

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

**DATA SHEET**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 20 1976

DATE ENTERED SEP 29 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Pedrick; Marcellus, house

AND/OR COMMON  
Pedrick-Lawson house

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
515 Ransom Avenue

CITY, TOWN Ripon VICINITY OF Sixth  NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Wisconsin CODE 54971 COUNTY Fond du Lac CODE 039

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: <u>None.</u>

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

(Undergoing restoration)

NAME Ripon Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER  
508 Watson Street

CITY, TOWN Ripon VICINITY OF STATE Wisconsin 54971

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Fond du Lac County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER  
190 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN Fond du Lac STATE Wisconsin 54935

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Wisconsin Historic Preservation Plan: Volume II, The Inventory

DATE 1974  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
State Historical Society of Wisconsin

CITY, TOWN Madison STATE Wisconsin 53706

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Marcellus Pedrick house is a rectangular, two-story, hip-roofed, Italianate style house constructed of an early form of concrete block with a clapboarded, frame, two-story rear addition flanked on one side by a frame, shed-roofed, one-story addition. The entire house rests on a coursed-rubble limestone foundation. The interior has been greatly altered, and little remains of the original detailing.

The house has walls fifteen inches thick constructed of concrete blocks ten inches long, five inches deep, and five inches high. The blocks are composed of sand and lime and are so soft that they can be scratched easily by a knife. The color of the blocks is similar to the local yellow limestone used in many of Ripon's larger buildings. The walls are sheltered by broad eaves supported by ornate wooden brackets, and the windows have wooden, shaped lintels on small brackets. Attached to the front is a pedimented porch ornamented with spindlework. It is not original, and stylistically it appears to be the most recent addition to the house.

The two-story rear wing has brackets under the eaves and plain moldings around the windows. On one side is a plain, unornamented porch. The dates of this wing and the one-story shed addition are unknown.

Structurally, the Marcellus Pedrick house is in good condition. The Ripon Historical Society plans to repair that exterior detailing which is in need of attention and to renovate the interior according to mid-nineteenth century tastes.

# 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 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 checked="" 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 c. 1858

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Marcellus Pedrick

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Marcellus Pedrick house is significant as the earliest known structure in Wisconsin built with any form of concrete block construction, and as an early example of such construction in the United States. United States Patents specifically mentioning "cement block" were first issued in the mid-1830's. Interest in Wisconsin in this type of building material is evidenced by U. S. Patent #12,264 issued January 16, 1855, to John A. Messinger, Milwaukee, and A. Foster, Portland, Dodge County. This patent was for an "improved building block composed of twelve parts sand to one part lime and pressed in moulds."<sup>1</sup> The Pedrick house, built in 1858, is the earliest of a group of four pre-Civil War houses in Ripon built with "cement block" about three decades before the use of such material became widely accepted.<sup>2</sup> Statewide architectural survey in Wisconsin has revealed to date no other pre-Civil War concrete block structures.

Marcellus Pedrick (1828-1899) was a son of Samuel and Millicent Pedrick who settled in Ripon in April, 1849, and who built the first permanent house in the city. Marcellus and his brothers were stone masons, and are credited with building many of Ripon's early houses.<sup>3</sup> In addition to his career as a builder, Pedrick was a grain dealer, the owner of a lumber and coal yard and of a dairy farm. He was respected as a community leader, was active in the temperance movement, and was elected mayor in 1887.

Pedrick is thought to have built his house at the time of his marriage to Mary A. Smith, Fall River, in 1858. He is also believed to have built subsequently the three other houses utilizing this type of concrete block construction known in Ripon. The similarity between the size and color of the concrete blocks and the limestone block used in Ripon's more expensive buildings suggests that Pedrick may have used the blocks as a less expensive substitute for stone.

1. Report of the Commissioner of Patents, 1855, Volume II, P. 88.
2. Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Sites: Catlin-Dart House, 522 Ransom St., c. 1860; Catlin House, 512 Woodside, 1861; and Lambert House, 119 Tygert St., c. 1860. The Index of Patents shows few patents relating to concrete block issued during the Civil War years but many in the late 1860's and early 1870's. Concrete block construction in Wisconsin was not common until the end of the nineteenth century.
3. Ripon Necrology, Volume VI, p. 63.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Report of the Commissioner of Patents, 1855. Volume II, p. 88.  
Index of Patents, 1790-1873.  
Ripon Necrology, Volume VI, p. 63.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	3521,1,0	4,815,516,1,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Richard L. Cleary, Preservation Planning Assistant

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

December 19, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

816 State Street

TELEPHONE

(608) 262-2970

CITY OR TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

## 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.

S.H.P.O. Signature

*James Norton Smith*

TITLE Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

1/29/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*[Signature]*

DATE

DATE

9/29/76  
9-17-76

Acting DEPUTY CHIEF OF NATIONAL REGISTER