

MAR 27 2002

United States Department of the 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 Bowman, James W., and Ida G., House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number 1372 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue N/A  not for publication

city or town Marion N/A  vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Linn code 113 zip code 52302

### 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

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 or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Bowman House  
Name of Property

Linn County, Iowa  
County and State

**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 previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2	0	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)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling/residence

DOMESTIC/secondary structure/garage

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling/residence

DOMESTIC/secondary structure/garage

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19th and 20th CENTURY MOVEMENTS/  
Bungalow/Craftsman  
Prairie School

foundation STONE

walls WOOD/Weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

Property is:

- 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 or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1909

**Significant Dates**

1909

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

Dieman and Fiske

Wilson, Charles I.

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Bowman House  
Name of Property

Linn County, Iowa  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acres of Property less than 1 acre

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 [1]5 [6]1[6]3[4]6 [4]6[5]4[3]0[6]      2 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing  
3 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]      4 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
[ ] 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 Leah D. Rogers/Consultant, with research conducted by Richard Noska and John Bennington

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date March 24, 2002

street & number 217 NW 5<sup>th</sup> Street telephone 319-895-8330

city or town Mt. Vernon state IA zip code 52314

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the complete form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name John Bennington and Richard Noska

street & number 1372 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue telephone 319-377-2427

city or town Marion state IA zip code 52302

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

**Bowman House**  
**Linn County, Iowa**

## Narrative Description

The James W. Bowman House is located at 1372 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Marion, Linn County, Iowa, at the northwest corner of the intersection of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 14<sup>th</sup> Street. The house faces south fronting 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, which was the fashionable and wealthy avenue on which to live in Marion in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This neighborhood was known locally as "Pucker Street," reportedly for the superior attitude of some of its upper class residents. The Pucker Street Historic District, of which the Bowman House is a contributing building, is also being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. In addition to the house, the Bowman property includes a small, one-stall early twentieth century garage built in a style to complement the style of the house and is considered a contributing building to the nominated property. The house is built on a slight rise, with the yard sloping to the south and east. Concrete sidewalks line the east and south sides of the yard, with concrete steps leading up to the front porch. Additional concrete sidewalks curve around from the front and rear to the west-side door and from the garage to the rear porch and back door.

The house is large, two-story foursquare showing design influence from the Prairie School and Craftsman styles of architecture. It has a broad hip roof with lower cross-gabled and hipped ells, most of which form bay windows and include a two-story bay on the east side, a second-floor bay window over the front entry, and a rectangular cantilevered bay window on the west side. The rear, two-story ell has a hipped roof and a screened-in sleeping porch on the second floor. Overall, the roof has wide overhanging eaves with exposed rafter ends typical of the Craftsman style of architecture. The essentially square massing and the horizontal emphasis of the siding and porch roofline are typical of the Prairie School style of architecture.

The roof was recently re-shingled and, in the process, the original wood shingles were uncovered. These shingles had been hand-dipped in a dark green stain. The metal ridge caps are original and were also recently refurbished and placed back on the roof ridges once the shingling was completed. Around the eaves, U-shaped gutters and downspouts carry the water off the roof.

The foundation is limestone, with brick above the ground surface. The top course of the limestone foundation is visible around the perimeter of the house but is otherwise below ground. The brick portion of the foundation is a dark red vitrified brick and was also used in the chimney construction. The brick has a tinted mortar that complements the color of the brick and minimizes the visible mortar lines. The brick chimney tapers towards the top and is a distinctive feature on the east side of the house.

The wood siding consists of a narrow clapboard siding on the first floor, with a wider-width clapboard on the second floor and a prominent break-line of molding marking the first/second floor break, all of which combine to emphasize the horizontal massing of this four-square.

The open, full-width front porch has massive half-height square posts with decorative medallions and setting on square brick piers. The roofline of the porch actually wraps around both sides of the house. A distinctive and decorative balustrade and porch skirt are notable features of the front porch. Other features of note on the house include the knee-brace brackets under the bay window eaves; the rectangular cantilevered bay window on the west side that marks the staircase landing; the bracketed, slanted drip hoods over the windows; the west-side door that has cut-away corners on both the wood door and the matching screen door to accommodate the slanted ceiling of the interior staircase; and the numerous Arts and Crafts and Craftsman-inspired windows throughout the house.

The windows include typical Craftsman-type multi-pane over single pane double-hungs as well as fixed-pane and single pane windows in smaller openings, but also include, a series of notable Art Glass windows, which are all original. The Art Glass windows are present in the dining room, the staircase landing windows, and the front vestibule and front door windows.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

**Bowman House**  
**Linn County, Iowa**

The house has been little changed, if at all on the exterior, other than maintenance through the years. The current owners also removed the shrubbery from around the foundation that had been planted through the years, restoring the landscape to its 1910s look.

The interior of the house is just as notable as the exterior and features numerous original details as documented by the original design plans for the house. These details include the flooring and woodwork with natural rubbed finishes, with oak downstairs and birch upstairs, with all pine woodwork and flooring in the kitchen and down into the basement; the original Arts and Crafts glass and brass light fixtures; the dramatic wood-paneled staircase and second-floor landing; the use of Art Glass windows on the stairs, vestibule, front door, and dining room to add further drama and decorative lighting to the interior of the home; and the Arts and Crafts fireplace with oak mantelpiece and tile firebox surround and hearth. This is truly a historic interior that has been lovingly refurbished by the current owners to its 1910s look.

The kitchen pantry has an ice door from the rear porch into the pantry to allow for delivery of ice without having entering the house. The icebox was installed in the pantry, with a hole in floor for the ice pan to drain into the basement where it was connected to the main drain system. Interestingly, where the ice door opens out onto the rear porch, there is a small cutout in the siding where the knob would otherwise have hit and continually damaged the siding if the cutout had not been made. The pantry itself has built-in drawers and shelves. While the icebox is no longer in place, the location where it once stood is still discernible in the molding cutouts and the drain in the floor.

The kitchen retains the original cupboards and cabinets, sink, four-circuit fuse box, and rear door with transom window that has the original working hardware. The swinging door between the kitchen and the dining room is pine on the kitchen side and oak on the dining room side. Between the kitchen and the living room is a small vestibule or utility hall that features a closet and the door leading downstairs to the west side door and the basement. The door between this vestibule and the living room features the original beveled mirror.

The dining room features Art Glass windows exhibiting a stylized rose pattern. The central lighting fixture is entirely original, with the fixtures for the single bulb lights surrounding the central fixture also original but the bulbs themselves are antique replacements. The wood beams across the ceiling lack a central beam that was proposed by the architect in the design plans for this house. The central beam was never installed perhaps to accommodate the size of the selected central lighting fixture. The cork paneling around the perimeter of the room is a more recent addition but is compatible with the type of wall coverings and treatments popular in the early twentieth century.

The library is a small room off the north side of the dining room. Of note in this room are the central light fixture with acorn finials and a small bathroom that retains the original sink.

The living room is divided from the dining room by pocket doors and occupies much of the south half of the first floor. The east wall of the living room is distinguished by the fireplace, which has an oak mantelpiece and tile firebox surround. The tiles are green in color with rust-colored flecks. The tiles are American made and marked with "Etruscan" on the back of some of the tiles. There are two different sizes of tile, with the larger square pieces around the firebox and the smaller rectangular tiles used in the hearth. The "Monarch" fireplace insert is the original coal grate and is still functional having been refurbished by the current owners. Originally, the design plans for the house called for two casement windows flanking the fireplace but these windows were never installed. Likewise, the windows in the front bay window were originally planned as Art glass windows, but were never installed. The wood paneled ceiling in the bay window and the two light fixtures are original to the design.

On the west side of the first-floor south half is the vestibule and front entry foyer, which is separated visually from the living room by two distinctive wood columns that flank the vestibule's open entryway. The vestibule and front entry foyer feature have many details of note including the matching Art glass windows in the front door and the vestibule, the tile floor in the foyer, a pocket door with beveled clear glass pane that separates the entry hall from the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 3Bowman House  
Linn County, Iowa

vestibule proper, and the distinctive wood grill and paneling in the vestibule that extends up the main staircase to the second floor landing. The entry foyer tile floor has a pattern of dark green, gray, and buff-orange earth-tone tiles, further reflecting an Arts and Crafts influence.

The second floor is accessed via two staircases; one of which leads up from the kitchen to the landing and the other being the formal main staircase leading up from the living room to the same landing. The tall Art Glass windows on the landing show yet a third design, this one being more reminiscent of an Art Nouveau influence than the other windows, which show a distinct Prairie School influence. The bottom panes of the landing windows are hinged and can be opened, while the upper panes are fixed.

Features of note on the second floor, which houses three bedrooms, a bathroom, and a linen room, include the Art Nouveau door hardware, distinctive light fixtures, and a curved wall on the upper landing. The bathroom features the original sink and oversized tub, textured window glass to provide privacy, and plaster that was scored to resemble brick or tile, although this plaster is no longer exposed.

The linen closet has a built-in linen cupboard but also features coat hooks around the perimeter of the room, which have distinctive heart-shaped hardware. The bedrooms also have coat hooks but those hooks are a plain design. The light fixtures in all three bedrooms are original and matching. In two of the bedrooms gas jets were evident, with only one of the fixtures still in place; however, it is known that the house was wired for electricity when it was built, and it is likely that the gas fixtures saw little actual use.

The sleeping porch or balcony, as it was labeled on the original house plans, is off the north side of the master bedroom. The current owners restored the screens to this porch. The floor of this porch slants to the eave trough for drainage.

The attic is reached by a set of stairs off the second floor landing and was used for storage but was never finished for living space. The basement contained a laundry area, a small vegetable/fruit storage room, and a coal bin but was otherwise used for storage and as a furnace room.

A small, one-stall garage at the rear (north side) of the lot was built by 1925 and was constructed in a style similar to that of the house. This building replaced an older carriage house or horse barn that once sat at the rear of this lot and was partially visible in a c.1915 photograph of the house (see Page 17). The garage likely reflects the purchase by the Bowmans of an automobile, with the older horse barn then no longer needed and out-of-date. The garage exhibits many of the same Craftsman stylistic details as the house including a front-gabled roof with wide eave overhang and exposed rafter ends; small knee-brace brackets under the eaves on gable ends; the same clapboard siding treatment of a narrow board on the main body, with a wider board reveal in the gable ends like that of the house; mitered corners; and the same shed-roofed, bracketed drip hoods over the windows and doors as found on the house. The roof is also currently being re-shingled and, in the process, it was discovered that the original shingles were green asphalt shingles. It was also discovered that the roof overhang was covered with beveled board or carboard siding, with the remainder of the undersheathing being wide boards. The garage doors are the original wood-paneled doors that slide to the sides on a fixed metal track manufactured by the R.E. Myers and Brother company of Ashland, Ohio. The track was called the "Stay On O.K." system. The foundation of the garage is poured concrete. The windows are fixed six-pane windows, with the other windows being smaller square and rectangular single-pane windows. The side door is also a wood-paneled Craftsman-type door with a fixed six-pane window. The garage is certainly a contributing building to this property. There are no other outbuildings on this lot, with the remainder of the lot being grassy lawn and garden areas.

The current owners, John Bennington and Richard Noska, have carefully restored and refurbished this property and conducted many long hours of research into its history. It is their desire to preserve this wonderful slice of early twentieth century architecture and home life for generations to come, and it is in that interest that this nomination is being set forth.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

Bowman House  
Linn County, Iowa

## Statement of Significance

The James W. and Ida G. Bowman House is considered locally significant under Criterion C as a good representation of the stylish homes built along 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the Pucker Street Historic District in the early twentieth century. This home, and its history reflect the social history of this neighborhood, which was populated by Marion's wealthy and influential citizens in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The Bowman House is a notable landmark along this avenue and reflects not only James and Ida Bowman's social, political, and financial position in the community, but also the most up-to-date architectural style and modern conveniences of the day. This house is also significant under Criterion C as a design by a well-known Cedar Rapids architectural firm, Dieman and Fiske, with Charles Dieman having designed this property. The significant date for this property is the year that it was built, 1909.

## Historical Background

On August 26, 1909, the *Marion Sentinel* noted that J.W. Bowman had purchased the lot on which the "old B.F. Seaton house" was located and that Bowman had sold the house to J.A. Listenwalter to move the old house to a new lot. The old house was moved to 855 14<sup>th</sup> Street across the street from its former lot. The August 26<sup>th</sup> article went on to note "Mr. Bowman will soon begin the erection of a fine modern residence where the old house now stands." He hired the Cedar Rapids architectural firm of Dieman and Fiske, specifically Charles Dieman, to design his new home. He then hired local Marion contractor, Charles I. Wilson, to actually build the house and purchased the lumber from the local C.A. Pyle Lumber Yard.

James W. Bowman was a prominent man in the Marion community. He was born in 1861 on a farm at the edge of Marion to Benjamin and Eliza (Wilson) Bowman. He attended Marion High School, Coe College for two years, and finished his education at the Dubuque Business College where he received his degree. He was elected in 1904 as Clerk of the District Court in Linn County and was later elected to the State Legislature where he served two terms. Locally, he started as a cashier at the First National Bank in Marion where he ascended to the bank presidency. He served as the bank's president for nearly 15 years. He was also elected president of the Linn County Bankers Association, served for more than 20 years as a member of the Marion Library Board and as board president, was a councilman-at-large for the Marion City Council from 1922 to 1924, belonged to the Masons, Knights of Pythias, the Marion Lions Club, the Marion Community Club, and was a prominent member of the Marion Presbyterian Church where he served as treasurer for many years (*Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette*, November 4, 1925; *Marion Weekly Sentinel*, November 5, 1925).

In 1890, Bowman married Ida Mae Gibson, daughter of Marion pioneers J.K. and May Smith Gibson. James and Ida had no children. When James died on November 3, 1925, of a sudden heart attack at the age of 63, he was mourned by many including the governor of the state, Gov. John Hammill, who called on Mrs. Bowman to pay his respects (*Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette*, November 5, 1925). It was noted in the local newspaper, that Bowman had been "for good in the community" and noted "his unselfish and never-tiring interest and energy in doing those things which had been for advancement and betterment, his willingness to do his full share at all times and of the great loss the community had suffered" in his passing (*Marion Weekly Sentinel*, November 12, 1925). He was interred at Oak Shade Cemetery in Marion.

Ida Mae Gibson had been born in Marion. She graduated from Marion High School and attended Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa. She was a member of the Presbyterian Church, the Marion Theristrial Club, and a charter member of the Musical Literary Club, the Marion-Linn Chapter of the DAR, and the Ladies League. After her husband died in 1925, Ida Bowman lived on in the house at 1372 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and was joined there after 1949 by her sister Harriet Gibson. Mrs. Bowman died in 1954 and was buried at Oak Shade Cemetery.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 5Bowman House  
Linn County, Iowa

Harriet Gibson inherited the house and was still living there when she died at the age of 77 in 1959. Harriet Gibson had also graduated from Marion High School and attended Iowa State Teachers College. She taught for a time in Marion before moving to Washington, D.C. in 1918 where she was employed in the Department of Agriculture. She retired in 1948 and moved back to Marion in 1949 to live with her sister. Upon Harriet Gibson's death, her nephew Gibson Putnam, who had been owner of this property since 1955, sold the house in 1960 to Harry and Sylvia Fuller, who retained possession for six years. Bob Blair then owned the property from 1966 until 1969, with members of his family residing in the house but he never living here. In 1969, the current owners, Richard Noska and John Bennington purchased this house. Noska and Bennington have meticulously maintained and refurbished this home to its original look, both inside and out.

Architectural Significance

James W. Bowman hired the Cedar Rapids architectural firm of Dieman and Fiske to design his stylish new home, the plans for which are in the possession of the current owners. Charles Dieman, himself, did the design work on this fine home. Dieman had embarked on a solo career in December 1896 (*Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette* 1896). He had previously been in the employ of Josselyn and Taylor, another Cedar Rapids architectural firm, where he had served as Chief Designer for four years. Born in Milwaukee, Dieman began his career as a carpenter's apprentice and later studied with Professor Schmidt at the Berlin Polytechnic Institute. He was then employed by Leipold and Wiskocil, architects in Milwaukee, before he settled in Cedar Rapids. It was noted that Dieman had "made for himself an enviable reputation for originality, stability and beauty in his plans for public buildings and private residences" (ibid.). It was also noted when he embarked on his solo career in December 1896 that he already had "a fine line of work in prospect for next season" (ibid.). Between 1901 and 1910, Dieman practiced in partnership with Ferdinand C. Fiske under the firm name of Dieman and Fiske (Shank 1999:51). That firm had an office in Cedar Rapids, where Dieman was in charge, with Fiske in charge of the Omaha, Nebraska office (ibid.). Among designs in the Cedar Rapids area attributable to Charles Dieman, and to the Dieman and Fiske partnership, were residences built for George A. Mullin, Luther A. Brewer, J.H. Schindle, Mrs. W.W. Walker, Mrs. Sinclair, James Bever, F.H. Harwood, Dr. Skinner, Charles Green, B.S. Griswold, and "the misses Dennis" (*Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette* 1900; Rogers 1997). In Marion, Dieman designed the 1904-05 Carnegie Public Library, the Carl N. Owen House in 1902, and the Bowman house in 1909 near the end of his partnership with Fiske. Other local properties designed by Dieman and Fiske included the Palace Hotel, the Sokol Gymnasium, the Maticce Skolska School, and an addition to the C.S.P.S. Hall in Cedar Rapids (*Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette* 1900).

In the September 23, 1909, edition of the *Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette*, it was noted that the foundation for James W. Bowman's new house was being laid by Marion contractor, Charles I. Wilson. The lumber for the Bowman house came from the C.A. Pyle Lumber Yard, located one block south of the Bowman property. It was reported that Mr. Bowman would walk by the lumberyard each noontime on his way home for lunch and would stop to inspect the lumber that had been chosen for his new house. If he didn't like the quality, it would be rejected. In fact, the current property owners have noted that in doing repairs to the house, they have found boards marked in pencil in script letter "Pyle Lumber Bowman Job" (Richard Noska and John Bennington, personal communication 2001).

It was not until the summer of 1910, however, before the Bowmans could move into their fine new home. The *Marion Sentinel* of July 21, 1910, made note of this event.

Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Bowman are now located in their new 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue home, one of the handsomest residences on that popular avenue. They were delayed in getting into it by many things. If it wasn't one thing it was another, and disappointments in shipments of materials were many, but through it all Mr. and Mrs. Bowman retained their good nature and conquered in the end.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

**Bowman House**  
**Linn County, Iowa**

The design of the Bowman House was a combination of two popular styles of the day—the Prairie School and Craftsman styles of architecture. The blending of elements from the two styles was often done because the basic principles of the two styles sprang from much the same philosophy of a return to nature, using more natural forms and materials, and better reflecting the natural environment.

Prairie School is one of the few indigenous American architectural styles. It was developed by a group of Chicago architects, led by Frank Lloyd Wright. The style in its vernacular form, “spread throughout the country by pattern books published in the Midwest” but was among the more short-lived styles “having grown, flourished, and declined in the years between 1900 and 1920” (McAlester and McAlester 1998:440).

The Craftsman style of architecture originated in southern California. “Like vernacular examples of the contemporaneous Prairie style, it was quickly spread throughout the country by pattern books and popular magazines” (McAlester and McAlester 1998:454). Interestingly, the style nearly as rapidly faded from popularity after the mid-1920s, with few built after 1930 (*ibid.*).

The Bowman House is an extremely well preserved example of an early twentieth century, thoroughly “modern” home that was appointed with all of the latest comforts and luxuries that a person of means could want at the time. It is a standout among the stylish homes added to the 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue Pucker Street neighborhood and certainly reflects James and Ida Bowman’s financial means and social and political standing in the community. As such, is it a key example in the Pucker Street Historic District of the social history and architectural evolution of the Pucker Street neighborhood into the early twentieth century.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 7

Bowman House  
Linn County, Iowa

## Major Bibliographic References

### *Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette*

- 1896 Sure to Succeed: Charles A. Diemann [sic] will Engage Independently in the Architect's [sic] Business. *Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette*, December 5.
- 1900 Carnival Edition, page 8. *Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette*, September 29, 1900.
- 1925 Many Pay Tribute to James W. Bowman. *Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette*, November 7.
- 1925 J.W. Bowman Victim of Heart Attack. *Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette*, November 4.
- 1954 Services Monday for Mrs. James Bowman. *Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette*, November 8.
- Hull, Judith, compiler
- 1998 *A Walk Down Pucker Street (8<sup>th</sup> Avenue)*. Third Annual "Housewalk," Swamp Fox Festival, Marion, Iowa.

### *Marion Sentinel*

- 1909 J.W. Bowman... *Marion Sentinel*, August 26, 1909.
- 1909 The foundation... *Marion Sentinel*, September 23, 1909.
- 1910 Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Bowman.... *Marion Sentinel*, July 21, 1910.

### *Marion Weekly Sentinel*

- 1925 Entire Community Mourns the Sudden Death of James W. Bowman. *Marion Weekly Sentinel*, November 5.
- 1925 Loving Tribute Paid Memory of Jas. W. Bowman. *Marion Weekly Sentinel*, November 12.

### McAlester, Virginia, and Lee McAlester

- 1998 *A Field Guide to American Houses*. Alfred A. Knopf, New York.

### Pearson, Natalie

- 1998 Dieman's Dream Houses. *The Iowan Magazine*, Spring 1998:15-20.

### Rogers, Leah D.

- 1997 *Luther A. and Elinore T. Brewer House*. National Register of Historic Places nomination.

- 2001 *Architectural/Historical Survey and Evaluation of the Pucker Street Historic District, City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa*. Prepared for the Marion Historic Preservation Commission and the State Historical Society of Iowa.

- 2002 *Pucker Street Historic District* [draft]. National Register of Historic Places nomination.

### Shank, Wesley I.

- 1999 *Iowa's Historic Architects: a Biographical Dictionary*. University of Iowa Press, Iowa City.

## Other Sources:

Sanborn fire insurance maps, 1913-1926+

Assessor's Records, Linn County Administrative Building, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Original design plans for house by Dieman and Fiske, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Richard Noska and John Bennington, personal communication with Leah Rogers, 2001. Noska and Bennington provided information they had researched, had discovered while working on the house, or had been told by oral history interviews with former and current residents of Marion and this neighborhood including Ruth Britton.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 8

Bowman House  
Linn County, Iowa

---

## Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property consists of all of Lot 8 and the east 2-1/2 feet of Lot 7, Block 1, Original Town of Marion, Linn County, Iowa.

## Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the lot historically associated with this house and garage and the surrounding front, side and back yards.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

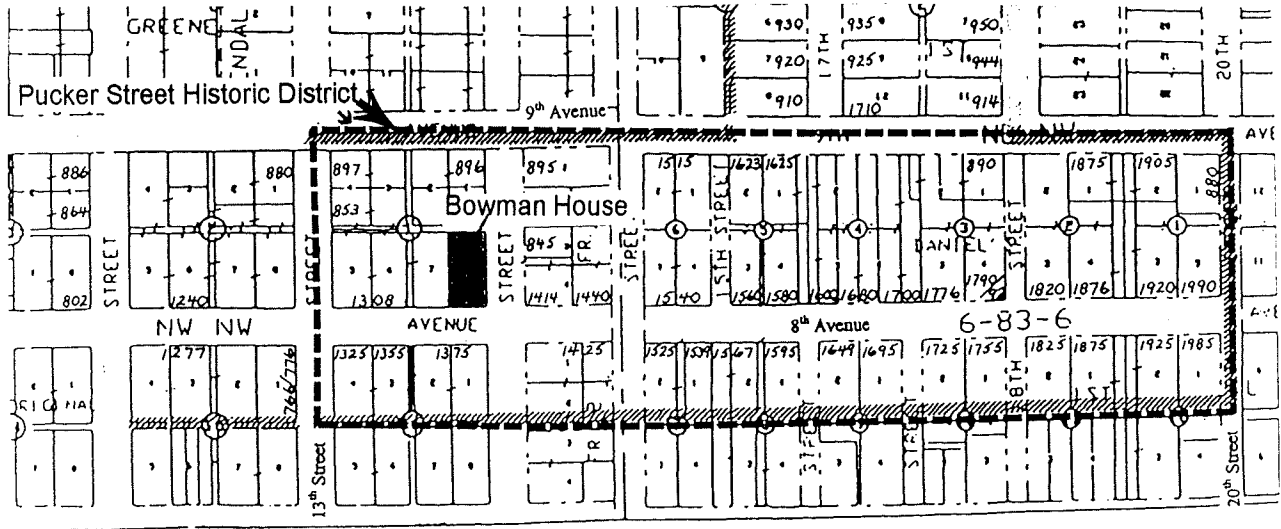
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Additional

Section number Documentation Page 9

**Bowman House**  
Linn County, Iowa

Location of Bowman House Property within the Pucker Street Historic District  
(2001 City Plat Map supplied by the City of Marion, Iowa)



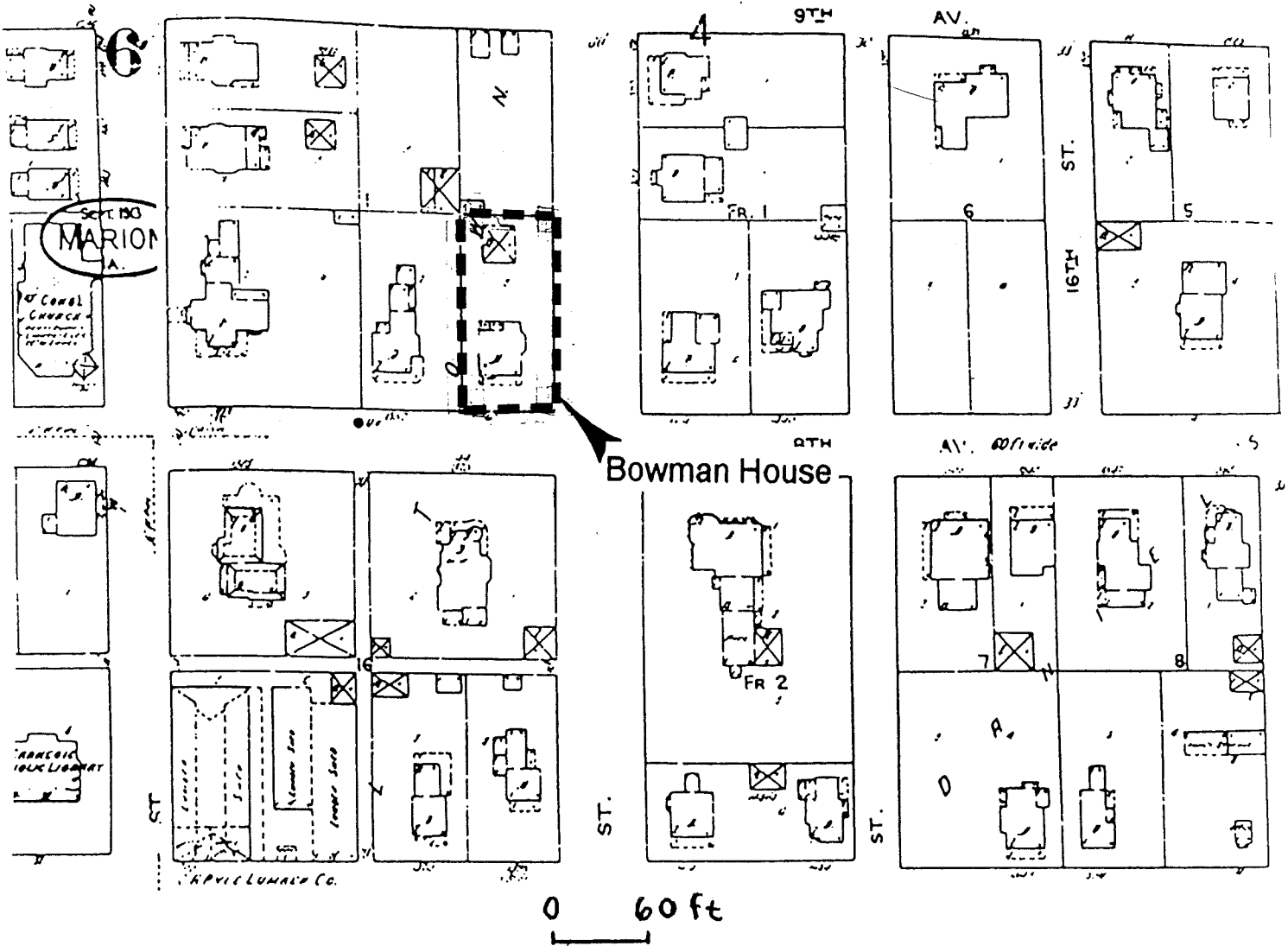
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 10

Bowman House  
Linn County, Iowa

1926+ Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Showing Plan Map of Nominated Property  
Showing Bowman House and Garage



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

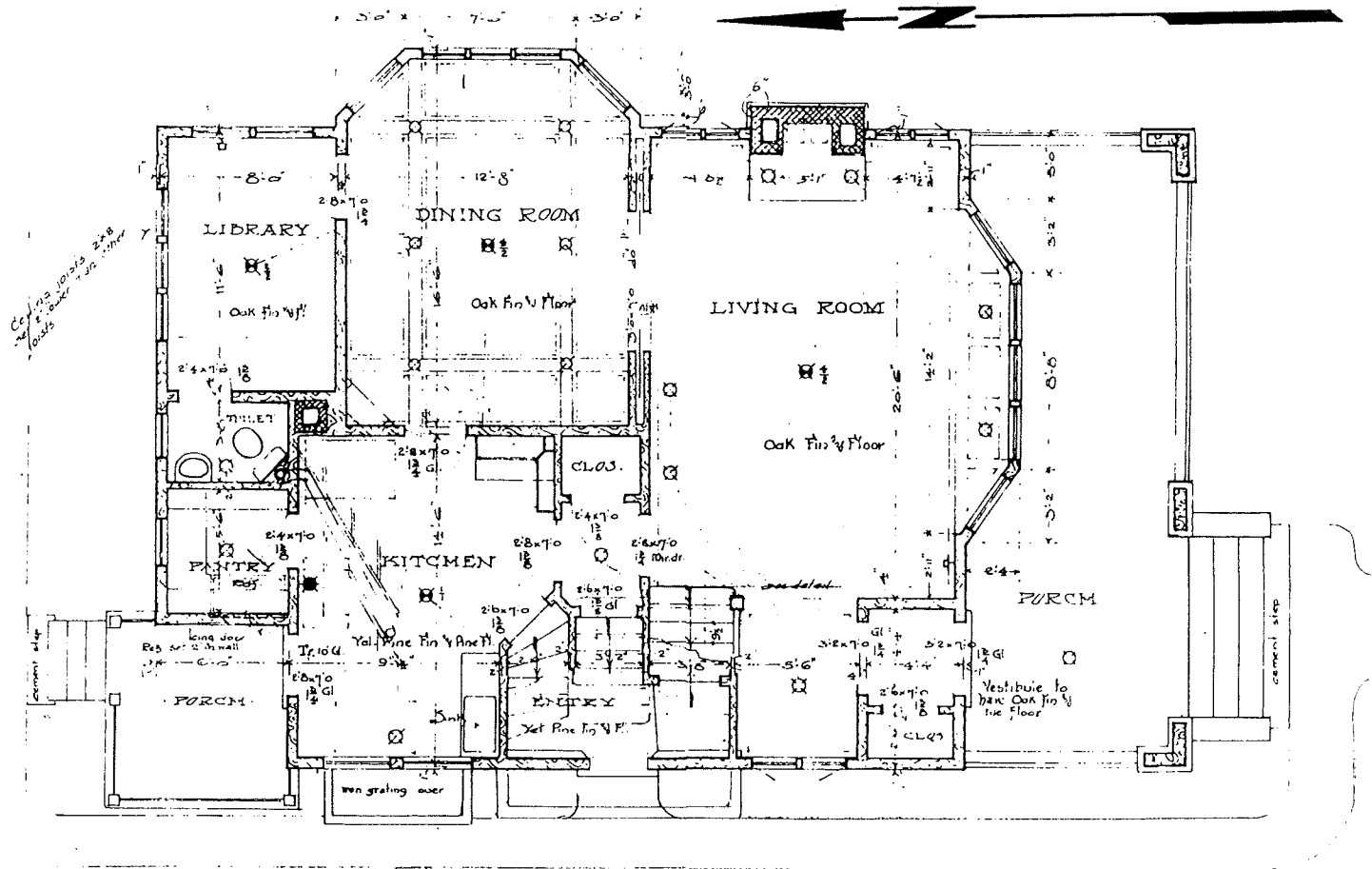
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Additional

Section number Documentation Page 11

Bowman House  
Linn County, Iowa

Plan of First Floor  
(Source: Original Blueprints in Possession of Richard Noska and John Bennington)



RESIDENCE FOR  
MR. & MRS. BOWMAN  
LINN COUNTY, IOWA  
DESIGNED BY MISS M. ARCHIBOLD  
LINN COUNTY, IOWA  
3/10/28  
NO. 6

FIRST FLOOR PLAN  
ONE QUARTER INCH SCALE

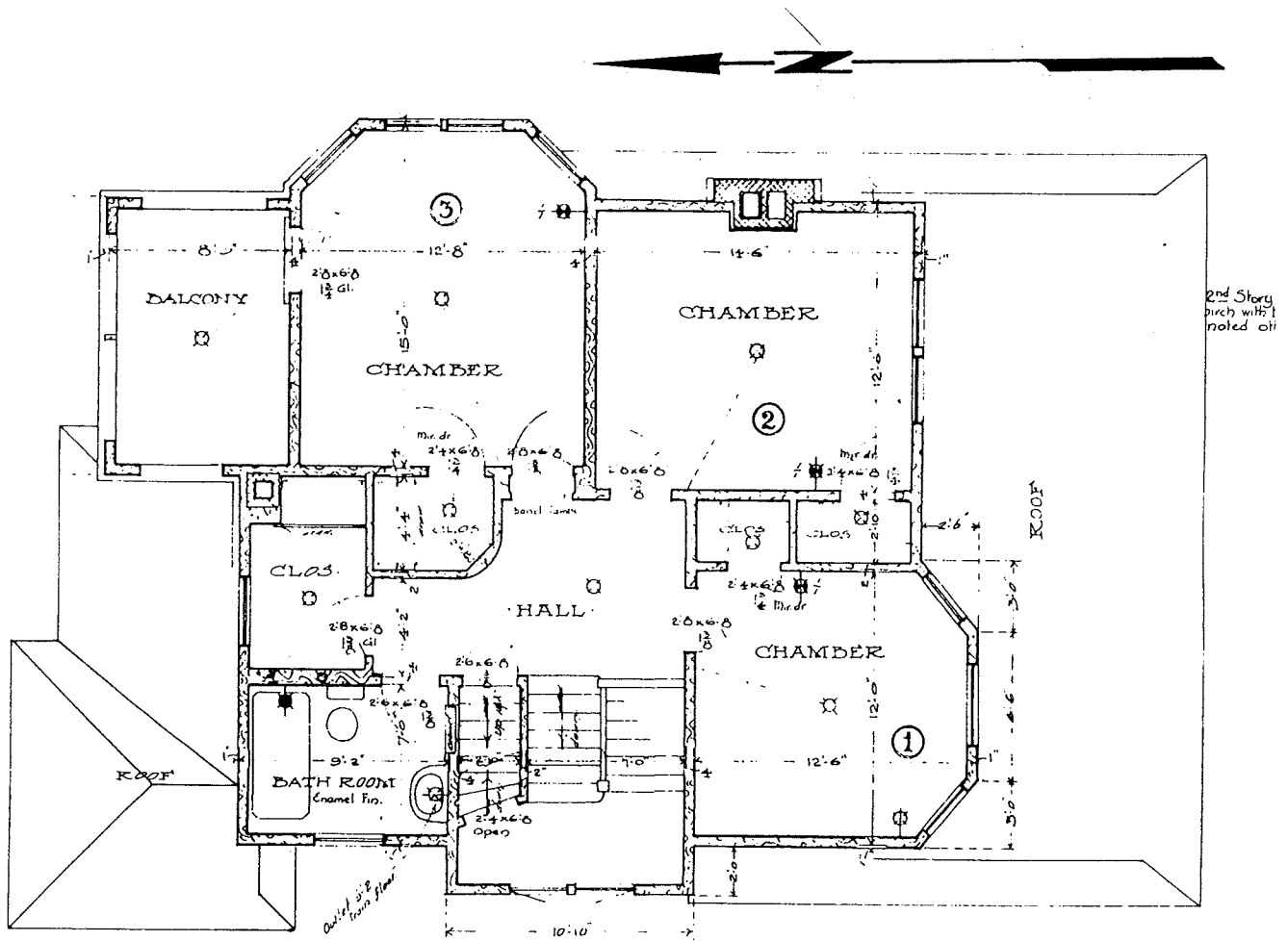
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Additional  
Section number Documentation Page 12

Bowman House  
Linn County, Iowa

Plan of Second Floor  
(Source: Original Blueprints in Possession of Richard Noska and John Bennington)



SECOND FLOOR PLAN  
ONE QUARTER INCH SCALE



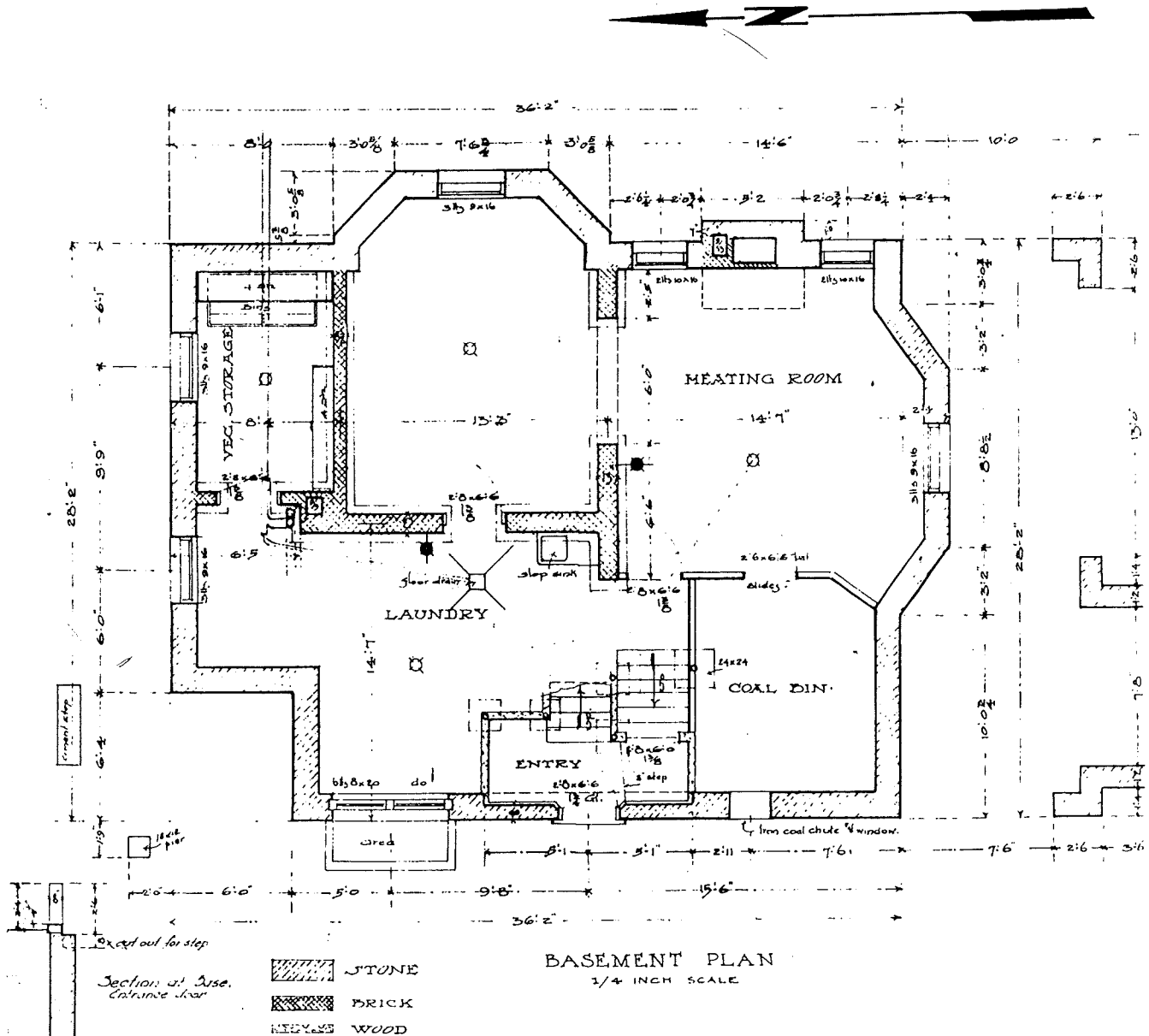
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Additional  
Section number Documentation Page 13

Bowman House  
Linn County, Iowa

Plan of Basement  
(Source: Original Blueprints in Possession of Richard Noska and John Bennington)



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

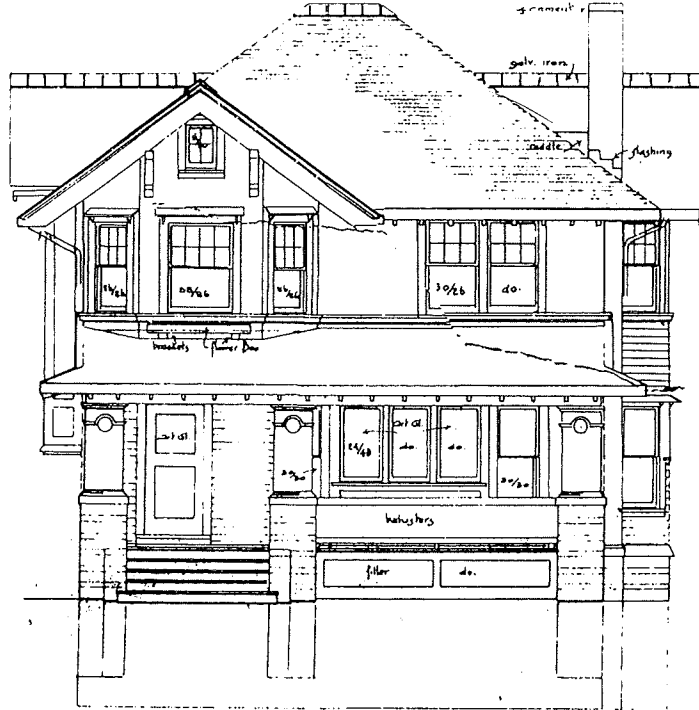
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Additional  
Section number Documentation Page 14

Bowman House  
Linn County, Iowa

### Front and Rear Elevations

(Source: Original Blueprints in Possession of Richard Noska and John Bennington)



FRONT ELEVATION  
ONE QUARTER INCH SCALE



REAR ELEVATION  
ONE QUARTER INCH SCALE

RESIDENCE FOR  
MR. & MRS. J. W. BOWMAN  
MORRISON IOWA  
DIENKENS & FISKE ARCHITECTS  
Cedar Rapids Iowa  
J. B. N. ARCHITECTS SHEET A

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Additional

Section number Documentation Page 15

Bowman House  
Linn County, Iowa

### East and West Side Elevations

(Source: Original Blueprints in Possession of Richard Noska and John Bennington)



EAST SIDE ELEVATION  
ONE QUARTER INCH SCALE



WEST SIDE ELEVATION  
ONE QUARTER INCH SCALE

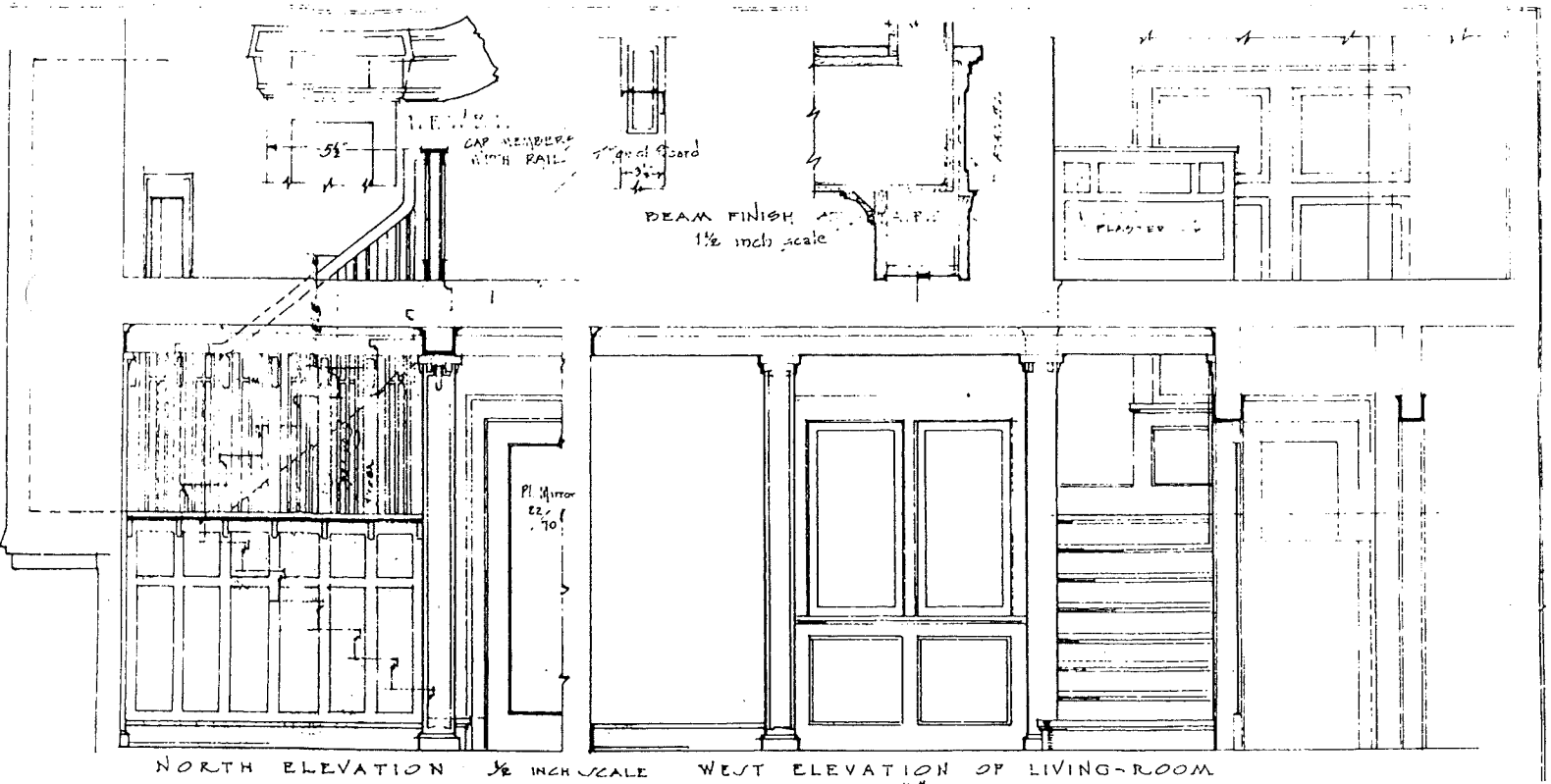
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Additional  
Section number Documentation Page 16

Bowman House  
Linn County, Iowa

Detail Plans of Staircase and Living Room Wall  
(Source: Original Blueprints in Possession of Richard Noska and John Bennington)



# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Page 17

Bowman House  
Linn County, Iowa

c.1915 Photograph of Bowman House  
(Source: Patterson c.1915)



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 18

Bowman House  
Linn County, Iowa

Photographs:

Date of Photographs: October 2001 and February 2002  
Photographers: Leah Rogers  
Location of Original Negatives: John Bennington and Richard Noska, property owners

Photo Number	Description/View
1	General View of Property Showing Bowman House and Garage, View to the NNW
2	Front (south side) of Bowman House, View to the North
3	Rear (north side) of Bowman House, View to the SE
4	Detail of Rear Sleeping Porch, View to the SSW
5	Detail of West Side, View to the East
6	Detail of Second Floor Front Bay Window, View to the North
7	Detail of Front Porch, View to the WNW
8	Detail of Front Porch Post, View to the North
9	Detail of Front Door, View to the North
10	Detail of Front Porch Balustrade and Skirt, View to the North
11	Interior of Front Entry Showing Art Glass Window in Front Door, View to the South
12	Interior of Front Vestibule Showing Art Glass Windows, Light Fixtures, and Woodwork, View to the West
13	Detail of Fireplace and Mantelpiece in Living Room, View to the East
14	Detail of Light Fixtures and Woodwork in Living Room, View to the ESE
15	Detail of Dining Room Art Glass Windows, View to the East
16	Detail of Light Fixtures and Ceiling Beams in Dining Room, View to the NE
17	Detail of Light Fixture in Library, View to the NW
18	Detail of Art Glass Windows on Staircase Landing, View to the West
19	Detail of Glass and Brass Light Fixture in Second Floor Hallway, View to the NNE
20	General View of Garage at Rear of Lot, View to the NW

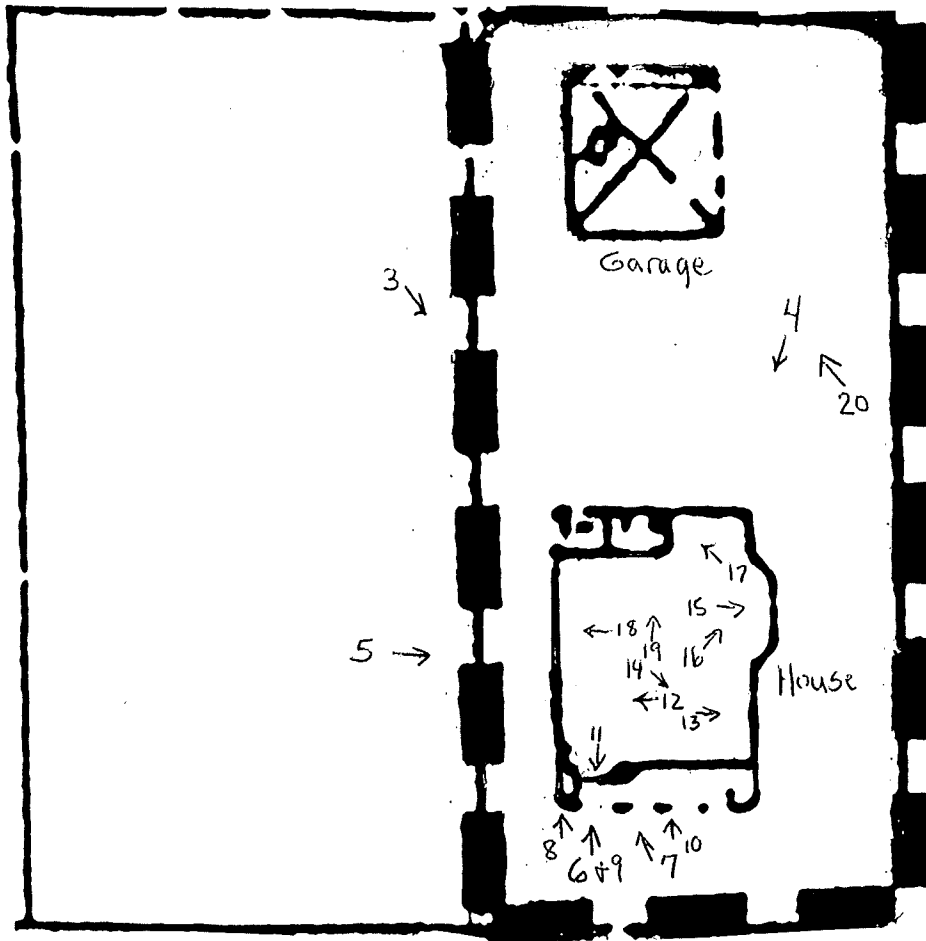
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 19

Bowman House  
Linn County, Iowa

Map Showing Direction of Photographs



↑  
2

↖  
1