

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 15 1979
DATE ENTERED	JUL 10 1979

**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 Dowling House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
321 South Main Street

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Lawrenceburg

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

02

STATE

Kentucky

__ VICINITY OF

CODE
021

COUNTY

Anderson

CODE

005

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: new owners have not moved in

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Dr. and Mrs. William P. McElwain

STREET & NUMBER
Scholfield Lane

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Anderson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Lawrenceburg

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Dowling House is located on Main Street in Lawrenceburg, Kentucky, just south of the downtown area of this small community of approximately 3500. Lawrenceburg, approximately 15 miles south of the state capitol at Frankfort, is the seat of government for rural Anderson County situated in the western section of the Bluegrass.

Facing westward, the Dowling House is an imposing 2 1/2-story brick residence constructed in 1886 (see photo 1). The central pavilion is the most notable feature of the facade. Three stories tall, the pavilion contains the main entrance and paired windows on the second and third stories. Brick quoins accentuate the pavilion which is capped by a mansard roof with concave profile. The cornice reveals dentils and paired brackets. Several rows of corbelling encircle the pavilion beneath the brackets, and medallions are interspersed between the brackets above the corbelling. The same cornice treatment is given the main block of the house. To the right of the pavilion is a gabled section of roof containing a round arch window. Windows on the first and second floors are single-pane with bracketed cornice heads. The half-hipped dormers are a 1915 addition. Panelled chimneys with corbelling dominate the roofline. A one-story porch and port-cochere were also added in 1915.

The large, two-story porch on the rear was enclosed on the first floor, and a one-story brick wing was appended to it after 1930 (see photo 2).

The interior has been maintained in excellent condition. The wide central hall contains a broad flight of stairs and a heavy square newel enriched with colonnettes. A large arch window lights the landing. Two rooms flank the hall on each side, and like the hall, they contain attractive panelled wainscoting, crown molding, and panelled door jambs.

On the south side, sliding doors connect the front parlor and the dining room. The dining room contains a projecting bay on the south and a small, stained glass window in the east wall (see photo 3). Fireplaces throughout the house consist of small rectangular openings covered by ornate grates. The mantels are marbelized, and many display gold stencilling and incised designs (see photo 4). The front door retains the original bevelled glass, and at the rear of the hall is the original back entrance which now opens into the enclosed porch area. The complete door enframingent including stained glass sidelights and panelled, oval aprons remains (see photo 5).

An attractive wrought iron fence borders the sidewalk in front of the house, while a semi-circular drive surrounds the house on the north, east, and south. A carriage house, contemporary with the Dowling House, is located at the northeast corner of the lot.

The nominated property (1.12 acres) encompasses the house, carriage house, and lot presently under single ownership.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1886

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Dowling House, built in 1886, was the home of John Dowling, who figured prominently in the distilling industry of Anderson County. By 1825, Lawrenceburg had become one of the state's six major centers in the production of whiskey along with Louisville, Lexington, Bardstown, Frankfort, and Harrodsburg, and this industry has remained an integral factor in the economy of Anderson County. Under John Dowling's ownership and supervision, three brands of Anderson County bourbon achieved national reknown. Although the Dowling family is no longer involved in the distilling business, whiskey is still produced under the Dowling label in Lawrenceburg. Also, in addition to its historical associations, the Dowling House is one of Lawrenceburg's more outstanding late nineteenth century residences.

At the age of twelve, John Dowling and his brother came to America from Ireland as a result of the potato famine of the 1840s. In 1872, he moved to Lawrenceburg, Kentucky, and established a cooper shop. In partnership with T. P. Ripy, also of Lawrenceburg, Dowling operated a distillery in Clover Bottom at Tyrone, three miles east of Lawrenceburg. He later sold his interests to Ripy and bought the Waterfill and Frazier plant, also at Tyrone. After his death in 1902, his wife Mary M. Dowling continued the operation of the Waterfill and Frazier distillery, moving the plant to Juarez, Mexico during Prohibition. Waterfill and Frazier is still being produced at Juarez. Dowling's third enterprise was the purchase of the Walker distillery near Lawrenceburg, and at this plant whiskey was produced under the label Old Dowling. Old Dowling is still manufactured near Lawrenceburg. Mary M. Dowling continued the family business until her death in 1925, and the Dowling family retained stock in the distillery until ten years ago.

Architecturally, the Dowling House is one of the highlights along South Main Street, being situated within two blocks of the courthouse, at the point where the commercial district fades into Lawrenceburg's residential area. The Dowling House is among the finer remaining examples of late nineteenth century Italianate and Queen Anne residences that once lined the street.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

McKee, Lewis W., and Lydia K. Bond. A History of Anderson County. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1975.

Wilkie, H. F. Beverage Spirits in America--A Brief History. The Hewcomen Society of England, American Branch, 1947.

Information provided by Mrs. John P. Stewart, Frankfort, Kentucky, January 1979.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.12 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Lawrenceburg

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A

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6	8	4	8	10	10
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A lot located at 321 South Main Street comprising 1.12 acres (no city plat map exists to identify lots by number or letter).

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Charlotte Schneider, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Kentucky Heritage Commission

April 1979

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

104 Bridge Street

502/564-3741

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Frankfort

Kentucky

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

Donna C. Hopkins

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

5-10-79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

7-10-79

ATTEST:

John A. Gilmore

DATE

7/6/79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET Dowling House ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

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TITLE

DATE

__ FEDERAL __ STATE __ COUNTY __ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

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CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
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QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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John A. Gilmore

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