

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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

**1. Name**

historic J. H. Wagner House

and/or common Same

**2. Location**

street & number 521 N. Prouty Ave. N/A not for publication

city, town Watonga N/A vicinity of congressional district

state Oklahoma code 40 county Blaine code 11

**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 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	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mr. and Mrs. Howard Bowen

street & number 521 N. Prouty

city, town Watonga N/A vicinity of state Oklahoma

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of County Clerk

street & number Blaine County Court House

city, town Watonga state Oklahoma

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Oklahoma Preservation Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1981  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Preservation Office, Oklahoma Historical Society

city, town Oklahoma City state Oklahoma

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date N/A

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

Built in 1903, the J. H. Wagner House is a three-story frame structure enclosed with clapboard siding painted white. The house is Victorian Queen Anne in architectural style, and its most dominant feature is a two-story, eight-sided tower with a modified cupola at its northeast corner. The wood shingled, hipped roof with four gables is lofty and precipitously steep. Three interior chimneys rise through the roof line, small dentils grace the cornice, and intricately designed barge boards decorate the third story gables. The north and east gables contain dormer windows and are sided with shingles. Altogether the house has 52 windows, with those on the first and second floors being double hung sash in nature. Some are decorated with outside shutters. The five exposed sides of the tower each hold two windows, with those on the upper level also containing eyebrow lights filled with red stained glass. There are five outside entries to the structure--two on the north and one on each of the other sides. Each contains a paneled door with beveled glass. The main entryway on the east as well as the one on the north closest to the tower are decorated with transom lights, while the one on the south is designed with sidelights. The south door opens into a porte-cochere supported by pedestaled ionic columns. The portico over the main eastfront entryway utilizes slim ionic columns only. The foundation of the structure is rusticated ashlar in design; the stoops are of poured concrete.

The interior of the house has been considerably altered over the years. Ceilings have been lowered and bathrooms added, for example. The present configuration of the rooms provide the owners with four bedrooms, two living rooms, a dining room, a kitchen, and two baths. The third floor constitutes an unfinished attic only.

Since 1978, the Wagner House has undergone considerable restoration. With the exception of brick sidewalks and verandah railings, the exterior of the structure virtually replicates that which is revealed in an old photograph taken only a few years after initial construction was completed. Only the decorative window shutters detract from the integrity of the original design.

# 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 checked="" 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**      1903      **Builder/Architect**      J. H. Wagner

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

The J. H. Wagner House is primarily significant because of its exterior architecture. Not only is it a good example of the Queen Anne, prairie Victorian style, it is the single remaining example of that style in Watonga, Oklahoma and the region of Blaine County. More to the point, its two-story eight-sided tower with cupola is wholly unique within the area. The structure's steeply pitched roof and sheer bulk also give it added distinction. Furthermore, the Wagner House is especially well preserved and after eighty years, retains its architectural integrity. Finally, the recent restoration of the structure has attracted considerable attention and stimulated interest in historic preservation.

But the house is also significant for what it suggests about the settlement of western Oklahoma. Initially the reservation of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians, what is now Blaine County, Oklahoma was opened to white settlement in 1892. Among the first settlers was J. H. Wagner, who established a merchantile business in a tent on Watonga's Main Street. One of the most successful businessmen in the community, his fortune grew with the success of Oklahoma Territory. In 1900 he married, and three years later he had built for his bride the grand residence on Prouty Street. Not until four years later did Oklahoma become a State. The J. H. Wagner House, therefore, symbolizes the unique settlement, rapid development and economic growth of Oklahoma Territory. Literally, within eleven years tepees were replaced by Victorian towers.

Altogether, then, the architecture and historical circumstances of the J. H. Wagner House make it particular significant.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Enid Morning News, Jan. 27, 1980, sec. B, p. 1; The Watonga Republican, Feb. 16, 1978, p. 16; Charles R. Goins and John W. Morris, Oklahoma Homes, Past and Present (Norman, 1980) p. 169; Letter of Doc/Clemon Kelly to Norman and Shack, Dec. 22, 1973, personal collection of Bill Deweese, Watonga, Okla.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Watonga

Quadrangle scale 7.5 min.

### UMT References

A 

1	4	5	5	2	9	0	0	3	9	6	7	2	3	0
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

Situated on the southwest corner of the intersection of Fifth Street and North Prouty Street, being Lots 1-5 of Block 121, Watonga Survey.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title W. David Baird

organization Oklahoma Preservation Survey date 1981

street & number 502 Math Sciences telephone 624-5678

city or town Stillwater, Oklahoma State University state Oklahoma

## 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 C. Emtealy date 2-2-83

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
Number of the National Register	date <u>2/1/83</u>
Attain:	date
Chief of Registration	