

**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 Heath, David S., House
other names/site number The Green House, Heath-Steele-Gretencord House

2. Location

street & number 202 West McConnell N/A not for publication
city or town Oxford N/A vicinity
state Indiana code IN county Benton code 007 zip code 47971

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 36CFR 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

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

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

Name of Property

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, district, site, structure, object

Table with 3 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing, and Resource Type (buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total). Values: Contributing (2, 0, 0, 0, 2), Noncontributing (0, 0, 0, 0, 0).

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure

DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne

foundation BRICK

walls WOOD: Weatherboard

STONE: Limestone

roof STONE: Slate

other METAL

WOOD

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1908 - 1949

Significant Dates

1908

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Brown, George S.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographic 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 #

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

see continuation sheet

Heath, David S., House
Name of Property

Benton IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	6	4	7	8	6	8	0	4	4	8	5	2	4	0
Zone	Easting						Northing							

3

Zone	Easting						Northing							

2

Zone	Easting						Northing							

4

Zone	Easting						Northing							

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 David E. and Virginia L. Grefencord
organization N/A date 11/10/98
street & number 202 West McConnell telephone 765-385-2023
city or town Oxford state IN zip code 47971

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed 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 David E. and Virginia L. Grefencord
street & number 202 West McConnell telephone 765-385-2023
city or town Oxford state IN zip code 47971

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.

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Section number 7 Page 1

David S. Heath House
Benton County, Indiana

Narrative Description

The David S. Heath House is a two-and-one-half-story wood frame dwelling located in an old residential area of Oxford, Indiana. A two-story wood frame carriage house also stands on the property. Both structures were constructed of native oak and poplar wood. The house retains a high degree on historic integrity and has recently been rehabilitated by the current owners. The design and craftsmanship of the Heath House combine to present an excellent example of Queen Anne, Free Classic architecture. Current landscape features include numerous lily and peony beds, roses of sharon, giant fern, and countless shrubs and flowers. Blue spruce, European larch, gold-tipped arborvitae, and redbud trees are also situated on the property.

The house has a two-and-one-half story rectangular form with projecting gabled bays on the north (main elevation) and the east. A small, gabled dormer projects from the roof on the north side, while a semi-hip dormer projects to the south. A one-story windowed porch extends from the south elevation.

The frame of the Heath House rests upon a gloss-glazed brick foundation with a limestone footer course. The mortar joint is 3/32" thick and has a reddish-brown hue. Horizontal redwood clapboard along with wide poplar window and corner trim make up the main facade of the house (photo 1). The upper-level cornice is composed of composite-curved molding, while the molding around the veranda is more rectilinear (photos 5,6). The original copper gutter remains affixed above the fascia. The roof of the house is hipped with lower cross gables on the north and east sides (photos 2,3). These gables feature deeply inset crowns and composite-curved moldings (photo 5). A gabled dormer is prominent on the north elevation, while the south elevation features a hipped dormer (photos 1,4). Affixed to the top of the roof peak is an ornate copper ridge cresting, and copper is also used along the edges and valleys of the roof (photo 5). The floor and ceiling joists are all fastened with mortise and tenon joints. All interior weight bearing walls are supported by criss-crossing brick foundations forming the interior walls of the basement.

One notable feature of the Heath House is the one-story, wrap-around porch which extends from the east side around the front of the house, terminating in a porte cochere on the west side (photos 1,2). Semicircular cut limestone steps are used to enter and exit the veranda on the northeast, while cut limestone steps lead to and from the attached porte cochere. These steps ascend to the porch floor constructed of oak planks. Positioned throughout the outer walls are several brick masonry arches capped with limestone. Supporting the veranda ceiling and roof are ten fluted wooden columns (photo 6). The column capitals are of a Renaissance Ionic design. The roofing material for the porch and porte cochere is lead-seamed tin which also forms the built-in gutters. The veranda roof is used additionally to support an upper balcony which is directly above the main entrance (photo 5). Four

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David S. Heath House
Benton County, Indiana

full unfluted columns and two engaged columns topped with Doric capitals support the pedimented balcony roof.

Other exterior features include the glazed brick, double-stacked chimney. The chimney matches the color and design of the brick foundation (photo 3). The well-lit house contains a total of 58 windows. Window types include: 10 foot single pane, mullion, leaded beveled glass, art glass, 12 paned pediment window, and a variety of double hung sashes. Several awning style basement windows are located above the limestone footer encircling the entire house. At the present time, all of these specific features are in superb condition.

The Heath House has many significant interior features. It is fortunate the original blueprints, floor plans, and elevation papers, all signed by architect George S. Brown, still exist. This source is a wealth of information and has rendered itself invaluable, especially in proving there have been no alterations. The house maintains its full integrity since construction in 1908. This documentation shows all the rooms and their functions, as well as window and door placements, floor plans, and many other features.

Entry into the front of the house is made through two large, beveled plate glass, oak framed doors. Upon entering the foyer, one first encounters the striking oak winding staircase and ornate candelabra at the base of the newel post (photo 9). The warm, golden patina is noticeable throughout the oak hardwood floors, all the original woodwork, the pocket doors, and the solid oak, seven-paneled interior doors. Egg and dart design, a symbol of life and death, can be found around the rail and crown mold above each door and window in every room of the house, as well as the fireplace and entablature in the sitting room and front parlor. Another prominent feature found throughout the house is a wreath motif, a symbol of eternity. A wreath is on every brass doorknob and brass doorpull, as well as on the fireplace screen, light fixtures, and art glass windows in both the library and powder room. Entry into the front parlor, or sitting room, is made from the foyer through large passages flanked by square, fluted columns topped by Ionic capitals (photo 10).

The focal point of the sitting room is a large, ornate, functional fireplace positioned diagonally in the southwest corner of the room (photo 11). This distinguished piece is framed from floor to ceiling in oak crown and embellished with egg and dart, wreath, and mantel dentils, with a large beveled mirror above. The fireplace is flanked by two tall, slender, round fluted columns topped with Ionic capitals. Past the fireplace on the right is a single eight feet tall by six feet wide oak pocket door with seven raised oak panels opening into the library, which features a wonderful wreath motif art glass window. Past the sitting room fireplace on the left, two eight feet, seven paneled oak pocket doors split open into a dining room featuring an ornate oak plate rail decorated with oak leaf and wreath applique encircling the entire room (photo 12). The walls below the plate rail contain flower motif anaglypta.

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David S. Heath House
Benton County, Indiana

The Tiffany-style hanging lamp with fruit design matches the large, fruit design, art glass window on the south wall (photo 13). From the dining room, one moves through a swinging door into a spacious kitchen. The kitchen woodwork is yellow pine and features a floor-to-ceiling built-in pantry. There are transom windows above the doors leading to the glass enclosed sun porch, as well as those at the rear landing to the basement. Toward the rear of the kitchen, a three-tiered landing winds upward to the servant stairs leading to the second floor maid's quarters.

The oak winding staircase in the front foyer leads to the second story bedrooms and is located in a transverse passage. An unusual second floor sitting area, measuring 9 feet by 14 feet, is situated near the top landing of the oak winding staircase. Entrance into the sitting area is made through an oak door containing three tall, narrow panes of glass. The sitting area is enhanced by an attractive set of Juliette windows (photo 14). Each consists of a three-sectioned, oak, raised panel, lower partition topped with three oak, framed glass window panels. Each window has twelve panes of glass. The center portion of each Juliette windows is vertically hinged and can be opened outwardly to expose a grand view of the main foyer below. Also, three matching, colorful, art glass windows can be seen from this area.

The wide second story hallway, as well as each of the six rooms on the second floor, incorporates egg and dart patterns in the crown mold and other woodwork. All thirteen doors on the second floor are of raised panel construction and consist of six sections. Each and every door in the Heath House, including pocket doors and closets, still contain very ornate, solid brass doorknobs and keyhole plates of a wreath motif. Another feature of interest is a decorative, chamfered, corner molding which protects each outside corner of the second floor hallway. Still in use today, a waist-high safety gate constructed of six verticle wooden slats is located at the top of the rear staircase landing near the maid's quarters. The gate is hinged to a wooden frame with a locking latch.

There are five bedrooms and one full bathroom on the second floor. Original brass chandeliers hang in each of the five bedrooms. All are functional and have original frosted glass diffusers. The chandeliers serve as the main light source and are activated by original push-button on/off switches. The large master bedroom features a beautiful semi-circular alcove. The bedroom located directly across the hall from the master bedroom still contains two functional, brass, hinged, single-globe reading lights. Skeleton keys are still hanging on the jamb of each bedroom door. The second floor bathroom contains authentic features, such as a clawfoot bathtub, pedestal sink, and high-flush toilet.

The second floor staircase leads to a 66 feet by 42 feet ballroom which occupies the entire third floor (photos 15,16). The cross-design construction of the floor plan makes for an impressive view of Oxford from all directions. Triparte and multi-paned windows line the outer wall of the ballroom. The original redwood, beadboard woodwork is totally intact and remains in perfect condition. The

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David S. Heath House
Benton County, Indiana

wall treatment is horizontally applied to all side walls from the floor to the ceiling. Several storage areas are incorporated into each of the four corners of the ballroom. Entrance into these areas is accessible through flush mounted, vertical beadboard doors.

Attic space and a basement which contains a noteworthy hammered tin ceiling make up the remainder of the Heath House. Original steam radiators continue to be used as the sole heating source. The boiler is gas fired and works very well in heating the entire house.

There is one outbuilding located on the property (photos 7,8). A two-story frame structure, located on the southwest corner of the property, was constructed in 1902 for use as a carriage house and horse stable. The second story hayloft has passages to the original hay mangers, as well as to chutes from the oat bin. The carriage house interior walls, as well as the first floor ceiling, are finished with tongue and groove car siding. The windows in the first and second floor are four over four double hung.

There have been few alterations to the property over time. Two 10 feet by 8 feet wooden, hinged, swinging doors, located on the east side of the carriage house, were removed in the early 1950s and replaced with two 7 feet by 9 feet slide-by wooden doors on cannonball tracks. At the same time, a single 10 feet by 8 feet door on the north side was boarded over. More recently, in March 1997, broken glass in the four over four double hung windows located in the carriage house haymow were replaced with old panes of glass found in the loft. In April 1997, to make the hayloft fully accessible, the 18 inch by 18 inch scuttle hole was enlarged to incorporate a flight of stairs, replacing a wooden ladder. Two overgrown spruce trees located on the northeast corner of the property were cut down in May 1997 due to their large roots undermining the veranda foundation and front steps, as well as large limbs causing damage to the fascia and built-in gutters of the veranda roof.

Upon purchase of the Heath House in 1996 by the current owners, the exterior of the house was in very bad condition and in need of numerous repairs due to several years of neglect. Since 1997, The Heath House has been restored to its original state of elegance and grandeur. During restoration, all materials were replaced with like kind and quality based material. At the present time, total historic integrity has been recaptured.

Narrative Statement of Significance

The David S. Heath House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places for its outstanding architecture. This impressive residence has maintained its original integrity both inside and outside

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David S. Heath House
Benton County, Indiana

and is significant for its embodiment of the Queen Anne style of architecture, particularly the Free Classic variation. Details, such as the wrap-around veranda, fluted columns capped with Ionic capitals, the port cochere, and an upper balcony with deeply inset pediment, are examples of fine craftsmanship which distinguish the Heath House as a wonderful representation of the Free Classic form of Queen Anne residence.

The house was built in 1908 by David S. Heath as a personal residence. Mr. Heath and his family were very prominent citizens of Oxford, Indiana. David and his father, Joseph Heath, were at one time the sole owners of the third bank in Oxford, co-founded by Joseph and partner Leroy Templeton in 1894 and known as The Bank of Oxford. Upon the death of Joseph Heath in 1905, a reorganization of bank officials followed, and David Heath was named president of The Bank of Oxford. In addition to banking, David Heath was a large land and cattle owner. David Heath died on March 7, 1926, though the house he built remained in the Heath family until 1990.

The Heath House is significant in the context of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century architecture in Oxford, Indiana. Oxford was surveyed in the spring of 1843, and from that year until 1874, Oxford served as the county seat of Benton County. Many building designs, such as Italianate, Greek Revival, and Queen Anne, as well as numerous single and one-and-one-half-story cottages dotted the area during this period and on into the late 1800s. For Oxford, the turn-of-the-century brought many changes. Due to rail service into smaller, rural towns, economic growth reached larger portions of Indiana. In 1902, Oxford obtained its own electrical generating station, springing forward the construction of a town water tower, followed by a sewer system, installed from 1907 to 1909. It was during this period of economic advancement that David S. Heath constructed his home along West McConnell Street.

Residential architecture in Oxford is represented by a number of notable properties. The Dr. Lee office and residence at 105 South Sheets Street is an American Four Square built in 1911. The Zeis House at 202 West Benton Street was built in the Italianate style in 1891. The Amos Colburn House at 201 West Smith Street with its wrap-around porch, turned posts, attached porte cochere, and two-story carriage house was built in 1899 and is a good example of Queen Anne design. A residence by noted Heath House architect George S. Brown and his father, George Brown, was a Greek Revival house built for Judge David McConnell in 1858. Unfortunately, the beautiful home was destroyed by a fire in 1948. Like the McConnell House, the Heath Residence is one of a handful of architect designed homes that has been built in Oxford throughout the years.

The Heath House clearly represents a prime example of Queen Anne architecture in the particular form of Free Classic. A noteworthy Free Classic feature is the use of ten sturdy, tapered, fluted, wooden columns adorned with ornate Ionic capitals along with two matching fluted pilasters affixed

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Benton County, Indiana

to the house on opposite ends of the veranda, all of which support the large overhanging veranda roof. Another feature that clearly illustrates Free Classic design is the deeply inset pediment flanked by four wooden columns and two engaged columns, all of which are topped with Doric capitals and used to offset the balcony which incorporates a paneled belt course for its handrail enclosure. The protruding dormers on the hipped portions of the roof, as well as the encircling cornice dentils and crown, which encloses the built-in copper rain gutter, also exhibit characteristics of the Free Classic form. Other Free Classic attributes include the triparte window in the cross gable and the heavy horizontal and vertical lines, exemplified by wide corner and frieze boards.

From the front elevation of the home, one notable Queen Anne feature is a large, handsome, wrap-around veranda which, along with the large cross-gable element, produces an asymmetrical plan basic to Queen Anne architecture. Another Queen Anne feature of the house is the large bay window projecting from the east elevation. The roof design also represents notable Queen Anne traits, including the high-pitch of the slate roof, cross-gable plan, and the ornate copper ridge cresting. The ornate, art glass windows along various parts of the house further emphasize the Queen Anne style embodied in the Heath House.

Unlike many of the homes in Oxford today, the Heath House still remains totally intact, its integrity preserved and architectural grandeur on display. In October 1998, the Wabash Valley Trust for Historic Preservation, Tippecanoe County, Indiana recognized the Heath House for its architectural excellence and significance to local history. The Heath House is eligible for the National Register for its high level of integrity and outstanding representation of the Queen Anne style in a Free Classic form. The Heath House is clearly one of the finest examples of turn-of-the-century craftsmanship in the town of Oxford.

Location of Additional Data

Benton County Historical Society
Ella Grant Lawson House 404 East 6th Street
Fowler, Indiana 47944
765-884-8839

Benton County Public Library
102 North Van Buren Avenue
Fowler, Indiana 47944
765-884-1720

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David S. Heath House
Benton County, Indiana

Oxford Public Library
201 East Smith Street
Oxford, Indiana 47971

Bibliography

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Cross, Mary E. The Dans . . . And One Was a Pacer. Oxford, IN: Richard B. Cross, Inc., 1984.

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Section number 10 Page 8

David S. Heath House
Benton County, Indiana

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 1 and 2 of Block 8 in the Justus second addition to the town of Oxford, Benton County, Indiana.

Verbal Boundary Justification

This is the historic property boundary.