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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

I. O. Pickering House

AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

507 West Park St

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Olathe

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

No. 3, Larry Winn, Jr.

STATE

Kansas

CODE

20

COUNTY

Johnson

CODE

091

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

### CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

### OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

### PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

### STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

### ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

### PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Maxine M. Short

STREET & NUMBER

507 West Park

CITY, TOWN

Olathe

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kansas

66061

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Johnson County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Olathe

STATE

Kansas

66061

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1971

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Kansas State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Topeka

STATE

KS. 66612

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

## CHECK ONE

## CHECK ONE

EXCELLENT

DETERIORATED

UNALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE

GOOD

RUINS

ALTERED

MOVED

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

FAIR

UNEXPOSED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Isaac O. Pickering House is a towered Italianate villa with an ell plan. It is a two-story frame structure with a rough-pitched stone foundation. The square tower above the main entrance, which faces north, has pairs of arched windows in each wall. There is a one-story porch across the front which ends in a circular domed pavilion.

The east wing of the house ends in a polygonal bay. A second story porch is superimposed over the first story porch on the southeast corner of the house. A brick chimney is located slightly east and south of the center of the building. An intersecting hip roof covered with asphalt shingles caps the structure.

Paired brackets accent the cornice line. Floor length arched windows with shutters open on the front porch. Both front and rear porches have turned posts, and the front porch is ornamented with Eastlake decoration.

Inside the house a number of surviving historic features include fireplaces and mantels, a curving stairway, wainscoting, moldings, and doors.

### Alterations

According to local tradition, Isaac Pickering built the house over a ten year period beginning in the late 1870's. From visual inspection it appears that the east wing was probably extended later and the Eastlake porch ornamentation was certainly added later.

Modern alterations include the attachment of a kitchen to the southwest corner of the house in the early twentieth century and the replacement of wooden front steps with concrete. The house was further renovated on the interior when Mr. and Mrs. Albert Fleer acquired the property in 1961.

# 3 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Not only is the Pickering House important for its association with Isaac O. Pickering, a prominent Kansas lawyer, but its design is a characteristic example of the decorative tastes and housing requirements of a well-to-do family in the late nineteenth century.

### Chronology

Pickering was a young man when he first came to the Kansas Territory in 1859. During the Civil War he served with distinction in the Ninth Kansas Cavalry, a volunteer regiment. Afterwards, Pickering was a partner in a hotel and then he tried farming for three years before returning to Olathe where he was admitted to the bar in 1872. Pickering joined the firm of John P. St. John in 1875 and also became assistant chief clerk of the Kansas House of Representatives.

About this time Pickering acquired the lot and began building the house which was to be his home for more than forty years. Pickering served as city attorney and mayor of Olathe from 1878-85. His political career was enhanced by the partnership with St. John, a popular governor of Kansas. Pickering was nominated by the Prohibition party for governor in 1892 and 1894. He was a Democratic candidate for the state Supreme Court in 1908.

The residence that Pickering built was probably as much an environment for entertaining and political discussion as a comfortable home. Since the mid-nineteenth century, the Italianate style had been associated by the theorists with intellectual and cultural refinement. Possibly, Pickering found this design to be congenial with his own ambitions and values.

The Pickering house was the center of a rich family life which was recalled affectionately in the Olathe Mirror Centennial edition. It was also "the scene of many brilliant social affairs." Besides dancing and lawn parties, "the beautiful curved stairway and spacious parlors were an ideal setting for several weddings in the family."

Isaac Pickering died in 1923, but his descendants lived in the house until 1960.

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND MAY BE SUBJECT TO FUTURE AMENDMENT.

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**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

(see attached sheet)

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

QUADRANGLE NAME Olathe

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 347740 4305245  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property occupies all of Lots 1 and 2 and the east one-half of Lot 3, Block 56 in the city of Olathe.

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 Julie A. Wortman, Architectural Historian  
Dale Nimz, Historic Preservation Department

ORGANIZATION Kansas State Historical Society DATE 10-1-80

STREET & NUMBER 120 West 10th TELEPHONE 913 296-3251

CITY OR TOWN Topeka STATE Kansas 66612

**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 Joseph M. Sullivan

TITLE Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society DATE 10-14-80

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

ATTEST: [Signature] DATE 12/1/80  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:    DATE     
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

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**Bibliography:**

Kansas Historical Collections: 9 (1905-06), p. 378.

Olathe Mirror and Newsletter 6-13-1878.

Olathe Mirror centennial edition. 8-29-1957.

Overland Park Herald 6-7-1962.

Other Days. Charles V. Townley. (Johnson County Democrat, 1930).