

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 25 1980
JUN 25 1980
DATE ENTERED 4 1980

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC
John S. Flower House
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
1618 Ogden Street

CITY, TOWN
Denver

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

1

STATE
Colorado

CODE
08

COUNTY
Denver

CODE
031

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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 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
See continuation sheet

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. City and County Building

STREET & NUMBER

1445 Cleveland Place

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Denver

Colorado

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites (16/01/0298)

DATE

Ongoing

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Colorado Historical Society, 1300 Broadway

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Denver

Colorado

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

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

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1891

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Robert G. Balcomb
Eugene R. Rice

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 BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Sketches of Colorado, ed. by Ferrill, Will C. Denver: The Western Press Bureau, 1911
Hall, Frank. History of the State of Colorado. Chicago: The Blakely Printing
Company, 1895.

Various Denver newspapers of the day: Denver City Directory.
The Trail, Vol. IV, No. 2, July, 1911. "A Day With the Pioneers."

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1

QUADRANGLE NAME Englewood, Colorado

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,3 5,0,2 2,4,0 4,3 9,8 9,4,0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 24-25, Block 24, Park Avenue Addition to the City of Denver

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Sharon M. Elfenbein

ORGANIZATION

Home Histories, Inc.

DATE

September 1979

STREET & NUMBER

170 Lafayette Street

TELEPHONE

(303) 722-8162

CITY OR TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado

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

William C. Townsend

June 16, 1980

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Carol O'Shull

DATE

9-4-80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Paula Storer Reed

DATE

8/28/80

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET Owner of
Property ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 1

Dennis W. Buckles
1444 S. Humboldt,
Denver, Colorado 80210

Ethan J. Cantor
1313 Williams #1401
Denver, Colorado 80218

Marshall A. Snider
1160 Milwaukee
Denver, Colorado 80206