

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **SEP 14 1983**
date entered

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

1. Name

historic David Lowe House

and or common Boulanger House

2. Location

street & number 306 "F" Street

not for publication

city, town Cheney

vicinity of

state Washington

code 053

county Spokane

code 063

3. Classification

Category

- district
- building(s)
- structure
- site
- object

Ownership

- public
- private
- both
- Public Acquisition**
- in process
- being considered
- n/a

Status

- occupied
- unoccupied
- work in progress
- Accessible**
- yes: restricted
- yes: unrestricted
- no

Present Use

- agriculture
- commercial
- educational
- entertainment
- government
- industrial
- military
- museum
- park
- private residence
- religious
- scientific
- transportation
- other:

4. Owner of Property

name Inga Boulanger

street & number 306 "F" Street

city, town Cheney

vicinity of

state Washington 99004

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Spokane County Courthouse

street & number West 1116 Broadway

city, town Spokane

state Washington 99260

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Community Cultural Resource Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date July 23, 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
111 West 21st Avenue, KL-11

city, town Olympia

state Washington 98504

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The David Lowe House is a large wood-frame Queen Anne Style dwelling located on the corner of Third and "F" Streets in the original Cheney township. The house sits in a largely residential neighborhood facing northeast on a large corner lot. Most homes around the Lowe house date from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The Lowe House is in a good state of repair and most of the structure's fanciful decorative features are intact. There are also two outbuildings on the property: a carriage barn and a structure referred to as a potting shed.

The two story Lowe House has a balloon frame, clapboard siding, and a stone foundation. As is typical of the Queen Anne Style, the structure has an irregular, picturesque profile and is embellished with a variety of decorative details. The central hipped roof is interrupted in typical Queen Anne mode by cross gable pavilions projecting on both axes and a one and one-half story early addition at the rear of the house. The importance of porches in the design of the house is another signature element of the Queen Anne Style; however, the prominent spindle-work on these porches is derived from the earlier Eastlake Style. A large hip roofed front porch wraps around the first floor on the front elevation and the sides. A small gable breaks the porch roofline above the front steps on the north. An oval-shaped balcony is above the northwest section of the porch. A small hip-roofed back porch covers the back door on the west side of the rear elevation. Both porches and the balcony have spindle screens which grace their frieze levels and appear to support the large, graceful C-shaped braces which articulate the columned bays of the main porch. Balustrades on both porches are made of plain square balusters atop sawn arched panels, solid panels, and turned newell posts. The front porch frieze is punctuated by corresponding spherical pendants. Pendants also drop from overhangs above the clipped angles of the house's projecting pavilions. The balusters on the curved end of the second-floor balcony are made of slats sawn to curve outward. Other details of the Lowe House include corner boards and corner beads, belt courses, and a broad water table which encircles the entire structure. The house's three projecting gabled pavilions all have decorative shingles in their pediments, a spindled screen ornament at the gable peak, and a paneled element at the frieze level. Rising from the roof ridge of the addition is a brick chimney with a corbelled cornice. Historic photographs show that the roof ridges of the house once boasted decorative cresting.

Fenestration is irregular but the majority of the windows are tall one-over-one double-hung sash. Those in the center of the front and east gabled pavilions are wider with a large lower sash and a colored multi-paned upper sash divided into an oval light with radiating lights around it. There are two fixed windows similar to these upper sashes, and one arched window on the rear elevation.

The interior of the Lowe House is still rich with original woodwork: varnished softwood panelled doors, window and door surrounds, picture rails, baseboards, and a stairway with a turned newell and balusters. One of the loveliest of these interior features is a wooden bead and spindle portiere above the parlor entrance. This portiere sits delicately atop two wooden columns that help divide the parlor from a sitting room.

The Lowe House, built in 1904, has remained remarkably intact. Although the roof cresting has been lost, an abundant amount of ornamentation remains. With changes in ownership there have been inevitable alterations inside the house, but most changes have left the interior spatial relationships intact. Interior changes include new plumbing and

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some alterations to the wall arrangement in the rear addition. A few rooms also have new panelling that has left the old woodwork in place.

The horse barn at the rear of the property is one of very few left within the town limits. It has a stone foundation, a shingled gambrel roof, novelty siding, and corner boards. There are casement and double-hung four-over-four sash. A large barn door is on the west side.

The potting shed to the west of the barn has a stone foundation, novelty siding, corner boards, a gable roof with asphalt shingles and a board and batten lean-to.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
..... prehistoric	..... archeology-prehistoric	..... community planning	..... landscape architecture	..... religion
..... 1400-1499	..... archeology-historic	..... conservation	..... law	..... science
..... 1500-1599	..... agriculture	..... economics	..... literature	..... sculpture
..... 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	..... education	..... military	..... social/
..... 1700-1799	..... art	..... engineering	..... music	..... humanitarian
..... 1800-1899	..... commerce	..... exploration/settlement	..... philosophy	..... theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	..... communications	..... industry	..... politics/government	..... transportation
		..... invention		..... other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
1904	Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The David Lowe House was built in 1904, a rather late but fine example of the popular Queen Anne Style of architecture. The home is one of few remaining examples of this small railroad town's belated attempt to capture the elegance and grandeur of High Victorian architecture. It was built by David Lowe, semi-retired farmer, real estate entrepreneur, and leading Cheney citizen. Over its long life, the home has served Cheney as residence for students, boarding house, college fraternity, and leading example of ornate turn-of-the-century domestic architecture.

Cheney, Washington, fifteen miles southwest of Spokane, owes its birth to the westward push of the railroad, for the Northern Pacific Railroad platted the township in 1880. In 1881, the town's namesake founded the Benjamin P. Cheney Academy, an institution which gave birth to Cheney State Normal School which became Eastern Washington State College and, eventually, Eastern Washington University. While the town grew rapidly enough during those first two decades, Block 11 of the original township, the site of the David Lowe House, remained undeveloped as it passed from early pioneer ownership into the possession of Spokane County, and finally in 1903, into the hands of Frank M. Martin (father of future Washington Governor, Clarence Martin) and Louis H. Houck, five-term mayor of Cheney. Martin built a fine modified Queen Anne home on lots 3, 4, and 5 in 1903, and Houck sold lots 6, 7, and 8 to David and Bessie Lowe, who built upon the property their similar but far more elegant home in 1904.

David Lowe maintained a 400 acre farm on the outskirts of Cheney, just off the Spokane-Cheney Highway, southwest of Fish Lake. He was a popular and kindly man who enjoyed playing horseshoes and socializing at one of the local blacksmith shops. During his retirement, when he built and lived in the Lowe House, he was an active member of the Masonic Lodge, he pursued his real estate interests, and cared for the horses he kept in his small carriage barn. He also worked for the humanitarian cause of raising relief funds for victims of the San Francisco earthquake through his active membership in the local commercial club. Bessie Lowe was also socially active and was at one time treasurer of the Cheney Eastern Star. She was a genteel lady with a taste for highly ornate styles. The Lowes were childless, but they enjoyed the company of children and young people. They invited several students from the surrounding rural areas to live with them while attending school in Cheney.

David Lowe died in 1935 and was followed in death by Bessie two years later. Her sister, Helen Ware, who had lived with the Lowes in their later years, inherited the house, converting it into a boarding house for young ladies in order to supplement her income. When Helen Ware died in 1952, the property passed through a variety of owners, most of whom continued to use at least part of the home for rental purposes.

While the Lowe House resembles closely in plan its earlier neighbor, the Martin House, it exhibits an abundance of ornament that the Martin House lacks. This ornamentation, combined with the structure's picturesque massing and roofline, creates a perfect example

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Bishop, Claire, and Sara Patton. Spokane County Historic Sites Survey: An Update.
Office of Historic Preservation, Spokane, 1980.
- Woodbridge, Sally B., and Roger Montgomery. A Guide to Architecture in Washington State.
University of Washington Press, Seattle, 1980.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one
 Quadrangle name Cheney Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>1</u>	<u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	B	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 6, 7, & 8, Block 11, Cheney Township Plat.

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

state	n/a	code	county	code
state	n/a	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Mark Wm. Carris	Edited by Janice Rutherford
	History Department	Spokane City/County Historic
organization	Eastern Washington University	Preservation Officer
		date April 5, 1983
street & number	West 2530 Mallon Street	telephone (509) 456-4378
city or town	Spokane	state Washington 99201

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 9/9/83

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

J. Allores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 10/13/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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of the Queen Anne Style of architecture. The home's light and whimsical detailing is among the best to be found in the region. The exuberance of the ornamentation is even more surprising when one considers its 1904 construction date. While most domestic architecture at this time was turning away from the playful detailing of the Victorian age, the Lowe House embraces an aesthetic which had been most popular fifteen years before. Fortunately, the exterior of the house has been well maintained and this ornamentation has been preserved. Today, the Lowe House remains a perhaps belated but definitely superior example of the Queen Anne Style.