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 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. **Name of Property**

   **Historic name**
   Bolman (George T. and Minnie Searles) House

2. **Location**

   **Street & number**
   418 North 4th Street

   **City or town**
   Atchison

   **State** Kansas
   **Code** KS
   **County** Atchison
   **Code** 005
   **Zip code** 66002

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]
   DSHPO
   4/3/06

   Signature of certifying official /Title
   Kansas State Historical Society

   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 commenting 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
5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- [x] private
- [ ] public-local
- [ ] public-State
- [ ] public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- [x] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing | Noncontributing
--------------|------------------
1 buildings   | 1 buildings
1 sites       | 1 sites
1 structures  | 1 structures
1 objects     | 1 objects

total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter Categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL REVIVAL

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: STONE
BRICK
Walls: STUCCO

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)

☐ 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 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 #

Primary location of additional data:
☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Name of repository:
Kansas State Historical Society
10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property  
Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1  
Zone  Easting  Northing
1 5 3 1 8 1 2 0 4 3 8 1 5 1 1

3
Zone  Easting  Northing

4

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  
Susan Jezak Ford/ Elizabeth L. Lane

Organization  
Citysearch Preservation

Date  
June 30, 2005

Street & number  
3628 Holmes Street

Telephone  
816-531-2489

City or town  
Kansas City

State  
Missouri

Zip code  
64109

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.

Photographs
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items
(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Name  
Gary and Diana Moxley

Street & number  
418 North 4th Street

Telephone  
913-367-5251

City or town  
Atchison

State  
Kansas

Zip code  
66002

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 Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.
Architectural Description

Overview
The George T. and Minnie Searles Bolman house is a two-and-a-half-story white stucco dwelling located at 418 North 4th Street in Atchison, Kansas. The house is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of Architecture.

The house faces west and is sited on a prominent corner lot at the southeast corner of North 4th and Parallel Streets, just north of downtown Atchison. The house was constructed to its present state in 1912, incorporating earlier dwellings on the lot that were begun around 1869. The house retains a high degree of integrity from the 1912 date in placement, materials and room configuration.

The large house is designed in the Colonial Revival style with Craftsman details that include sturdy woodwork, leaded glass and glazed tile. The simple exterior displays a symmetrical façade with a solid, horizontal profile. The house has a stone and brick foundation, stucco walls and an asphalt shingle roof. A stucco-clad chimney projects from the east side of the hipped roof. All windows are double-hung, unless noted, and most have four or six panes in the upper sashes. The windows are simply framed. The eaves of the house were covered with metal soffits around 1990.

Exterior
The Bolman house’s west façade is symmetrical and three bays wide. The first story is fronted by a full red brick porch with large brick piers at the outer corners and on either side of the central set of steps. The porch has a stone water course and stone slabs atop the solid balustrade. The porch’s eaves project beyond a simple fascia and the roof is flat with a central low gable. The porch curves to wrap around the northwest corner of the house. Viewing from north to south, the first bay of the façade has 6/1 windows on the first and second stories. The central second bay has a wide hipped dormer with a row of four 2/1 windows in the third story, a 6/1 window in the second story and the house’s entrance located within a curved entryway. This entrance has a central glass door surrounded by curved leaded glass windows. The third façade bay is identical to the first bay. The west side of the house’s sun porch extension, recessed from the plane of the façade, has a pair of 2/1 windows in the second story and a wood wall in the first story. The first story of this extension once served as an open rear porch and fascia trim and a wood corner pier are still present.

The south side of the house is divided into two halves. The west half has a two-story slight projection that is supported by four brackets. Three 4/1 windows are located in both stories of the projection. The east half of the south side is filled with the sun porch, which projects from the wall approximately six feet. The foundation of this projection is concrete block. The second story is filled with a strip of three wide 4/1 windows. The west portion of the first story formerly contained a rear porch area and retains a simple wood fascia and a wood pier in the southwest corner. This area is now filled with wood, containing a single entrance door and a 1/1 window. An additional 1/1 window is located in the east side of the first story. A hipped dormer with a pair of 2/1 windows projects from the third story of the south side. The sides of the dormer are narrow wood clapboards.
The west (rear) side of the Bolman house consists of a plain stucco wall with irregular window openings of various sizes. The south three-fourths of this elevation is pulled forward from the north portion. The second story of this portion has a strip of three 4/1 windows and three single 4/1 windows. The first story has two 4/1 windows and two leaded glass casement windows. The north portion of the west side has a 6/1 window in the second story and a leaded glass window in the first story.

The north side of the house is two bays wide, with 6/1 windows on the first and second stories of both bays. A hipped dormer projects from the third story, containing a pair of 2/1 windows. The sides of the dormer are narrow wood clapboards. A rear extension projects from the house’s east side. The north side of this extension has a 4/1 window in the second story and a leaded glass window in the first story.

Interior
The interior of the Bolman house is an excellent representation of a house built for a well-to-do merchant in the early 1900s. The house retains most of its original room configuration, which includes large spaces for entertaining on the first and third stories and five bedrooms for family, servants or overnight guests. The house’s original detailing is still present in the form of plentiful Craftsman-inspired woodwork and leaded glass windows, indicative of the status of its original owners.

The house’s center-hall is entered via a vestibule that has curved leaded glass exterior windows and a mosaic tile floor. The entry has original oak flooring and a built-in storage bench located north of the door. The ceiling and cove molding in this area are covered with textured coating. The house’s living room fills the north end of the first story. The floor of the room is carpeted and the ceiling and cove molding are covered with textured coating. A leaded glass window is present on the east wall of the room. Leaded glass French doors lead from the center hall to the dining room in the southwest corner of the house. This room has an oak floor, ceiling beams and wainscoting. The house’s main stairway is encased in the center of the first story. A small butler’s pantry is located opposite the stairway. A den is located behind the stairway. The den includes its original oak woodwork, leaded glass casement windows and built-in shelves surrounding a green art tile fireplace. A modern bathroom separates the den from the house’s kitchen, located in the southeast corner of the house. The kitchen was remodeled and modernized around 1974 to include an eating area.

Four bedrooms, two bathrooms and a sunporch open off of a central hallway on the house’s second story. The hallway is carpeted, but each bedroom has original wood floors. Bedrooms are located on the north and west sides of the house. Two newly reconfigured bathrooms are located on the east side. A large sunporch is located in the house’s southeast corner.

The house’s third story consists of one large open room on the north end and two smaller rooms on the south end. The large room measures approximately 36 feet by 24 feet and was likely used for entertaining by the Bolmans. One very
small room in the southeast corner of the space serves as a storage closet. A maid’s bedroom and closet is located in the southwest corner of the space. The third story retains its original wood floors and painted wood trim.

Figure 1. Bolman Main Floor Plan (not to scale.)

Figure 2. Bolman 2nd Floor Plan (not to scale.)
Garage
The site contains a circa 1985 garage located south of the Bolman house. The outbuilding measures approximately 28 by 36 feet. The gambrel-roof building is clad in vinyl siding with an asphalt shingle roof.
Statement of Significance

Overview
The George T. and Minnie Searles Bolman house, located at 418 North 4th Street in Atchison, Kansas is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The house, although fairly plain, is an excellent example of architectural trends that passed through this once-prosperous town. The town’s growth and development of a wealthy merchant class are reflected in the house’s history and in its well-preserved fabric.

Architecture, Family History and House History
According to Atchison County probate records, the Bolman house began in 1869 as a one-story brick house located on Lot 7 of Block 63, built by John Costello. The house was expanded in subsequent years and is shown on the earliest Sanborn maps for the block in 1901. This map shows a dwelling with a central one-story brick section, a frame one-story south section and a frame two-story north section. A partially obstructed view of the one-story portion of the house also appears on an 1880 Birds Eye View of Atchison.1

Gaylord Wood Searles, Minnie’s father, was born in New York and migrated with his parents to Michigan at a very early age. In 1861, at the age of 18, he enlisted in the 21st Michigan regiment as a private and served three years. His regiment marched with General Sherman and engaged in significant conflict. Soon after the Civil War, Searles opened a general store in Middleville, Michigan. Minnie Lee Searles was born there on December 12, 1868, the daughter of Gaylord Wood Searles and Adelaide E. Fenton Searles. In 1886, Searles moved his family to Atchison, where he was the president and general manager of Searles Brothers Windmill & Pump Company.

Minnie L. Searles married George “Trace” Tracy Bolman on November 22, 1888 in Atchison. Minnie and George Bolman had two children, a son and a daughter. Mr. Bolman was born in Leavenworth, Kansas in 1864. He came to Atchison, Kansas in 1886 to take charge of the R.G. Dun & Co. R.G. Dun & Co. was the first commercial reporting agency in America with branches in a number of cities nationwide. Mr. Bolman moved to Topeka in 1887, where he set up a Dun & Co. office. From 1888 to 1893, the Bolmans lived in Kansas City, where Bolman continued in the employ of R. G. Dun & Co. In 1893, the Bolmans returned to Atchison so “Trace” Bolman could become manager of the Searles Brothers Windmill & Pump Company. During his tenure with the company from 1893 to 1912, he served in various capacities, including president, secretary and treasurer.

George Searles, father of Minnie Searles Bolman, acquired Lot Seven on Block 63 with its house in March 1892 as settlement for a failed note from Albert H. Lanphear. Minnie purchased the property from her father in March 1893 for $3000. The 1890s was a decade of tremendous prosperity in Atchison, when the town’s population and number of businesses grew. Minnie Bolman was the favored daughter of a prosperous merchant and her husband was newly employed by her father’s successful company. Minnie’s purchase of the prominently located city lot was an obvious display of her own family’s growing affluence. The Bolman family moved into the house located on the lot at the corner of North 4th and Parallel Streets.

Gaylord Searles died in 1912. At the time of his death, the self-made businessman was also director of the Exchange National Bank, Kessler-Barlow Saddlery Company and Atchison Leather Products Company. Searles left an estate of over $200,000, which was shared equally by his wife and daughter. After the settlement of her father’s estate, Minnie L. Searles Bolman had her home significantly enlarged. The May 1916 Sanborn map shows the reconfigured house located on the same site as the previous house and incorporating the north wall, but with a larger footprint and new materials. The dwelling shown on the map reflects the house’s current configuration and exterior plaster cladding. Current owners state that exterior clapboards have been found within interior walls and that floor joists include hand-hewn timbers, as well as dimension lumber.

The Bolman’s 1912 house was not only larger, but incorporated stylish architectural elements. The Colonial Revival style is reflected in the house’s symmetrical exterior, hipped roof, hipped dormers and multi-paned double-hung windows. The style had been growing in popularity since the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial. The extremely popular style spans the decades from 1880 to 1955, making it the most commonly used American housing style. Colonial Revival houses were rarely historically correct, but instead included elements that waxed and waned with architectural fashions. Builders and architects borrowed details freely from other styles, applying them to their Colonial Revival dwellings, as seen in the Bolman house. The exterior stucco coating was a newly fashionable finish that was gaining favor in Atchison and other Midwestern towns.

The Bolmans chose Craftsman elements to add interest their simple home. The full brick front porch with sturdy pier supports is an element found on nearly every Craftsman home. Costly interior details in the Bolman house that fit well with the Craftsman style include built-in seating in the entry, abundant oak trim, leaded glass and built-in shelves, a bracketed mantel and a glazed tile fireplace in the den. Although the Craftsman style was most popular for small houses, it would have been a very fashionable accessory for the Bolman house in 1912. The style became popular shortly after the turn of the 20th century. It is rooted in the English Arts and Crafts movement popularized by Gustav Stickley’s magazine The Craftsman and in bungalows designed by California brothers Charles Sumner Greene and Henry Mather Greene.

The Bolman’s home was a significant addition to its Atchison neighborhood, clearly reflecting the family’s wealth. Atchison’s financially secure residents enjoyed the pleasures of a good life in large, well-constructed homes. These homes outwardly symbolized wealth and status in the community. Architecture was not only the representation of progress, but was also a reflection of status in the social order. Early 20th Century Americans often equated the structure itself to a social institution, a testimony to material progress, family stability and financial security. The foundation of moral development and social values that set the standards for a civilized world was found within the walls of these structures. The idea set forth by many was that a home should reflect all the material possessions of its owner. This idea was especially important in small, but growing towns, like Atchison. The “new” Bolman home showed the town that the family was, indeed, progressive and well-to-do.
“Trace” Bolman died at his home in February 1926. At the time of his death, he was president of the Kessler-Barlow Saddlery Company and director of the American State Bank of Atchison. Bolman typified the successful Atchison businessman of the early 20th Century. He was adept at garnering financial stability and embodied an unquenchable capitalist practice. Minnie L. Searles Bolman lived in the house until she died in January 1958. The home was sold by her daughter, Katherine B. Goodell, in April of 1959. From 1959 to 1968, the home changed hands three times. In April 1972, Gary Moxley and his first wife, Jerene, bought the home. Moxley continues to reside in the home today with his second wife, Diana. The Moxleys raised their combined families in the home.

Atchison History

Atchison is positioned at a western bend of the Missouri River, a location that made it convenient to those traveling west when Kansas was still a territory. Incorporated in 1855, its history includes the rivalry between abolitionists and Missouri pro-slavery advocates, a two-year settlement in 1855 by the Mormons and visits by John Brown and Abraham Lincoln.

Atchison had the advantage of a good steamboat landing and the best wagon road leading west, so the town flourished in the early days as a transportation center. Early freight shipments bound westward were brought from St. Louis to Atchison by steamboat and then hauled by ox or mule team across the prairie. The Atchison Topeka & Santa Fe Railway, founded in 1859, was a successful venture that established the city as the eastern terminus for a railroad system stretching west and south. Even very early mail delivery from the town to points west developed into a million-dollar business.

Atchison became a first class city in 1881. Industry flourished and construction reflected the town’s prosperity. Many of the city’s wealthier residents built new houses in the hilly area north of downtown. The town’s reputation as a home to the affluent was reported in an 1898 article in the Topeka Mail and Breeze entitled “Atchison’s Rich Folks,” which described Atchison as possessing more rich men and rich widows than any other city in Kansas. In “Seeing Atchison,” The Kansas City Star in 1914 discussed the large number of wealthy residents and the money raised for public buildings.

The financial panic of 1893, supplemented by an area drought, dealt a blow to several Atchison institutions, as it did to other Midwestern businesses, especially banks and railroads. Late in the 1890s, however, the improvement of agricultural prices and a general increase in wages and prices brightened the picture. Atchison’s population increased between 1890 and 1900 and business trade followed suit.

The population of Atchison County dropped slightly every decade since 1900. This did not necessarily mean, however, that construction within the town was static. The town’s successful citizens continued to invest in their properties and their neighborhoods. The town experienced a wave of commercial construction between 1910 and 1915.

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that included several large warehouses in the downtown area. Atchison in the late 1930s had a population of 13,000, with streets laid out in strict symmetry. The architecture of the town reflected that of most Kansas towns of its size, with a combination of Victorian houses and storefronts, and a gradual infiltration of “modern” commercial and public buildings. Construction on Atchison’s first free bridge began in late 1937. The Mo-Kan Bridge spanning the Missouri River was dedicated on July 2, 1938. By the late 1930s, the town had become an important wholesale and jobbing center that focused on agricultural products and manufactured goods. The city ranked fourth in Kansas and tenth in the country in the production of hard wheat flour. A foundry established in 1871 was one of the largest in the country, engaged exclusively in the manufacture of locomotive parts. A new industry to the city was the manufacture of industrial alcohol for motor fuel. Other businesses included the production of overalls, leather goods, plumbing fixtures, eggs and poultry. The number of people employed in the city of Atchison actually increased between 1940 and 1950 in fields such as construction, manufacturing, transportation, wholesale and retail.

The George T. and Minnie Searles Bolman house is the well-constructed example of a dwelling built for a successful Atchison family. It was not-infrequent for citizens in this town to acquire property from family, to expand or improve older dwellings or to combine architectural styles to configurations that defied rigid definitions. The Bolman house displays all of these traits, representing a unique architectural history that symbolizes Atchison’s progress.

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United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

George and Minnie Bolman House
Atchison, Kansas

Section number 9 Page 9

Sources
Atchison County, Kansas Probate Record. G. W. Searles. August 2, 1912.


Kansas Historic Resources Inventory Form. June 1989.


Moxley, Gary and Diana. Interview with Susan Ford. 1 June 2005.

Property Abstract – The West Ten Feet (W. 10’’) Lots Six (6) and all of Lot Seven (7), in Block sixty-three (83), in Old Atchison, in that part of the City of Atchison usually known as Old Atchison in Atchison County, Kansas.

Sanborn Map Co. New York. December 1910; May 1916

Verbal Boundary Description
The house is located on the west 10 feet of Lot 6 and all of Lot 7 in Block 63 in Old Atchison. The property is roughly bound by Parallel Street on the north, North 4th Street on the west, an alley on the south and the property line on the east.

Boundary Justification
The nominated property includes the parcel historically associated with the Bolman house.

Photographic Information
The following information is the same for all of the photographs:
1. The George T. and Minnie Searles Bolman House
2. Atchison County, Kansas
3. Susan Jezak Ford
4. June 1, 2005
5. Negatives and/or digital disk located at Kansas State Historical Society

The following information is applicable to individual photographs:
6. Southeast view
7. #1

6. Southwest view
7. #2

6. North view
7. #3

6. Entry to dining room, south view
7. #4

6. Living room to entrance, southwest view
7. #5