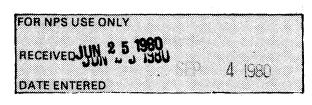
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

| HISTORIC | House | | | |
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| John S. Flower | r house | | | |
| AND/OR COMMON | | | | |
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| STREET & NUMBER 1618 Ogden Str | reet | | NOT FOR PUBLICATION | |
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| STATE Colorado | | code 08 | COUNTY Denver | CODE 031 |
| CLASSIFIC | ATION | | - <u></u> | |
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| | | | COMMERCIAL | PARK |
| | -BOTH | | EDUCATIONAL | X_PRIVATE RESID |
| SITE | PUBLIC ACQUISITION | ACCESSIBLE | ENTERTAINMENT | RELIGIOUS |
| OBJECT | IN PROCESS | YES: RESTRICTED | GOVERNMENT | SCIENTIFIC |
| • | BEING CONSIDERED | YES: UNRESTRICTED | INDUSTRIAL | TRANSPORTAT |
| | FPROPERTY | | | |
| NAME | | | | |
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located at 1618 Ogden Street in Denver, the John S. Flower House is a single detached structure designed in the Queen Anne style of Victorian architecture, but incorporating some neoclassical elements. The building is rectangular in shape, two and one-half stories in height, and built of pressed red brick with sandstone trim. The main facade faces the west and is highlighted by a large portico. There is a heavily decorated conical roofed corner tower with a finely carved sandstone cornice and foliated porthole windows. The attic gables are cantilevered, heavily bracketed, and done in a Palladian motif, except for the major front gable on the third floor which has been altered but is now undergoing restoration back to the original. There is a chimney near the southwest corner.

The secondary features are elaborate. There is a circular porch extending from the neoclassical portico with its Doric columns. Above the portico is a curved bay window. The bay and the pediment of the portico are decorated with elaborate swags and ribbon medallions. The composition of the main facade is nicely held together by the repeated use of dentils of different weight and material. The north side of the house has a two-story polygonal bay with chimney and a projecting dormer in the roof. The main chimney, located on the southwest corner, is stepped and bracketed in the usual Queen Anne manner.

ED. JEF 3/80



| SPECIFIC DATES 1891 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Robert G. Balcomb | | | | |
|---|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| | | | | OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| _1800-1899 _1900- | | EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | PHILOSOPHY POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | |
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| -1600-1699 | XARCHITECTURE | EDUCATION | MILITARY | SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| _ 1500 -1599 | AGRICULTURE | ECONOMICS | LITERATURE | SCULPTURE |
| 1400 -1499 | ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | CONSERVATION | LAW | SCIENCE |
| PREHISTORIC | ARCHEULUGY-PREHISTORIC | COMMUNITY PLANNING | LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | RELIGION |
| PERIOD | AF | REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH | IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The John S. Flower House is significant for its association with John S. Flower, an important real estate developer and civic-minded citizen of Denver. The structure is also significant for its association with the architects, Robert G. Balcomb and Eugene R. Rice, and for its architectural features which display the Queen Anne style.

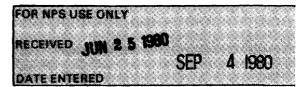
John S. Flower had a long career in Denver. He arrived in 1880 and spent his first years here as a reporter for the Denver Tribune. By 1886, however, he had found that his real vocation in life was in real estate development. Over the years that followed he and members of his firm were responsible for transactions that resulted in the building of some of the most important business blocks and some of the finest residences in town. But while Flower was enriching himself through real estate, he was also enriching the city. As president of the Denver Real Estate Exchange and later as head of the first Denver Planning Commission, he became an intimate friend of Denver's visionary mayor, Robert W. Speer, and was able to play an important role in making Denver a "City Beautiful." He was one of the first to urge a system of mountain parks. He fought for a civic auditorium. He was a member of the Denver Union Depot Commission, the Denver Civil Service Commission, and for the last eight years of his life president of the Denver Planning Commission. The most visible of his accomplishments are the decorative gates at City Park and the Pioneer Monument at Civic Center. The Pioneer Monument was unveiled with much fanfare in 1911, at a time when there were many alive who had been present at the founding of Denver. Flower felt that they should not be forgotten and worked for years to see the monument built.

The architects of the Flower House were Robert G. Balcomb and Eugene R. Rice. They headed a firm that was often sought out during the real estate boom in Denver during the late 1880s and early 1890s. Their commissions were extensive and included commercial blocks, apartment houses, office buildings, and terraces, as well as many homes. While not as original as some Denver architects, they were masters at interpreting and pleasing the taste of their clients. In their domestic architecture they combined elements of many styles into the lavish and flamboyant homes loved by the Victorians. The Flower House is an excellent example of this; other examples may be seen only a block away at 1600 and 1610 Emerson, and possibly 1647 Emerson. Each shows the ability of the two architects to manipulate the many elements that were part of the vernacular of the day into new and surprising combinations. From an architectural perspective, the Flower House displays their characteristic adaptation of Victorian elements. This house is a fine example of the Queen Anne style in the capitol hill section of Denver.

| 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGR | APHICAL REFEF | RENCES | | |
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| Various Denver newspapers | of the day: De | nver City Direc | tory. | |
| The Trail, Vol. IV, No. 2 | | Day With the Pi | | |
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| II FORM PREPARED | BY | | | |
| NAME/TITLE Sharon M. Elfenbein | | | | · |
| ORGANIZATION | <u>,</u> | | DATE | |
| Home Histories, Inc | • | | September 1979 |) |
| STREET & NUMBER | L | (2) | TELEPHONE 03) 722-8162 | |
| 170 Lafayette Stree | <u> </u> | | STATE | |
| Denver | | | Colorado | |
| 12 STATE HISTORIC | RESERVATION | OFFICER CE | ERTIFICATI | ON . |
| | ATED SIGNIFICANCE OF T | | | |
| NATIONAL | STATE | | LOCAL | |
| As the designated State Historic Pr | eservation Officer for the Na | tional Historic Preserv | ration Act of 1966 (P | ublic Law 89-665), I |
| hereby nominate this property for | | | | |
| criteria and procedures set forth by | the National Park Service. | 1 1 | | |
| STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFF | ICER SIGNATURE | C. Hums | end 1 | Jun 16, 1880 |
| TITLE State Historic Pr | eservation Officer | | DATE 0 | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | | | | |
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| CHIEF OF REGISTRATION | | | | |

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



| | Owner of | | | |
|--------------------|----------|-------------|---|--------|
| CONTINUATION SHEET | Property | ITEM NUMBER | 4 | PAGE 1 |

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