

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

For NPS use only

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

received OCT 9 1986  
date entered NOV 6 1986

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

**1. Name**

historic Jesse C. Bowles House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 2540 Shoreland Drive South not for publication

city, town Seattle vicinity of

state Washington code 053 county King code 033

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Dr. Pepper J. Schwartz

street & number 2540 Shoreland Drive South

city, town Seattle vicinity of state Washington 98144

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. King County Administration Building

street & number 4th Avenue & James Street

city, town Seattle state Washington 98104

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title City of Seattle Inventory of Historic Resources has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1979  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records City of Seattle Office of Urban Conservation

city, town 400 Yesler Building, Seattle state Washington 98104-2696

## 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 Jesse C. Bowles House, a large three-story brick residence, is located on a high bank overlooking Lake Washington in the Mt. Baker neighborhood of Seattle. It was designed by the noted local architect Arthur L. Loveless and manifests elements of the Tudor tradition, which he favored above all others of the period revival styles. Constructed in 1925, the house remains essentially intact, the only significant alterations having occurred in the kitchen and master bathroom.

The property that Jesse and Louise Bowles purchased in the Mt. Baker Park Addition consisted of four lots, each approximately 60 feet wide. The parcel was trapezoidal in shape, with the depth of the shortest lot about 119 feet and the depth of the longest about 209 feet. The substantial residence, along with an appended garage, is situated on the three northernmost lots. The southernmost lot, where a greenhouse was once located, is now given over entirely to a landscaped garden.

Because of the hilly topography, the main floor of the house is below street grade. Access is provided by a curving concrete path and by a separate paved driveway that forms a large loop and crosses a short bridge over a narrow ravine as it descends to the level of the main entry. The original timbers supporting the bridge, having deteriorated, were recently replaced with steel beams. The rear or west side of the house is bordered by a narrow grass terrace upheld by a brick-faced concrete retaining wall. At the center of this wall, a pair of curving stairs descend to a lower terrace containing a wide expanse of lawn bordered by tall hedges, mature trees, and flowering shrubs. A hidden concrete retaining wall (1927) stabilizes this lower terrace which is situated high above Lake Washington Boulevard, part of the city's park and boulevard system planned by the Olmsted Brothers in 1903.

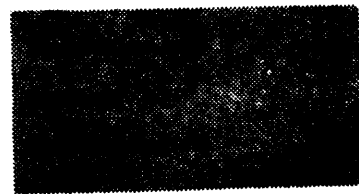
The house is basically rectangular in plan (approximately 30 feet by 92 feet), with a large polygonal bay projecting to the west, and a separate garage (approximately 21 feet by 23 feet) appended to the house on the north. The foundation is poured concrete supporting a wood-frame structure of three stories and an attic. Exterior walls are faced with wire-cut brick laid up in common bond. Some of the gable ends, the two upper stories of the polygonal bay, and parts of the southern wing display imitation half-timbering, including a repeated quatrefoil motif. The massive steeply-pitched gable roof is broken by several lateral gables of various sizes and heights, as well as small hip-roofed dormers and two chimneys. The flat clay tile roofing material, recently installed, is identical to the original tiles it replaced.

In keeping with the period style, almost all of the windows are hinged casements of multiple lights and lead muntins. The main stair landing boasts a four-part window of leaded lavender art glass in a repeated quatrefoil pattern that incorporates a pair of sailing ships in the two center panels. Beneath this window the shallow Tudor arch framing the recessed entry forecasts the repeated use of this motif throughout the house. Cut into the plastered interior walls and unadorned by surrounds, the Tudor profile forms the openings to the major main floor dayrooms. Some of the large rectangular window openings are also unframed, giving a clean, modern appearance to parts of the interior. Careful craftsmanship and refined detail, the hallmarks of Loveless's mature work, can be seen in the paneled doors, woven metal radiator grilles, wrought-iron ceiling light fixtures and wall sconces, wrought-iron stair railing, and tile floors of the conservatory and breakfast room. The hardware, especially the curvilinear bronze door and window handles, is particularly handsome and, in a comparison with other Loveless houses of the same period, appears to have been custom made.

The stained wood built-in bookcases, boxed-beam ceiling, wrought-iron fixtures, and quarry tile floor of the library, located on the lowest level, are all features that Loveless used to enhance the Tudor character of his more substantial houses of this period. Another favorite theme was a grapevine motif, which appears in the library's

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carved wood mantelpiece, enframing a central shield emblazoned with the letter "B." The painted plaster mantel of the living room fireplace repeats the Tudor arch and includes decorative shields, acanthus leaves and rosettes in low relief.

As a counterpoint to the Tudor theme, the breakfast room exhibits Georgian features, with tall round-arched window openings containing leaded fanlights. The painted wood cabinetry, incorporating swan's neck pediments and attenuated colonettes, reflects the delicacy of the Adams style. The motif is continued in the radiator grille, composed of a closely spaced row of thin turned spindles.

For the most part, the house remains remarkably intact. Noticeable alterations include the kitchen, which had been remodeled in the 1950s and is presently being rehabilitated in a more sensitive manner, and the master bathroom, which had also been redone in the 1950s and has been again modernized by the present owner. In addition, a small balcony off the master bedroom was enclosed by previous owners and the space now contains a large plate glass window. However, all other windows in the house are original.

In 1932 a small greenhouse was added to the grounds. This was replaced in 1949 by a larger greenhouse, which has since been demolished, although the foundations are still visible in the southern portion of the site. The mature plant material, composed mostly of favorite Pacific Northwest species, contributes to the picturesque quality of the grounds and, along with the substantial size and distinctive character of the house, makes the property one of the most noteworthy in the Mt. Baker area of Seattle.

Total contributing resources: 1 (house)  
Total noncontributing resource: none

## 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/         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799        | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899        | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> theater         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900– | <input type="checkbox"/> communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation  |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

**Specific dates** 1925 **Builder/Architect** Arthur L. Loveless

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Jesse C. Bowles House was built for the scion of a regionally prominent family whose enterprises included shipbuilding, manufacturing, real estate, insurance, and public affairs. Inspired by the Tudor tradition, the period revival design is a noteworthy example of the residential work of the highly respected local architect Arthur L. Loveless at the prime of his career. Constructed in 1925 amid spacious landscaped grounds, the three-story brick residence is one of the largest and most imposing of the many distinctive properties in the Mt. Baker neighborhood, a planned residential community that was established in the early years of the 20th century and developed during the next three decades.

Members of the Bowles family were pioneers in the territorial days of Washington and Oregon. Leaving their home in Missouri, they, like many others from the Midwestern and eastern states, followed the Oregon Trail to Portland in the mid-19th century. Jesse T. Bowles, a farmer, served in the territorial legislature of Washington in the 1860s and was active in public affairs in Vancouver, where his son, Charles, was born in 1864. Charles attended the University of Oregon and practiced law in Portland and Vancouver during the 1880s and 1890s. In 1892 he was elected prosecuting attorney of Clark County.

After the turn of the century, Charles moved to Seattle and, with his brother, founded the Bowles Company, wholesalers of plumbing and steamfitting supplies. He also entered into a partnership to establish a shipbuilding company on Elliott Bay. His greatest achievement in this industry, however, came when he took charge of the Columbia River Shipbuilding Corporation in Portland, a remarkably productive firm that delivered two ships a month to the federal government during the First World War years. In addition, the Bowles brothers founded the Northwest Steel Company, which also became an important industry in Portland.

From the late 1890s to the 1920s, the Bowles family divided their time and business activities between Seattle and the Portland/Vancouver area. Charles' eldest son, Jesse C. Bowles, was born in Portland in 1890 but spent his adolescent years in Seattle. At this time the family lived in a large eclectic house in the Mt. Baker neighborhood. Jesse attended Harvard University and, after his graduation in 1912, returned to Seattle to work in his father's businesses. He married in 1917 and with his bride resided for a few years in Portland when his parents settled there permanently. Returning to Seattle in the early 1920s, Jesse became president of the Bowles Company, which his father had founded. He was also president of the Northwest Envelope Company and the Bowles Realty Company and had interests in downtown commercial buildings and an insurance business.

When Jesse and his family returned to live in Seattle, he naturally was drawn to the Mt. Baker neighborhood where he had spent his formative years. His father had been active in the community and had been a member of the Mt. Baker Improvement Club, which was established in 1909. Various additions in the area had been platted in the early years of the 20th century. The Hunter Tract Improvement Company, developers of the Mt. Baker Park Addition, had engaged the Olmsted Brothers to provide a plan for their intended exclusive, upper-income residential enclave. Expanding on the park and boulevard system that they had already created for the city--which, in this area, included Lake Washington Boulevard, Lake Park Drive, Mt. Baker Boulevard and Park, and Colman Park--the Olmsteds planned an environmentally conscious residential community. Rejecting the rigid grid pattern, so ubiquitous in this young western city in spite of its varied terrain, the

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Seattle So., WA (7.5)

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

### UTM References

A 

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

B 

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| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

C 

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| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

D 

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E 

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| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

F 

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| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

G 

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|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

H 

|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Verbal boundary description and justification** Lots 16, 17, 18, 19, Block 70, Replat of Lots 4 to 7 inclusive in Block 33, Block 34, and Lots 1 to 19 inclusive in Block 70, Mt. Baker Park, an addition to the City of Seattle according to Plat thereof recorded in Volume 20 of Plats, page 99, Records of King County, Washington.

### 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 Shirley L. Courtois, Architectural Historian

organization  date August 1, 1986

street & number 4021 East Highland Drive telephone (206) 325-9346

city or town Seattle state Washington 98112

# 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 Paul E. Skon

title State Historic Preservation Officer date September 26, 1986

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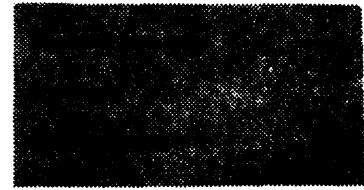
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register

Albert Byers date 11-6-86  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:  date

Chief of Registration

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Olmsteds created pleasant curving streets following the natural topography, providing marvelous view sites especially on the eastern slopes of the north-south ridge that rises between Mt. Baker Park and the Lake Washington shore. By 1910 the area had been successfully promoted as an attractive suburb of better residences with an accompanying small commercial center. Convenient access was provided by a streetcar line that ran down 31st Avenue and that was later extended to the median strip on Hunter Boulevard. Schools were established, the Mt. Baker Improvement Club flourished, and the area grew solidly until the lean years of the 1930s Depression.

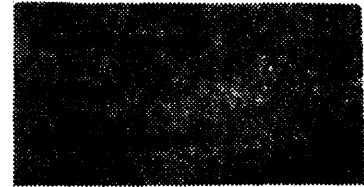
Arthur L. Loveless (1873-1971), a prominent local architect noted for his residential work, was at the prime of his career when he designed the Bowles House. Trained at Columbia University--though he was unable to complete his studies there owing to lack of funds--Loveless worked briefly for the firm of Delano and Roberts before moving to Seattle about 1907 at the urging of his married sister, who had settled there. He found work with Clayton D. Wilson and quickly rose to the position of chief draftsman. Later (1913-14), he formed a brief partnership with Daniel R. Huntington, which ended when Huntington was appointed city architect. Thereafter, Loveless was in sole charge of his own office, although in the late years of his practice his own chief draftsman, Lester Fey, became his partner.

Although Loveless did some commercial and institutional work, most of his practice was devoted to residential designs, mainly single-family homes, but including several fraternity and sorority houses near the University of Washington campus. Some of his early commissions resulted in homes of modest scale, utilizing the predominant local building material of wood with cedar shingle siding and Craftsman details. More substantial residences of brick and imitation half-timbering showed the influence of Richard Norman Shaw, and stuccoed variations carry intimations of C.F.A. Voysey. In keeping with the versatility of period revival architects of the 1920s, Loveless also produced some handsome designs in the Colonial style (e.g., the F. Arnold Polson House in Hoquiam, Washington; 1923; National Register). The finest work of his mature years, however, is characterized by Tudor features, dictated either by the predictions of the architect or by the tastes of his clients--or, more likely, by the sympathetic merging of the two. Three Seattle houses are noteworthy examples of this idiom: the Jesse Bowles House in the Mt. Baker neighborhood (1925), the Darrah Corbet House in Denny Blaine (1926), and the Henry Field House in Windermere (1930).

The Bowles House, a picturesque English manor adapted for 20th century American living, reflects Loveless's attitude toward the use of period revival styles. While borrowing the basic vocabulary of a historic building tradition he provides nuances of his own creation and purposefully takes full advantage of the special features of the site. Large window areas allow complete enjoyment of the lake and mountain view, and many openings provide easy access to terraces and gardens. These features, combined with a practical floor plan and carefully wrought details and finishes, characterize a house that embodies the architect's philosophy of adapting a historic prototype rather than slavishly imitating it.

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- Loveless photograph archives, Special Collections, Suzallo Library, University of Washington, Seattle.
- "Mount Baker: An Inventory of Buildings and Urban Design Resources," (1976), in An Urban Resource Inventory for Seattle (Seattle: Historic Seattle Preservation and Development Authority, 1975 et seq.).
- Seattle Times, Obituary of Jesse C. Bowles, December 9, 1959, p. 67.
- The Town Crier, "A Northwest Architecture; A symposium by Five Seattle Architects" (Vol. 28, No. 50, December 16, 1933), p. 12.
- Wardell, Lois, "Arthur L. Loveless," unpublished paper based on personal interview with Loveless in 1968 (1969). Available at Architecture Library, University of Washington.