

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received FEB 2 1984
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Cole, James Omar, House

and/or common Cole House

2. Location

street & number 27 E. 3rd Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Peru N/A vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Miami code 103

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Statewide Investments

street & number 27 E. 3rd, P. O. Box 355

city, town Peru N/A vicinity of

state Indiana 46970

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Miami County Recorder

street & number Court House

city, town Peru

state Indiana 46970

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The James Omar Cole House is an example of French Second Empire architecture which incorporates all the formal features of that style. Of brick construction with stone lintels, bracketed entablature, and mansard roof, it combines these elements into an image of stateliness and vigor.

Located on a corner lot east of and adjacent to the Peru City Hall, the one-and-one-half story house features a square plan modified by two projecting bays, located on the east side of the principal (north) facade, and one on the south side of the west facade. The angles formed by these bays and the main body of the house are occupied by two porches. A third porch of simple design and construction is located in the center bay of the south facade.

The principal (north) facade features a one story polygonal bay on the projecting portion of the house on the left. This three-sided bay has elaborately carved, segmentally arched stone lintels above the double-hung windows, and is capped by an entablature articulated by shallow dentils. Above this bay, at the second story level, is a pair of windows joined by a larger version of the same stone lintel. Framing this window ensemble is a gable end to the mansard roof, with a boxed cornice and, again, shallow dentils. This gable at one time sported a lacey bargeboard.

The rest of the north facade is sheltered on the ground floor by the aforementioned porch, which features heavy turned posts, and an ornate bracketed and dentiled frieze and cornice. The main entrance is in the center. The original entrance, although still in place, is hidden behind a 1950s entrance. The double leaf, original entrance is set in a plain brick surround highlighted by a stone segmentally arched hood similar to the hoods which articulate the main floor windows. The door architrave features a plain reveal with a single light transom panel and no side panels. The double leaf door is a glazed, paneled unit.

A double-hung window with a stone lintel also opens onto the front porch on the right. Above this window and the entrance are two dormers, set into the mansard roof, with wood surrounds ornamented by double volutes and curved hoods, framing double-hung windows. The mansard roof, originally slate, is now covered in asphalt shingles. Although the curb is still in place, the cresting seen in an historic photo is now gone. Underscoring the mansard is a bracketed cornice.

The projecting bay on the righthand side of the west facade features the mansard roof (no gable end), with a centrally placed dormer on the second floor, and a single window below it. On the ground floor there is a door located in the north wall of this projecting bay, and another door in the second bay from the left, both of which open onto a side porch very similar to the front porch. There are two windows opening onto the porch and another at the north end, all double-hung with stone lintels like those on the main facade. Each has a dormer window above. There is a chimney between two dormers.

The four-bay east facade is adjacent to the City Hall (Photo #), and is the simplest in that it has no projecting bays. The four ground floor windows are double-hung with stone lintels, as on the other facades. Three dormers pierce the mansard roof on this side, and one chimney.

The south, rear, facade appears to have been altered from its original appearance. The same decorative treatment found on the rest of the house (mansard roof, bracketed cornice, dormers) continues around the corners onto the back; however, the center of the back wall

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Cole House

Item number 7

Page 1

is plain and flat, with no mansard, although some of the cornice features are repeated at the roofline. A double entrance at the ground floor is sheltered by a very plain porch. Above this is a pair of double-hung windows in a plain surround, obviously not original.

The two double-hung windows on the ground floor of the south facade have plain stone lintels and sills.

All rooms are arranged around a central hall. Access to the second floor is by way of a stairway located against the east wall of the hall. The carved handrail forms a railing around the stair well on the second floor. All doors of the hallway on the first and second floor are carved panel hardwood units with decorative, carved surrounds. The uprights of the carved surrounds protrude above the cross-member and feature carved crown motifs. The paneling of the doors is arranged so as to simulate the presence of a transom panel. This feature mimics the design of the exterior doors which include functional transom panels.

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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 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 c. 1883 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

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

The James Omar Cole House is significant both as an example of French Second Empire architecture and because of its connection with a prominent individual in the history of Miami County, James Omar Cole.

The house was built by Cole in about 1883. The lumber came from the Cole & Crane Lumber Company located in Cincinnati, Ohio. Three varieties of hardwood—oak, walnut and sycamore—were used in the construction, and the bricks are thought to have been locally produced.

With its mansard roof, lavishly detailed window hoods, bracketed cornice, and decorative porches, the house is a fine example of French Second Empire architecture which has remained largely intact up to the present day.

James Omar Cole was born in Zanesville, Ohio, December 23, 1828, the son of Judge Albert Cole. He was six years old when his family moved to Peru. He lived in the community until 1850, when he left for California to join the Gold Rush.

With the six or seven hundred dollars he accumulated as a laborer, Cole established himself in the mercantile business at Oak Valley in Yuba County, California. After spending 17 years in California, he returned to Peru with approximately \$30,000, which he then used to establish a brewery in the city. He remained in the brewing business until about 1908.

Cole was involved in many business and agricultural pursuits in addition to the brewery. These included an artificial ice plant, and a tenant farming operation encompassing some 500 acres of Miami County farmland. For 25 years, or more, much of Cole's time and resources were devoted to the lumber business, and it is in that industry that he was best known for his business achievements. For many years he was also associated with the First National Bank of Peru as stockholder, director and executive official.

In 1850 Cole married Miss Rachel Henton, a daughter of Sylvester Henton, and a member of one of Miami County's oldest families. They had two children, one of whom, Kate, became the mother of Cole Porter, a well-known musician and composer. Rachel died July 2, 1890. In 1892, Cole married Miss Bessie Labonte. Cole died February 3, 1923.

After Cole's death, the house was deeded by his heirs to James Omar & Josephine Cole, who owned the house until 1950. The house was converted into offices in 1952. It was threatened with demolition in 1978 by then owner Tom Shepherd Olds-Buick, Inc., who had planned to increase their auto storage space through use of the property. The house was saved by the intervention of the Miami County Historical Society. The current owners, Statewide Investment Company, purchased the house on contract in 1980.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Bodurtha, Arthur L., History of Miami County, Indiana. Volume II. Chicago and New York: The Lewis Publishing Co., 1914, pp. 775-776.
- Holman, Omer, History of Peru and Miami County from 1885 to 1935. Published in the Peru Republican Printing Office, Peru, Indiana, 1979.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Peru, Indiana

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	<u>16</u>	<u>578780</u>	<u>4511580</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot No. 73 and 22 feet of equal width off the entire east side of Lot No. 74 in the original plat of the town (now city) of Peru, Miami County.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Albert Spandau, Secretary-Treasurer

organization Statewide Investments (in Peru)

date August 17, 1983

street & number 400 E. 4th St.

telephone 317/758-4369

city or town Sheridan

state Indiana 46069

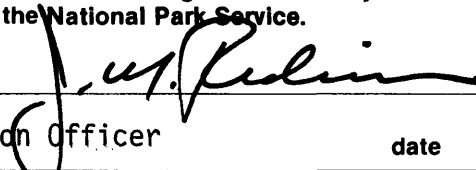
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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



title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

date 1-24-84

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

3/1/84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration