Form 10-300  UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
       NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

   COMMON:
   Hower Mansion

   AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

   STREET AND NUMBER:
   60 Fir Hill

   CITY OR TOWN:
   Akron

   STATE:
   Ohio

   CODE:
   039

   COUNTY:
   Summit

   CODE:
   153

3. CLASSIFICATION

   CATEGORY
   (Check One)

   District
   Site
   Building
   Structure

   OWNERSHIP

   Public
   Private
   Both

   Public Acquisition:
   In Process
   Being Considered

   STATUS

   Occupied
   Unoccupied
   Preservation work in progress

   ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC

   Yes:
   Restricted
   Unrestricted
   No

   PRESENT USE
   (Check One or More as Appropriate)

   Agricultural
   Commercial
   Educational
   Entertainment

   Government
   Industrial
   Military
   Religious

   Park
   Private Residence

   Other (Specify)

   Transportation

   Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

   OWNER'S NAME:
   The University of Akron

   STREET AND NUMBER:
   302 E. Buchtel Avenue

   CITY OR TOWN:
   Akron

   STATE:
   Ohio

   CODE:
   039

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

   COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
   Summit County Court House

   STREET AND NUMBER:
   209 S. High Street

   CITY OR TOWN:
   Akron

   STATE:
   Ohio

   CODE:
   039

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

   TITLE OF SURVEY:

   DATE OF SURVEY:
   [ ] Federal  [ ] State  [ ] County  [ ] Local

   DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

   STREET AND NUMBER:

   CITY OR TOWN:

   STATE:

   CODE:

367-16
7. DESCRIPTION

<table>
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<tr>
<th>CONDITION</th>
<th>(Check One)</th>
<th>(Check One)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ Excellent</td>
<td>□ Good</td>
<td>□ Fair</td>
<td>□ Deteriorated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Ruins</td>
<td>□ Unexposed</td>
<td>□ Altered</td>
<td>□ Unaltered</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ Moved</td>
<td>□ Original Site</td>
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DESCRIPT THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Hower Mansion, situated on a high, well-landscaped 2.5 acre plot is a picturesque red brick Victorian Mansion in the French Second Empire style. Typical of the style are the many projecting pavilions, each with its own roof. Spacious verandas connect the projecting bays and the wide eaves are supported by ornamental brackets. Also typical are the high mansard roofs of fishtail slate shingle and the elegantly detailed dormers. There are several chimneys, each with great decorative detail. A four story tower at the northeast corner accents the boldly modeled composition. The tower, with its mansard roof, arched and round dormer windows and bracketed eaves, is surmounted by a wrought iron railing and a weather-vane which indicates the year the building was completed, 1871.

There are 42 rooms in the mansion, many embellished with black walnut trim, marble fireplaces and parquet floors. The furnishings include priceless art objects and antiques brought from Europe. Among the notable interior details are the beautifully etched door and overdoor panels in the front hall and the main stair which rises four stories to the observation tower. Beyond this stairway is a central octagonal hall which leads to all the other rooms on the ground floor.
The finest of the few remaining large Victorian houses in Akron, the Hower Mansion is a superb example of an architectural style from an era when wealthy men built pretentious homes to display their wealth.

John H. Hower, the designer and first owner of the house, was a leading Akron industrialist. In 1861, he helped organize the Excelsior Mower & Reaper Company in nearby Doylestown and he later served as Vice-President of another farm machinery company, the J.F. Seiberling Co. In 1881, he formed Hower & Company, a milling firm which was an important forerunner of The Quaker Oats Company.

In 1871, the Hower Mansion was completed and 100 years later, Mr. Hower's grandchildren, Mr. John M. Crawford and John B. Hower, deeded the mansion to the University of Akron. Mrs. Crawford has a life estate and continues to occupy the house.

The Hower Mansion is significant as the best preserved and one of the most elaborate and pretentious Victorian houses in northeast Ohio.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
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<td>SE</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
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Approximate acreage of nominated property: 2.5 acres

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: William V. Wallace, Jr., Director

ORGANIZATION: Summit County Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER: 550 Copley Road

CITY OR TOWN: Akron

STATE: Ohio

CODE: 039

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

- National [ ]
- State [ ]
- Local [ ]

Name ___________________________

Title ___________________________

Date ___________________________
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   CODE: 039
   COUNTY: Summit
   CODE: 153

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
   PHOTO CREDIT: Louis Tobias
   DATE OF PHOTO: Jan. 1971
   NEGATIVE FILED AT: Tobias Studio, 950 S. Arlington St., Akron, Ohio

4. IDENTIFICATION
   DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
   north elevation

INT: 154-72
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**PROPERTY MAP FORM**

*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)*

<table>
<thead>
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**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

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**3. MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Series, Akron, West Quadrangle

SCALE: 1:24000

DATE: 1967

**4. REQUIREMENTS**

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.
April 23, 1973

Mr. D. J. Guzzetta, President
The University of Akron
Akron, Ohio 44304

Dear Mr. Guzzetta:

I am pleased to inform you that the Hower Mansion, 60 Fir Hill, has been entered in the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service, United States Department of Interior.

The nomination was made in connection with a state plan to identify and document prehistoric and historic places in Ohio which qualify for National Register status under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. All nominations are approved by the Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board.

Enclosed is a brochure explaining the purposes and goals of the National Register of Historic Places.

Congratulations for recognizing the importance of, and the need for, the careful and sensible preservation of Ohio's landmarks. Your farsightedness will surely serve as an example to other individuals and organizations in this state.

Sincerely,

Judith Kitchen
Architectural Historian

JK/glk
enclosure
National Register of Historic Places File Checklist

The following materials are contained in this file of the National Register form for:

Name: Hower Mansion

County: Summit

✓ Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form

✓ Photograph(s)

✓ USGS map(s)

✓ Other news clippings

CES: 9/01