

*Photo of*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

|   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| STATE: <u>INDIANA</u><br><del>Lafayette</del> |                       |
| COUNTY:<br><u>Tippecanoe</u>                  |                       |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY                              |                       |
| ENTRY NUMBER<br><u>718-18-0002</u>            | DATE<br><u>8/5/71</u> |

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Moses Fowler House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Corner of 10th and South Streets

CITY OR TOWN:  
Lafayette

|                         |                   |                              |                    |
|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| STATE<br><u>Indiana</u> | CODE<br><u>18</u> | COUNTY:<br><u>Tippecanoe</u> | CODE<br><u>157</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY<br>(Check One)  | OWNERSHIP  | STATUS  | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC   |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District<br><input type="checkbox"/> Site<br><input type="checkbox"/> Object<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building<br><input type="checkbox"/> Structure<br><input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public<br><input type="checkbox"/> Private<br><input type="checkbox"/> Both<br>Public Acquisition:<br><input type="checkbox"/> In Process<br><input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress | Yes:<br><input type="checkbox"/> Restricted<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> No |

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

|   |  |  |   |                                   |
|---|--|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural           | <input type="checkbox"/> Government        | <input type="checkbox"/> Park              | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation             | <input type="checkbox"/> Comments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial             | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial        | <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |                                   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational | <input type="checkbox"/> Military          | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious         |   |                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific        |   |                                   |

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Tippecanoe County Historical Association

STREET AND NUMBER:  
10th and South Streets

CITY OR TOWN:  
Lafayette

|                          |                   |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| STATE:<br><u>Indiana</u> | CODE<br><u>18</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------------|

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Recorder's Office - Tippecanoe County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Lafayette

|                          |                   |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| STATE:<br><u>Indiana</u> | CODE<br><u>18</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------------|

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY:  
1970

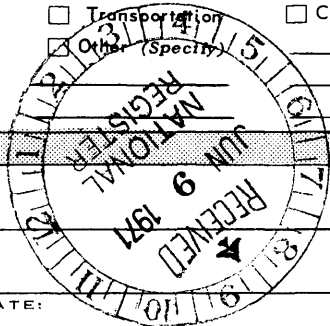
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:  
801 19th Street Northwest

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

|                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| STATE:<br><u>D.C.</u> | CODE<br><u>08</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------------|

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:

COUNTY:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER  
718-18-0002

DATE  
8/5/71

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated  Ruins  Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered  Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved  Original Site

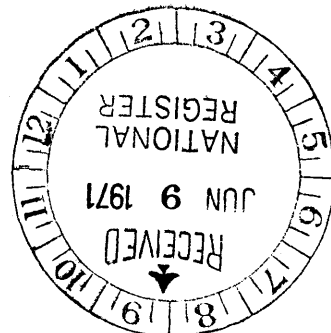
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Moses Fowler House was built during the years 1851-52 by Moses Fowler, a leading Lafayette businessman. Fowler acted as his own architect, drawing on Country Houses by Downing, a popular collection of drawings for country homes. Fowler built the house in Gothic Revival style, using native black walnut for the interior trim and stucco as the basic medium for the house. The house incorporated many of the best elements of the English Gothic style, including an undulating bargeboard, Gothic arched windows: lancet in the gable, with heavy hood moldings, a large bay window, with a smaller oriel window to the left, dormers, and massive chimneys based on those of the English medieval period. The woodwork was exquisitely hand-carved in the gothic mode, and the ornate trim in the parlor was executed and decorated with gold leaf by Italian artisans brought from New York. The spacious grounds which surrounded the house were landscaped in the English country style.

In 1916, Cecil Fowler remodeled the house, adding modern plumbing, a new kitchen and a large north-south gallery and dining room. Also, the grounds were relandscaped, a three-storied terrace, patio, reflection pool, and summer house in the more formal Italian manner were installed. All remodeling, however, kept strictly to the style of the older portion of the house, so that no incongruities were created.

Although the summerhouse and pool have been removed, the patio is being restored and the house itself is in the same condition as it was in 1916; indeed, the old portion of the house is in much the same condition as it was when built. Taken as a whole, the house represents according to one authority, "the finest of the large gothic revival residences still standing in Indiana". (Peat)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1851-1852

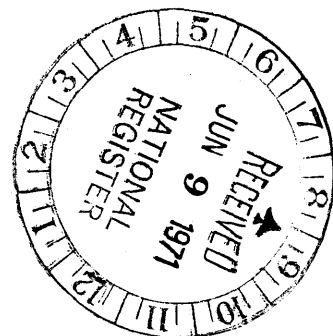
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Moses Fowler came to Lafayette, Indiana from Ohio in 1839 with John Purdué (founder of Purdue University) and by 1850 both he and Purdue had established themselves astute and successful businessmen. Fowler, particularly, was very successful in commerce along the Wabash and Erie Canal. On a visit to the east in 1850, he was impressed by the home of a friend and determined to build one like it for himself in Lafayette. Upon his return to Indiana, Fowler began planning his mansion, one of the earliest homes of any significance in Lafayette. Acting as his own architect, Fowler directed the building of his three story, thirty room home. Using native woods and stucco, Fowler created a house in the English Gothic style which has few rivals then or now in northern Indiana. Purchased from the Fowler family in 1940 by the Tippecanoe County Historical Association, the house remains a living link with Lafayette's early days and has been called by an early authority on Indiana architecture "probably the finest example of the large Gothic Revival residences still standing in Indiana." At this time, however, local authorities are considering moving railroad tracks which parallel the Fowler House some 200 feet to the east for the purposes of alleviating traffic congestion. Unfortunately, this would result in the destruction of the house, and the loss of one of Indiana's finest pieces of early architecture.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Wilbur Peat, Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century

Kingman Bros. Pub., The Combination Atlas Map of Tippecanoe County, Indiana  
1878

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |          |         |           | O<br>R  | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY<br>OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES |         |                        |         |         |
|--|----------|---------|-----------|---------|---|---------|------------------------|---------|---------|
| CORNER   | LATITUDE |         | LONGITUDE |         | LATITUDE  |         | LONGITUDE              |         |         |
|  | Degrees  | Minutes | Seconds   | Degrees | Minutes   | Seconds | Degrees                | Minutes | Seconds |
| NW   | °        | '       | "         | °       | '   | "       | 86°                    | 53'     | 11"     |
| NE   | °        | '       | "         | °       | '   | "       | 40°                    | 24'     | 29"     |
| SE   | °        | '       | "         | °       | '   | "       | west plus or minus     |         |         |
| SW   | °        | '       | "         | °       | '   | "       | north plus or minus 1" |         |         |

No UTM  
CX

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|--------|------|
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Clark Dobbs, Program Director and William Baugh, Director

ORGANIZATION: Tippecanoe County Historical Association      DATE: 12/20/70

STREET AND NUMBER:  
909 South Street

CITY OR TOWN: Lafayette      STATE: Indiana      CODE: 18

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: John R. Pleyd

Title: State Liaison officer

Date: 5-2-71

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

Ernest A. Connally  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

**AUG 5 1971**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: -

William Montague  
 Keeper of the National Register

**AUG 2 1970**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_