

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED MAY 30 1978
DATE ENTERED NOV 14 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC George B. Peak House

AND/OR COMMON
New Life Eternity House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
1080 22nd Street

CITY, TOWN
Des Moines

STATE
Iowa

VICINITY OF
CODE

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Fourth
COUNTY
Polk
CODE
153

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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: community outreach programs
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Interfaith Ministries for Renewal, Inc. ✓

STREET & NUMBER
Box 1025

CITY, TOWN
Des Moines

VICINITY OF

STATE
Iowa 50311

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Polk County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Des Moines

STATE
Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Des Moines' Heritage: A Survey of Significant Architecture

DATE
1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Plan and Zoning Commission, Des Moines, Iowa

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Peak House is a variation on Georgian Revival architecture, built in 1900. It is constructed of tan brick, with overall dimensions of 50' x 55'. The house is two stories, with a tiled hipped roof with deck. There are gabled projections on north and west sides, and flat-roofed, frame projections on west and wouth. There is brick quoining on all corners of the main block, while the frame sections have corner pilasters with small capitals. Windows and doorways have flat tops and modern sash and doors. First floor openings have jack-arch lintels, while the tops of the second story windows meet the base of the wide, denticular cornice. Roof dormers are pedimented. There are two brick chimneys on the south side.

Classical elements find expression particularly at two entrances. The north entrance has a small pediment beneath transom lights, and a wide panel of sidelights, the whole set beneath an entablature supported by paired Ionic columns on pedestals. The main (east) facade is asymmetrical, and rather overwhelmed by a two-story semicircular portico with four fluted Ionic columns (caps missing on three, damaged on the fourth). Beneath the portico is a balustrade at second story level, supported on massive brackets.

Following Peak's death in 1923, Drake University acquired the house and it was used as a fraternity, then a sorority, for many years. Due to these various uses, the interior, although not rearranged, has been remodelled periodically over the years. The cherry woodwork has been painted many times, but the original finish can be seen on the backs of a few doors. Several of the oak floors have been recently refinished.

The main entrance vestibule opens directly into a large livingroom, which extends across the front of the house, with a game room to the south. Beyond is a short center hall, around which other rooms and the side entrance hall are arranged. On the second floor, there are five bedrooms around a center hall.

At the rear (west) of the house is a two-story carriage house, built of the same tan brick as the main house. The corners are quoined, and there is a wide, plain cornice beneath the high-pitched hipped roof. A large gable-roofed dormer dominates the east elevation. Windows and doorways are of irregular sizes and rather random arrangement.

The property is located in a turn-of-the-century residential area, on Des Moines' earliest paved residential street. Many of the other houses in the area have been converted to apartment use.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" 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

1900

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The George B. Peak house has been identified by the Des Moines Significant Architecture Survey as a locally important example of Georgian Revival architecture, and as historically noteworthy for its association with George B. Peak, a prominent figure in the insurance business in this city.

The house displays a variety of Georgian Revival characteristics, including the hipped roof with flat deck, pedimented dormers, and the portico with freestanding columns. Much of the detail is found at the first floor and roof/cornice level, leaving the second floor relatively undistinguished. The decided asymmetry of the facades and irregularly placed projections give a cluttered effect. In strictly stylistic terms, the Peak house is a rather marginal example of its type, but of interest as a singular adaptation.

George B. Peak (1857-1923) came to Des Moines in 1888 from Kentucky, as a local manager for the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the U.S. In 1896 he organized the Central Life Assurance Society of the U.S., and was president until his death. He was a promoter of the Insurance Exchange building in Des Moines, and "largely responsible" for the construction of Keosauqua Way, now one of the city's major thoroughfares.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(Obituary) Des Moines Register, August 25, 1923, p. 1.
 The Midwester, Vol. III, No. 6 (Feb. 1909), pp. 42-45.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one
 UTM REFERENCES

A

1	5	4	4	6	1	0	0	4	6	0	5	1	2	0
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

 C

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

B

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

 D

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot measuring 230 feet x 110 feet, bounded by 22nd Street on the east and Drake Park Avenue on the north.

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

Tom Jewett

ORGANIZATION

New Life Center

STREET & NUMBER

1079 23rd Street

CITY OR TOWN

Des Moines

DATE

TELEPHONE

STATE

Iowa 50311

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL X

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

Alvin H. Johnson

TITLE

Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

5/12/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Charles H. ...
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

11-14-78

ATTEST:

Marcella ...
 Marcella ...

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 DATE 11-8-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER