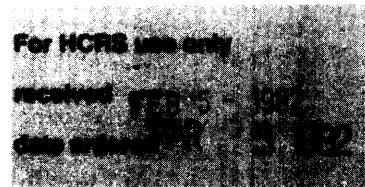


United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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 Bowers, John S., House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 104 Marshall St. _____ not for publication

city, town Decatur vicinity of _____ congressional district Tenth

state Indiana code 018 county Adams code 001

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
site			<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Joseph R. and Joanna S. Stanley

street & number 104 Marshall

city, town Decatur **_____ vicinity of** **state** Indiana **46733**

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Adams County Courthouse

street & number **Second Street**

city, town Decatur **state** Indiana

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

city, town _____ **state** _____

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The John S. Bowers House is a two and one-half story frame structure covered with poplar siding, built in the Queen Anne style. Constructed between 1900 and 1905, the house is located on a 6.25 acre site within the Decatur, Indiana, city limits. The central, hip-roofed, rectangular section has several attached wings which creates the irregularity of floor plan and massing, characteristic of the Queen Anne style.

Steps lead to the rear porch as well as the front porch entrance. The rear, front and side porches are supported by limestone and brick piers with limestone coping. The piers are connected by lattice-work at the base of the porch and wooden balustrades on the upper level. Tuscan Order columns rest on the coping and support the porch roof which is covered with slate of alternating patterns. The 80' front porch wraps around the entire front half of the house. The main entrance is accented by a pedimented gable roof with a sunburst design over the corner steps.

From the porch roof behind the sunburst pediment rises a two story, polygonal turret which is attached to the southwest corner of the central rectangle of the house. Three windows on each story of the turret are one-over-one, doublehung sash. The turret is covered by a polygonal slate tent roof, topped by a finial.

The rectangular central portion of the house has a second story window on the west side with a semi-circular platform at its base, covered with wood shingles. The window is one-over-one doublehung sash. Above this, a steeply pitched dormer is placed in the hipped slate roof.

A gabled wing between the large front porch and the small rear porch is attached to the west side of the main section. Its limestone foundation is penetrated by two basement windows which flank the cellar door. Decorative wood panels separate the cellar door from the large first story picture window above. The window has a wooden sill, wooden surrounds, and a straight wooden window cornice. The second story window consists of three doublehung sashes separated by wooden mullions.

Above this window is a cornice, which continues around the rest of the building above the second story level. The gable end of this wing contains a third story bay window of three doublehung sashes. The gable end, or pediment, is covered with wood shingles of alternating patterns. From the apex of the gable down to the top of the bay windows is a surface covered with wooden shingles, which curves out to form a shelter over the window.

A similar wing projects from the south side of the house, its lower story sheltered by the porch. A one and one-half story porch wing is attached to the rear (north). The rear porch shelters another cellar door.

The original color of the house is unknown, but during the 1930s it was painted white. In 1972-3 a grey stain with ebony trim was applied to all but the south and west elevations.

The house features two basements, one with nine foot ceilings.

Other highlights of the house include four stained glass windows imported from Italy and a lead crystal window imported from Germany. A dumb waiter travels from the first floor to the main basement. The house contains two gas fireplaces, an open stairway, and three oak paneled sliding doors, as well as nine-inch baseboards.

With the exception of an outhouse, the house is the only building standing on the property, although at one time there were also a barn and a carriage house.

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/				
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian				
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation				
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)				

Specific dates 1900–1905

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The John S. Bowers House is historically significant because it was built by a prosperous local businessman of the late nineteenth century. At various times, Bowers had interests in a local bank, hardware store, telephone company, stone quarry, and machine manufacturing company. Extremely successful, he built the Queen Anne style house as a symbol of this prominence. Constructed between 1900 and 1905, the house features several stained glass windows imported from Italy, and a leaded crystal window imported from Germany. The building is beautifully crafted and its quality, style, and magnificent size add to its architectural significance.

The career of John S. Bowers began in the hardware business in partnership with Barney John Terveer, Decatur's leading hardware merchant. The partnership of Terveer & Bowers lasted until 1881. Afterward, Bowers owned and operated a stone quarry in partnership with a man named Rice. Bowers is perhaps best remembered in the county as a successful quarry owner. In 1888, the Rice & Bowers Stone Quarry began crushing stones for road surfacing. Gravel roads were an important political topic that year because of the need for a special tax to pay for the work of surfacing several county roads. Bowers worked hard to have the special tax passed. Although he was successful, most of the subsequent orders for gravel went to Ohio quarries.

After the turn of the century, Bower's wealth and prominence allowed him to expand his field of endeavor. For example, he served as a director of the oldest banking corporation in Adams County, the Niblick and Nutman Bank. At the same time he was president of the Citizens' Telephone Company, organized in Decatur in 1894. Bowers also expanded his own business holdings: in 1909, he and several associates incorporated the Decatur Foundry Furnace and Machine Company.

Bowers bought the site for the house now nominated in June, 1894, and began construction six years later. In common with other successful men of the period, Bowers constructed the house in the ornate Queen Anne style. Bowers' quarry provided the stone used for construction, and he also traded stone for the lumber required by the house. The house took two years to build, and another two years passed before the entire family occupied the home. The house remained in the Bowers family until 1971.

The house is also remarkable for its siting, on such a large parcel within the city.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Biographical and Historical Record of Adams and Wells Counties, Indiana. Chicago, The Lewis Publishing Co. 1887

Interviews with Esther Bowers, one of the surviving daughters of John S. Bowers, conducted March, 1976.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 6.25 acres

Quadrangle name Decatur, Indiana

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	1 6	6 7 5 0 4 0	4 5 2 2 2 3 0
Zone	Easting	Northing	

C
E
G

B							
Zone	Easting	Northing					

D
F
H

Verbal boundary description and justification The west line runs from Marshall Street 206' north, then 23' east, 146' north, 10' east, 76' north, then 252' east to the west bank of the St. Mary's River, then southeasterly along the St. Marys to Marshall Street, then 810' west to the starting point.

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Joseph R. Stanley
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organization		date	September 13, 1979
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street & number	104 Marshall	telephone	219/724-9813 or 724-7121
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city or town	Decatur	state	Indiana
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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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title	State Historic Preservation Officer	date	1-26-82
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For HCRS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service****National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet**Bowers House****Item number** 9, Bib. Refs.**Page** 1

Snow, J. F., Snow's History of Adams County, Indiana, Indianapolis. B. F. Bowen & Co., 1907

Tyndall, John W., and O. E. Lesh, eds., Standard History of Adams and Wells Counties, Indiana, 2 volumes. Chicago. The Lewis Publishing Co., 1918