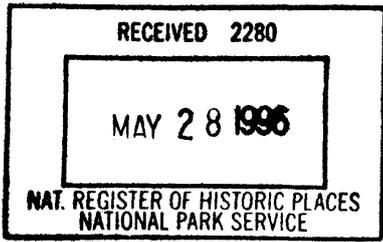


NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8/86)
Wisconsin Word Processor Format (1331D)
(Approved 3/87)

OMB No. 1024-0018



United States Department of 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 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name: Bowen, Julia B. and Fred P., House

other names/site number: Ross, Grant and Alice, House; Carswell, Harry and Julia, House

2. Location

street & number: 220 East Union Street N/A not for publication

city or town: Richland Center N/A vicinity

state: Wisconsin code: WI county: Richland code: 103 zip code: 53581

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.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

State Historic Preservation Officer - Wisconsin

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

Name of Property Bowen, Julia & Fred, House County and State Richland County, WI

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

entered in the National Register.

Edson H Beall 7-5-96

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.

Entered in the National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include listed resources within the count)

private
 public-local
 public-state
 public-federal

building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Contributing Noncontributing

1 1

1 1

buildings
sites
structures
objects
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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions:

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Domestic/ single dwelling

Education/ school

Other/ artist's studio

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

(Enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

Second Empire

Classical Revival

Materials:

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Masonry

walls: Brick

roof: Asphalt

other: Wood

Narrative Description

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

Name of Property Bowen, Julia & Fred, House

County and State

Richland County, WI

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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 is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

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 achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance:

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Period of Significance:

1882-1905

Significant Dates:

1882

Significant Person:

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Bowen, Julia Busby

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder:

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Name of Property Bowen, Julia & Fred, House County and State Richland County, WI

9. Major Bibliographic References

(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: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 <u>1/5</u>	<u>7/1/2/0/9/0</u>	<u>4/8/0/1/4/1/0</u>	3 <u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / / / /</u>
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
2 <u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / / / /</u>	4 <u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / / / /</u>
Zone	Easting	Northing	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: Jill Haycock and Jessica Moore, edited by Jim Draeger

organization: N/A date: 7/1/95

street & number: 7523 Midtown Rd. telephone: 608/845/7238

city or town: Verona state: Wisconsin zip code: 53593

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Bowen, Julia and Fred, House
Richland Center, Richland Co., WI

Section 7 Page 1

The Julia and Fred Bowen house is a rectangular, red brick Italianate house with a Second Empire addition. Centered on a large square lot, the main facade of the house faces south, and is set behind a well-manicured lawn. The main rectangular block of this two story house is characterized by a low pitched, hipped roof, with wide, overhanging eaves. The main facade of the house is graced by a two story, Classical Revival ionic portico, flanked on each side by one story side porches with rooftop balustrades. Although this portico was added in 1908, three years after Julia Bowen's death, the house still retains its essential appearance and historic integrity for its association with her. A two story, mansard-roofed addition, sympathetic to the main block, is attached to the east facade of the Italianate block. A substantial house, there is just over 3000 square feet of floor space. At the northeast corner of the lot, where the two driveways intersect at a ninety degree angle, stands a large square, wood frame garage with a bell-cast hipped roof. The garage has two main facades, facing west and south. The property is set on the corner of Union and Church Streets, in a quiet and well-established residential neighborhood of Richland Center. A number of large shade trees grace the lot. The house is the only contributing resource on the property.

Constructed in 1869 by Fred Bowen for himself and his bride Julia, the two story main block of the house is a simplified example of the Italianate style of architecture. The low-pitched hipped roof, with wide, overhanging eaves typifies this style of architecture, prevalent between 1850-1889, as do the long, narrow two-over-two windows, decorative paired brackets placed on a deep trim band beneath the roof, elaborate front door enframingent, and one story semi-hexagonal bay window. It lacks much of the surface embellishment found on more high style examples.

The foundation of the main block is rendered of masonry, while the walls are constructed of unmachined red brick. The windows of the five ranked main facade, as of the entire block, are shuttered, tall, narrow two-over-two double hung sash windows, surmounted by flat, rectangular stone lintels. Beneath the windows are flat, rectangular stone sills. The windows of the second story are less elongated than those of the first story. The front door is accessed by a straight walkway leading from Union Street. The original front door, of stained, carved oak, is surrounded by an elaborate door enframingent, comprised of a glazed transom and sidelights. The entire doorway is surmounted by a flat stone lintel. Centered above the main doorway on the second floor is a doorway, accessing the large second story porch from the second story hallway. On the main facade the asphalt shingled roof is ornamented by four pairs of decorative cut-out scrolled brackets .

In 1908 Julia and Fred Bowen's son-in-law, Grant Ross, added a Classical Revival two-story entrance portico to the main facade. The portico is supported by slender, colossal ionic columns, and is flanked on each side by one story ionic side porches. The columns are echoed by attached ionic capitals on the second story and attached ionic columns on the first story. The flat roof of the portico is ornamented, above the ionic columns, by paired cut-out scrolled brackets set perpendicular to each other.

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The west facade of the main block is characterized by three window openings on both the first and second stories, unevenly spaced. The central window on the first story is a wooden, semi-hexagonal bay window with two-over-two windows set within segmentally arched frames. The overhanging eaves of the bay window are supported by cartouche brackets. Beneath the brackets is a row of dentils. On the west facade, the roof is supported by five pairs of cut-out scrolled brackets.

There are three window openings on the first and second stories of the rear facade. The fenestration is unevenly spaced and is set to the left of the center of the facade. Again, five pairs of cut-out scrolled brackets support the roof on the rear facade.

The hipped roof of the main block is covered with four layers of asphalt shingling, over oak rafters, many of which are original. The main block of the house was originally shingled in cedar, but sometime prior to 1905 a raised seam, tin roof was added (Sanborn Map Co. 1905, 1912; Postcard of Bowen House 1912). The tin roof has subsequently been removed. The three chimneys of the main block, and the single chimney of the addition are all internal, and are approximately five inches deep by twenty six inches long. A photograph of Richland Center, dating to ca. 1875, demonstrates that the chimneys of the main block once had external stacks. Prior to the 1908 addition of a Classical Revival entrance portico, the main block had a one-story, attached entrance porch, typical of Italianate architecture (Photograph of Richland Center 1875; Brosius 1875).

Sometime during the 1880s a two-story, red brick Second Empire-influenced kitchen wing was added to the east facade of the main block of the Bowen House (Rausch 1988, 182). The addition has an asphalt shingled, straight-sloping Mansard roof with gabled dormers, and a centered, projecting square pavilion on the main facade. The foundation is rendered of masonry and the basement can only be accessed from the addition. A one story, wrap-around porch, supported by slender posts with turned spindles, runs along the full length of the east and north facades of the addition. Stylistically sympathetic to the main block of the house, the first story windows of the addition are elongated, narrow two-over-two double-hung sash windows, surmounted by flat, rectangular stone lintels. The windows, which are pegged in the corners, also feature flat stone sills.

The central, projecting square pavilion of the main facade possesses a gabled dormer and paired, two-over-two windows on the first story. The pavilion is flanked on the first story by a single two-over-two window on each side.

Centered on the east facade of the addition is a door to the laundry room. To the left of the door is a small, square wooden door, accessing the built-in icebox in the pantry. Like the windows and the doors of the entire house, the door to the icebox is surmounted by a flat stone lintel. A gabled dormer is centered above the doorway.

Although the front facade of the addition is flush with the main block of the house, the rear facade is recessed from the main block by six and one half feet. The two first story windows of the rear facade of the addition are centered beneath the two gabled dormers. Placed slightly off center, a doorway on the rear facade accesses the kitchen.

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Bowen, Julia and Fred, House
Richland Center, Richland Co., WI

Section 7 Page 3

Corroborating a construction date in the 1880s, the unmachined brick, pegged two-over-two windows, wrap-around porch, and the incised decoration of the paired windows of the pavilion are elements typical of this decade.

Prior to the construction of the mansarded addition there existed a one story, wood frame cook-house (Brosius 1975). This white, clapboarded structure had a gabled roof and two window openings on the south facade (Brosius 1975). Interestingly, a tar line is still visible on the east facade of the main block, indicating the roofline of the former structure.

The interior of the Bowen house is comprised of twelve rooms and two baths, with the formal rooms located downstairs in the main block and the bedrooms located upstairs. Like the exterior, while some of the room functions have changed over time, a tremendous amount of the original materials are extant on the interior,. Although both the main block of the house and the addition have full basements, the two are separate, and can only be accessed from that part of the house. The first floor of the main block is comprised of a parlor and library in the front part of the house, and a second parlor and large dining room in the rear. The upstairs can be accessed from a minor stairway in the northwest corner of the house, or from the main stairway, centrally located in the front entrance hall. This staircase is characterized by an elaborately carved, stained wood balustrade, with turned spindles. The staircase curves gracefully to the left, a full 180 degrees, as it ascends.

The south parlor is connected to the north parlor by grand, segmentally arched double doors. These doors are surrounded by a wide, deeply carved molding. A semi-hexagonal bay window graces the west wall of the north parlor. Reproduction wood-burning stoves are present in the two front rooms of the house, as there are no fireplaces in the house. Julia Bowen wanted a "modern house", with wood-burning stoves in each room (Hauck 1994, 2). New bookcases were installed in the library in 1994. The original flat, unornamented moldings are extant around the doors and windows throughout the main block of the house, both upstairs and downstairs. The crown moldings throughout the first story of the main block are reconstructions of the originals, and were added in 1994.

Indigenous and locally milled, oak strip flooring was added to the first story of the main block in 1994, as the Bowen's never covered the pine plank sub-flooring in these rooms. The herringbone pattern of the oak strip floor in the dining room is a reconstruction of the flooring added in 1949. The library was once a bedroom, while the dining room may originally have been used as a living room or library. With the exception of these two rooms, the original function of the rooms throughout the main block, first and second floors, has been maintained.

The second story of the main block is comprised of four bedrooms. The large second story porch can be accessed

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Bowen, Julia and Fred, House
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by a centrally located door off of the hallway. The maple strip flooring exists throughout the second story, except for the northeast bedroom, in which the original pine plank flooring is exposed. In 1949, the bathroom at the rear of the second floor was added, along with a gas furnace heating system for the main block. To accommodate the new heating system, the ceiling was lowered in the northeast bedroom. This bedroom originally boasted a free-standing toilet. Reproduction wood-burning stoves can also be found in the two bedrooms in the front of the house. The plaster throughout the second story is original, while picture moldings modeled after the originals were added in 1994.

The first story of the kitchen-wing addition is comprised of a kitchen, bath, laundry room, and pantry. The second story is comprised of two bedrooms, one of which is also now used as a studio. The kitchen originally functioned as a dining room, while the laundry room was originally the kitchen. The original function of the upstairs bedrooms has been maintained, as has that of the pantry downstairs. These changes were made in 1984 by Alice Leonard. Along with the other alterations made in 1949, the bathroom off the kitchen was added in this year. The pantry, located off of the laundry room in the southeast corner of the house, features an original, built-in icebox with a trap door to the outside. The one and a half inch oak strip flooring throughout the first floor is historic, as are the deep cornice moldings, decorated with egg and dart, surmounting the windows and doors on the first floor. There is no heating system in the two upstairs bedrooms of the addition, and the pine plank flooring is original.

Garage

At the northeast corner of the lot, where the driveway off of Church street intersects at a ninety degree angle the driveway off of Union Street, stands a square, two story, wood frame garage. This structure, measuring 28 feet by 28 feet, is clad with clapboard, painted red, and trimmed in white. The south and west facades are mirror images of each other, characterized by a single first story window opening with a double-hung sash window, a sliding wooden batten garage door, and a hipped dormer with paired one-over-one double-hung sash windows. Such a garage would have accommodated an early automobile, lacking a reverse gear.

This garage replaced a small, one story, wash house/woodshed built sometime between 1905 and 1912 (Sanborn Map Co. 1905, 1912). This wood frame structure had a shingled roof (Sanborn Map Co. 1905). Both the bell-cast roof and the poured concrete foundation of the garage corroborate this date. The low-pitched, hipped roof of the garage is covered by asphalt shingles. Stylistic and structural criteria suggest a date in the latter part of this time frame, rendering the garage a non-contributing resource.

No longer extant, a one story, wood frame carriage house once stood directly to the north of the Second Empire addition (Sanborn Map Co. 1905, 1912). This shingle roofed structure had a single horse stall and existed at least as early as 1905 (Sanborn Map Co. 1905). It is unclear when this carriage house was torn down.

Although a number of substantial shade trees still exist on the large square lot, measuring 132 feet square, a number of large elms were removed on the south and west sides of the house at some point during the 1930s (Photograph of the Bowen House 1930). An 1875 photograph of Richland Center demonstrates that the lot was originally surrounded by white fencing. Two other houses existed on the block at this time (Photograph of Richland Center 1875).

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The Julia and Fred Bowen House, an example of Italianate-influenced domestic architecture, is associated with a significant person, Julia Busby Bowen. The restoration of the house, from 1992 to 1994, by James and Theresa Pollard, retained historic materials wherever possible, and when impossible, reconstructed the historic appearance using similar replacement materials. The historic appearance of the house has been maintained, as have the original functions of the rooms to a large extent. The major impact on the building's historic integrity occurred with the addition of a Classical Revival entrance portico by Grant Ross in 1908, three years after Julia's death. Although this had an effect on the historic appearance of the house, the rest of the house remains essentially unchanged. The building clearly retains integrity of location, setting, feeling and association. The essential physical features necessary to convey a sense of the life of Julia Bowen are extant, and sufficient for Bowen to recognize the building in its present form. Therefore the Bowen house retains its historic integrity.

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Bowen, Julia and Fred, House
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Section 8 Page 1

The Julia B. and Fred P. Bowen house is being nominated under Criterion B, for its association with a locally significant person, Julia Busby Bowen. She was a leader in the early phase of the Woman's Suffrage Movement in Richland Center, Wisconsin, known as "the cradle of the suffrage movement in Wisconsin (Milwaukee Journal, 21 Dec., 1921)." Because of the importance of this association, the house possesses local historical significance from 1882, when the Woman's Club of Richland Center was formed, until 1905, the year of Julia's death. Because the Woman's Club met in the homes of its members, it can be said that the high character and quality of the Bowen House reflected that of its owner, Julia, who influenced the direction of social reform in Richland Center. No other properties are directly associated with Julia Bowen's life and prominence within the historical context of Women's Suffrage.

Historical Background

Located in the driftless area of the far-southwestern region of Wisconsin, Richland Center lies on the banks of the Pine River, which furnished excellent water power. It is in the center of some of the most productive agricultural land in the southwestern part of the state. Early on, the community was served by the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railway, connecting the town with the marketing facilities of other cities. The area was considered healthy for its people, who were known to be of "desirable character", but as farming people immigrated to the area, there was seen to be a need for educating them in the areas of child care, food preparation, and other practical matters relating to their well-being. An organized effort to meet these needs was recognized by the better-educated citizens of the town.

Frederick Phelps Bowen, born in 1835, was of Yankee origin, coming to Richland Center in 1854, where, with his brother, he established Bowen's Mill. It eventually comprised one of Richland County's most important industrial enterprises. He additionally ran a drugstore, tannery, and a livestock dealership.

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Bowen, Julia and Fred, House
Richland Center, Richland Co., WI

Section 8 Page 2

Julia Busby Bowen was born in New York State in 1840, and was educated at Alfred University, one of the first coeducational colleges in the country. An important influence there was her painting teacher, Abigail Ann Allen, an advocate of woman's rights- moreover, of human rights. At age twenty Julia married S.N. Waite, locating in the south. The couple was interned in a stockade by the Confederate government during the Civil War. Waite escaped, later to die in battle, and Julia was eventually released. She then came to Richland Center, where she taught school and soon met Frederick Bowen. After their wedding he built the Union Street house for his new bride, in 1869. No fireplaces were built in the house, stoves provided the most advanced method of heating. Julia raised four children in this elegant house, always cognizant of the fact that her lot was more fortunate than that of others, whom she had been educated to aid.

On June 2, 1882, the women's suffrage movement of Richland Center was surreptitiously formed at the home of Laura Briggs James, a teacher and the wife of David A. James, a prominent merchant, who later became a state senator (Scott 1972, 90). They called their group a "woman's club", and their written purpose was to "aid social, intellectual, and philanthropic interests," but their real purpose was woman's suffrage. Their fear of prejudice, open hostility, and opposition led them to subvert this purpose (Scott 1972, 90). Julia Bowen was elected the first president of the Woman's Club at this organizational meeting, a position she held for ten years. She told the members that "we must be as wise as serpents and as harmless as doves if we are to make converts to our course" (Wi. State Journal, 6 May, 1928). In this statement of caution, she set the tenor and standards by which the club operated. From Pittsburgh, Pa., on July 6, 1882, Julia sent a formal letter to the newly-organized group, accepting the presidency. She said "Like Esther of old we know that we are sent to the kingdom for such a time as this, when great social evils are desolating our homes and blighting the health, hopes, and purity of our young and we have resolved to prove what a woman's club can do to eradicate these deadly evils. Our constitution declares our objectives to aid social, intellectual, and philanthropic interests so that we might have better homes, better health, better charities, better laws, better service for humanity and God" (Richland Observer, 13 July, 1882).

At the August meeting of the new club, Julia read an essay (Richland Observer, 24 Aug., 1882). Only two months after the Women's Club was formed, a convention was held in Madison on September 7, 1882, to form the Wisconsin State Suffrage Association, a reorganization of the Women's Association of 1867. Thirty-five delegates were present, fourteen of whom were invited from the Richland Center Woman's Club. The Richland Observer of September 14 reported, "The Woman's Club of Richland Center was represented by Mrs. J.B. Bowen." Lucy Stone Blackwell, the first woman to have visited Richland Center to speak on the woman's suffrage movement, spoke at this convention, and President Bascom, of the University of Wisconsin, gave the opening address.

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It can be seen here that this club was so closely allied with the heart of the suffrage movement in Wisconsin as to epitomize the evolution of the woman's suffrage sentiment. At the December 1882 meeting of the Woman's Club, Julia Bowen read an original essay entitled "The Attainments of Women," to encourage, stimulate, and inform its members (Richland Observer, 18 Jan., 1882).

The Feb. 15, 1883 issue of the Richland Observer reports, "We publish today an article raising the question of a new school house, read before the last meeting of the Woman's Club by the president Julia Bowen, containing many valuable suggestions showing our needs and wants in this direction, and worthy of the attention of the public. A new school building and increased school facilities is one of the imperative needs of this village, and in justice to the school children its erection should not be much longer delayed." It is worthy to note that on August 30, 1883, initial steps were taken to provide a new schoolhouse.

The Woman's Club celebrated its first anniversary Thursday, May 31, with an address of welcome by Julia Bowen (Richland Observer, 18 June, 1883). At the June meeting of that year she was reelected president and served nine more years in that capacity, during which time the membership greatly increased (Richland Observer, 18 June, 1883).

In April, 1884, one finds Julia Bowen's signature on the "Citizen's Endorsement of Temperance" (Richland Observer, 17 April, 1884). In June of that year, the first regular convention of the Wisconsin State Suffrage Association was held in Richland Center, once again establishing the town as a center of suffrage interest (Scott 1972, 90). A short address by President Julia Bowen opened the Woman's Club meeting of June 20, 1884 (Richland Observer, 9 July, 1884).

The next year the Woman's Club members met at a skating rink in June for supper and a program dealing with woman's rights. Interestingly enough, the husbands of the members were invited, as many of them openly supported their wives' activities. Julia Bowen gave a talk at this meeting, entitling it "Millennial Suffrage" (Scott 1972, 91). Also in 1885, Emma C. Bascom, wife of the president of the University of Wisconsin, sent a letter to Julia before a meeting, stating, "So I come to you, not ignorant of the abundant liberality the women of the banner town of Richland Center have already manifested in the cause. Throughout the state your little city has become famous for intelligent and progressive sentiment. With high regards for yourself and your colaborers [sic] in the cause of equal rights. Yours in faith, Emma Bascom" (Scott 1972, 91).

In August of 1885 Henry B. Blackwell writes to Julia, agreeing to attend a meeting of the woman's movement held at Whitewater, Wisconsin, on September 29-30 of that year, and with the hopes of aiding her at a similar meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on October 13-15. He signs the letter, "May we all live to see women enfranchised! Yours very truly, for Lucy Stone and myself, Henry B. Blackwell" (Blackwell 1885).

In 1876 Julia Bowen, with Mrs. D. E. Pease, became the first women to serve on the Richland Center school board, defining this area as a part of the woman's sphere. She served for several years in this capacity (Rausch 1988, 119). Because of the strength of her character, and her higher education, Julia Bowen became a leading

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Bowen, Julia and Fred, House
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light among the older generation of workers for women's rights and welfare. Setting the standards at the first meeting of the Woman's Club, she contributed greatly by formulating strategy and tactics. An anecdote from an incident in her life points to the quality of this woman. "The first president of the Woman's Club, Julia Bowen, had donated a necklace to the Wisconsin Woman's Suffrage Association, given to her by her husband, who was displeased to discover it gone. As descendants recalled, 'he would have given her whatever amount of money she wanted for the cause, but she felt asking and receiving was not a sacrifice for suffrage'" (McBride 1993, 132.).

Historian Janice Steinschneider observed of Wisconsin club women's work, "Wisconsin women together found their public voice through the good works accomplished in the club movement, before they found the vote" (McBride 1993, 165). In Richland Center, those early women, who perceived the merits of working for the common good, were keenly aware of their local women's needs. They gave employment to women, cared for the destitute, monitored the care of incarcerated women, arranged and often paid for funerals, set up a farmer's market, lobbied for and acquired a library, and later were responsible for the turn of the century temperance campaign that made Richland Center legally dry.

Such achievements directly reflected the virtues of the Richland Center women's leaders. Preeminent among them was Julia Busby Bowen, who during the perils of her Civil War experience, had the high-mindedness and discipline to produce a collection of creditable oil paintings that hung in her fine home and are now in the possession of her heirs. Her decade-long leadership of the Richland Center Woman's Club resulted in great strides in networking with other women's groups throughout the state and the nation. The Wisconsin State Journal, May 6, 1928, commends them, "Perhaps in no other line has the discipline of membership in the women's club been so helpful as in the fact that it has taught its members to disagree if they must, but to do so without rancor or personalities." The Richland Center Woman's Club excelled in fund-raising, in getting publicity through the press, and in working behind the scenes. "The second generation of suffragists was watching and learning from the first's heritage of reform. The means by which women handed down strategies and tactics through the generations is best exemplified by the suffrage dynasty founded in Richland Center" (McBride 1993, 132-133).

The home of Julia Bowen is perhaps the most excellent extant example of a property associated with a prominent suffragette in Richland Center. For example, the white, wood frame Greek Revival home of the suffragette Laura James, Julia's contemporary, has been vastly remodeled. During the 1940s, Laura's daughter Ada, the leading force in women's suffrage of the next generation, converted the second story into an apartment unit, altering the roofline and the second story fenestration. The house is presently comprised of four apartment units.

Social History

The Julia and Fred Bowen House is locally important to the social history of Richland Center for its direct association with the most historically important 19th century suffragist, Julia Bowen. Her significance as a social reformer may be gauged from her long tenure as leader of one of the most active and accomplished of Wisconsin's suffragist organizations and for her broader role in local reform issues such as educational improvement and temperance. Her economic and social stature in the community are reflected in her home, which also served as an important meeting place for the Woman's Club. Her home helps to illustrate the wealth and privilege of women such as Julia Bowen, who used her status to promote progressive causes that served all classes of people and ushered in an unprecedented era of social and political reform.

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Bowen, Julia and Fred, House
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Bowen, Julia and Fred, House
Richland Center, Richland Co., WI

Verbal Boundary Description:

Schoolcraft Subdivision, Block 95, Lots 7 and 8.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property consists of the entire lots that have been historically associated with the property.

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Bowen, Julia and Fred, House
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Section Photos Page 1

Photographic Documentation

Name: Bowen, Julia and Fred House

Location: Richland Center, Richland County, Wisconsin

Photographers: Jill Haycock and Jessica Moore

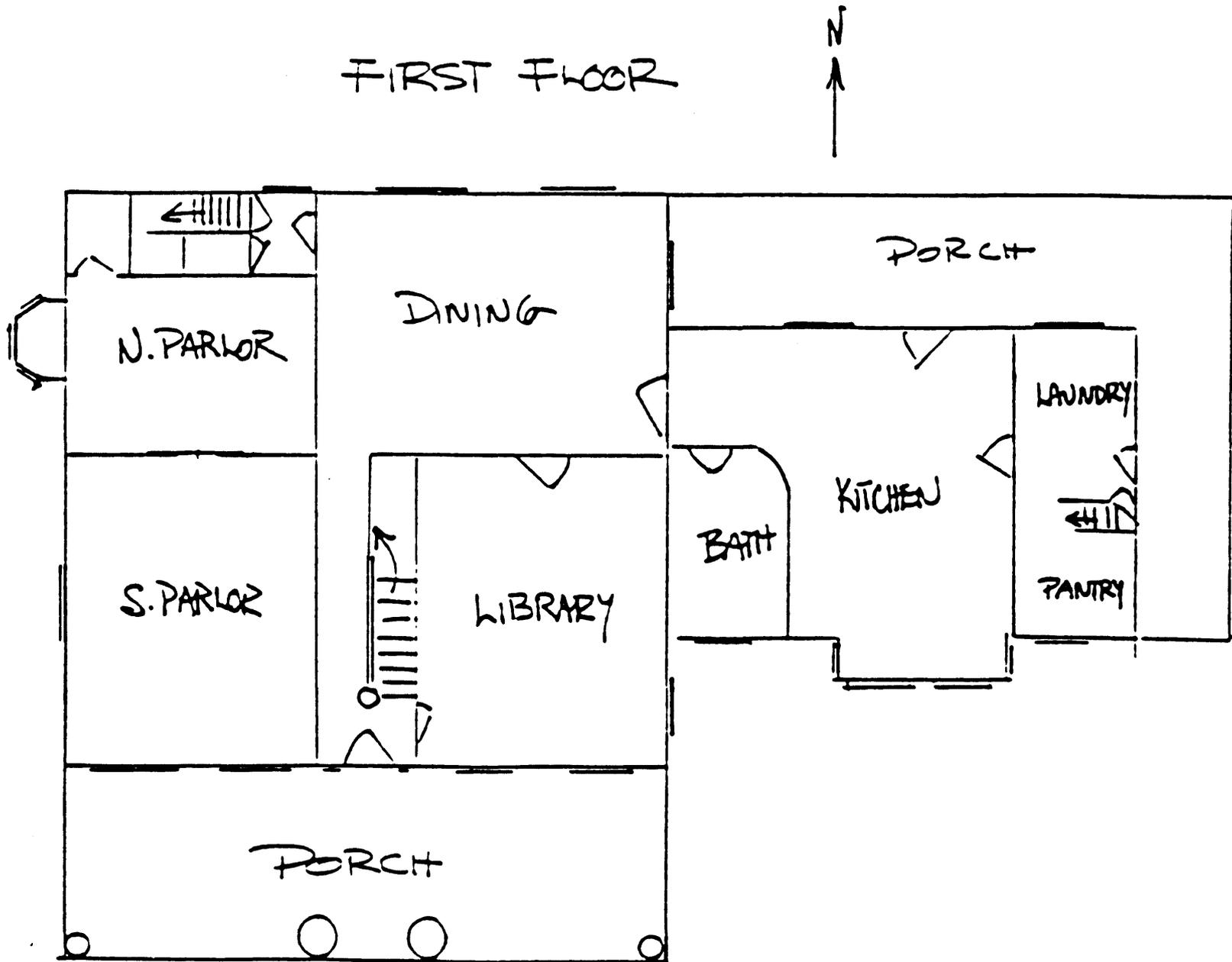
Date: February, 1995

Location of negatives: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison

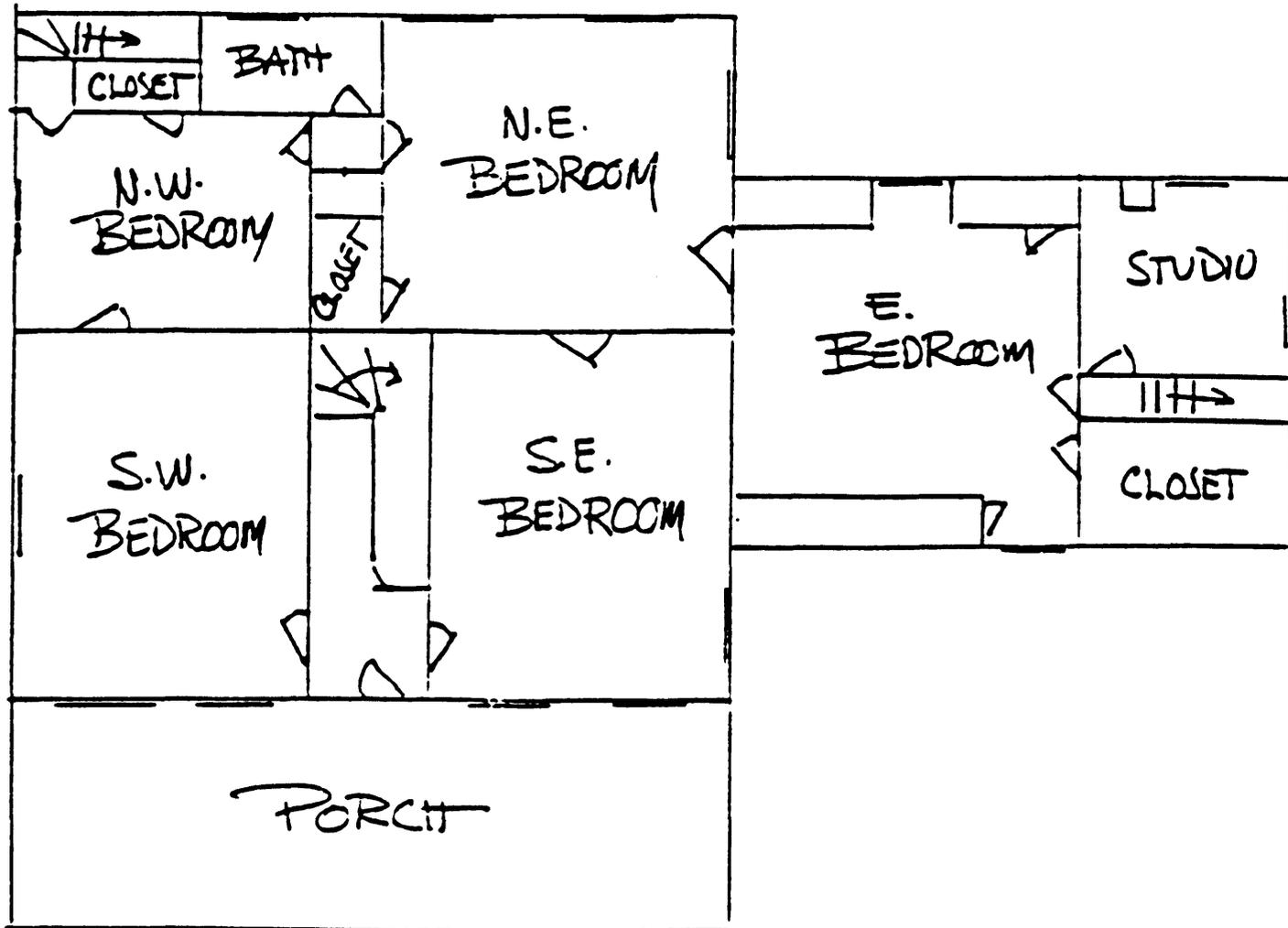
Identification:

1. South facade of the main block and kitchen wing addition, facing north.
2. South and west facades of the main block, facing northeast.
3. West facade of the main block, facing east.
4. South facade of the kitchen wing addition, facing north.
5. North facade of the main block, north and east facades of the kitchen wing addition, facing southwest.
6. Main staircase, located in the front hallway of the main block, facing north.
7. South and west facades of the garage, facing northeast.

Bowen, Fred and Julia House
Richland Center, Richland Co., WI
Floor Plan



SECOND FLOOR



Bowen, Fred and Julia House
Richland Center, Richland Co., WI
Floor Plan