

PH 0661864

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JAN 31 1978
DATE ENTERED	MAR 8 1978

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

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

**

Bowles (Joseph R.) House

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
1934 SW Vista Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN
Portland

VICINITY OF
1st

STATE
Oregon

CODE
41

COUNTY
Multnomah

CODE
051 ✓

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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Drs. Joseph and Ruth Matarazzo

STREET & NUMBER
1934 SW Vista Avenue

CITY, TOWN
Portland

VICINITY OF
Oregon

STATE
97201

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Multnomah County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Portland

STATE
Oregon 97204

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Portland Historical Landmark designation is under consideration

DATE
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
Portland Bureau of Planning

CITY, TOWN
Portland

STATE
Oregon 97204

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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 Bowles house is a 4,959 sq. ft. two-story reinforced concrete building with Spanish tile roof and Italian marble columns. The architect, A.E. Doyle, was sent to Italy at least once by the builder to study Italian architecture.¹ Although not direct copy, the house was inspired by Sorento Renaissance villas.

The house and grounds have only two changes imposed: the 4½-foot deep reflecting pool in the atrium was covered over in 1964; and the original gas-fired hot water heating system has been converted to oil.²

The house is an outstanding example of 1920s craftsmanship wherein expense was no barrier. The house cost approximately \$750,000; the grounds and landscaping an additional \$168,000.³

In the entry hall, study, living and dining rooms there are three layers of floors.⁴ The topmost surface is of oak, laid primarily to protect the second layer. The original plans detail the second and third layers for the study only. The second layer is of oak and teak parquet; the undermost of marble. Mr. Bowles was unusually concerned about his fine wooden floors and he wanted to protect them. Black walnut, oak, maple and teak are used throughout in the woodwork, stairs and doors.

All of the interior walls are surfaced with either paneling or fabric. A scented silk brocade covers some of the closet and dressing room walls. The rest of the wall surfaces are covered with painted canvas, with some notable exceptions. The two-level entry hall has gold leaf over the canvas; the breakfast room has silver leaf; the dining room has antiqued gold leaf.

Originally, there was an organ in the living room, but Mrs. Bowles donated it to an Oregon church prior to moving out of the house in 1953.⁵ The original painted maple organ screen remains in the living room; the cork-lined echo chamber is extant in the basement. A number of unusual spaces occur in the house. There is a 6x6.5' silver vault on the main floor; a temperature-controlled fur vault on the second floor. The study bookcases pivot to reveal a hidden bar complete with marble sink. A hidden closet and small jewelery receptacles, opened by hidden catches, appear in the master suite.

In the interior only one item has been removed--the sink counter in the kitchen. All of the other cupboards, marble topped counters, dish warmer and refrigerators are extant. The house is unusual in retaining all of its original fixtures. The chandeliers, wall sconces, brass hardware, bell pulls, bathroom fixtures and accessories (towel racks, robe hooks, etc.) are original. All of the bathroom faucets and spigots in the family side of the house are of sterling silver.

¹ Interview with Mr. George McMath, grandson of A.E. Doyle, October 12, 1977.

² Interview with Dr. Joseph Matarazzo, who made the changes, October 10, 1977.

³ Interview with Dr. Joseph Paquet, nephew-in-law of Mr. Bowles, October 14, 1977.

⁴ Data taken from the original blueprints in the possession of the owner.

⁵ Op. cit., Dr. Paquet.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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 1922-1924 BUILDER/ARCHITECT A.E. Doyle, Architect

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Joseph R. Bowles House is significant to the City of Portland as an intact example of period residential work by leading area architect, A.E. Doyle. Mr. Doyle, John Yeon and Harry Wentz were the early proponents of what came to be known as the Northwest Style, which culminated in the work of Pietro Belluschi, who worked in Doyle's office. The house is significant, also, for its extraordinary craftsmanship and extravagance.

Joseph R. Bowles is noted in the annuals of local history as the co-founder and president of Northwest Steel Company.¹ In 1916-17, the company covered twelve acres and manufactured 42 steel ships, among them several 880-ton cargo ships, 12,000-ton oil carriers, and ships which figured in the United States' World War I efforts. The firm had one of the largest shipbuilding complexes in the country and could build two ships a month. In May, 1918, the firm built three. Early in the War, Mr. Bowles recognized that the German shipbuilders were reputed to be the most efficient in the world. He purchased German shipbuilding manuals, taught himself German, and copied their methods in his "Liberty Ships."²

The Bowles residence was built in 1922-24. It remained under Bowles family ownership until Bowles' widow sold the house in 1953. The house is located on Vista Avenue in Portland Heights, one of Portland's finest residential areas, in which nearly all the properties are single-family homes. The Heights did not begin to develop until the 1880s, when the streetcar made home sites accessible. The subject property encompasses 9/10 of an acre. In addition to the house and its two porte cocheres, a four-car garage and two greenhouses appear on the site. The exterior marble terraces are of marble salvaged from the Vanderbilt house on Madison Avenue in New York.³ The garden stepping stones are paving stones originally used on New York's Wall Street. The original underground sprinkling system remains.

¹ History of the Columbia River Valley from The Dalles to the Sea, Vol. 2. (Chicago: The S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1928) pp. 118-124, 388-390.

² Interview with Dr. Joseph Paquet, nephew-in-law of Mr. Bowles, October 14, 1977. Dr. Paquet lived with Mr. Bowles.

³ Ibid.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of the Columbia River Valley from The Dalles to the Sea, Vol. 2. Chicago: The S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1928.

Interview with Dr. Joseph Matarazzo, October 10, 1977.

Interview with Mr. George McMath, October 12, 1977.

Interview with Dr. Joseph Paquet, October 14, 1977.

Original blueprints.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .9 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 0	5 2 3 8 0 0	5 0 3 9 7 9 5
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 1, 2 and 5 of Block 46, Carter's Addition, City of Portland.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Sheila Finch, AIA

ORGANIZATION

DATE

October 18, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

1209 SW Sixth #405

TELEPHONE

(503) 227-0786

CITY OR TOWN

Portland

STATE

Oregon 97204

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

David G. Talbot

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE January 20, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 3.8.78
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Charles...

DATE 1.6.78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER