

To D.C.
10/2/85

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic COX, GEORGE H., HOUSE

and or common

2. Location

street & number 701 East Grove Street not for publication

city, town Bloomington vicinity of

state Illinois code 012 county McLean code 113

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" 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"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: rental res

4. Owner of Property

name Jane Marie Lee

street & number 701 E. Grove St.

city, town Bloomington vicinity of state Illinois 61701

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office of McLean County

street & number McLean County Courthouse, Room 105

city, town Bloomington state Illinois 61701

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Illinois Historic Structures Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date October 1974 federal state county local

depository for survey records Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

city, town Springfield, state IL

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

GENERAL, OVERALL DESCRIPTION

This two and a half story Queen Anne style brick and frame residence with attic stands on the south east corner of Grove and Clayton Streets. Six wide curved limestone steps rise to a three-quarters circular wraparound entrance porch. Curved wooden porch railings are supported by balusters turned in a highly figured design. The circular porch roof, supported by turned wooden columns, rises gently to a small circular balcony with a decorative railing. Behind this facade is an octagonal tower, 15' in diameter, rising to a height of more than 40' from the ground. At the half-story level, there are stained glass windows on the four completely visible sides of the tower. The tower roof is a slightly belled octagonal dome. To the immediate right is a larger, partially enclosed and recessed balcony whose railing echoes that of the smaller, lower balcony. A gable over the larger balcony is finished with false half-timbering. An ornamental brick chimney shaft rises beyond this roofline.

The body of the house consists of six different sized rectangles set together asymmetrically in three projecting wings, producing a total of twelve bays. The overall dimensions of the house are approximately 30' x 70' on a relatively small lot, 70' x 125'. The foundation and first story are constructed of dark red brick, trimmed with limestone and decorative brickwork. The second, half-story and attic levels are of various types of shingles and clapboard, currently painted dark buff. There are three porches, three chimneys, and a large number of decorative elements, including dormers and an oriel. Slate gray shingles cover the original ridged and hipped T-shaped slate roof. There is a narrow cemented driveway but no outbuildings. The lot is developed into lawn, with flower gardens on all sides of the house. The house has decoratively bordered sidewalks, tall trees, strips of lawn, wide stone steps to Grove Street and stone curbing separating it from the asphalt covered brick streets.

WEST SIDE

The west side of the house is divided into four bays, each with its distinctive design and window treatment. The bays are integrated into a cohesive whole by the placement of the windows and by the rooflines

For balance of description, please see continuation sheets appended to this form _____

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which culminate in a large gable, peaking at a height of about 40' from the ground. This height is balanced by the overall length of the house of 70', forming a perfect visual triangle with the ground line. The feeling of lightness is attained by the use of balusters and lattice work, the vertical emphasis in window treatment, the roof lines, and the increasing delicacy of design and materials at each successively higher level.

The first, most northerly, bay is the narrowest, having only a single window at each story. It forms a right triangle at the half-story level where it ends. This triangle is actually a gabled end of an extension of the east-west ridged roof.

The second bay is the most noticeable of the four and is best described as a window bay. There is a half-circle window at the ground level and an arched window at the first story. At the base of the projection which is fully developed at the second story, there are three sawn and incised brackets. Ascending from this is a cornice, a course of patterned shingles, three transomed windows immediately above, and a second cornice decorated with bulls' eyes. At the half-story this bay continues upward with rows of three different patterns of shingles, a balcony with turned posts, and three 25 small light windows of stained glass in a variety of colors. The top of the balcony is decorated with latticework. Above this a gable with courses of varied shaped shingles rises from the cornice. An eyebrow window with two rows of stained glass lights decorates this gable, whose peak is about 40' from the ground. The central chimney rises behind the gable on the roof slope, reemphasizing the height of the bay and house.

At the ground level the third bay has two square windows. Above at the first story there is a pair of tall windows bridged together at the top by a fixed window of three patterned stained glass lights. These windows are further grouped by their limestone lintel. At the second story there is only one window, centered, whose top sash has muntins making a border of clear lights. At the half-story level there is a fixed window of 36 small lights, set back under the gable which is extended over it from the window bay to its left. This window is part of a dormer which protrudes through a hipped end of the east-west ridged roof.

The fourth bay consists visually of only two stories and is set back

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from the others. This bay is dominated by an entrance porch with wooden steps. The porch roof is ridged with incised designs in its gable, supported by an arched pediment on turned columns. The entrance door is transomed. A round spoke wheel window and a band of decorative pressed brick add detail to the first story. The second story is quite plain with only one unadorned window. The roof above recedes toward the north-south ridge, concealing the half-story inside.

From the west side all three porches are visible: The ornate north wrap-around with its steps extending to the north-west; the west, nestled in the space produced by the narrowing of the house at the fourth bay; and the south, shorter than the other two, enclosed, and with less detail and steps extending toward the south.

SOUTH SIDE

The south side has an enclosed rear entrance porch and is the least complex side in design. There are two matching windows at each story. At the half-story level the pair is stained glass and in a dormer emerging from the south hipped end of the north-south ridged section of the roof. The brickwork and siding on this side are unadorned except for the shingles in the gable of the porch and sides of the dormer.

EAST SIDE

The east side of the house has three major sections. The left, south or rear, bay is set back from the others and has little embellishment to brick, siding, or trim. The two windows which match at the first story are echoed at the second, but one of those at the second story is a transomed casement with long slender lights. The roof above recedes toward the north-south ridge, again hiding the half-story within.

The second vertical division is a bay with side windows set at an angle of 135 degrees. The central portion has a large area of pointed bricks at the first story and courses of ornamental shingles at the second. Decorative cornices extend beyond the central section, meeting the side cornices at right angles, thus creating an overhang for each side window. Above is a small gable at the half-story level. Higher to the left at the intersection of the roof ridges is a two sided dormer with stained glass

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lights. These windows are triangular and trapezoidal because of the roofs' pitch.

The highly decorated east chimney dominates the right, north, bay. Bands of smooth or sculptured limestone and pressed brick in a variety of patterns are repeated upward until the chimney disappears, continued inside at the half-story level. At this level there is a three-sided oriel, complete with tin cove and windows with small stained glass lights. A wide gable extends beyond the oriel on both sides. Decorated with a false half-timber design, it rises to a peak at the roof ridge about 40' from the ground.

NORTH SIDE

The front, north, has three major bays, the right two of which are united at the first and second stories by the wrap-around porch. The left, east, bay begins at the ground level with a half-circle window framed entirely by limestone. A group of windows with an intricately carved limestone lintel is centered in this bay at the first story. The second story has a different pair of close-set windows whose overall size equals those of the first story. Above, the roof recedes toward the east-west ridge at the half-story level. At the attic level a small dormer with an octagonal roof and windows of small stained glass lights emerges through the main roof slope.

The central section is an octagonal tower which extends from the ground level through all three stories. While the tower itself is embedded in the main structure of the house, it has a free standing octagonal, very tall, slightly belled roof. Windows at the ground level are square. There are three windows at each of the first and second stories, one wall of the tower being left solid. Four sides of the tower and part of a fifth are visible at the half-story level.

The remaining, west, bay is set back from the other two, allowing the porch to wrap around a full three-quarters of the tower and providing a longer approach to the front doors, which are centered in this recessed bay. A large casement window at the second story is also centered. At the half-story level a balcony is created by recessing the single windowed wall even further back under a gable. Decorative iron railing and turned

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balusters echo those of the small round balcony atop the porch roof. The gable is decorated in a false half-timber design.

USE OF BRICK

The foundation and first story are constructed of pressed red brick laid in running courses. The tuck pointing is flush with the brick and of little color contrast. Decorative brickwork is used for a round window, arched windows, and as lintels over many of the other windows and doors. The brick walls have been inset with various bands of different styles of molded brick, including pointed, raised circle, and Greek key patterns.

USE OF STONE

The front porch of the house is approached by a limestone walkway and six wide curved limestone stairs with massive ornamental stone slabs at either side. Disks of a running cross motif are carved on both sides of each slab. Limestone coursing forms a water table at the first story level. The front door has a limestone lintel and sill, as do most of the windows of the first story. Intricately carved limestone has been used above the north front windows (Grove Street side) and as one of the three limestone bands on the east chimney. The north arched window at the ground level is entirely of limestone.

USE OF WOOD

The second story is composed of several varieties of clapboard and patterned shingles. These are placed in horizontal courses, emphasizing the bays of each side of the house and each of the upper stories. Some cornices have sawn work and decorative incising. Bull's-eyes corners decorate most of the second story windows. A window bay begins with sawn supports half way up the first story on the west (Clayton Street) side of the house. At the second story it is continued with a balcony at the half-story level, culminating in a gable at the attic level. There are dormers on all sides of the house and an oriel with tin cove.

WINDOWS

The house has over 100 windows in a wide variety of shapes, sizes, and colors. They range from fixed, small stained glass windows to a

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double-hung window ten feet tall, and include casements, grouped, trapezoidal, triangular, round, half-circle, and arched. At the ground level, most of the windows are roughly square. There are two half-circle windows: One framed by limestone; the other by ornamental brickwork. Most ground level and first story windows have limestone lintels and sills. Notable first story windows include two with carved limestone lintels, grouped sets on the north and west sides, large fixed windows, the very tall window which opens onto the front porch, a round spoke wheel fixed window and an arched window.

The second story windows are all placed above those on the first story but are different from them: There are two different sets of casement windows, one window outlined with square clear lights, and a fixed rectangular window with six verticle clear lights. All the windows at the half-story level are original stained glass. The tower windows are all original and cranberry color. The round moon shaped fixed window on the west is gold. The lights of all the windows at this level are in a variety of colors. In all the double-hung windows only the top half (part visible at the street level) has stained glass lights, while the bottom half has one large clear light. At the attic level in all four directions there are fixed stained glass windows in gables or dormers.

ROOF

The shingled roof is basically T-shaped of intersecting ridges. The south end and a portion of the west end are hipped. Dormers with windows of small stained glass lights protrude through the roof on the north and at the south-east intersection of the roof ridges. Three decorative brick chimneys pass through the roof slopes. Drainage is provided by box gutters.

ENTRANCE AND INTERIOR

The front entrance and vestibule have double doors. These, like all the other doors on the first floor, are 10' tall. The vestibule itself has a richly patterned tile floor. The front hallway contains wide pocket and french doors, intricate wainscoting, parquet floor, and a tiled fireplace with an Eastlake style mantel. The turn-about staircase has wide landing, carved

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newel post, and turned ballusters, its rail continuing upward to form a balcony rail for the wide second floor hall. The stairwell rises to a height of 22'. Original brass hinges and door hardware are intact on the first and second floors. Some of the woodwork and doors still have original faux graining. The house has five additional fireplaces with ornate tile hearths and mantels. Seven of the rooms have bordered parquet floors. The parlor and living rooms have ornamental relief plaster ceilings. The dining room has a decorated high crown cornice of molded plaster. An original gas-and-electric copper chandelier and double hall light with yellow-green tear drop and fluted glass shades remain. Two of the bathrooms have their original tubs, sinks, and tile. While not now in use, the house has its own methane, swamp gas, well. The original pump and pressure chamber, housed in the basement, are intact and operable.

CONDITION

The exterior walls are virtually intact as built. An architectural drawing of the house, signed by George Miller, and an 1896 photograph both show the north (Grove) and west (Clayton) sides of the house as planned and ten years after completion. The original light moss green paint with darker trim had been covered by dark buff and white trim. The north-east chimney was discontinued above the half story level. The roof slate has been covered with gray clip lock shingles. Roof ornaments have been removed for restoration.

The stained glass in six of the windows shown in the photograph had been replaced by clear glass. Many windows have been repaired and made weather tight. Only five windows had to be replaced: Exact copies were made of these. Outside storm windows have been installed at the ground level on all windows except the two half-circles. Inside storm windows have been installed on all but six others.

The house is structurally in excellent condition. Very little settling has occurred. All doors and windows operate properly. Two interior stairways were built to the third floor: The south stairway replaced the original with the exception of being made wider; the north stairway was built in the same style inside previous closet space. Two apartments have been constructed on the previously unused third floor. Extensive repair of

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plasterwork has been done on the south half of the second floor. Some plaster repair has been done on the first floor. Some tuck pointing has been completed in the basement. The only external feature which has been altered in this restoration/rehabilitation process is the new roofing.

The house is still on its original site, located in a neighborhood of mostly large very old houses. East Grove Street and its neighborhood is currently being surveyed for possible proposal as a historic district by the city of Bloomington. Most of the towering trees on East Grove were young but already tall when this house was built, as seen in the 1896 photograph.

PLANNED RESTORATION

Additional planned restoration includes the front porch foundation, flooring, balusters, and gutters. Some rotted sections of fascia at the roofline need to be replaced. One support beam for the gable of the west balcony needs to be restored or replaced. The north east chimney will be rebuilt and the roof ornaments restored. Tuck pointing will be repaired on both outside walls and chimneys and in the basement. Electrical, plumbing, and plasterwork will be repaired on the north half of the second floor. On the first floor kitchen and bathroom plumbing and plaster need renewal. A few floor joists and support beams, and two sections of parquet flooring need restoration or replacement because of old termite damage. Several sections of fireplace tile need to be relaid on new foundations. All floors need cleaning, some restoration and a protective coating. The front screen doors need to be restored and provision made for converting them to storm doors during cold weather. Several windows need recording. Seven basement window casements need to be restored so that they can be opened for ventilation. An attic fan needs to be installed in the north stairwell and three additional air conditioning units are needed for the north second and first floor living units.

There is one Contributing Building and no non-contributing resources in this nomination.

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 type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates Built 1886 **Builder/Architect** George H. Miller, Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The George H. Cox Residence is architecturally significant as a particularly fine example of the residential work of Bloomington architect George Miller and as a very well preserved example of the large elaborately detailed custom designed Queen Anne houses built by the wealthy in Bloomington in the 1880's and 1890's. The house embodies the best of the newest features of its time, including indoor plumbing, electric-and-gas lighting, methane or swamp gas well and equipment, boiler and steam radiators, convection ventilation system and practical floor plan. The exterior of the house is a study in mixing contrasting textures, materials, shapes, and directional elements typical of the Queen Anne style. The overall effect of the massing of the many and varied architectural components is that of stately elegance. While a large number of such houses once existed in Bloomington, most have been demolished or destroyed by renovation.

ORIGINAL OWNER - George H. Cox

George H. Cox was a descendant of David Cox, an early settler in Bloomington Grove in 1826. Cox had come from Ohio, and his livelihood was farming and stockraising. The Cox family was prestigious and one of the oldest in Bloomington.

George H. Cox was the Secretary-Treasurer and General Manager of the Hungarian Roller Mill Company, a prominent westside landmark of Bloomington, owned by his brother Thomas J. Cox. George was also a business partner of William Hasenwinkle, with whom he owned a flour mill and other business interests. He was a board member of the Corn Belt Bank and a leader of the First Presbyterian Church. He married and had two children, at least one of whom, Herman, attended a local college.

Cox was influential in the development of Bloomington and is a representative example of the wealthy merchants for whom large, detailed, expensive houses were custom designed by well respected

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architects. His residence at 701 East Grove was built in the most elite residential area on its most prestigious street, one of the very first to be paved with brick. Other notable residents of Grove Street whose houses are still standing included Horace McCurdy, owner of a hardware and agricultural implement store, Edward Gridley, owner of the McLean County Bank, and Ashael Gridley, Bloomington's first millionaire. Absalom Funk, director of the First National Bank, and many other individuals important to Bloomington's development also owned impressive houses on East Grove Street.

As a democrat Cox had many connections with architect George Miller, who built both his and Hasenwinkle's residences. Cox was a member of the board of the Corn Belt Bank when Miller designed its new building. And it was for Cox's in-laws that Miller designed the Bruner Building. Cox was a member of the First Presbyterian Church and served on its building Committee when Miller designed its office.

Little is known of the Cox family's private lives except that children had to be completely quiet and were under no circumstances to interfere with Mr. Cox's contemplation.

ARCHITECT - George H. Miller (1856-1927)

George H. Miller was born to German immigrant parents in Bloomington, Illinois, in 1856. He attended rural and city schools, completing an eighth grade education. In 1871 Miller was apprenticed to the architectural firm of Rudolf Richter, where he served as draftsman. In 1874 Miller accompanied architect John Harris to Columbus, Ohio, staying about one year. Soon after that Miller worked as a draftsman for six months at the firm of F. and E. Baughman in Chicago. Baughman had earlier published A Theory of Isolated Pier Foundations (1873), which provided the foundation for the development of skyscrapers and influenced Miller's later work. In Baughman's office Miller worked with Louis Sullivan, also a temporary draftsman just returned from his studies in Paris, who stayed on in Chicago, becoming a famous architect in his own right and later a teacher of Frank Lloyd Wright. After four years apprenticeship and at the age of nineteen Miller designed his first commissioned works in Bloomington, one

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of which was the prestigious Pantagraph Building. He was subsequently hired as an assistant to Henry Miner, the resident architect of the Bloomington Manufacturing Company, where he acquired additional practical building and carpentry skills.

In the September 1880 issue of Carpentry and Building Miller's "A Frame Dwelling", including perspective, elevation, floor plans, and construction detail drawings covered five pages of the journal. The plan called for four different sized rectangles set together asymmetrically in three projecting wings of various heights. The complex exterior enclosed a relatively simple and straightforward interior with bath tubs and sinks, closets, chimneys which served more than one room, a central plumbing chase, a hall occupying the center of the house, well separated kitchen, and recessed-appearing front doors. The plan of the second floor echoed that of the first. The stairwell connecting the two floors appeared as an attached appendage to the main block of the house. It may be noted that all these features are present in the Cox Residence at 701 East Grove.

In 1880 Miller also got the design credit for the new county jail in Bloomington, the fifth largest city in Illinois. During the next five years his work and reputation grew, firmly establishing him by the mid-eighties. In 1882 he became city treasurer under his friend and mayor John Trotter, a democrat who owned a lumber, coal and grain company.

In late 1885 Miller established his own office after fifteen years in the profession. When the Daily Pantagraph made the announcement, it named a bank, the remodel of a large commercial building, and two important residences as being in process: One of these was the "new elegant residence" for George H. Cox. During the same year other notable designs by Miller included two schools, the Higgins Marble Works and the Withers Library.

Miller went on to be elected to the City Council, and remained politically involved with such men as Adlai Stevenson, Edward Gridley, and David Davis. He was politically astute, even running for mayor of the city without making enemies. Miller was a very visible figure in the development of Bloomington. He related well to diverse ethnic and religious individuals and groups and was selected to design a variety of halls, churches, a synagogue, public, industrial, residential, and

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commercial buildings in Bloomington, Illinois, and in other states as well.

Miller's work chronicles the rise of the educational, social and economic development of Bloomington over a fifty year period. His works embodied the dreams and purposes of the community - to be dignified, cultured and educated. He produced over 150 designs built during his lifetime. He was very concerned with making buildings comfortable, convenient, safer, cleaner and healthier. He was one of the earliest architects to use electric lights, coal fired boilers for steam or hot water heat, and to promote ventilation and other mechanical systems important to health. His artistic, design, engineering, and construction skills were united to produce many outstanding buildings and residences, such as the one at 701 East Grove Street.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

ARCHITECTURAL PLAN AND CONSTRUCTION

Plans for the Cox Residence were announced in the Pantagraph in January, 1886. Construction was begun in the spring by J. H. McGregor, brick contractor. The cost of the Cox house was approximately \$20,000, about the same amount as the Withers Library and about twice that of the Edward Gridley house. The house attains a height of more than 40 ft., balanced by its width of more than 30 ft. and length of more than 70 ft. including the porches and steps. The body of the house is composed of six different sized rectangles set together asymmetrically in three projecting wings. First floor rooms include parlor, sitting, dining, library, bathroom, and kitchen area. The second story was of the same design as the first, with four bedrooms, two baths, and maid's quarters. There is a full basement with the same room arrangement. One basement room, where a handyman apparently lived, has a fireplace. At the third floor, half-story level, there was one room finished in wainscoting with a stove, gas light, and speaking tube. The rest of that floor was never developed beyond the initial plaster stage, remaining as a child's play area, accessed by the rear stairway.

Several other features of the house make it one of quality. The ventilation pattern uses the nature of convection. By providing ample tall

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windows at the ground level and first story and a large stairwell located in a central hall, the house is constantly cooled by moving air. Twelve foot ceilings at the first story and 10' wide hinged, pocket or french doors provide ample air flow even in very hot weather. Two of the large windows of the stairwell open, further increasing the air flow. The same pattern obtains at the second floor where the doors are shorter but transomed to increase air circulation. There are relatively few windows on the south side of the house, and most of these are protected by porches or had awnings. Insulation consisted of the air trapped between the outer and inner walls: The windows and doors had double strength glass and metal and felt grooved weatherstripping. Heating was provided by seven coal burning fireplaces and a gas boiler with steam radiators. The equipment and shaft of a swamp gas well which provided and energy source for the house are still operable. The house was equiped with electric as well as gas lights. Since electricity was not quite reliable and the gas pressure changed with the air pressure, backup systems were needed. Three bathrooms each had a tub, sink and toilet. Bedrooms had built-in closets. A central plumbing chase next to the main chimney provided water to both floors of the house without the danger of freezing pipes. The kitchen was separated from the dining room and the rest of the first floor by a short passageway which also opened onto the rear stairs. Stairs to the basement descended from the kitchen. The basement opened to the outside from a passageway under the south or back porch, which also provided an entrance to the kitchen. Servants and children could be kept entirely separate from the important, more elegant part of the house.

ARCHITECTURAL AESTHETICS

The George H. Cox Residence has inherent aesthetic merit. The overall effect of the massing of the many and varied architectural components is that of stately elegance. The house is a study in mixing contrasting textures, materials, shapes, and directional elements typical of the Queen Anne style. From the street corner at the north west edge of the property, the eye is swept upward by the walkway and stairs, a very tall window

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flanked by relatively slender porch posts, the slope of the porch roof, another tall window behind balcony balusters, up to the third floor stained glass, bell shaped roof and finial, and then to the right balcony and upward again to the gable and massive chimney beyond. The verticality is supported by the many tall windows, chimneys and the lines of the other architectural features. Tall trees and the raised site also emphasize the height of the house. The broad stone steps, solid brick foundation and first story, square and half-circle windows with stone sills, and the course of contrasting stone at the water line provide a solid visual foundation and a balance to the vertical elements. The intersecting sidewalks, ornamental concrete edging and the narrow strips of planting and lawn also lend a horizontal emphasis.

The decorative brickwork has been used to emphasize the horizontal lines of the house, to provide continuity to lines established by the various textures and materials, and to add visual interest to large solid sections of wall. All three chimneys have different decorative brick shafts.

The strong contrasting color of the light limestone against the darker red brick produces a strong horizontal continuity at the ground level and the first storey of the house. As a course around the entire structure at the water table level it provides a horizontal cohesiveness to the design which includes so many and varied tall bays. Its more delicate use as lintels and sills, parallel to the string course, echoes and reemphasizes the horizontal plane while drawing some attention to the window treatment. Its use for the broad entrance walk and curved stairway and as the semicircular ground level window at the front of the house lends a feeling of solidity to an overall structure which includes a multitude of delicate features. The fine carving of the lintels, chimney, and entrance stairway elements attest to the successful adaptation of this material to the lightness of the design of the architect and to the Queen Anne style.

A fine example of window bay treatment is found on the west side of the house. The vertical dimension of the house is accented by the many layers of decorative treatment of the bay, which are quite varied but blended by color and directionality. The bay conceals the stairway between the first and second stories of the house.

The oriel, high up on the east side of the house, is typical of the Queen Anne style. Set back under a large gable which extends in both directions

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beyond it, it provides weather protected ventilation to the third floor and a view of a large portion of the city as well as being aesthetically pleasing to the viewer.

The cornice treatment above the angled side windows on the central bay of the east side includes both incising and sawn decorations. The intricate woodworking and juxtaposition of the many triangular shapes in windows, gables, wall planes, dormer and roof lines make this side of the house an example of the most complex in the Victorian style.

The only exterior chimney, also on the east side, is of solid and decorative brickwork, including pressed bricks in several designs, alternated with bands of limestone. One band is intricately carved in patterns which match the limestone entrance stair slabs and lintels of the front windows. The curved side of the chimney is notable in its integration of multiple elements into a pleasing visual whole. Additional visual interest and movement is added at the point where the chimney disappears into the interior, and this would have been even more so when the chimney was still intact and emerged again through the roof slope to its original height.

The east rear portion of the house is set back from the rest so much that it is not visible from Grove Street. This hidden area was used for utility and is not necessary to the design of this side of the house as seen from the street. From the north east edge of the property the two roof gables, oriel, bay windows, overhanging cornice, and chimney are all visually integrated by the strong directional lines of the design. From this point of view the horizontal emphasis of the string course of limestone and the cornices at the top of each story and large box gutters visually tie the east side of the house to the north or front side. While the east stands as a design in its own right, it becomes a part of the overall design of the front of the house, just as the north west corner view integrates parts of the front and west sides of the house. As an integral part of the north east perspective, the detailing of the east side provides a balance to the tower and entrance porch. The grouped windows on the front, the half circle stone window and the small dormer in the roof slope become central to the design from this perspective. The use of the corners of the property for perspective both toward and from inside the house, characteristic of the Victorian period, is well illustrated in this design.

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date entered

George H. Cox

Continuation sheet

House

Item No. 8

Page 8-8

A view from the north of the house discloses a balanced while asymmetrical composition. While the body of the house is dominated by the octagonal tower, its impact is partially obscured by the dainty large wrap-around entrance porch. The porch, with its brick foundation, brick pillar supports, ground level windows, and staircase, seems almost like a free-standing structure in its own right. Its circular shape, roof, curvilinear detail, cornice and decorative rail top make it contrast sharply with the angular, more subdued body of the house. Hardly noticeable is the first story of the recessed right bay containing the double front doors.

The height of 40' is truly felt from this north perspective because the entire width of the house is only about 30'. To the right, the vertical is emphasized by the balusters and posts of the porch, balusters of the small balcony above the porch and then echoed by the recessed balcony balustrade, roof lines and chimney. To the left, the eye is drawn upward by the tall windows to the tiny dormer, whose octagonally shaped roof points to the sky from a vantage point almost as high as the roof ridge. The eye moves from the stairs to the porch, to tower, to dormer, vertically down to the half-circular window at the ground level and back to the stairs, drawing the viewer back to the north west corner.

Designed to be seen primarily from Grove and Clayton Streets, the Cox Residence stands stately and serenely, transporting the viewer back one hundred years into an exciting, romantic and elegant world. It conveys into the present the very finest spirit of that historical period in which it was a new, modern, innovative home. The enduring beauty of this house is gratifying evidence of the continuity of the generations. The house connects our present, our community, to its past.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see Continuation Sheet 9-1 for this item.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 1

Quadrangle name Bloomington East, IL

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 11 6 3311 6910 414 8124 1710
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification Commencing at the northwest corner of Lot 5 in Block 7 in Dimmett's Addition to the City of Bloomington, thence south along the east line of Clayton Street in said City, 120 feet; thence East 70 feet; thence North 120 feet to a point on the North line of Lot 4 in said Block 7 in said Addition (see continuation sheet 10-1)

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

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jane Marie Lee, owner

organization -

date July 22, 1985

street & number 701 E. Grove St.

telephone (309)828-1020

city or town Bloomington

state Illinois

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

title Acting Director

date 9-25-85

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

received

date entered

George H. Cox
House

Continuation sheet Item No.9 Page 9-1

Bloomington City Directory, 1891- 1940

Bloomington, Illinois Illustrated. Pub. by the Bloomington Club. Porter Printing Co., Moline, Illinois, 1890.

Bloomington-Normal Lost: A Pictorial Account of Our Vanishing Architectural Heritage. Old House Society, Bloomington, IL, 1982.

Corra, D., and Koos, G. Architectural-Historical Tour: Victorian Bloomington Homes in the Grove Street District. McLean County Arts Council, Bloomington, IL., 1979.

Daily Pantagraph, Bloomington, IL.

"Dimmett's Fourth Addition, Bloomington, Illinois". Atlas of McLean County, 1874. Warner & Beers, Publisher

"Fourth Ward: South East Part of the City of BLOOMINGTON". Plat Book of McLean County, 1895. North West Publishing Co.

Gazetteer of McLean County and City Directory of Bloomington, 1866.

Griffith, Evelyn S. An Architectural Success in Central Illinois: George H. Miller. In press. (draft of May, 1985. M.A. thesis in preparation for the University of Iowa, Iowa City. Dr. Robert Alexander, supervisor.

ILLUSTRATED BLOOMINGTON and NORMAL. Model Laundry Co., Bloomington, Illinois, 1896

Koos, G. & Wyckoff, M., Eds. The Illustrated History of McLean County. McLean County Historical Society, Bloomington, Illinois, 1982.

McTurnan, Alice (Mrs. Lee), 409 E. Grove, Bloomington. Interviewed at her home on March 10, 1985.

Miller, George. "A Frame Dwelling". CARPENTRY AND BUILDING: A Monthly Journal. September, 1880, Vol II, No. 9, pp. 161-165.

Registrar of Deeds, McLean County, Illinois. Court House, Bloomington, Ill.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

P.O. BOX 37127

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20013-7127

IN REPLY REFER TO:

NOV 22 1985

The Director of the National Park Service is pleased to inform you that the following properties have been entered in the National Register of Historic Places beginning November 10, 1985 and ending November 16, 1985. For further information call (202) 343-9552.

STATE, County, Vicinity, Property, Address, (Date Listed)

CALIFORNIA, El Dorado County, Placerville, Hattie (Gold Bug), Priest & Silver Pine Mines and Stampmill, 2501 Bedford Ave. (11/15/85)

CONNECTICUT, New Haven County, Guilford, Eliot, Jared, House, 88 Old Chaffinch Island Rd. (11/14/85)

ILLINOIS, Adams County, Quincy, Quincy East End Historic District, Roughly bounded by Hampshire, 24th, State, and 12th Sts. (11/14/85)

ILLINOIS, Clay County, Xenia, Paine House, Rt. 1, Box 19 A (11/14/85)

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Chicago, Gage Group—Ascher, Keith, & Gage Buildings, 18--30 S. Michigan Ave. (11/14/85)

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Chicago, Smith, J. P., Shoe Company Plant, 671--699 N. Sangamon Ave., and 901--921 W. Huron St. (11/14/85)

ILLINOIS, Jackson County, Carbondale, Reef House, 411 S. Poplar St. (11/14/85)

ILLINOIS, McLean County, Bloomington, Cox, George H., House, 701 E. Grove St. (11/14/85)

ILLINOIS, Ogle County, Mt. Morris, Hitt, Samuel M., House, 7782 IL 64 W. (11/14/85)

ILLINOIS, Tazewell County, Pekin, Tazewell County Courthouse, Court St. between Capitol & Fourth Sts. (11/14/85)

IOWA, Scott County, Davenport, Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Freight House (Davenport MRA), 102 S. Ripley St. (11/14/85)

KENTUCKY, Bracken County, Snag Creek Site (15BK2) (11/14/85)

KENTUCKY, Bracken County, Turtle Creek Site (15BK13) (11/14/85)

KENTUCKY, Carlisle County, Marshall Site (15-CE-27) (11/14/85)

KENTUCKY, Carlisle County, Turk Site (15 CE 6) (11/14/85)

KENTUCKY, Clark County, Indian Fort Earthworks (15CK7) (11/14/85)

KENTUCKY, Kenton County, Covington, Emery Row, 810--828 Scott Blvd. (11/14/85)

KENTUCKY, Logan County, Page Site (15L01) (11/14/85)

MARYLAND, Baltimore (Independent City), Baltimore, Young Men's & Young Women's Hebrew Association Building, 305--311 W. Monument St. (11/14/85)

NORTH DAKOTA, Ramsey County, Devils Lake, Bangs—Wineman Block, 402--408 Fourth St. (11/14/85)

NORTH DAKOTA, Richland County, Mooreton vicinity, Bagg Bonanza Farm District, Off ND 13 on Section Rd. (11/14/85)

NORTH DAKOTA, Traill County, Mayville, Delchar Theater, 20 W. Main St. (11/14/85)

NORTH DAKOTA, Traill County, Mayville, Goose River Bank, 45 Main St. E. (11/14/85)

NORTH DAKOTA, Traill County, Mayville, Lura Building, 29 W. Main St. (11/14/85)