

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

DEC 02 1988 NATIONAL REGISTER NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16).

1. Name of Property

historic name Dowe Historic District other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 320 Washington Ave., 334 Washington Ave., 114-116 S. NA not for publication city, town Montgomery Hull St. vicinity state Alabama code AL county Montgomery code 101 zip code 36106

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private (checked), public-local, public-State, public-Federal. Category of Property: building(s), district (checked), site, structure, object. Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 4, Noncontributing 1 buildings, 1 Total.

Name of related multiple property listing: 0. Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0.

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 the National Register criteria. Signature of certifying official: Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office). Date: 11-29-88.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of commenting or other official. Date. State or Federal agency and bureau.

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is: entered in the National Register. (checked) See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register. () See continuation sheet. determined not eligible for the National Register. removed from the National Register. other, (explain:). Signature of the Keeper: Entered in the National Register 12/29/88. Date of Action.

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
 domestic - single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
 domestic - single dwelling

domestic - multiple dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Victorian

Queen Anne

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls clapboard

roof asphalt shingles

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Dowe Historic District consists of a Queen Anne house built in 1885 at 320 Washington Avenue, a Greek Revival house at 334 Washington Avenue built c.1863, and a Victorian house built in 1890 at 114-116 S. Hull St. The buildings lie on lots 24, 25, 26, and 9 on the original plat map of New Philadelphia, which is now Montgomery.

The Greek Revival house at 334 Washington Avenue was completed c. 1863. Construction was done by local labor under the supervision of an architect whose name is not known. Originally the house was in the Italianate style with exterior curved stairs in the front which led to the second floor main entrance. The upstairs featured the formal entertaining rooms, and bedrooms were downstairs. An interior kitchen was built on the first floor making this house one of the first with an interior kitchen. The house also has an interior root cellar and is one of the first in Montgomery to have running water.

The house is built against a hill making the rear of the house below ground. The first floor is constructed of double brick walls which slope outward on the rear to provide support against the earth.

A cistern in the backyard, at the second story level, collected winter rain water for the summer. The rain water was caught and filtered through a sandbox into the cistern. The pump still marks the spot of the cistern. A well with running water was located in the rear of the first floor near the kitchen so it could be reached without having to go outside. The well has since been covered up. The house also provided water for its one interior bathroom. The water for the bathtub was caught in a huge wooden barrel located outside just below the eaves of the house. The water was carried through a pipe on the outside of the house into the bathtub. Other water was heated on the stove and added to the cold water for bathing. The water drained out another tube which emptied into the backyard. Although now covered, the places where the pipes carried the water into and from the bathroom can still be seen.

The wooden exterior staircase began to rot and was torn down and replaced with a two-story pedimented portico supported by four ionic columns in 1908, changing the design from Italianate to Greek Revival. The Dowe family updated the facade of their house to reflect the Neoclassical movement. In 1950 the second level was removed except for a small landing outside the central door. The ionic columns still support the pedimented roof.

Prior to the construction of the other family homes, the garden and orchard were on lot 24. The stables were located on lot 9.

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

The house to the west of 334 Washington Avenue, 320 Washington Avenue, was built by Johanna Dowe after the death of her husband, John Dowe. It was constructed on land used as a fruit and vegetable garden for 324 Washington Avenue. She intended the house to be a more spacious residence for her family. The Queen Anne house with a mock mansard roof was completed in 1885 by architect/builder T.C. Powers. The Montgomery Advertiser covered the construction of the house which they called an "ornament to the city" in the latest style. An open house after the completion allowed many Montgomerians to view the "finest residence in the city....a revolution in architecture and workmanship in Montgomery." The paper continued to state the house was the "first to mark the beginning of new building trends as Montgomery emerged from the constraints of the Reconstruction Period."

In 1936 the house was converted into four apartments. Around 1951 a portion of the front porch was enclosed to make additional room for the apartments. In 1959 the cupola was removed.

The house at 114-116 South Hull Street was built by John and Margaret Dwen Dowe, son and daughter-in-law of John and Johanna Dowe. Johanna deeded the lot to John, Jr., in 1890. The stable and carriage house for 334 Washington had formerly been located on the lot. The Victorian house was completed within a year after that date and occupied by John and Margaret and her parents, Hugh and Mary Dwen. In 1898 the Dwens and Doves moved to Anniston, Alabama, where they lived for five years. John Dowe, Jr., and his wife returned to Montgomery after the death of his mother and moved into 334 Washington. Since that time, 114-116 South Hull Street has been used as rental property. In 1939 the house was converted into two apartments.

The houses are connected by paths and brick or concrete walkways with railings. The property lines between the houses are defined only by a brick driveway between lots 26 and 9, and foilage between lots 26 and 25. The original purpose of family ownership and inhabitation is evident in the landscape. Houses on lots 26 and 25 share a rod iron fence which runs along Washington Avenue in front of both houses and down S. Hull Street beside lot 26.

Contributing Buildings (4)

334 Washington Ave.: The two-story, hipped roof, and five bay wide Greek Revival building was built c.1863. The first story is masonry and the second story clapboard. The house is built against the side of a hill making the first story of the south elevation, or rear, underground.

The facade has a pedimented portico supported by four ionic fluted columns. Ionic pilasters are on the sides of the facade. A second-story landing suspended between two innermost pillars, outside the central door, has a rod iron railing. The portico was originally two story. The second-story porch was removed in 1950.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

The facade originally had twin flights of curving steps to the second-story door with a cast iron balustrade. This treatment was removed in 1908 and replaced with the two-story portico.

Changing the facade treatment also changed the interior use of space. The original twin flights of steps led to the second-story formal entertaining rooms. The house has a central hall plan with two rooms on either side of the hall. The front rooms on the second story have detailed mantels and molding. The formal rooms were moved to the first story when the pedimented portico was added to the facade.

The portico has a bracketed pediment and raking cornice. The pediment features an elliptical light.

The double-hung windows are in their original sash. The first- and second-story doors have transoms and sidelights. The second-story transom and sidelights are filled with art glass. The original shutters and iron latches are on the building.

The east and west elevations are four bays wide with a bracketed cornice. A small greenhouse is attached to the west elevation.

On the south elevation, or rear, only the second story is above ground. An enclosed recessed porch features a banister and lattice work. Two windows of the original rear, before the porch addition, are in their original sash with shutters. A single flight of stairs leads down to a first-story entrance where the door has glass panels and a transom.

A garage and two-bay wide shed are on the rear. The pipe marks which provided water into the house appear on this rear elevation.

114-116 S. Hull Street: Two-story, clapboarded building with gable roof, brick foundation, and four chimneys. Facade has grouped and single 2/2 double-hung windows in their original sash. A projecting gable on the south side of the facade features a blind arcade with bracketing. Original front door is flanked by ornate pillars and has art glass transom. Porch on front of house features ornate mill work, pediment over entrance, and balustrade. The north and south elevations, sides, feature a two-bay wide projecting gable. Windows are a mixture of 2/2 and 6/6. The gables are covered with shaloped shingles, and have closed eyebrow windows and decorative trusses.

Three later additions project from the rear of the building. They include a shed addition on the first floor and smaller shed addition above on the second floor. There is also a one-story, one-bay wide addition with a chimney on the middle of the rear.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 3

320 Washington Avenue: Two-story, clapboard building with closed brick foundation. The Queen Anne style house features a mock mansard roof on a projecting bay on the west side of the facade. This section has a rounded dormer window. Raking cornice features brackets and dentils. The full-length porch, now enclosed on the east side, features dentils along the cornice and shamrock motifs below. The porch is supported by ornate columns flanked by lace-like brackets with a simple railing balustrade. The original front door is flanked by ornate pilasters and topped with a cornice. The door is surmounted by an art glass transom. The double-hung windows in their original sash are a mixture of 2/2 and 4/4.

The east elevation, which faces 320 Washington Avenue, has a two-bay wide projecting gable. The gable features a shamrock motif and the cornice is bracketed. The five-bay wide elevation features 2/2 double-hung windows in their original sash. The west elevation is identical to the east with a projecting bay. The cornice is bracketing along the bay, but not the entire length of the elevation.

The rear, south, of the buiding is five bays wide with a projecting ell on the west side. A porch extends from the ell to the end of the facade. The porch features stick style motifs with finials. The cornice is bracketed up to the ell extension. The doors are panelled with transoms. The double-hung windows are in their original sash and are a mixture of 2/2 and 4/4.

Outbuilding: A small two-bay wide detached outbuilding with a hipped roof is on the southwest corner of 334 Washington Avenue. The clapboarded building has two panelled doors with porcelain knobs on the south elevation.

Noncontributing (1)

A small clapboarded carport with a gable roof behind 334 Washington Avenue

Buildings in the district are categorized as follows:

Contributing	4
Noncontributing	1
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total	5

Integrity

All three houses maintain the architectural elements which define their distinctive styles. The interior elements are intact despite the subdivision of two houses into apartments. The houses also maintain their integrity of siting and are three of the few formal style houses still standing in downtown Montgomery.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1863 to 1890

Significant Dates

c. 1863
1885
1890

Cultural Affiliation

None

Significant Person

None

Architect/Builder

T. C. Powers, 324 Washington Ave.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Criterion C - Architecture

The Dowe Historic District is significant as a fine collection of three formal architectural styles in Montgomery. The houses reflect one family's interpretation of changing architectural styles in Montgomery--Italianate, Greek Revival, Queen Anne, and Victorian. The continuous family ownership of the homes is reflected in the paths and landscaping which connect the houses.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Spaces and Places: Views of Montgomery's Built Environment. Montgomery: Mtg. Museum of Fine Arts, 1978.
Montgomery City Directory. 1859-60, 1866, 1873, 1887.
Oral Interview. John Dowe, May 1988.

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property approx. 1 acre

UTM References

A

1	6
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5	6	5	4	8	0
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3	5	8	2	1	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 24, 25, and 26 on the south side of Washington Avenue, and lot 9 on the west side of South Hull Street, otherwise known respectively as 320 and 334 Washington Avenue, and 114-116 S. Hull Street, all in Montgomery, Alabama.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The Dowe Historic District contains the houses and lots owned and constructed by members of the Dowe family.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Mason Shell/Cultural Resources Coordinator
organization Alabama Historical Commission date August 1988
street & number 725 Monroe Street telephone 205 261-3184
city or town Montgomery state Alabama zip code 36130

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1Historical Summary

John Dowe immigrated from Ireland and owned an established grocery and confectionary store in Montgomery. He is listed in the 1859, 1866, and 1873 city directories as a grocer and baker. On May 29, 1851, he married Johanna Dover, also from Ireland. On February 15, 1862, John Dowe bought lots 24, 25, 26, and 9 from the estate of Edmund H. Grant. Construction on the house began in 1862, and the house was completed by 1863. John and Johanna's fourth son, James, was the first child born in the house in 1864.

John's business thrived and his son John, II, worked with him. John, Sr., died on June 27, 1877; and his son, John, took charge of the family business. Johanna began construction of a new house on lot 26 to provide more room for the family. The construction of the house by T.C. Powers was followed closely by the Montgomery paper. The 1885 Montgomery Advertiser contains many updates on the house's progress.

After the completion of the house, disaster struck the Dowe household. Mrs. Dowe's son, Joseph Quinlin, was drowned in Mortar Creek on June 18, 1889. This tragedy caused Johanna not to move so the house was rented. On January 14, 1891, Mrs. Dowe's youngest son, Flurrence Pellicier, died of diphtheria in Auburn, Alabama, where he was a student at Alabama Polytechnic Institute. With this additional loss, Mrs. Dowe never moved into the house at 320 Washington Ave. The house has stayed in the possession of the Dowe family, but no family members have ever occupied the premises.

In June 1890, Johanna deeded her son, John Dowe, II, lot 9 behind the family house. John, II, and his wife, Margaret built a large Victorian house. Margaret's parents, Hugh and Mary Dwen, moved into the house also. They were Irish immigrants from Athy, Ireland, Kildare County. He died in the house he shared with his daughter and son-in-law in 1896. John, Margaret, and Mary moved to Anniston in 1898 where he established a grocery/confectionary store. In 1903 they returned to Montgomery, opened a grocery/confectionary, and moved into the family house at 334 Washington. Mary Dwen died at the house in 1915. 114-116 Hull Street became rental property when John and Margaret Dowe moved to Anniston. It has remained rental property in Dowe ownership since that time.

The landscaping around the houses and family ownership define the Dowe district. Although Doves never lived in 320 Washington Ave., the house has continued to be owned by the Doves and used as an income source. The house at 114-116 S. Hull St. was occupied by Doves for only eight years. However, the original builder, John Dowe, II, moved into 324 Washington Ave. and continued to care for and earn money from the house. The family houses adjacent to 324 Washington Ave. have been under the care of and income-producing properties for the Dowe family for almost 100 years.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

photo-
Section number graphs Page 1

Information in items 2-5 is the same for nos. 1-14

No. 1

- 1) 114-116 S. Hull St., Dowe Historic District
- 2) Montgomery, Alabama
- 3) Mary Mason Shell
- 4) September 1988
- 5) Alabama Historical Commission
- 6) Facing northwest
facade and south elevation

No. 2

- 1) 114-116 S. Hull St., Dowe Historic District
- 6) Facing southwest
facade and north elevation

No. 3

- 1) 114-116 S. Hull St., Dowe Historic District
- 6) Facing east
detail of transom on interior

No. 4

- 1) 114-116 S. Hull St., Dowe Historic District
- 6) Facing east
rear of building

No. 5

- 1) 320 Washington Ave., Dowe Historic District
- 6) Facing south
facade

No. 6

- 1) 320 Washington Ave., Dowe Historic District
- 6) Facing west
detail of east elevation

No. 7

- 1) 320 Washington Ave., Dowe Historic District
- 6) Facing northwest
rear and east elevation

No. 8

- 1) 320 Washington Ave., Dowe Historic District
- 6) Facing south
facade entrance

No. 9

- 1) 334 Washington Ave., Dowe Historic District
- 6) Facing south
facade of building

No. 10

- 1) 334 Washington Ave., Dowe Historic District
- 6) Facing south
facade entrance

No. 11

- 1) 334 Washington Ave., Dowe Historic District
- 6) Facing west - outbuilding

No. 12

- 1) 334 Washington Ave., Dowe Historic District
- 6) Facing east
west side and attached greenhouse

No. 13

- 1) 334 Washington Ave., Dowe Historic District
- 6) Facing west - garage

No. 14

- 1) 334 Washington Ave., Dowe Historic District
- 6) West
east side of building

No. 15

- 1) 334 Washington Ave. Dowe Historic District
- 2) Montgomery, Alabama
- 3) Unknown
- 4) c. 1890
- 5) Unknown
- 6) South - facade with bowlegged staircase

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number photo-
graphs Page 2

No. 16

- 1) 334 Washington Avenue, Dowe Historic District
- 2) Montgomery, Alabama
- 3) Unknown
- 4) c. 1942
- 5) Unknown
- 6) South facade with full second-story porch

6" W. PIPE

GRAVELED

McDonough Street

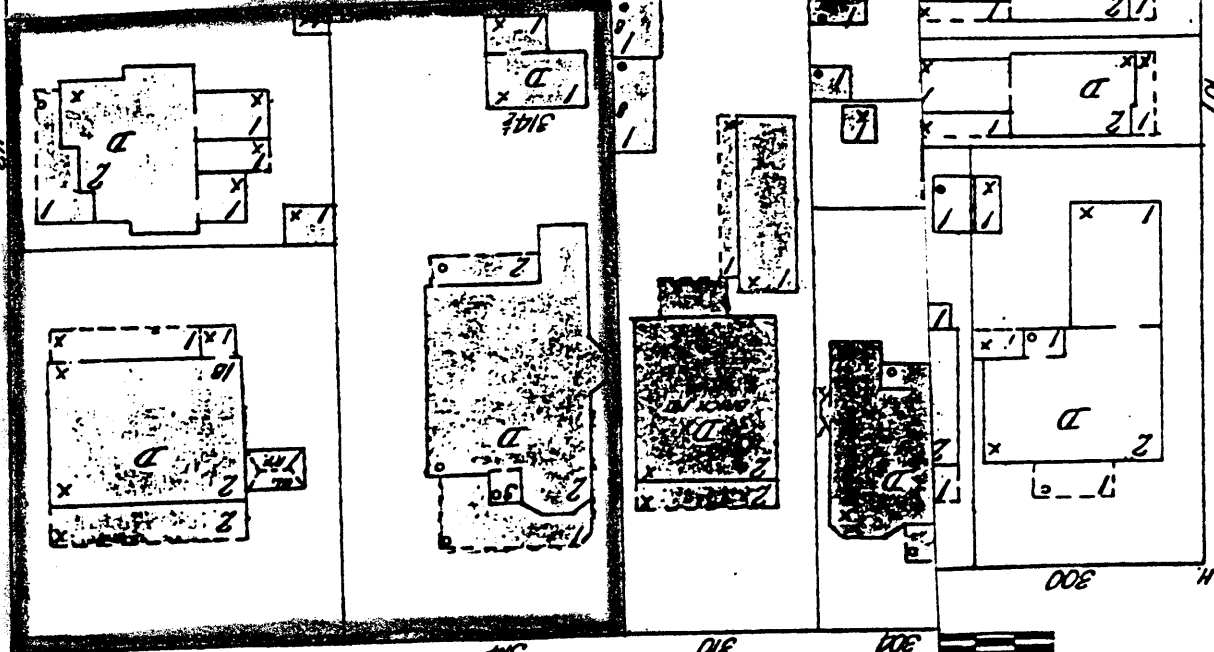
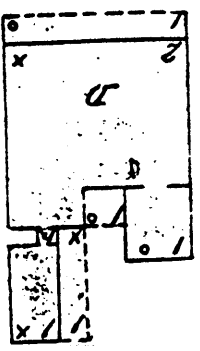
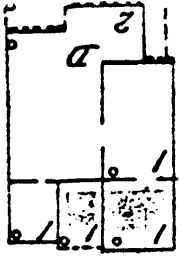
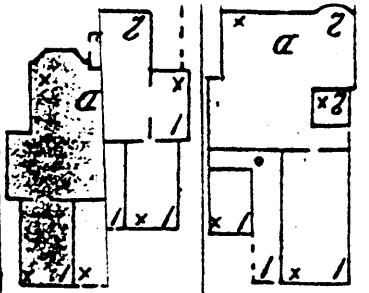
109
107

300

C.H.

90' = BRICK PAVED

301



6

Washington Ave.

318

319

310

301

N. Hull Street

ASPHALT PAVED

6" W. PIPE

D.H.

73'

6" W. PIPE

6" W. PIPE

218

Scale of Feet. 0 50 100 150



Dowe Historic District
Montgomery, Alabama
copied from Sanborn Insurance Maps
UTM: 16 565480 3582100
Zone Easting Northing