Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

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 17 1977 DATE ENTERED N

NOV 1.7 1977

# SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS **1 NAME** HISTORIC Dirk Van Loon House

AND/OR COMMON

"Rock House"

### LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1401 University Ave.			
CITY, TOWN		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	
Pella	VICINITY OF	Fourth	
STATE I.OWA	CODE	COUNTY Marion	CODE

# **CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY OWNERSHIP		<sub>√</sub> STATUS	PRES	PRESENTUSE	
DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT OWNER OF	PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH PUBLIC ACQUISITION IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED PROPERTY	A OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS ACCESSIBLE YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO	AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY	MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER:	
NAME Edi	th C. Kuitert				
street & NUMBER 806 Je	fferson St., Apt. 1			κ	
CITY. TOWN Pe11	a	VICINITY OF	STATE Iowa 50219		
LOCATION	OF LEGAL DESCR	IPTION			
COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS, E	TC. Marion County	Courthouse			
STREET & NUMBER					
city, town Kn	oxville		state Iowa		
6 REPRESEN	TATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS			
TITLE					
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DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS					
CITY, TOWN		<b>.</b> , , <u>.</u>	STATE	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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

The Van Loon house is a small, simple, T-shaped house of local limestone and wood. The original section is of coarsely dressed limestone, and is  $16\frac{1}{2}$  wide and 24' long. A slightly later frame section at right angles to the rear forms the base of the T. On the east side, in the angle between the stone and frame portions of the house, is a small frame cubicle which was to have been a bathroom but was never completed.

The shingles and cornice of the gable roof are wood. Windows are double hung sash, with 2/2 lights. Stone lintels are featured above the two front windows and the centered door. There are brick chimneys on the east and south ends of the house, and a 6/6 window in the west gable end.

The interior is simply divided: a small bedroom at the west end, the rest of the stone section a livingroom/kitchen area; the frame section was for additional sleeping quarters, as was the attic or loft area. Interior walls of the stone section are plastered. There is wainscoting in the frame section and in the attic. A fruit cellar beneath the house is reached by a trapdoor in the floor of the kitchen area.

The present owner has reshingled the roof and put redwood siding on the frame section, as first steps toward the restoration of the whole house to an inhabitable condition.

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# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

SPECIFIC DAT	ES 1856-7	BUILDER/ARC	HITECT Dirk Van Loc	n
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY INVENTION	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
_X 800-1899		XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
1700-1799	ART		MUSIC	THEATER
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
PERIOD	AF			

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Van Loon house holds a high place in local community esteem, as an artifact from the time when Pella was a colony founded to give opportunities in livelihood and worship to families from Holland.

The house was built by Dirk Van Loon (1819-1896), a native of Holland who came to the United States, and to this Dutch settlement at Pella, in 1856. He was a trained stonemason and sometime musician (having played cornet in the Royal Band while serving in the Dutch army in the East Indies). The land for this house was purchased from Dominie Henry P. Scholte, who had engineered the foundation of the Pella settlement by buying land from the U.S. government and then selling it in parcels to his countrymen as they arrived in the colony from Europe.

In spite of the frame addition, which Van Loon found necessary to build in order to accommodate his growing family, this first home in his new land proved too small, and after five years the family moved first to a larger house in Pella and then later to the nearby town of Columbia. Van Loon continued to work as a stonemason for the Pella community, however, and is said to have assisted in the construction of several houses on Washington Avenue and the "Slob" building (at Washington and Broadway) in the town.

In 1875 Van Loon moved on to Kansas as a homesteader, joined by several grandchildren. A great-grandson, Marion Van Loon, is living now in Columbia, Iowa.

The Dutch settlement at Pella was the result of a carefully organized colonization effort begun in Holland around 1845. It was a response to political and economic conditions which restricted freedom of worship and education, and championed the individualism of laissez-faire competition at the expense of Holland's country poor. These people, conservative in thought and traditional in worship, found in Henry Scholte and other Dutch ministers a leadership which sought to ameliorate their lives through emigration to the U.S. Discussion and planning during 1845-47 resulted in the formation of a colony at Pella, a place chosen because if would support traditional Dutch crops, and a place where the 'Word of God'' would be the only law.

Pella today retains much of its Dutch heritage, although considerably Americanized. Dirk Van Loon's stone house is one of the very few structures in the town which date from the earliest decades of Pella, when its position as a carefully constructed and maintained ethnic and religious colony was most firm.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Personal interviews with Marion Van Loon (great-grandson of original builder/owner), by C.C.Buerkens of the Pella <u>Chronicle</u> during spring, 1976. Lucas, Henry Stephen, "The Beginnings of Dutch Immigration to Iowa, 1845-47", <u>Iowa</u> Journal of History and Politics XXII #4 (Oct. 1924), pp. 483-531.

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NAME / TITLE					
Edith (	C. Kuitert				
ORGANIZATION Pella Histo	orical Society			date June 1976	
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