NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Rumsey, J. Claude, House

other names/site number Rumsey-Nomanson House 089-370-93013

2. Location

street & number 709 Michigan Avenue N/A ☐ not for publication

city or town Lowell N/A ☐ vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Lake code 089 zip code 46356

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 consider significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☑ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is: Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

☐ 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:)

J. Claude Rumsey House
Name of Property

Lake County, IN
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- [x] private
- [ ] public-local
- [ ] public-state
- [ ] public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- [x] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

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)

Queen Anne

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
walls WOOD: weatherboard
WOOD: wood shingle
roof ASHPHALT
other

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more sheets.)

J. Claude Rumsey House
Name of Property

Lake County, IN
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 the 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, 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 grave.

☐ **D** a cemetery.

☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ **F** a commemorative property.

☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significant within the past 50 years.

Areas of significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1906

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Rumsey, J. Claude

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination if 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
Name of repository:

J. Claude Rumsey House
Name of Property

Lake County, IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	465130	4571440
2			
3			
4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cathy LaReau

organization _____ date November 1, 2007

street & number 15615 Colfax St. telephone 219-696-6492

city or town Lowell state IN zip code 46356

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 0r 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Nomanson Family Trust, Lenore Nomanson, Trustee

street & number 709 Michigan Avenue telephone _____

city or town Lowell state IN zip code 46356

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 listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance to the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding the burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Section 7 – DESCRIPTION

The J. Claude Rumsey House, constructed in 1906 in Lake County, Indiana, is a charming Queen Anne residence located on the north end of the town of Lowell in the section referred to as the Dwyer Addition. The home is located at 709 Michigan Avenue in a quiet neighborhood of average size houses with the exception of a residential care facility located directly across the street. The "Dwyer Addition" area now consists of historic homes intermingled with homes built later in the century.

The J. Claude Rumsey House was designed by builder J. Claude Rumsey. The many unique features of the home may be explained by the fact that the he originally designed this house as his own residence. The massing is picturesque, being characterized by the multiple gables, a wraparound porch, and a short Queen Anne tower. The rooflines of the multiple gables, tower, porch and segmental pediment over the porch entry are accented by wooden block dentils. The home has 1828 square feet of living space and sits on a deep, narrow city lot.

The one and a half story, frame house rests on a brick foundation, has a cross gabled roof and is sided with horizontal wood clapboard painted white. The siding was installed without traditional corner boards. Below the first course of clapboarding is a wide wood sill skirt board with angled drip mold above it. A frieze board with dentil course tops all walls, the rear gabled wing and 1961 addition, which have a frieze but lack the dentils.

Viewing the house from the south-facing front facade (Photo 1), six steps lead up to the front door, which is slightly to the west. The charming covered porch begins at the front door and wraps all the way around to the middle of the east side of the house, where there is a side entry built into the south section of the bay (Photo 3). The porch floor consists of wood joists and wood boards supported on brick piers. The front porch has a full height entry with segmental pediment (photo 10) and is supported by seven sets of paneled squared piers with paired classical columns, which uphold the denticulated frieze/beam. The area between the porch floor and the ground is skirted with squared lattice. The original entry door is oak panel with a single window. It is protected by a white storm door that is complementary to the time period. One of the most outstanding features of all is a keyhole window just to the right of the entry. This window has an archivolt surround, but nearly all other window and door openings have plain surrounds with denticulated entablature headers. To the right of this window the porch circles around the one and a half story tower and extends around the east side of the home (Photo 2).

At the first story the tower has three curved, double hung glass windows. The section of the porch roof that surrounds this area has a unique overlay pattern. Rising above this roof is the remaining half story of the tower which is sided with wood shingles in a fishscale pattern and houses a small, rounded triple window. The roof of the tower has the same unique overlay pattern as the roof area of the porch surrounding the tower below. The cone-shaped finial at the top crowns the tower with distinction. On the second story south facing gable, paired, double hung windows are encased within a spade-shaped gable end, framed by a sweeping curved boxed bargeboard assembly and cornice return. The frieze here is raked to follow the spade shape. Rising above the second story gable at the highest elevation is an attic gable which houses a lunette window (photo 9).

The view from of the eastern facade (Photo 11) begins at the south with the tower section, followed by a flat section of the house that contains a single piano window. The wraparound porch ends at the southernmost third of the two story chamfered bay where a single window oak panel door allows entry into the dining area (photo 3). Continuing around the first story bay, there is a paired, double-hung window on the front facade and a single, double-hung window on the north side. The upper story of the bay also has a single, double-hung window encased within a spade-shaped bargeboard and cornice return like the front gable.

The back section of the original house has a very unique tall and narrow triple, double-hung window (photo 12). Visible from the northernmost end of the east facade is the 1961 family room addition which has a continuous row of 4 double hung windows. Four basement windows are also visible.

Standing in the backyard and looking at the north facade of the house (Photo 4), the predominate view is that of the newer first-story addition. It has four continuous double-hung windows, a ground level rear door entry and attached garage with a single window. The rear gable of the second story is visible from this point of view and contains a single, double-hung window.. The roof over the new addition has a very slight pitch and appears almost flat above the family room, then angles downward, with a steeper (4-12) pitch enveloping the garage. A crawl space access is visible and this addition has an 8x8x16 concrete block foundation instead of the original brick.

The west facade (See Photo 5) is flat and, on the first story, has a single double-hung window towards the rear of the house and a paired, double-hung window in the center. The second story has a triple, double-hung window. A paved driveway runs along this side and enters into the garage addition, which extends westward off the rear of the house. Two basement windows are visible.

Entering the Rumsey House one is transported to turn of the century by the splendor of the late Victorian design elements. The richness of the wood, the formal wallpaper design and the antique fixtures in the entry evoke a feeling of the formality of the time in which it was built. To the left is the magnificent original carved oak staircase (See photo 6) which begins with a box newel post and ascends 18 steps to the second story hallway. Square balusters support the sturdy molded handrail. The stained oak panel wall extends from the built in bench on the first floor all the way up the stairway and continues on the underside of the third section of stairs, visible from below (photo 14). From the entry (photo 13) one can continue through an angled hallway (photo 19) to the dining room or turn to the right and enter the parlor.

Upon entering the parlor there is a very unique and unusual keyhole shaped window immediately to the right on the south wall. Another outstanding feature of this room is the oak hardwood flooring with inlaid maple and walnut border. Narrow strips of wood frame the perimeter of the room and the contrasting colors of the maple and walnut enhance the design. The southeast corner of the room extends into the tower area. (Photo 7). The floor of this area creates more interest with its own geometric design. A custom built-in oak bench lines the entire tower area, which includes three double hung windows with curved glass. There are two fan-shaped, silver and gold colored wall sconces with frosted glass in the areas between the windows. A high piano window with a beautiful beveled glass design highlights the east wall of the parlor (photo 15). It is notable that there is no

fireplace. The fact that the house was built without a fireplace was a point of distinction at the turn of the century when ownership of a coal burning furnace was a sign of progress and modernization.

The woodwork in all first level rooms (entry, parlor, dining room and bedroom), with the exception of the kitchen and bathroom, is the stained, original oak woodwork. Four inch window and doorway trim is topped with a dentiled cornice (Photo 16) and baseboards measure a substantial ten inches in height, as is common in many historic homes. Five panel doors are oak with ornate, gold-colored doorknobs. Both knob and back plate have a molded vine and leaf design. The walls are all plaster, but have been covered with wallpaper. Ceilings are 10 feet high.

From the north end of the parlor one enters the dining area through a squared entry a little over five feet in width (photo 17). The dining room serves as a central area which can be entered through the north end of the front entry hall also (photo 19). The north wall of the dining room has a door leading to the kitchen and the west wall has a doorway which leads to the downstairs bedroom (photo 20). There is also a bay window on the east wall of the dining room with a doorway leading out to the wraparound porch (photo 18) equaling a total of five entries into the dining area. The hardwood flooring in this room is oak.

The downstairs bedroom on the west side of the house is entered from the west side of the dining room (photo 21). The wallpaper that covers the plaster walls in this room has a uniform pattern, but is a bit less formal than the wallpaper in the previous rooms. The woodwork is the same. There is a paired, double-hung window on the west wall and a deep closet which extends to underneath the stairway. Off the north end of the bedroom is a door leading to the only bathroom in the house.

The bathroom, which is original to the design of the house, still contains the original claw-foot, cast iron bathtub (photo 22). High above the tub is a very large, beadboard cupboard used for storage. The original, wall-mounted sink was replaced in the 1960's by a freestanding sink, but still has the original built-in medicine cabinet above (photo 23). A mock tile linoleum material which covered the lower 5' 8" portion of the walls was installed in the 1940's but was replaced in the eighties with ceramic tile. The plaster wall area above the tile is covered with wallpaper. The floor is linoleum and the woodwork is painted white. There is a single, double hung window on the west wall and another door on the north end of the bathroom which leads into the kitchen.

The south wall of the kitchen has two doorways, one leading to the bathroom and the other to the dining room (photo 25). Another noteworthy feature of this kitchen is the original set of built in drawers and cabinets with small counter top that occupies most of the west wall. (See photo 8) The wood cabinet is painted white, as are the rest of the original doors and woodwork in this room. This unit features two lower closed cupboards, two upper cupboards, one closed and one with glass windows, and 3 lower drawers. In the center atop the drawers is a small stained wood countertop with white beadboard backing above. There is also a door on this wall which, at one time led downstairs to the basement. When the addition was built onto the rear of the house, this area was turned into a pantry. This change also allowed for a place to run the duct work to heat the upstairs when the forced-air furnace was added.

The west wall of the kitchen has a uniquely sized, double-hung triple window, which allows for plenty of morning light. The walls of the kitchen are plaster and have been covered on the lower half with mock tile linoleum and on the upper half with wallpaper. The north wall of the kitchen has its original cast iron single sink with drying area (photo 24). Mid-century a custom cabinet was built underneath for storage. There is a doorway in the center which leads to the family room. At present the kitchen floor is linoleum with plank floor underneath.

The family room (photo 26) is part of the addition which was built in 1961. The room has paneled walls and on the north end stairs lead down to a backdoor entry to the right, a garage entry straight ahead, and to the left a another set of stairs lead to the basement. Originally, before the addition, one could also enter the basement through these stairs which were at that time located outside and covered with a horizontal wood door, as was typical for this time period.

The basement still bears the markings of this historic house. The cement floor shows the original outline of two large bins, one for coal and the other for corn cobs, which was used for kindling. A west window was located above each bin which allowed for direct delivery of the coal and corn cobs to fuel the original coal-burning furnace. A room in the southeast corner of the room was allocated for food storage. Canned goods, produce, and crocks were stored in this important space. Another interesting feature is that the home's tower extends all the way down to the floor of the basement and creates a unique "corner" for storage in this room. The Nomanson family stored root vegetables packed in sand in this area. The west wall has a built in workbench and a shower was added in the 1950's at the northeast corner. In the center of the basement the old woodburning hot water heater standing near the newer modern version testifies to the passage of time.

The home's electric wiring system was replaced in 1988, the plumbing in 1994, and central air conditioning was installed in 1992.

There was originally a small garage built to house a model T Ford, however this was torn down to allow for a new, larger garage, which was a part of the 1961 new addition.

Returning to the entry way, after climbing the stairs one reaches the second story hallway which has the same oak stained woodwork with five panel doors as are seen downstairs. There are two finished bedrooms upstairs. The window trim inside both of these bedrooms is plain, although the door trim is the same as the rest of the house. All doors and trim viewed from the inside of the bedrooms is painted white. The opposite outside trim and door is stained.

At the top of the stairs proceeding straight ahead one enters the first bedroom (photo 28). This front gable room has a paired, doubled hung window on south wall. Particularly interesting is the round walk in closet with arched entry (photo 29). This closet is actually the inside of the tower, which extends only partially through the second story, therefore allowing a ceiling height that is lower than the rest of the room. The walls of this room are painted plaster. Wood plank floors are covered with carpet.

The second bedroom is located on the east side of the house. The interior of this room was finished mid-century. Until then, it was unfinished and similar to an attic. This room is also unique. On the north wall it has a closet and a set of 3 built-in drawers with a single cupboard above (photo 30). There is a single, double-hung window on the east wall and the north (photo 31) and south (photo 32) corners of this wall each have a partial four foot high corner wall which forms a structural shelf on top. This configuration is necessary because the lower half of this wall actually forms the bay section of the gable. This becomes obvious when viewing the area from the outside. These walls are also painted plaster with plain woodwork and trim painted white. Because both of the bedrooms are gabled, the ceilings are slanted at various angles creating a very unique interior structure.

There are two rooms on the same story that are unfinished and referred to by the family as attic area (photo 33). Both of these rooms could be finished and used as liveable space. The combined area of these two unfinished, second-story rooms is 369 square feet. From the first unfinished room there is a ladder stairway leading to the true attic which forms the highest gable. This is also unfinished with a single palladian window on the south wall. The attic has been and is currently used for storage.

The finished area of the house (basement and attic excluded) measures 1828 square feet. If the remaining unfinished upstairs rooms were finished the total square footage of the home would be approximately 2,197 square feet.

Section 8 - NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary Paragraph:
The J. Claude Rumsey House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C because locally, it is an outstanding example of a Late Victorian Queen Anne Cottage. This property possesses high artistic value and represents the work of a skilled designer, builder, and craftsman, J. Claude Rumsey.

Historical Context:

At the turn of the century Lowell was located far enough away from the Calumet region to be called an agricultural town. Surrounded by prairie land and groves, the south Lake County area was dotted with farms, dairies, and truck gardens. In A Standard History of Lake County and the Calumet Region, Lowell was described at that time as "the acknowledged trading center of the three southern townships, as it is also the nucleus for many of the social and religious activities of that section of Lake County." The town, which was founded by Melvin Halsted in 1852, was so named due to the fact that its water facilities and milling industries at that time bore resemblance to those of Lowell, Massachusetts.

The J. Claude Rumsey House was built in 1906 by Julius Claude Rumsey. Born in 1877, J. Claude Rumsey was most likely from a farming family south of Lowell towards Shelby. In 1897 he married Grace Lodema Pinkerton. The lot at 709 Michigan Avenue actually belonged to Grace, which she purchased from Cornelia Dwyer for $125.00 in 1896, one year prior to her marriage to J. Claude Rumsey. Records show that the couple took out a mortgage to build the house in 1903 and we know that it was completed by 1906. Both he and Grace were long

time Lowell residents at the time of their marriage. In a newspaper wedding announcement the young Mr. and Mrs. Rumsey were described as "highly respected members of the community who devote much time to church work."

Grace Lodema Pinkerton was the youngest child of James and Sarah Sanders Pinkerton, outstanding citizens of the community. James Pinkerton founded a lumber company in the 1880s supplying materials for many of the houses built in Lowell at that time. He sold that lumber business a decade later to become an associate of his son in law J. Claude Rumsey's contracting firm. The Rumsey firm completed several building projects. In an early publication in the Souvenir of Lake County (1906) Rumsey advertised his company's ability to do a wide variety of building projects including homes, businesses, barns, bridge abutments, piers, foundations and such. He highlighted the use of a steam concrete mixer to facilitate the work. Records show that the Rumsey firm built 20,000 feet of concrete sidewalks for the town of Lowell.

J. Claude Rumsey's advertising slogan was "There is no place like home, sweet home – when built by Rumsey". He built several notable houses in Lowell including a Free Classic at 263 Clark Street., a Colonial Revival at 251 Clark Street, and a Free Classic at 720 East Commercial Avenue. The outstanding features of this Queen Anne at 709 Michigan Ave. may be explained by the fact that Rumsey initially built this home as his own place of residence.

Early publications show that Rumsey moonlighted as a commercial photographer, working out of his home at 709 Michigan Ave. He was also a musician and is credited with the formation of a band that performed for parades and band concerts in the Lowell area. The Rumseys had three daughters named Vivian, Fondelete, and Chlotilde. The family eventually left the Lowell area some time after 1912 and settled in Hessville where they made their permanent home. J. Claude became prominent in Hessville as a contractor, builder, businessman, and active worker in the Christian Churches and Grace was known as a successful music teacher. J. Claude Rumsey passed away in 1937 and Grace Pinkerton Rumsey in 1947.

The Rumseys lived at the 709 Michigan Avenue address until 1912, when they sold the house to Mary Fox, the great aunt of the present owners, for the sum of $1800.00. Mary Fox, a single woman, was not employed outside of the home. She lived there with her sister Martha. Martha, an employee of the Lowell Post office, was a divorcee with one daughter who lived there also. In 1920 a man named Art Creek from Kansas, who had been childhood friends of the sisters when they lived there, visited Indiana. Upon hearing that the Fox sisters were single he made a subsequent trip with his friend Art Young and they arranged for a visit with the ladies. Both gentlemen proposed marriage shortly thereafter and returned with their brides to Kansas to make their homes. Mary Fox Young retained ownership of the house which was rented out from 1920 until 1937.

At the height of the Depression Edward Nomanson and his wife Myrtle, like many Americans, had suffered loss due to the failure of the banks, and were in need of housing for their growing family. Ed rented the house for three years and then in 1937 his aunt, Mary Fox Young, sold the house to him at the very reasonable price of $1,000.00. Ed and Myrtle Nomanson spent many happy years in this home where they raised their six children who still have many fond memories of growing up here. The Nomansons regularly entertained family and

friends in their home and were members of the Lowell Church of Christ. Ed Nomanson was a member of Local 150 Operating Engineers and worked with various companies through this union local. He was a family man who enjoyed hunting and working on house projects. Myrtle was primarily a homemaker who spent her time raising their six children, gardening, canning, participating in church activities and keeping house. Her contribution of many years of immaculate housekeeping is evidenced by the excellent condition of the home today.

In keeping with other portrayals, eldest daughter Lenora Nomanson remembers Lowell as a center where people from surrounding communities would gather on Saturday evenings, often until ten or eleven pm. Much commerce and social activity took place at this time and she remembers many nights when musicians entertained downtown in the gazebo. Her Father, Edward Nomanson passed away in 1980 and her mother, Myrtle NcDonald Nomanson, passed away ten years later in 1990.

In 1987 Lenora Nomanson, a career nurse, left the city to return to her childhood home where she lives today. Her preservation of the fine woodwork, employment of a skilled preservation carpenter, and meticulous upkeep of the home ensures its enjoyment for future generations.

The J. Claude Rumsey house is presently jointly owned by the Nomanson Family Trust. A childhood home to all, the trustees include Lenora Nomanson of Lowell; Betty N. Duncan of Manitowash Waters, Wisconsin; Jack H. Nomanson of Rathdrum, Idaho; Elaine Nomanson Vislosky of Hobart, Indiana; and Judy Nomanson Buser of Kankakee, Illinois. Another sister, Barbara Nomanson Worley, passed away in 1983.

In 2002 the J. Claude Rumsey House was featured in the Historic Homes Tour as part of the Lowell Sesquicentennial Celebration. As one of twenty-five homes spotlighted, the Nomanson/Rumsey House was one of eight which allowed the public to tour their homes. Tourists commented on the unique architectural elements of the home and the original features of the kitchen. The home, which is currently occupied by Lenora, is also pictured under Historical Places on the Lowell Pubic Library's website.

Criterion C:

American architects and builders originated the Queen Anne style under the influence of English precedents. America's access to ample lumber supplies and new industrial manufacturing capabilities made the surface ornament of the style affordable. The preference for Romantic Victorian styles; Gothic Revival, Italianate, and other modes, set the stage for the visual richness of the Queen Anne style. In late 19th century Great Britain, Richard Norman Shaw's revival of 17th century English architecture took design cues from an era when builders combined Late Gothic and Early Renaissance ideas. Beginning in the 1880s, American builders turned to the Queen Anne style. By the 1890s, American hallmarks of the style usually included asymmetrical massing and picturesque facades with towers, bays and large porches. Interiors featured natural wood materials and specialized function rooms that often opened into one another, usually with private uses zoned to upper floors or rear areas. Exotic details with influence from the Orient, the classical past, or other Romantic sources were in vogue. The Rumsey House, with its irregular design, circular tower, sweeping porch, and spade-shaped gables

has all the features of a high-style Queen Anne house. The Middle Eastern style keyhole window, paired classical columns, and classical dentil moldings provide a rich variety of architectural influences.

The J. Claude Rumsey House, which was rated as outstanding in the Lake County Interim Report, compares favorably with other Queen Anne houses in Lowell. The Martin Driscoll house, circa 1900, is located a few blocks to the south at 520 Franklin Avenue. This historic house is a two-story, frame Queen Anne, more plain in feeling than the J. Claude Rumsey House, but also rated as outstanding in the Lake County Interim Report. It has a partial wrap around porch and a two-story bay on the west facade, however the porch on this house does not integrate itself into the bay. The first story of the front facade has a large window on the first floor with a single door to the right and the second story of this facade has just one plain, double hung, centered double window. Above that, there are two rectangular windows with dentils and simple brackets supporting a slight overhang in the attic level. Although the Martin Driscoll house is a treasured historic home with thoughtful artistic design elements, it does not present the elegant and unique features of the J. Claude Rumsey house such as the keyhole window, grouped porch columns, extensive dentiled roof lines, or curved glass windows. Neither does it possess the picturesque massing that is characterized by the multiple gables, the charming wraparound porch, and the elaborately detailed short tower. This massing that is inherent in the J. Claude Rumsey house creates the magnificent curb appeal that has drawn interest for generations. Furthermore, at this date, it is visually apparent when viewing the Martin Driscoll house that the upkeep and maintenance of the exterior architectural elements can in no way compare to the level of preservation that the owners of the J. Claude Rumsey house have achieved through diligent, laborious, and painstaking effort.

Another house rated as outstanding in the Lake County Interim Report is a Free Classic/Queen Anne, circa 1900, located several blocks southwest of the J. Claude Rumsey House. This well maintained, 2 ½ story house at 490 Commercial Avenue in Lowell is much larger than the J. Claude Rumsey House. It is a frame house with horizontal siding and a cross-gabled roof with multicolored shingles. The front porch is similar to the Rumsey house in that it has a segmental pediment over the porch entry and also wraps around the tower, however this porch is supported instead by single classical columns. In contrast to the classic white siding and trim of the J. Claude Rumsey House, this Free Classic/Queen Anne house has been painted with rich color. The siding is painted a maroon color and the very plain window trim is accented in gray. While the first two stories have a more reserved appearance, the gables above provide a more a ornate accent with fishscale shingles alternately painted in gray, maroon, yellow and white. While having some similar architectural elements, the appearance of this Free Classic/Queen Anne is more stately than that of the J. Claude Rumsey House due to its larger size. The many unique architectural elements that are condensed in the smaller J. Claude Rumsey House create an appearance that is more charming and picturesque.

The J. Claude Rumsey house can also be compared to another Queen Anne house, circa 1900, located at 231 West Commercial Avenue on the west side of Lowell. This two story brick home, which was rated as outstanding in the Lake County Interim Report, is larger than the J. Claude Rumsey house, possessing a full second story and an attic with dormer windows. It also has tower, but the windows are not curved and the only design element is a variation in the brick above the second story window. The windows of this house are simply crowned with plain rectangular stone. Both houses have the same style of block dentils at the rooflines. The windows in the J.

Claude Rumsey House, such as the very unique keyhole window, the single lunette window in the attic gable, and the two encased gable windows, help to create a more embellished facade. The porch of this house is a concrete slab with a roof supported by wrought iron columns that do not appear to be original to the house. The porch of the J. Claude Rumsey is a larger, more original wraparound porch with more intricate details, such as the segmental pediment at the entry and the squared piers with paired classical columns. Both houses are well-preserved on the exterior and interior, but the kitchen of the Free Classic/ Queen Anne does not possess the original built-in kitchen cabinetry that add to the historical authenticity of the J. Claude Rumsey House. This house, although a regal historic home, is more restrained in embellishments, lacking the elaborate detail and picturesque massing that gives the J. Claude Rumsey house its charming appeal.

The J. Claude Rumsey House is eligible for the National Register of Historic places under Criteria C because locally it is an outstanding example of a Late Victorian Queen Anne Cottage. This property possesses high artistic value and represents the work of a skilled architect and craftsman, J. Claude Rumsey. The fine details seen on the multitude of dormers, the presence of both a one and a half story tower and two story bay, and elegant wrap around porch are demonstrative of the fine artistic qualities and thoughtful design. Superior construction and meticulous maintenance of the property has preserved the quality of all its original elements on the exterior as well as the interior. For these reasons, the J.Claude Rumsey House should be added to the National Register of Historic Places.

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Interviews
conducted by Cathy LaReau

Buser, Judy Nomanson (Trustee) August 30, 2007

Schmal, Richard C. (Historian) October 8, 2007

Nomanson, Lenore (Trustee) August 30, September 6, October 19, 2007

Section 10 – GEOGRAPHICAL DATA, VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

709 Michigan Avenue, Town of Lowell

Lot 6, Block, Dwyer's Addition to Lowell, as shown in Plat Book 3, page 101, in Lake County, Indiana and the improvements thereon situate.

Boundary Justification: Legal description for property.

PHOTOGRAPHS

J. Claude Rumsey House
Lake County, Indiana
Cathy LaReau
August 30, 2007
Cathy LaReau, 15615 Colfax St., Lowell, IN 46356
Camera facing north, exterior south facade
Photo # 1

J. Claude Rumsey House
Lake County, Indiana
Cathy LaReau
August 30, 2007
Cathy LaReau, 15615 Colfax St., Lowell, IN 46356
Camera facing northwest, exterior southeast corner (tower)
Photo # 2

J. Claude Rumsey House
Lake County, Indiana
Cathy LaReau
August 30, 2007
Cathy LaReau, 15615 Colfax St., Lowell, IN 46356
Camera facing northwest, east exterior facade
Photo # 3

J. Claude Rumsey House
Lake County, Indiana
Cathy LaReau
August 30, 2007
Cathy LaReau, 15615 Colfax St., Lowell, IN 46356
Camera facing south, north exterior facade
Photo # 4

J. Claude Rumsey House
Lake County, Indiana
Cathy LaReau
August 30, 2007
Cathy LaReau, 15615 Colfax St., Lowell, IN 46356
Camera facing northeast, west exterior facade
Photo # 5

J. Claude Rumsey House
Lake County, Indiana
Cathy LaReau
August 30, 2007
Cathy LaReau, 15615 Colfax St., Lowell, IN 46356
Camera facing west, interior stairway in front entry
Photo # 6

J. Claude Rumsey House
Lake County, Indiana
Cathy LaReau
August 30, 2007
Cathy LaReau, 15615 Colfax St., Lowell, IN 46356
Camera facing southeast, interior corner of tower in parlor
Photo # 7

J. Claude Rumsey House
Lake County, Indiana
Cathy LaReau
August 30, 2007
Cathy LaReau, 15615 Colfax St., Lowell, IN 46356
Camera facing west, interior built-in cabinets in kitchen
Photo # 8

J. Claude Rumsey House
Lake County, Indiana
Cathy LaReau
January 15, 2008
Cathy LaReau , 15615 Colfax St., Lowell, IN 46356
Camera facing northwest, exterior south facade
Photo # 9

J. Claude Rumsey House
Lake County, Indiana
Cathy LaReau
January 15, 2008
Cathy LaReau, 15615 Colfax St., Lowell, IN 46356
Camera facing north, front porch segmental pediment
Photo # 10

J. Claude Rumsey House
Lake County, Indiana
Cathy LaReau
January 15, 2008
Cathy LaReau, 15615 Colfax St., Lowell, IN 46356
Camera facing southwest, east exterior facade
Photo # 11

J. Claude Rumsey House
Lake County, Indiana
Cathy LaReau
January 15, 2008
Cathy LaReau, 15615 Colfax St., Lowell, IN 46356
Camera facing west, triple kitchen window
Photo # 12

J. Claude Rumsey House
Lake County, Indiana
Cathy LaReau
January 15, 2008
Cathy LaReau, 15615 Colfax St., Lowell, IN 46356
Camera facing northwest, interior stairway in front entry
Photo # 13

J. Claude Rumsey House
Lake County, Indiana
Cathy LaReau
January 15, 2008
Cathy LaReau, 15615 Colfax St., Lowell, IN 46356
Camera facing west, underside of interior stairway
Photo # 14

J. Claude Rumsey House
Lake County, Indiana
Cathy LaReau
January 15, 2008
Cathy LaReau, 15615 Colfax St., Lowell, IN 46356
Camera facing east, interior parlor
Photo # 15

J. Claude Rumsey House
Lake County, Indiana
Cathy LaReau
January 15, 2008
Cathy LaReau, 15615 Colfax St., Lowell, IN 46356
Camera facing southwest, close-up view of woodwork
Photo # 16

J. Claude Rumsey House
Lake County, Indiana
Cathy LaReau
January 15, 2008
Cathy LaReau, 15615 Colfax St., Lowell, IN 46356
Camera facing northwest, interior view from parlor into dining room
Photo # 17

J. Claude Rumsey House
Lake County, Indiana
Cathy LaReau
January 15, 2008
Cathy LaReau, 15615 Colfax St., Lowell, IN 46356
Camera facing southeast, interior view of dining room entry
Photo # 18

J. Claude Rumsey House
Lake County, Indiana
Cathy LaReau
January 15, 2008
Cathy LaReau, 15615 Colfax St., Lowell, IN 46356
Camera facing southwest, interior front entry and stairway
Photo # 19

J. Claude Rumsey House
Lake County, Indiana
Cathy LaReau
January 15, 2008
Cathy LaReau, 15615 Colfax St., Lowell, IN 46356
Camera facing west, entry into downstairs bedroom
Photo # 20

J. Claude Rumsey House
Lake County, Indiana
Cathy LaReau
January 15, 2008
Cathy LaReau, 15615 Colfax St., Lowell, IN 46356
Camera facing southwest, interior downstairs master bedroom
Photo # 21

J. Claude Rumsey House
Lake County, Indiana
Cathy LaReau
January 15, 2008
Cathy LaReau, 15615 Colfax St., Lowell, IN 46356
Camera facing southwest, original clawfoot bathtub
Photo # 22

J. Claude Rumsey House
Lake County, Indiana
Cathy LaReau
January 15, 2008
Cathy LaReau, 15615 Colfax St., Lowell, IN 46356
Camera facing northwest, interior, built-in medicine cabinet in bathroom
Photo # 23

J. Claude Rumsey House
Lake County, Indiana
Cathy LaReau
January 15, 2008
Cathy LaReau, 15615 Colfax St., Lowell, IN 46356
Camera facing north, original sink in kitchen
Photo # 24

J. Claude Rumsey House
Lake County, Indiana
Cathy LaReau
January 15, 2008
Cathy LaReau, 15615 Colfax St., Lowell, IN 46356
Camera facing southeast, interior kitchen
Photo # 25

J. Claude Rumsey House
Lake County, Indiana
Cathy LaReau
January 15, 2008
Cathy LaReau, 15615 Colfax St., Lowell, IN 46356
Camera facing southeast, view from stairway in family room addition
Photo # 26

J. Claude Rumsey House
Lake County, Indiana
Cathy LaReau
January 15, 2008
Cathy LaReau, 15615 Colfax St., Lowell, IN 46356
Camera facing northeast, interior ascending stairway
Photo # 27

J. Claude Rumsey House
Lake County, Indiana
Cathy LaReau
January 15, 2008
Cathy LaReau, 15615 Colfax St., Lowell, IN 46356
Camera facing northwest, interior 2nd floor bedroom #1
Photo # 28

J. Claude Rumsey House
Lake County, Indiana
Cathy LaReau
January 15, 2008
Cathy LaReau, 15615 Colfax St., Lowell, IN 46356
Camera facing southeast, interior 2nd floor bedroom #1, tower closet
Photo # 29

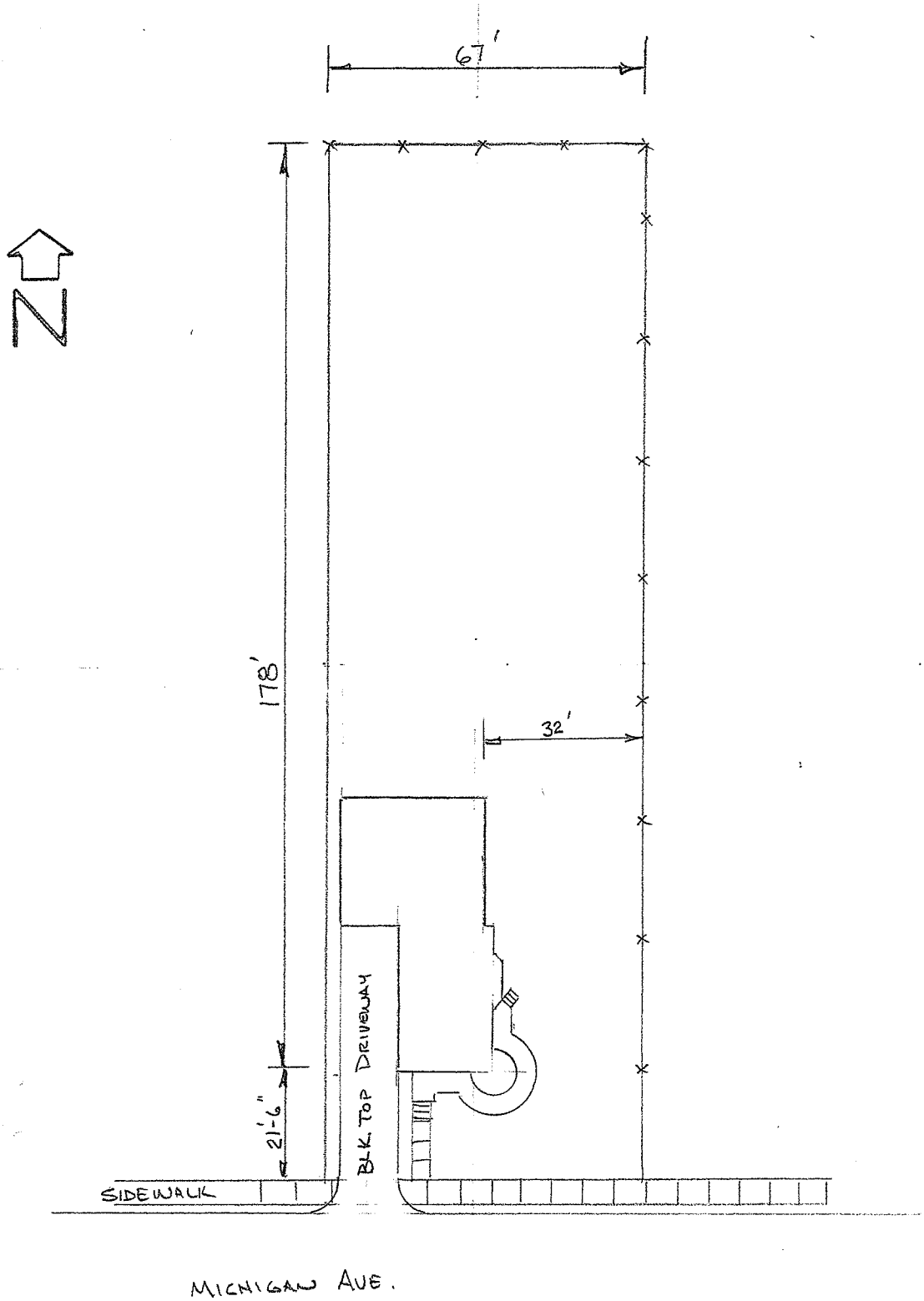
J. Claude Rumsey House
Lake County, Indiana
Cathy LaReau
January 15, 2008
Cathy LaReau, 15615 Colfax St., Lowell, IN 46356
Camera facing northeast, interior 2nd floor bedroom #2, built-in drawers & closet
Photo # 30

J. Claude Rumsey House
Lake County, Indiana
Cathy LaReau
January 15, 2008
Cathy LaReau, 15615 Colfax St., Lowell, IN 46356
Camera facing northeast, interior 2nd floor bedroom, northeast corner of bay
Photo # 31

J. Claude Rumsey House
Lake County, Indiana
Cathy LaReau
January 15, 2008
Cathy LaReau, 15615 Colfax St., Lowell, IN 46356
Camera facing southeast, interior 2nd story bedroom, southeast corner of bay
Photo # 32

J. Claude Rumsey House
Lake County, Indiana
Cathy LaReau
January 15, 2008
Cathy LaReau, 15615 Colfax St., Lowell, IN 46356
Camera facing north, view of 2nd story unfinished area.
Photo # 33

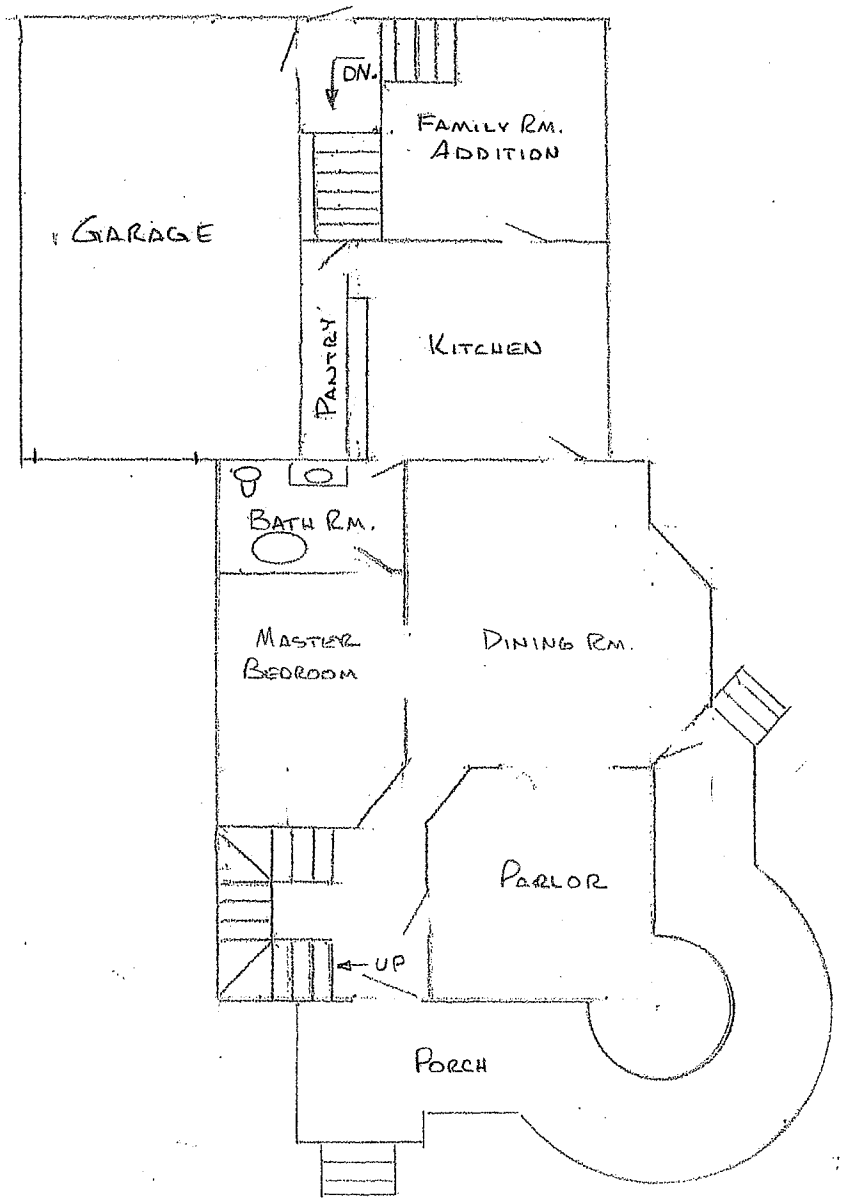
J. Claude Rumsey House - View #1
Lake County, IN



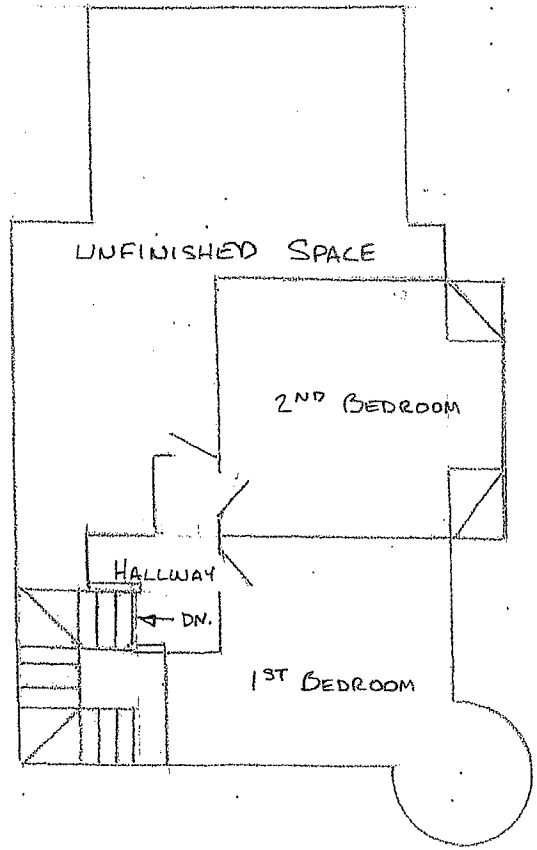
SCALE 1/32 = 1'

J. Claude Rumsey House, Lake County, IN
Floor Plan Sketch Map

SCALE 3/32 = 1'



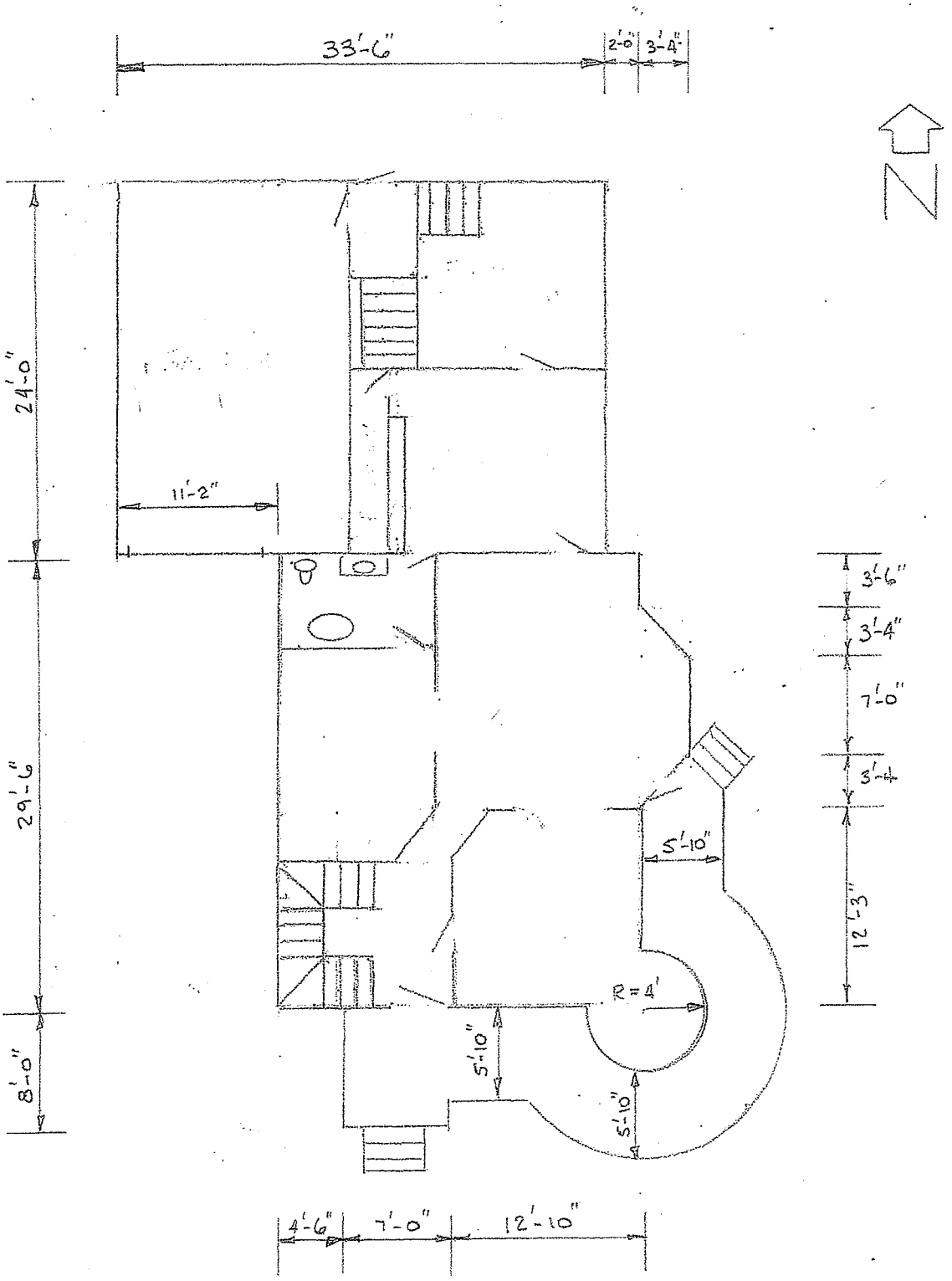
1ST FLOOR



2ND FLOOR

J. Claude Rumsey House - View #2
Lake County, IN

SCALE 3/32 = 1'



MICHIGAN AVE.