead to cellar doors, the opening of which is located between the concrete block addition off of the kitchen and the gambrel shed.

Site

The property contains a detached two car garage, built of modern frame construction with vinyl siding and an asphalt shingle roof. Due to its relatively recent construction, it does not contribute to the property. There is also a non-historic gambrel-roofed shed directly behind the house. The shed is modern construction with vinyl siding and an asphalt shingle roof. It too is hidden from view of the street, being situated near the alley behind the house. The shed does have some double hung windows, which help give it some architectural interest.

Between the garage and the house, four river rock objects have been created using a concrete mortar. Two of the objects are seating, one facing north and the other west. The seats are slightly larger than needed for seating for one, but not quite big enough to seat two. Both resemble the mass and configuration of a short, rounded chair with big rounded arms, but created out of rounded varied colored river rock, attached with concrete mortar. A small cylindrical firepot sits between the two benches or chairs. On the opposite side of the sidewalk that connects the house and the garage is a short round river rock fountain. The bowl of the fountain has been encapsulated in concrete, but there are plans to restore the fountain. On the east side of the property, between the house and the alley that runs behind, is a rubble stone wall that has been overgrown with grape vines. The wall is approximately three feet in height and approximately thirty feet in length. All of these objects appear to have been built at approximately the same time in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, soon after the construction of the house itself.

Additionally, there is a remnant of a stone foundation that illustrates where the original barn was located; however, it sits on property adjacent, but no longer associated, with this historic property and is not considered contributing. The original barn burned down in 1960, and the lot upon which it sat was sold and a mid-century modern house was built on the property.

Integrity

The Groat House has excellent historic integrity. Although there is a small addition on the rear, the house has experienced very little change over the past 108 years. The kitchen restoration is almost complete with some repurposed antique cabinets acquired from another property. One window in the kitchen was shortened up, presumably when kitchen counters were added, probably within the last thirty years but still retains its original exterior framing. The two modern buildings do not detract from the historic nature of the house. The shed sits behind the house and is largely unseen, and the garage is situated about forty-five feet from the house, so it is possible to get a wonderful view of the historic house from the street from several angles without being distracted by the garage and its broad concrete driveway. Additionally, elements that often go missing on historic houses are still present on the Groat House. The decorative tin finials are still present on the tower and turret. The baluster railing on the recessed second story porch under the gable is still present. The light fixtures, columns, large glass front door with working lock, spindle screen door, original windows, heating vents and grates, doorknobs, locks and hardware and pocket doors are all still present.

Stillman P. Groat House  
**Name of Property**

Custer County, Nebraska  
**County and State**

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** Removed from its original location.
- C** A birthplace or a grave.
- D** A cemetery.  
A reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- E** A commemorative property.
- G** Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1906

**Significant Dates**

1906

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Stillman P. Groat house is significant under Criteria C: Architecture for its Queen Anne design and Free Classic elements. Located in Broken Bow, the county seat of Custer County, the house was constructed by Stillman P. Groat, a prominent local rancher and business owner. Groat moved to Broken Bow in 1898 and participated in a building boom that occurred between 1900 and 1910. The house is a reflection of his business acumen, and embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Queen Anne style, including irregular massing, textured surfaces, and the use of towers and other picturesque elements. The period of significance corresponds to the construction date of the building.

Stillman P. Groat House

Custer County, Nebraska

**Name of Property**

**County and State**

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Historic Context

The settlement of Custer County was stimulated by the land policies of the federal government and the construction of railroads through the area.<sup>1</sup> Settlers migrated to central Nebraska, tempted by the lands available through the Homestead Act of 1862 and the Timber Culture Act of 1873. Others came to buy portions of the large land grants that the federal government gave to railroad companies to subsidize the construction of the railroads. Custer County witnessed rapid settlement during the summer of 1880. The Burlington and Missouri River Railroad built a line that ran northwest through the county, and established Broken Bow, which was voted the county seat in November of 1882. By 1884, Broken Bow had a population of 200. Within another two years, the Lincoln Land Company platted an addition on the north end of town, the area in which the Groat House would be built, and the first B&MR locomotive arrived. The commercial district began to develop as tradesmen came to the young county seat. By 1888, the population had soared to 1,000 residents.

It was during this period of development that Stillman P. Groat and his wife Gertrude migrated from Ontario, Canada, to Custer County, via a brief stay in Colfax County, Nebraska along the way. In 1887, Stillman P. Groat secured a homestead of 160 acres on Section 21, Township 19 North, Range 25 West.<sup>2</sup> He also secured a Timber Claim of an additional 160 acres on land adjacent. For five years while he "proved up" his homestead, Groat, Gertrude, and his children operated a large ranch. During the period that he established his ranch, he also worked as a traveling salesman selling school supplies; his only absences from the homestead were during periods when he traveled for work, leaving the running of the ranch to his wife, son and daughter, William and Lincola. Homestead records indicate the land was improved with a farmhouse, two frame barns, 1200 forest trees, thirty acres of fenced pasture, and eighty acres of cultivated land.<sup>3</sup>

Stillman and Gertrude Groat had six children, of which four survived beyond their childhood years. In the 1885 US Census of Colfax and Cuming Counties, Stillman was listed as a farmer and Gertrude was said to "keep house."<sup>4</sup> The children, Ella (20), Argile (19), Lincola (17), and William (16), lived with them. By the time they moved to Custer County, Argile appears to have died. A biography from 1912 indicates that the Groats had only three children.<sup>5</sup> The interviews for the final certification of the Groats' homestead indicated that the Groats and one of their nearest neighbors, Emeline Tirrell, lived in Argile, Nebraska.<sup>6</sup> *Perkey's Nebraska Place Names* indicates that there was, for a very short time between 1889 and 1895, a Post Office was located at Argile, Nebraska, and that the name had been chosen by the Grote [sic] family, for reasons unknown.<sup>7</sup> The name appears to have been a memorial for their deceased child.

In 1898, two years before "Broken Bow's substantial period of growth between 1900 and 1910 as the population increased from 1,325 to 2,000." at the age of fifty-nine, S.P. Groat moved his family to Broken Bow. On November 29, 1905, a warranty deed numbered 20114 was filed for the purchase of 168 lots in 23 blocks of the "Railroad Edition" of Broken Bow, NE for \$3,500; this deed also included another 23 lots in 3 blocks of the "Maulick's Edition". This deed was granted from the Lincoln Land Company to Stillman P. Groat for the lots. In April 1906 on block 73 of this Railroad Edition purchase, Mr. Groat started construction of his house, the "finest home erected" during the 1906 building boom of Broken Bow, Nebraska.

As was described in the April 20, 1906 edition of the *Custer County Republican*, "S.P. Groat is building what will probably be, when completed, the finest home erected in the city this summer. The residence will be 36 X 54 feet, two stories, and will be veneered with cement brick of the Carlin and Bass manufacture. The house will be strictly modern throughout and

<sup>1</sup> Mead & Hunt, Inc, *Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey: Custer County* (NSHS, July 2006), 2.

<sup>2</sup> Nebraska Homestead Records, Land Office at Broken Bow, Nebraska, Application number 12013, Final Certification number 425, July 29, 1893.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> US Census of Colfax and Cuming Counties, Nebraska. 1885.

<sup>5</sup> *Compendium of History, Reminiscence and Biography of Nebraska* (Chicago: Alden Publishing Co., 1912), 664.

<sup>6</sup> Nebraska Homestead Records, Land Office at Broken Bow, Nebraska, Application number 12013, Final Certification number 425, July 29, 1893.

<sup>7</sup> Elton A. Perkey, *Perkey's Nebraska Place Names* (Lincoln: J&L Lee Co., 1995), 46.

Stillman P. Groat HouseCuster County, Nebraska**Name of Property****County and State**

elegantly furnished. A two story barn 28X28 feet is already erected and will be in keeping with the residence property. The site selected is the corner just across the street south from Dr. Pennington's residence. The house and barn when completed, will cost \$4,000.00."<sup>8</sup>

S. P. Groat became a prominent figure and businessman in town. It is said that "He is identified with various movements which will forward the interests of his county and state, and is one of the best known men in his part of the state." In addition to owning a hardware store, he at one point managed the Globe Hotel and is pictured in a Solomon Butcher photograph. Groat owned and managed the Northside Broken Bow Opera House which was located above his hardware store "S.P. Groat & Co." located on North 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue between B and C Streets. He scheduled many cultural activities, including plays, musicals, and speakers, including William Jennings Bryan, John J. "Black Jack" Pershing.<sup>9</sup> The current owners of The Groat House have displayed in the home a large photograph of the MWA (Modern Woodsmen of America) Broken Bow Camp rally of 1908 taken in front of Mr. Groat's hardware store. Mr. Groat is prominently pictured along with the local dignitaries of the day and The Groat House and barn are in the distant background. In 1911, after a five year stay in Broken Bow and at the age of seventy-two, Stillman Preston Groat sold his holdings in Nebraska and moved to Monte Vista in southern Colorado, where he purchased a large tract of irrigated land. He died four years later, in 1915; his body was returned to Nebraska and was buried in Wyuka Cemetery in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Criteria C: Architectural Significance

According to the *Abrams Guide to American Houses*, Queen Anne houses of this era should have "complicated roof with all sorts of steep slopes, turrets, chimneys, finials, and heavily decorated cornices and bargeboards."<sup>10</sup> In Nebraska, typical Queen Anne rooflines have hipped central roofs with decorative projecting gables and, perhaps in a relatively small percentage, a turret. In the case of the Groat House, the main roofline was built in a cross-gabled configuration, with a projecting gable facing south, a tower on the second floor, and a round portion of the wraparound porch with a conical roofed turret of its own. While it strays from the norm for Nebraska's Queen Anne houses, its configuration is still sufficiently complicated to be a good example of the style.

*Abrams Guide* indicates that the windows will consist of many different sizes and configurations. Window openings could be expected to be single rectangles or larger groupings or even curved. Overwhelmingly, the windows of the Groat house are one over one, double hung windows, however if one examines closely, there is a small amount of stained glass surrounding the clear glass window on the side door to the porch, and an oriel window allows light to pass from the outside double hung window on the north side of the house to the interior stairway to the second story. Furthermore, the windows are most often in groupings of two identically sized windows or three large varied sized windows with the largest of the three being centered. The sheer size of the windows and the amount of wall space that is devoted to them is the noteworthy detail. While some houses of this period feel dark due to a relatively small number of windows, the Groat House is bright and well lit from ambient light.

In terms of structure and materials, Queen Anne houses often combined a number of different materials to break up the planes of the walls.<sup>11</sup> The Groat House makes use of rusticated concrete blocks on the first floor, and clapboard on the second story. While some earlier examples of the style also differentiated the wall surfaces with imbricated scalloped shingles, patterned woodwork, bargeboards or spindled porches, this house illustrates its later construction date (1906) with more subdued surface work and the addition of classical columns on the porch.

According to the Nebraska Historic Resource Survey and Inventory, There are twenty-two houses in Broken Bow that surveyors considered to be examples of Queen Anne architecture. Of these, only three were recommended eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places; the Groat House (CU05-016) is one of the three recommended eligible. The other two are very different in nature. CU05-014 is a small, one story Queen Anne cottage that is about ten to fifteen years older than the Groat House. It exhibits some minor Eastlake detailing in the spindles of the porch and some patterned shingles in the gable. The other, CU05-053, is more typical of the common Nebraska Queen Anne house,

<sup>8</sup> *Custer County Republican*, 20 April 1906.

<sup>9</sup> *Standard Atlas of Custer County, Nebraska* (Chicago: George A. Ogle & Co., 1904).

<sup>10</sup> William Morgan, *The Abrams Guide to American House Styles* (New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., Publishers, 2004), 194.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*

Stillman P. Groat House

Custer County, Nebraska

**Name of Property**

**County and State**

including a taller, two and a half story structure, with a gable on hip roof. This taller house has a pressed metal roof covering, a cutaway bay, and a hipped porch. By comparison, the Groat House is a later example than both of these eligible buildings, and illustrates the reserved elegance of the Free Classic form of the Queen Anne rather than the exuberance of her Eastlake sisters.

The Groat House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C for its architectural significance. The house is a good example of the free classic form of the Queen Anne style, featuring differentiated materials on the first and second stories, a varied roofline, and elegant details in the classical columns of the porch and doorway between the sitting rooms. It has excellent integrity, including many details that are often lost over the course of a century, such as light fixtures, woodwork, doors and windows. It is one of the three Queen Anne houses in Broken Bow that are thought to be eligible for listing in the National Register, but is alone in that it illustrates the later variants of the style.

---

**9. Major Bibliographic References**

---

**Bibliography** (Insert bibliography here – cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form.)

*Compendium of History, Reminiscence and Biography of Nebraska.* Chicago: Alden Publishing Co. 1912.

*Custer County Republican.* April 20, 1906.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses.* New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1997.

Mead & Hunt, Inc. *Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey: Custer County.* Prepared for the Nebraska State Historical Society, July 2006.

Morgan, William. *The Abrams Guide to American House Styles.* New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., Publishers. 2004.

Nebraska Homestead Records. Land Office at Broken Bow, Nebraska. Application number 12013. Final Certification number 425. July 29, 1893.

Nebraska Real Estate Commission Seller Property Condition Disclosure Statement: Residential Real Property. November 2012.

Perkey, Elton A. *Perkey's Nebraska Place Names.* Revised edition, 1995. Lincoln: J&L Lee Co, 1995.

*Standard Atlas of Custer County, Nebraska.* Chicago: George A. Ogle & Co. 1904.

U.S. Census of Colfax and Cuming Counties. 1885.

**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 #
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other (Name of repository)  
Custer County Historical Society/Museum

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): CU05-016

Stillman P. Groat House  
**Name of Property**

Custer County, Nebraska  
**County and State**

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Less than one USGS Quadrangle Broken Bow

(Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates. Delete the other.)

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

- |    |          |                  |           |                   |
|----|----------|------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| 1. | Latitude | <u>41.408747</u> | Longitude | <u>-99.641369</u> |
| 2. | Latitude | _____            | Longitude | _____             |
| 3. | Latitude | _____            | Longitude | _____             |
| 4. | Latitude | _____            | Longitude | _____             |

**OR**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map): \_\_\_\_\_

   NAD 1927 or    NAD 1983

- |    |      |       |         |       |          |       |
|----|------|-------|---------|-------|----------|-------|
| 1. | Zone | _____ | Easting | _____ | Northing | _____ |
| 2. | Zone | _____ | Easting | _____ | Northing | _____ |
| 3. | Zone | _____ | Easting | _____ | Northing | _____ |
| 4. | Zone | _____ | Easting | _____ | Northing | _____ |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Lot Fourteen (14), Fifteen (15), Sixteen (16), Seventeen (17), and Eighteen (18), in Block Seventy-three (73), Railroad Addition to Broken Bow, Nebraska, excepting there from a parcel in Lot Fourteen (14) described as commencing at a southeast corner, thence north Six (6) feet, thence west Forty-seven (47) feet, thence north Six (6) feet, thence west Fifty-five (55) feet, thence south Twelve (12) feet, thence east One Hundred Two (102) feet to place of beginning.<sup>12</sup>

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Although the property originally occupied the entire block, several lots have been sold and had mid-century houses built upon them. The current boundary, then, encompasses only the land that is currently associated with the house.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Dr. Donald V. & Maureen K. Cain, with Ruben Acosta, NR and CLG Coordinator, NESHPO  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date December 21, 2014  
street & number 432 North 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue telephone (308) 872-6864  
city or town Broken Bow state NE zip code 68822  
email Dr.curley@hotmail.com

<sup>12</sup> Nebraska Real Estate Commission Seller Property Condition Disclosure Statement: Residential Real Property. November 2012.

Stillman P. Groat House

Custer County, Nebraska

**Name of Property**

**County and State**

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO for any additional items.)

## Groat House

432 North 10th Avenue  
Broken Bow, Custer Co.  
Nebraska

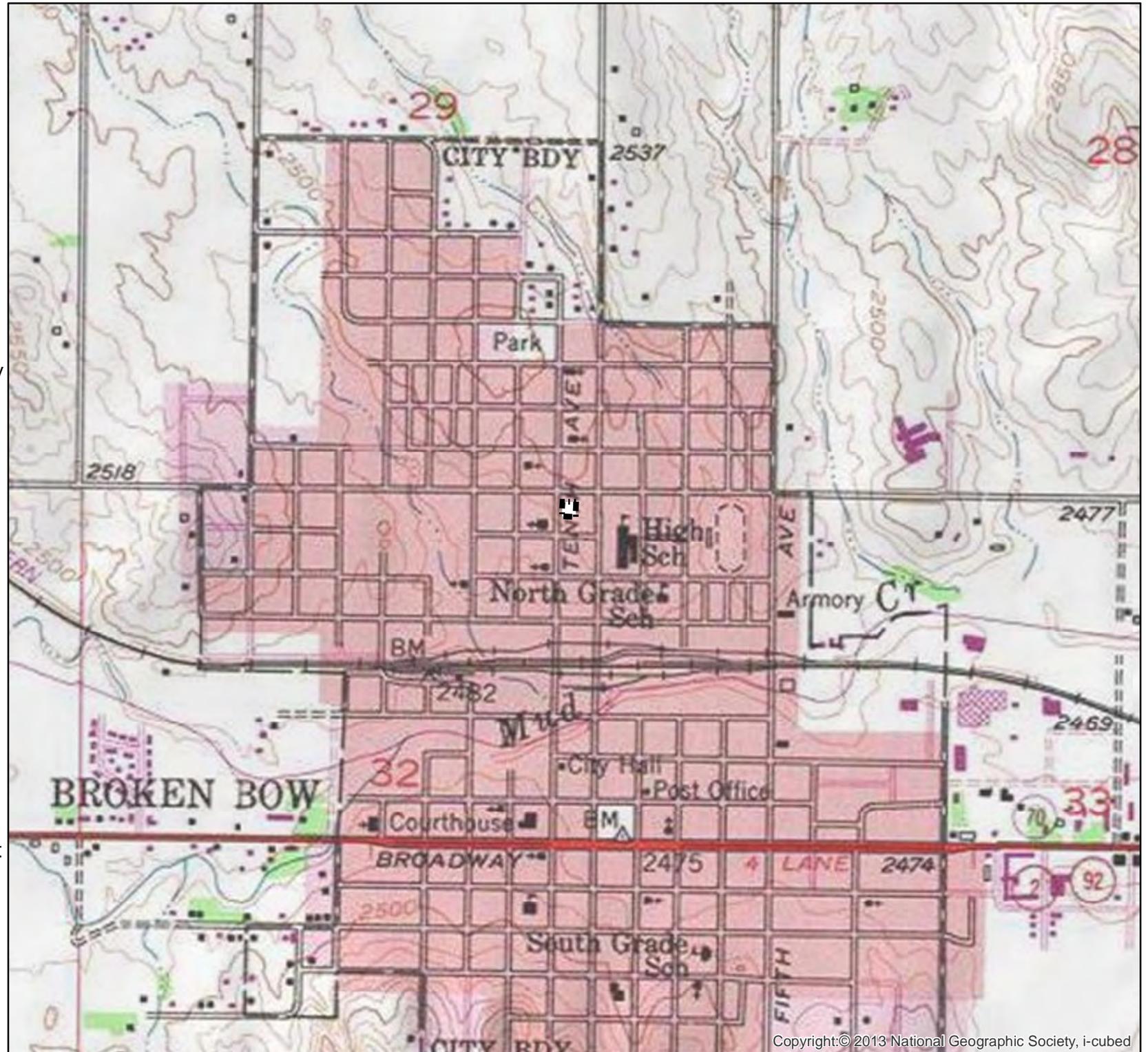
Latitude/Longitude Coordinates:

41.408747, -99.641369

Datum: WGS84

## Legend

 Proposed NRHP Boundary



0 500 1,000 2,000  
Feet

1:12,000



# Groat House

432 North 10th Avenue  
Broken Bow, Custer Co.  
Nebraska

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates:

41.408747, -99.641369

Datum: WGS84

## Legend

 Proposed NRHP Boundary

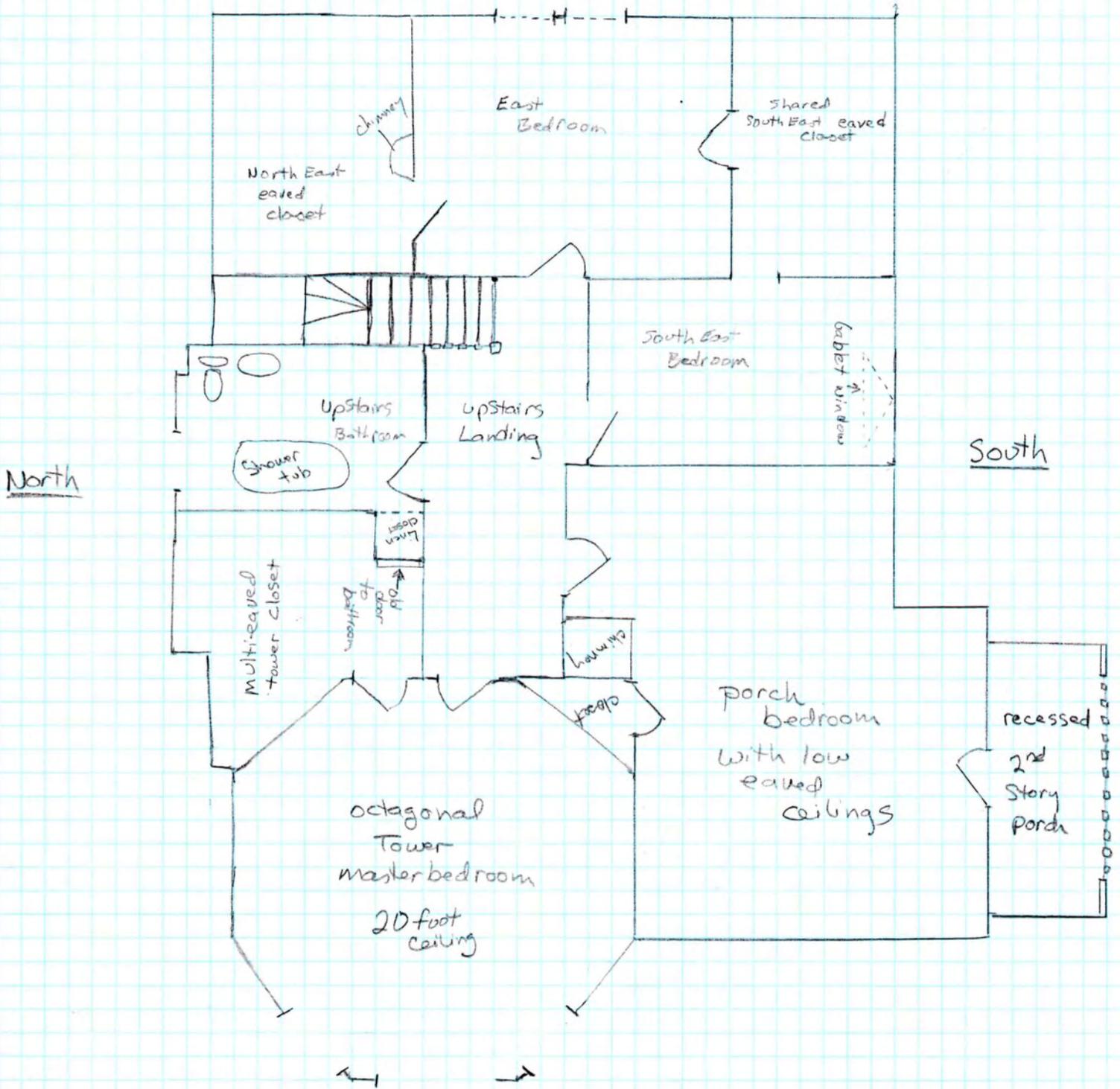


1:3,000



Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, TomTom, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, i-cubed, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community, Esri, HERE, DeLorme, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors

East

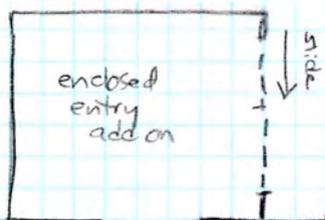


Groat House

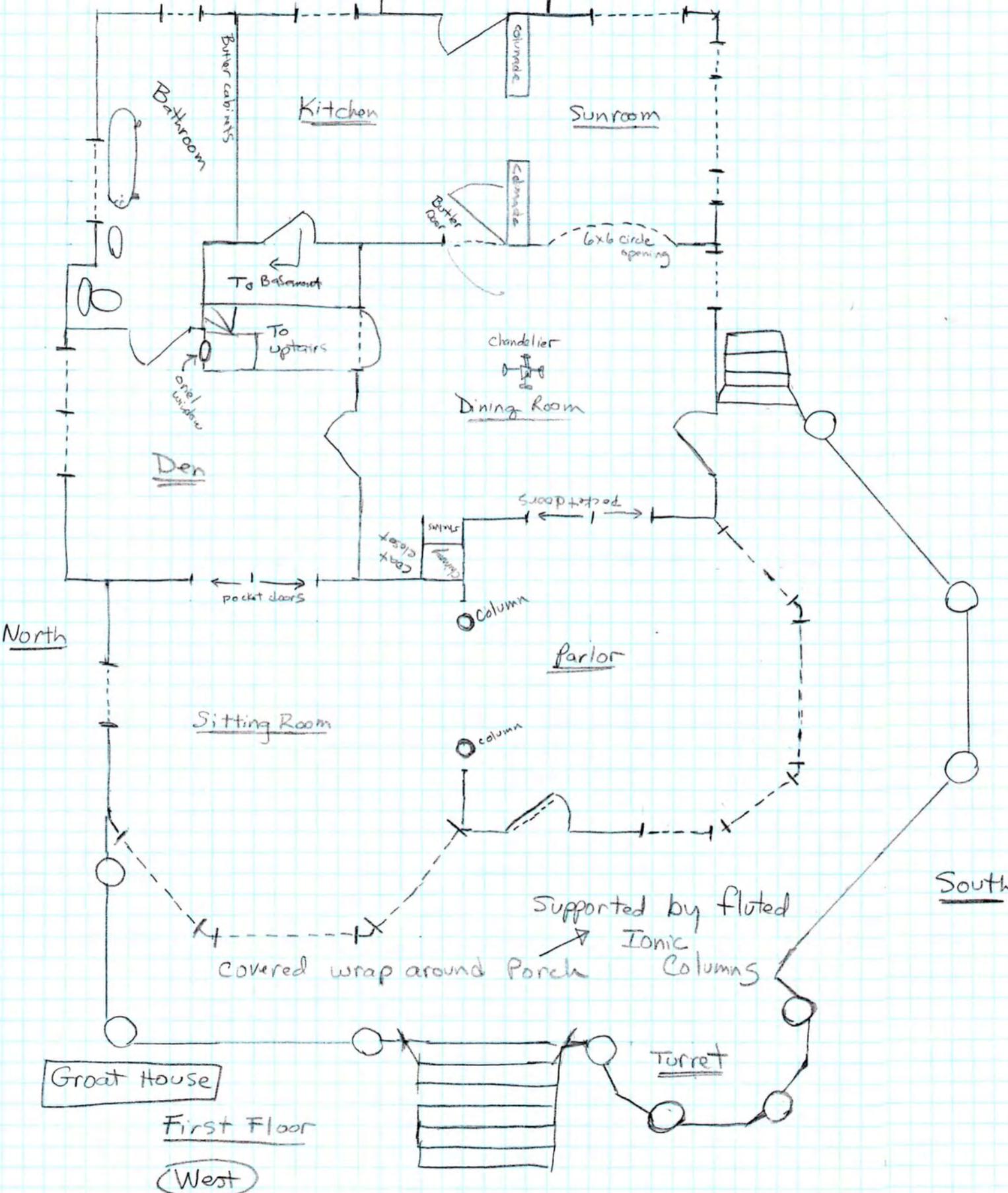
Second Floor

West

approximate scale  
(one square = 1 foot)



East



North

South

Garage House

First Floor

West

M. Cain

Stillman P. Groat House  
**Name of Property**

Custer County, Nebraska  
**County and State**

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property Stillman P. Groat House

City or Vicinity Broken Bow County Custer State Nebraska

Photographer Patrick Haynes Date Photographed September 12, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera.

1. Front facade, view east.
2. Northeast ¼ view, view southeast.
3. South façade with gabled porch, view north.
4. River rock objects, view west.
5. Cellar entrance, view west.
6. Porch column detail, view northeast.
7. Front sitting room, view west.
8. Dining room, view southeast.
9. Entrance to stair, view northwest.
10. Stair, view north.
11. Paneled stair, view south.
12. Tower bedroom, view west.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

























UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Groat, Stillman P., House  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEBRASKA, Custer

DATE RECEIVED: 2/06/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/05/15  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/20/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/24/15  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000105

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 3-24-15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



January 30, 2015

J. Paul Loether  
National Register–National Historic Landmarks Programs  
National Park Service  
1201 "I" Street NW, 8th Floor  
Washington, DC 20005

RE: Stillman P. Groat House  
432 N 10th Ave, Broken Bow, Custer County, Nebraska

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the above referenced property to the National Register of Historic Places. This form has met all notification and other requirements as established in 36 CFR 60.

If you have any questions concerning this nomination, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "L. Robert Puschendorf".

L. Robert Puschendorf  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure

1500 R Street  
PO Box 82554  
Lincoln, NE 68501-2554  
p: (800) 833-6747  
(402) 471-3270  
f: (402) 471-3100  
[www.nebraskahistory.org](http://www.nebraskahistory.org)