

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0683329

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RECEIVED AUG 29 1978  
DATE ENTERED DEC 19 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

John Peirce House

AND/OR COMMON

Sioux City Public Museum

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

2901 Jackson Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Sioux City

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Iowa

VICINITY OF  
CODE

COUNTY  
Woodbury

CODE  
193

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
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Sioux City

STREET & NUMBER

Box 447

CITY, TOWN

Sioux City

VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa 51102

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Woodbury County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Sioux City

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

The Peirce house is a massive residential structure in the Richardsonian Romanesque tradition. Constructed of rock-faced granite laid in a random ashlar pattern, the house has overall dimensions of 78' x 53½'. The main roof is a high-pitched, parapetted gable, the ridge parallel to the front facade, with a slightly lower gable roof, set at right angles to the main roof, which covers the rear section of the house. This essentially straightforward roofscape is enlivened by short chimneys with corbelled caps, set flush with the walls; parapet gable wall dormers of assorted sizes; and a profusion of turrets, large and small. The fenestration (principally on the south and east sides) presents an irregular arrangement of vertical panels of varying width and height, each with a round-arched window with stone mullions above a window with flat jack arch. On the other facades, which do not face the street, the jack-arch form predominates. There are three projecting bays: a rectangular, 2-story bay on the south side; a polygonal 3-story bay on the southeast corner, and a one-story, semicircular bay on the northeast corner. This latter bay is hidden beneath the stone veranda which extends the full length of the front facade and wraps around the southeast corner. The veranda, like the polygonal bay, is crenellated; and it is supported on paired columns with cushion capitals, set on high stone pedestals.

The main part of the house is arranged on the center hall plan, with large rooms to either side on the first floor. The second floor plan is more irregular, with rooms coming off all four sides of a central stairwell. The third floor has a very large, L-shaped room at the front, with smaller rooms surrounding it and at the rear. Two first-floor rooms, the halls and the staircase are in their original state. Elsewhere, the original woodwork and walls are in place, but are hidden behind free-standing walls that contain exhibit cases.

# 8 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
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
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 b. 1891-94

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Peirce house is a rather interesting manifestation of Richardsonian Romanesque residential architecture, exhibiting the round arch, masonry construction and sense of weight and mass characteristic of the style. The Peirce house, however, has a rather "brutal" quality about it, due largely to the rough textures of the masonry detail. The massing of the house is also interesting, particularly in the use of the long side gable as the main roof. The polygonal bay and the turreted wall dormer of the northeast corner are also features of note. The house is carefully designed for its corner lot, with the bulk of detail concentrated on the two facades which face the street.

The house was designed in 1891 (by a local architectural firm, name yet unknown) and completed by 1894. The builders were Hansen Bros. of Sioux City, who apparently specialized in masonry construction. They accounted for quite a few commercial blocks in the city, and were the builders of the Sergeant Floyd Monument, dedicated in 1901. The original owner, John Peirce, came to Sioux City in 1869 and made his fortune in real estate speculation and railroading. He lost everything in the panic of 1893, raffled off his house in 1900, and moved to Seattle. Over the next 60 years, the house had several owners, and was vacant at three different periods. In 1960, the house was purchased by Sioux City's Junior League, and turned over to the city as a public museum.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Sioux City Journal, 3 May 1891.

Sioux City Tribune, special supplement dated February, 1902, p. 32.

Schmidt, John F. A Historical Profile of Sioux City. Sioux City: Sioux City Stationery Co., 1969.

History of the Counties of Woodbury and Plymouth, Iowa. Chicago: A. Warner and Co., 1890-91, pp. 129-130.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME Sioux City North, Iowa-S. Dak.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,4 71,3 3,8,0 4,7 1,0 6,8,0

B                              

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C                              

D                              

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F                              

G                              

H                              

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 789, Block 21, Peirce's Addition to Sioux City, Woodbury County, Iowa.

### 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

B.R. Diamond, Director

ORGANIZATION

Sioux City Public Museum

DATE

July 1978

STREET & NUMBER

2901 Jackson St.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Sioux City

STATE

Iowa 51104

## 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

Adrian D. Anderson

TITLE

Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

8/24/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12/12/78

William Labovich  
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

12/11/78