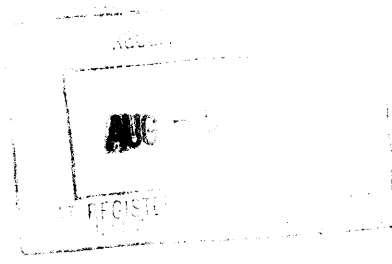


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A) Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Bowers House  
Other name/site number 173-5880-5388

2. Location

Street & number 1004 North Market  not for publication  
City or town Wichita  vicinity  
State Kansas Code KS County Sedgwick Code 173 Zip code 67214

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Richard D. Parkes DSHPO 7-23-04  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Kansas State Historical Society

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of commenting official /Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is

entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, (explain:)

Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 9/15/04

Bowers House  
Name of Property

Sedgwick Co., Kansas  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

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

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
_____		sites
_____		structures
_____		objects
2	total	

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter Categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Work in Progress  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: American Four Square  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	Concrete
walls	Brick
_____	
roof	Asphalt
_____	
other	
_____	

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Bowers House  
Name of Property

Sedgwick Co., Kansas  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Health/Medicine

**Period of Significance**

1905-1927

**Significant Dates**

1905-1906

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Dr. Charles E. Bowers

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- Previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

Bowers House  
Name of Property

Sedgwick Co., Kansas  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property .27 acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	4	6	4	6	6	8	0	4	1	7	3	6	9	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

2

Zone		Easting						Northing						

3

Zone		Easting						Northing						

4

Zone		Easting						Northing						

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

Name/title Dr. Pamela D. Kingsbury  
Organization Historic Preservation Consulting Date July 12, 2004  
Street & number 224 North Crestway Telephone 316-686-1731  
City or town Wichita State Kansas Zip code 67208-3840

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

Name Robert A. Pickens  
Street & number 1105 N. Market Telephone 316-209-7203  
City or town Wichita State Kansas Zip code 67214

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

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The Bowers Residence is an American Four Square house located at 1004 North Market Street at the northeast corner of North Market and East 9th Streets in the inner-city Midtown neighborhood, the oldest neighborhood in Wichita, Kansas (Plate 1). The house is a double-walled brick structure of two stories with a full, raised basement and an attic story. The raised basement is of red brick laid in common bond with raked mortar joints in contrast to the the upper two stories of tan bricks laid in running bond with flush mortar joints. A broad cast concrete stringcourse separates the raised basement from the upper two stories. With some notable exceptions, most of the fenestration is not original, but all the window openings are original. With the exception of the tall segmental arched window on the north, side elevation, all the fenestration has cast concrete sills and lintels.

The west, front elevation retains its original deep porch spanning the length of the elevation. All that remains of the original porch balustrade is the tan brick piers. Brick pedestals with cast concrete capping flank the concrete stairs leading to the front door. At the center of the porch roof is a pediment decorated with its original cartouche and scrolls. The three-bay first floor has its original, wide entrance door flanked by narrow windows that are the same height as the entrance. Above the entrance is the original glass transom. Originally, large windows flanked the entrance, but the window on the north has been replaced by a make-shift door. The three-bay second floor has two large windows flanking a smaller central window aligned with the apex of the porch's pediment. Above is a broad, wooden cornice that wraps around the house, followed by a pyramidal roof with deep eaves supported by wooden brackets. The pyramidal roof covers all but the kitchen, pantry and bathroom wing at the rear of the house that has its own gable roof. On the roof is a dormer window retaining its three original sash windows with the multi panes

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in the upper sashes. The original tan brick chimney is located on the top north slope of the pyramidal roof, and another original tan brick chimney is situated on the kitchen roof. At the corners of the house are brick quoins (Plate 2).

The south, side elevation has only one original basement window to the left of the library porch. Reading from west to east, the first floor has five bays consisting of one large window followed by two smaller windows flanking the library door and a small window located at head level that has its original stained glass decorated with stylized flowers. At the southeast corner is the kitchen door, now boarded shut. Spanning the library door and its flanking windows is a curving porch with wooden, unfluted Roman Doric columns. In the side angles of the porch roof are the original scroll decorations, plastered and painted white. Reading from west to east, the five-bay second floor has a large window followed by a lancet window with its original Gothic panes, two smaller windows and another lancet window also with its original Gothic panes. On the roof is dormer window retaining its two original sash windows with the original multi panes in the upper sashes. Unfortunately, a vent has been added to the lower sash of the west window (Plate 3).

The east, rear elevation has suffered by the addition of a second story, added by the YMCA Womans Crisis Center when it purchased the house in 1979. The second story is held aloft by wooden piers sitting on the original brick piers of the kitchen porch. There are two original basement windows, and on the first floor, there are three original window openings, with the southern one boarded shut. The second floor has only one original window opening, situated in the middle of the elevation. The gable retains its original round-headed window located in the center of the gable, but with the unfortunate addition of a vent in its lower section. (Plate 4). At the junction of the main

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body of the house with the kitchen-pantry-bathroom wing, there is a corner and a projecting east elevation wall space. At some point after the construction of the house, a one-story, tan brick addition was added to the corner to provide an exterior entrance to the basement. On the first floor is a pair of original window openings illuminating the dining room. Above on the second floor, there is one large original window opening that illuminates the rear bedroom (Plate 5).

The north, side elevation is the most fascinating of the four elevations of the house. There are four original basement windows. The fenestration above the raised basement is complicated. In order to illuminate the dog-leg staircase, there is a slightly projecting two-story section on the north elevation. On its first floor are a pair of lancet windows with their original Gothic panes and a shared cast concrete lintel. Above is a large segmental-arch window with its original upper panes illuminating the staircase landing. The corners of the projecting section have brick quoins and the segmental arch has a cast concrete keystone and end archivolt. To the west of the projecting staircase section is an original large window opening. To the east of the projecting staircase section are three original pairs of casement window openings illuminating the dining room. The four-bay second floor has two large original window openings situated to the east of the projecting staircase section. On the north elevation of the projecting kitchen, pantry, bathroom wing is an original lancet window with its Gothic panes, followed by a larger, original window opening. On the pyramidal roof is a dormer window that retains its two original sash windows with its original multi panes in the upper sashes (Plate 5).

The living room occupies the front half of the first floor. A fireplace was

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located on the east wall between the library and dining room doors. All that remains of it is the tile hearth. On the north wall there was a dog-leg staircase to the second floor. The first flight of the dog-leg staircase was removed by the YWCA Womans Crisis Center and is being restored (Plates 6 & 7). On the south side of the fireplace are pocket doors leading to the library, and on the north side of the fireplace are doors leading to the dining room with built-in cabinets (Plates 8 & 9). Beyond the dining room are the pantry, kitchen and downstairs bathroom.

At the top of the stairs is a hall running the width of the house from north to south, giving access to the master bedroom that occupies the front half of the second floor (Plates 10 & 11). On the east side of the hall in the southeast corner is a second bedroom. To the east of the stairs is a hall leading to the third bedroom and the upstairs bathroom.

At the northeast corner of the property is the garage that is a contributing building to the nomination. In all probability, the garage was not built at the same time as the house, although the same red and tan brick were used on both structures. At first glance, the garage, surmounted by a tall wooden cupola would appear to be a barn. But the small size of the building, without a proper hayloft or a any means of transferring hay from the loft, strongly suggests that the building is not a barn. The cupola that would lead one to think the building is a barn is merely an affectation placed on the garage during a transitional time when barns were a common structure on residential properties and the advent of the automobile with its garage. In the 1914 Sanborn Fire Map, the garage is on the property. In all likelihood, there was never a barn on the property. Dr. Bowers and his wife probably rented transportation from the local livery company. By the end of the first decade of



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the twentieth century, when the automobile became affordable for a family of means, they probably purchased an automobile and built the present garage to house it.

The Bowers garage is constructed in the same manner as the house. It has two doors and, like the house, it is a double-walled brick building with a wainscot of red brick laid in common bond and raked mortar joints. A cast concrete stringcourse wraps around the garage and separates the red brick wainscot from the tan brick laid in running bond with flush mortar joints. Also like the house, a broad wooden cornice wraps around the garage and above is a pyramidal roof topped with a wooden cupola. On the side elevations are a pair of original sash windows with multi panes in their upper sashes and cast concrete sills and lintels (Plate 12).

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The Bowers Residence is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion B**, because the property is associated with an individual, who has made significant contributions to society. Dr. Charles E. Bowers was an important surgeon and general practitioner, who pioneered the use of X-ray in early twentieth-century Wichita at St. Francis Hospital and in his private practice.

The Bowers Residence also is being nominated under **Criterion C**. The Bowers Residence it is an excellent example of an American Four Square house and one of the few remaining brick American Four Square houses in Wichita's Midtown Neighborhood that has been decimated by commercial intrusion and community neglect.

There were only a few brick houses erected in the Midtown neighborhood during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The cheap building material of the day was wood that was in plentiful supply on the prairie of south central Kansas. Early in its history many Wichita fortunes were made by businessmen known as "Lumber Barons," who established lumber companies in Wichita. The eleven hundred block of North Broadway, one block east of North Market, was known as "Lumbermen's Row" for the number of Lumber Barons who erected mansions along this major city thoroughfare.

Today, the Bowers Residence is the only brick, American Four Square house on North Market between Ninth and Thirteenth Street.<sup>1</sup> All the other residences dating from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries are constructed of wood and are generally done in the Queen Anne style. One of the few exceptions to this rule is the A. S. Parks residence at 1111 North

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<sup>1</sup> North Market from Central to Ninth Street now consists of mid- to-late twentieth-century commercial and apartment complexes.

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Broadway. Parks was a Lumber Baron, who in 1903 commissioned the prominent Wichita architect Elbert Dumont (1847-1904) to design a Neoclassical brick mansion for his family. The Parks residence along with the Comley residence, which is a constructed of wood, are the only surviving Lumber Baron mansions on Lumbermen's Row.

Dr. Charles E. Bowers (1855-1927) and his wife Kate Ranney Bowers (1868-1913) probably purchased the residential lot at the northeast corner of North Market and East 9th Streets in 1905, and in 1906, they erected a house on the lot. Kate died in 1913, and Charles married his sister-in-law Rosalind Ranney (1881-1977) in 1915. The couple continued to live in the house until Charles died in 1927. The house remained a single-family residence until 1952, when the Clark family sold it to Dr. Henry Lowen, who had his office in the living room and turned the upstairs into two apartments. In 1978, the YMCA purchased the house for its Women's Crisis Center. The YMCA sold the house in 2001 to Robert Pickens, a Midtown resident, who is restoring the house to its original single-family dwelling status.

Charles E. Bowers was born in Canal Door, Ohio and received his medical training at Rush Memorial College in Chicago, where he graduated in 1883. From Chicago he moved for unknown reasons to Anthony, Kansas, where he established a medical practice. In the process of sending patients, who required complex surgical procedures, to Wichita's St. Francis Hospital, Dr. Bowers met the legendary doctor and founder of the hospital, Dr. Andrew H.

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Fabrique (1842-1928).<sup>2</sup> Bowers impressed Dr. Fabrique with his medical knowledge and occasionally he assisted Fabrique with operations. Dr. Fabrique advised his colleague to obtain surgical training in St. Louis, which was probably at Barnes Hospital, now affiliated with Washington University. Bowers studied surgery and X-ray in St. Louis and returned to Wichita in 1899. At the suggestion of Dr. Fabrique, the two formed a medical partnership and opened an office in the Bitting Building in downtown Wichita. Bowers also became a resident doctor and surgeon at St. Francis Hospital.

Dr. Bowers saw the potential of X-ray with its ability to assist in diagnoses and healing. In 1902, he was the first in Wichita to purchase an X-ray machine, along with transformers and electrolytic interrupters.<sup>3</sup> He then convinced the Sisters of St. Francis to permit him to install the X-ray machine with its apparatus on the third floor of the hospital, adjacent to the operating room. Because of insufficient current to run the x-ray machine, Dr. Bowers had an electronic motor installed in the hospital's basement. St. Francis Hospital's first X-ray machine was a disaster. The pictures were of a very poor quality and, worst of all, the X-ray machine and its generator were too loud and shook the entire hospital! The Sisters asked Dr. Bowers to remove his X-ray machine, which he did, placing it in his office in the Bitting Building,

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<sup>2</sup> Dr. Fabrique arrived in Wichita in 1870, and by the 1880's he realized that the city was in dire need of a hospital. In 1886, he purchased a house, located on the present site of St. Francis Hospital, and opened a hospital. His hospital proved to be so successful that Fabrique could no longer run the hospital by himself. In 1888 he turned the running of the hospital to the Sisters of Mercy who came from Chicago and assumed responsibility for the hospital under the aegis of the Catholic diocese of Wichita. Hal K. Rothman, *A Tradition of Caring 1889-1989: St. Francis Regional Medical Center*. (Wichita, Kansas, 1988), pp. 5-14.

<sup>3</sup> Three months after the German Physics Professor Wilhelm K. Roentgen announced his discovery of X-ray in 1896, Dr. Lucien Blake, Physics Professor at the University of Kansas, gave a lecture and demonstration of X-ray for the Eastern Kansas Medical Society. The first application of X-ray in Kansas was performed by Dr. Blake who used a machine to X-ray the infected foot of a girl from Hiawatha, Kansas. Thomas Neville Bonner, *The Kansas Doctor: A Century of Pioneering*. (University of Kansas Press, 1959), pp. 69-70.

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where he gave treatments with it and used the fluoroscope daily.<sup>4</sup>

Dr. Bowers was the president of the Kansas Medical Association in 1908, an active member of the American College of Surgeons and a member of the Western Surgical Society. In 1920, he served as the first president of the St. Francis Medical Staff. Bowers had two daughters, Marguerita and Florence, by his first wife, Kate. Marguerita married Jud Petrie, who established the pre-eminent mens clothing store in downtown Wichita, owned by three generations of the family until it closed in the mid-twentieth century. Florence married a member of the Gill family, another prominent Wichita family.

The land on which the Bowers residence sits is part of the original town of Wichita. In 1870 Darius S. Munger (1812-1879), one of the founders of Wichita, purchased a quarter section, or one-hundred and sixty acres of land, known as Munger's Original Town Addition, lying north of Central Avenue and including the eight, nine and ten-hundred blocks of North Market, then known as Chisholm Street for Jesse Chisholm of the Chisholm Trail fame. During the real estate boom of the mid-1880s, the Keene Syndicate of New Hampshire, owned by residents of the Boston's Back Bay, purchased the area that included North Market Street and platted it for development. By 1892, the Sanborn Fire Map shows that the ten-hundred through thirteen-hundred blocks of North Market Street were classified as Ferrell's Addition. Five years later, the area had been reclassified as the Hyde and Ferrell Addition.

In the 1880s, there were several factors that led to the residential development immediately north of downtown Wichita. The greatest impetus to expansion north of the city's downtown was the real estate boom of 1885-1889

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<sup>4</sup> Howard C. Clark, *A History of the Sedgwick County Medical Society*. (Wichita, Kansas, 1950), pp. 39-40.

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that led to the platting of what is now the Riverside neighborhood and the Midtown neighborhood, which includes North Market Street. Cattle drives, grain mills, and industrial and commercial development along Douglas Avenue, the city's core, also encouraged residents to move north along Lawrence Street, now Broadway, Fourth Street, now St. Francis, and North Market Street. A third and decisive factor in the residential development north of downtown Wichita was the introduction of street car lines in 1883 drawn by horse and mule. By 1887, the first electric street car line was in operation and two years later the Wichita Electric Line provided service from First Street and North Market Street, west to First and Water, north on Water to 10th Street, east on 10th Street to North Market Street and from there north to 13th Street and eventually ending at Fairmount.

Despite the inevitable bust that followed the real estate boom of 1885-1889, residential construction continued in the 1890s north of the downtown on North Market Street, Topeka, Emporia and St. Francis. On the ten-hundred block of North Market Street there were seven houses erected. The earliest of these was the Queen Anne style residence of Samuel B. Amidon erected in 1887 across the street from the Bowers residence (Plate 13). Amidon was a lawyer, a prominent member of the Democratic party and the Sedgwick County Attorney. The Amidon residence is listed on Wichita Register of Historic Places. The other nineteenth-century residences on North Market Street were built in 1888, a Queen Anne style house of 1889 to the north of the Bowers residence, three in 1892 and one 1894. On the eleven-hundred block of North Market Street there were seven new residences constructed between 1888 and 1894.

By the beginning of the twentieth century Wichita's economy had rebounded and with it came a surge in residential construction. From 1900

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through 1911, there were forty-seven homes erected in the Topeka-Emporia Historic District and on North Market Street, including residential as well as apartment construction. In the nine-hundred block, eight apartment complexes were built, which in most cases replaced older houses. Only five residences were constructed and of these four were erected in the first decade of the century. Seven new residences were constructed between 1900 and 1923 in the ten-hundred block of North Market Street, and in the eleven-hundred block of North Market Street, twelve new residences were constructed between 1900 and 1923.

The Bowers residence has been the only dwelling to occupy the corner lot at North Market Street and East 9th Streets. Prior to Dr. Bowers' and his wife's purchasing the property, it was owned by Charles P. Mueller (1862-1932) from the late 1890s until 1905. Mueller was one of Wichita's first florists, and he owned one of the largest greenhouse operations in the state. On the North Market and East 9th Streets property, he built a large greenhouse. In late 1905, he sold his property, because the water supply from the Little Arkansas River did not provide suitable nourishment for his plants, and moved to East 9th and Hydraulic Streets near Chisholm Creek and its nutritional water supply.

Dr. Bowers was one of a number of physicians associated with St. Francis Hospital to reside on North Market Street, within easy walking distance of the hospital then located at 929 North St. Francis. In the nine-hundred block, there were two physicians, Dr. Siegel, and Dr. Parr, who was the original resident of his property. In the ten-hundred block in addition to Dr. Bowers, there were three other physicians, Drs. Minick, Basham, and Taylor. Like Dr. Bowers, Drs. Minick and Taylor were the original residents of their homes. A total of seven physicians lived in the nine-hundred through the thirteen-hundred blocks of North Market Street during early decades of the

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twentieth century.

Residential construction continued on North Market Street through the 1920s, but by the 1930s, North Market Street along with the other major thoroughfares of the neighborhood began to change from residential to multi-family housing and light commercial. The decisive factor in this unfortunate change was the termination of the street car service in 1935. The automobile was becoming the dominate mode of transportation and with it came the development of suburbs, such as College Hill and to the east of it, Eastborough.

Many of the stately residences of the neighborhood became multi-family dwellings, with their barns and garages also transformed into dwellings. The upper-class flight to the suburbs meant demolition of dilapidated houses and their replacement with apartment complexes. On the ten-hundred block of North Market there are three one-story apartment complexes and a huge two-story apartment complex with the contradictory name of "Chateau Villa!" Three houses are listed as multi-family. The majestic Neo-Classical residence at 1063 North North Market Street has a commercial listing, and the Amidon residence functions as an office.

The residents of the neighborhood decided to fight back. In 1972, they formed the Historic Midtown Citizens Association. Two events galvanized the fledgeling neighborhood association. The first pitted David against Goliath. The City of Wichita, the State of Kansas and the Federal government planned, allocated funding and issued city and state maps depicting an inner-city, elevated highway, known as the "Loop," that would connect I-135 to Highway 54, known as Kellogg Avenue. Exiting I-135 onto Murdock Avenue, the



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proposed elevated highway would go west and a little south crossing both the Little Arkansas River and the Arkansas River to intersect with Highway 54 at Sycamore Avenue. The Loop meant the death knell of the Midtown neighborhood, effectively severing it from the rest of Wichita. For more than two years, and against seemingly insurmountable odds, the Historic Midtown Citizens Association fought against the construction of the elevated highway and eventually won. The second event was very constructive. The Federal government offered a 3% loan to home owners living in inner-city neighborhoods who would repair their residences within a year. This Federal loan program not only offered assistance to Midtown residences, but it encouraged those looking for a home to purchase old, dilapidated residences in the Midtown neighborhood and restore them.

Today, the Midtown neighborhood has three historic districts: the Bitting Historic District, the Park Place-Fairview Historic District and the Topeka-Emporia Historic District. Despite the fact that the Bowers Residence is ninety-eight years old, its exterior is in fine condition, requiring only cleaning, replacement of rotting wood, painting and a new roof. The interior of the house has suffered under the ownership of the YWCA Womans Crisis Center. But enough of the house's interior integrity survives and with the blue prints that document the Womans Crisis Center's alterations to the interior of the house, a full restoration is underway to return the house to a single-family dwelling. A restored Bowers Residence, placed on the National Register of Historic Places, will serve as an anchor and a catalyst for preserving North Market Street and the Midtown neighborhood.

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The Bowers Residence occupies .27 acres in the Historic Midtown Citizens Neighborhood of Wichita, Kansas on Lots 142-144 & S1/2 Lot 146 & Vac N 15 Ft 9th. St. ADJ Lot 142 on N. Market Street.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries contain all the property associated with the Bowers Residence.

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**Map**

Plate 1.

Photographer: NA

Date of Photograph: NA

Location of Negative: NA

View Its Direction: Aerial View of 1004 North Market, Wichita, Kansas

**Photographs**

Plate 2.

Photographer: Pamela D. Kingsbury

Date of Photograph: January 8, 2004

Location of the Original Negative: Pamela D. Kingsbury

View & Its Direction: West, Front Elevation of the Bowers Residence

Plate 3.

Photographer: Pamela D. Kingsbury

Date of Photograph: January 8, 2004

Location of the Original Negative: Pamela D. Kingsbury

View & Its Direction: South, Side Elevation of the Bowers Residence

Plate 4.

Photographer: Pamela D. Kingsbury

Date of Photograph: January 8, 2004

Location of the Original Negative: Pamela D. Kingsbury

View & Its Direction: East, Rear Elevation of the Bowers Residence and Garage

Plate 5

Photographer: Pamela D. Kingsbury

Date of Photograph: January 8, 2004

Location of the Original Negative: Pamela D. Kingsbury

View & Its Direction: North, Side Elevation of the Bowers Residence

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**Photographs**

Plate 6.

Photographer: Pamela D. Kingsbury

Date of Photograph: January 3, 2004

Location of the Original Negative: Pamela D. Kingsbury

View & Its Direction: Living Room with the Entrance Door Looking West

Plate 7.

Photographer: Pamela D. Kingsbury

Date of Photograph: January 3, 2004

Location of the Original Negative: Pamela D. Kingsbury

View & Its Direction: Looking North at the Two Gothic Lancet Windows in the Living Room

Plate 8.

Photographer: Pamela D. Kingsbury

Date of Photograph: January 3, 2004

Location of the Original Negative; Pamela D. Kingsbury

View & Its Direction: Looking Southeast from the Living Room into the Library

Plate 9.

Photographer: Pamela D. Kingsbury

Date of Photograph: January 3, 2004

Location of the Original Negative: Pamela D. Kingsbury

View & Its Direction: Looking Northeast from the Living Room into the Dining Room

Plate 10.

Photographer: Pamela D. Kingsbury

Date of Photograph: January 3, 2004

Location of the Original Negative: Pamela D. Kingsbury

View & Its Direction: Looking North from the Upstairs Hall at the Front Staircase

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**Photographs**

Plate 11.

Photographer: Pamela D. Kingsbury

Date of Photograph: January 3, 2004

Location of the Original Negative: Pamela D. Kingsbury

View & Its Direction: Looking Southeast from the Master Bedroom to the Hall and Southeast Bedroom

Plate 12.

Photographer: Pamela D. Kingsbury

Date of Photograph: January 8, 2004

Location of the Original Negative: Pamela D. Kingsbury

View & Its Direction: West, Front Elevation of the Garage of the Bowers Residence

Plate 13.

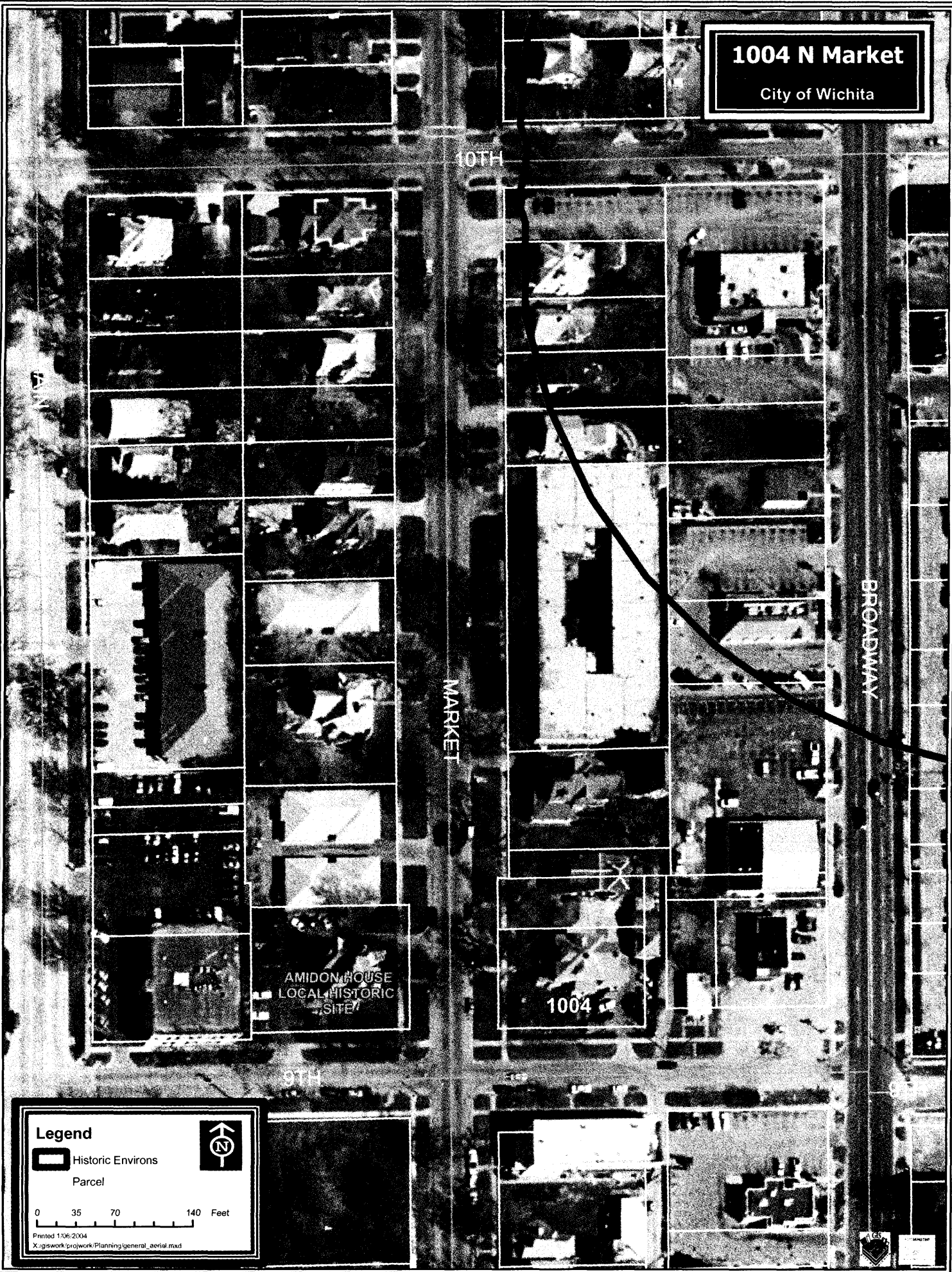
Photographer: Pamela D. Kingsbury

Date of Photograph: January 8, 2004

Location of the Original Negative: Pamela D. Kingsbury

View & Its Direction: East, Front Elevation of the Amidon Residence, 1887

**1004 N Market**  
City of Wichita



AMIDON HOUSE  
LOCAL HISTORIC  
SITE

1004

**Legend**

 Historic Environs  
 Parcel



0 35 70 140 Feet

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