

PHO 662 607

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	FEB 10 1978
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**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
Pearson, Franklin, House
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Dodge Street _____ NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN
Keosauqua _____ VICINITY OF _____ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE
Iowa _____ CODE
Van Buren _____ 177

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Van Buren County Historical Society
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Keosauqua _____ VICINITY OF _____ STATE
Iowa

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Recorder's Office, Van Buren County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Keosauqua, _____ STATE
Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
DATE
_____ FEDERAL _____ STATE _____ COUNTY _____ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Pearson House in Keosauqua was built ca. 1845. It is rectangular in plan, 41' long and 28' deep. The first story is constructed of rock-faced random ashlar, with more rubble limestone found in the east and west end walls than in the front and rear elevations. The second story is brick, laid in common bond. The stories are separated on north and south elevations by a massive beltcourse of limestone, which is slightly returned at the corners, and which forms a continuous lintel for the first floor door and window openings. Sills are of the same stone. The front wall is broken into six bays, the two end bays slightly wider than the others, by plain 2/2 sash windows and two entrances, in second and fifth bays. A door opens into the second floor on the east side: this was once reached by wooden stairs and opens into an area once used for religious services. Second floor windows have narrow lintels. Above these windows is a slightly-protruding course of brick which suggests a frieze panel. The cornice is formed by a course of brick laid so that the corners of the bricks protrude, giving a mouse-tooth effect. The rear elevation has four second floor windows, and one on each side of a recent (and soon to be removed), shed-roofed frame addition. The roof ridge of the house is parallel to the front wall. Of note are the paired flush chimneys rising out of the parapetted gable ends.

In 1967, a tornado removed the chimneys and most of the brick from the east wall, as well as part of the southeast corner. This was rebuilt, using brick from an old church which was totally destroyed by the same wind.

The first floor interior, with walnut woodwork and flooring and plaster walls, contains a parlor and kitchen-dining room at the front, two bedrooms at the rear. The bedroom at the northeast corner (now a museum library) contains a trapdoor leading to a room approximately 7' x 13' which according to some sources and local tradition sheltered slaves travelling north on the Underground Railway. This room is separate from the basement proper, which extends beneath only the west half of the house. The second story rooms were rebuilt following the tornado.

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 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 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 ca. 1845

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

n Franklin Pearson

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Pearson House is significant in terms of age, architecture, and construction. It was built about 1845; although it is by no means the only structure in Iowa of this age, particularly in southeast Iowa, buildings dating from this period are relatively few in the overall context of extant 19th-century Iowa architecture. Stylistically, the Pearson House is a rather unusual example of the importation of the Georgian vernacular to the state -- in this case, from Maryland, the original home of its builder. Pearson's skill as a mason is evident both in the quality of construction and in the most unusual horizontal division of the house into stages of stone and brick. Details of note include the parapet gables and chimneys, mouse-tooth cornices, and the mammoth limestone beltcourse.

Franklin Pearson (1815-1883) was a Maryland native who came to Iowa about 1835, shortly after the first Iowa land was open to white settlement. He lived for a time near Pittsburg (Iowa) and in Eldon, before settling more-or-less permanently in Keosauqua. Pearson was a master mason, to whom a variety of pre-Civil War buildings in the area are attributed. He is definitely known to have built the Appanoose County Courthouse (Centerville, 1865, non-extant), Old Main at Wesleyan College (Mt. Pleasant, 1854), and the first unit of the state asylum, also at Mt. Pleasant (1855). A devout Methodist, Pearson opened the upper floor of his house for community services, and is associated locally with abolitionism and the Underground Railroad of the 1850's. In 1873, he homesteaded in Republic County, Nebraska, and rode circuit in that area for the Methodist Church. The grasshopper plague on the plains in 1874 drove Pearson back to Keosauqua, however, where he lived until his death in 1883.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Pearson, J.C., "A Real Pioneer," Keosauqua Republican, August 15, 1935, p. 108, also p. 45.
- History of Van Buren County, Iowa. Chicago: Western Historical Co., 1878, pp. 468,524, 538.
- American Guide Series. Van Buren County, Iowa, 1940.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 1½ acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	5,8,7,1,8,0	4,5,0,9,7,0,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All of Block 72 in the town of Keosauqua, Iowa. Also a part of the NE¼ of Section 35, Twp. 69N Range 10 W described as follows: Beginning on the East line of said quarter-section at a point where it is intersected by the Division line of Block 72 and Block 73 in the town of Keosauqua, thence South 293.04 feet to the North side of Dodge Street in said town thence following the North line of Dodge street to the public road, formerly known as the Territorial Road, thence North and East along said Territorial Road to a point where said road is intersected by a continuation of the division line of

Block 72 and 73 aforesaid, if extended, and thence East and South along said continued line to the point of beginning.

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Libby Morgan Woodruff, Executive Director

ORGANIZATION

Van Buren Co. Development Association

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Box 9

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Keosauqua

STATE

Iowa

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Adrian A. Anderson

TITLE Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

1-30-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Wm. H. ...

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 7-22-78
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Catherine Cole

DATE

5-12-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER