

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



982

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

1. Name

historic Bowen, Abraham Briggs, House

and/or common Bowen House

2. Location

street & number 1010 Bayshore Drive \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Oshkosh \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district Sixth

state Wisconsin code 55 county Winnebago code 139

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial apts.
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b> N/A	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name James Bruins

street & number 1025 Bayshore Drive

city, town Oshkosh \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Wisconsin 54901

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Winnebago County Courthouse

street & number 415 Jackson Avenue

city, town Oshkosh \_\_\_\_\_ state Wisconsin 54902

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

see continuation sheet

title Wisconsin Inventory  
of Historic Places

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1978 \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison \_\_\_\_\_ state Wisconsin 53706

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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 Abraham Briggs Bowen house is an Italianate building dating from the mid-nineteenth century. Broadly proportioned and solidly constructed, the Bowen house is composed of a main two story block raised on a brick foundation, with a two story rectangular wing extending to the rear. Fenestration on the main block is arranged in a three unit fashion and articulated by shouldered frames with denticulated hood molds. The central entrance and sidelight is covered by a transom and set within a shouldered frame. Aluminum storms have been installed over all windows. In addition, centrally located windows on the east and west elevations have been replaced with infill panels and smaller sash.

Pairs of scroll brackets support the cornice at each corner of the building; from this elbow the cornice follows the low rake of the gable roof. A carved rosette occupies each gable peak. The composition is surmounted by a belvedere capped by an identical roof line and featuring two slender round headed windows on each face.

The south facade and east elevation are graced by one story porches each with three arches echoing the window placement. The arches spring from pairs of slender colonettes which terminate in scroll sawn brackets. Profuse curvilinear forms are also applied to the arch spandrels. This rich, delicate decoration adds a counterpoint to the simple, heavy proportions of the structure.

The two story wing extending to the north is raised on a brick foundation and covered by a gable roof with return eaves supported by small brackets. Windows are 4/4 and 6/6 double hung sash set in plain surrounds. Attached to the west face of this wing is a two story projection resting on stone foundation and including two windows with shouldered frames characteristic of the 1856 house. Porches on the north wing feature chamfered posts and less refined bracket details.

The interior of the house has been compartmentalized to form eight apartment units. A slender curved staircase with walnut banister remains in the central hallway.

The Bowen house occupies a spacious lot, graced by a large oak tree. Two tile block garages are located on the property but are not significant to the nomination. The Bowen house is sited west of the Oshkosh commercial district and overlooks the Fox River and Lake Winnebago. This was originally a residential area with industries along the water's edge. Since the 1930's the industries have disappeared and the area has become totally residential, characterized by large homes with well landscaped lots.

# 8. Significance

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

**Specific dates** 1856<sup>1</sup> **Builder/Architect** Unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Bowen house is significant as an unusually ornate example of the early Italianate residential style in Oshkosh.

ARCHITECTURE:

Designed during a period when domestic architecture was predominantly Greek Revival, the Bowen house is the only surviving residence which successfully combines Italianate components with underlying proportions of the Greek Revival. Therefore, this building serves as an important link in the progression of styles within the city. The ornamentation is a rare example of the capabilities of the craftsmen in this early lumber-oriented city.

The original owner of the house, Abraham Briggs Bowen, moved to Oshkosh in 1856. Bowen had resided in Winnebago County for ten years prior to this move and had been involved in the platting and development of Fond du Lac. Bowen's investment in real estate continued in Oshkosh and expanded to include lumber industries in Michigan. Following Bowen's death in 1882, the house was owned by a succession of people including his son Edward C. Bowen. Conversion of the building to rental units began in the early twentieth century.

Footnotes:

1. The Oshkosh Northwestern. Bowen Obituary. Vol. XV No. 139 June 6, 1882 p.4 col. 2

UTM NOT VERIFIED  
ACRES NOT VERIFIED

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.12 acres

Quadrangle name Oshkosh, Wisconsin

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 

1	6	3	7	7	7	8	10	4	8	7	13	92	10
Zone		Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

## Verbal boundary description and justification

E.C. Bowen's Replat  
SEly 32' of Lot 2 and all of Lot 1 and a triangular piece of land in most Sly corner of Lot 8 Block 35 Leach's Map.

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

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dorothy Steele, Architectural Historian

organization Howard, Needles, Tammen & Bergendoff date September 1981

street & number 6815 W. Capitol Drive telephone 414- 463-2310

city or town Milwaukee state Wisconsin 53216

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Richard Henry*

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin date 2/5/82

For HCERS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	Entered in the
<u><i>Arthur Byers</i></u>	National Register
Keeper of the National Register	date <u>4/22/82</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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Bowen House, Oshkosh, Winnebago County, Wisconsin

**Continuation sheet** Bowen, Abraham Briggs House **Item number**

For HCPS use only

received

date entered

**Page** 1

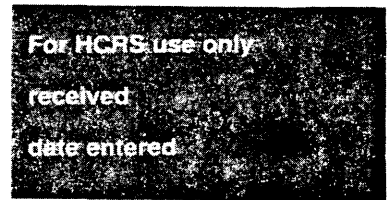
6. REPRESENTATION:

Intensive Survey of Oshkosh  
1980  
State Historical Society of Wisconsin  
816 State Street  
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

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**National Register of Historic Places  
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Bowen House, Oshkosh, Winnebago County, Wisconsin



Continuation sheet Bowen, Abraham Briggs House Item number 9

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BIBLIOGRAPHY:

City Directory:

Oshkosh City Directory 1857, 1868

Maps:

Map of Oshkosh 1858

State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Archives

Birds-eye View of Oshkosh 1867

State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Archives.

Newspapers:

Oshkosh Daily Northwestern. October 12, 1968 p. 3 col. 1

Oshkosh Northwestern June 6, 1882 Vol. XV No. 139 p. 4 col. 2  
Abraham Briggs Bowen Obituary