

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received JAN 4 1985  
date entered JAN 31 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Havens, William, House

and/or common (Pearson Residence)

2. Location

street & number 915 East First Street

NA not for publication

city, town Webster

NA vicinity of

state South Dakota

code 46

county Day

code 037

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"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name S. Robert Pearson

street & number 915 East First Street

city, town Webster

NA vicinity of

state South Dakota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Day County Courthouse - Registry of Deeds

street & number 915 First Street East

city, town Webster

state South Dakota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Webster Historic Sites

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date July 1983

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records State Historical Preservation Center

city, town Vermillion

state South Dakota

---

## 7. Description

---

**Condition** excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved

date \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

Situated on a shaded residential block, the William Havens House (Pearson residence) is a two-story, T-plan brick dwelling with two, one-story wings (one is brick and the other is frame that is now covered with aluminum siding) located to the rear. Bricks used to construct the house were fired in a nearby kiln. The foundation is fieldstone and mortar. A front porch with pent roof is supported by simple Doric columns. Fenestration includes arched rectangular windows. A frame cornice is located beneath the roofline and is devoid of ornamentation. From the ground level, the roof appears to be flat but it is not. A trough surrounds the outer edges of the roof so that rain and melted snow can run to a single drain that was once attached to a cistern. There is also a small brick chimney projecting from the roof towards the north (side) facade of the house.

The only change made to the basic layout of the interior is the addition of a bathroom which is located in the frame wing, and the modernization of the kitchen which is located in the brick wing. Many of the original interior features have been retained including the moldings, bullseye corner block over the doors, the windows surrounds and the wainscoting.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Associations with an early resident of Webster, SD
<b>Specific dates</b> 1890	<b>Builder/Architect</b> William Havens, Builder			

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The William T. Havens House (now the Pearson residence) is significant in the area of architecture and for its associations with one of the first residents of Webster, William T. Havens who contributed to the early development of the town.

William T. Havens homesteaded to the area in 1885 and served as the first postmaster in Webster.<sup>1</sup> In 1889, he built a large brick house at 915 E. 1st Street which was considered to be at the time one of the largest and most elegant homes in the town.<sup>2</sup> A one-story frame wing with shed roof was added around 1905.<sup>3</sup>

Although some of the commercial buildings in Webster utilized the same brick, Mr. Haven's house has the distinction of being the only residential structure to have been constructed from bricks fired at a kiln located north of town (the kiln existed for only a short period of time). Another feature of the house is the distinctive roof drainage system. A trough surrounds the outer edges of the roof so that rain and melted snow can run to a single drain that was attached to a cistern. The house today still retains many of its original exterior features including its brick facade and fenestration, and interior features such as moldings, bullseye corner blocks over the doors, window surrounds and wainscoting.

<sup>1</sup>"City of Webster," from History of Day County From 1873 to 1926. L.G. Ochsenreiter, Educator Supply Co., Mitchell, SD, 1926, p. 51.

<sup>2</sup>Letter from Leola Lasill Smail to S. Robert Pearson, August 5, 1984. Mrs. Smail is the granddaughter of William T. Havens.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Letter from Leola Lasell Smail August 5, 1984 to S. Robert Pearson.  
"City of Webster" from History of Day County From 1873 to 1926. L.G. Ochsenrieter,  
Educator Supply Co., Mitchell, SD 1926.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Webster

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	4	6	1	6	0	9	0	5	0	2	0	9	9	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the property is contained within the legal description: S $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 2, all of Lot 3, Leech Addition, Webster, South Dakota.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
NA			

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title S. Robert Pearson (with the assistance of Melanie Betz)

organization NA date November 15, 1984

street & number 915 East First Street telephone 605/345-3167

city or town Webster state South Dakota

## 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 

title SHPO, South Dak date 12/17/84

### For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

**Entered in the  
National Register**

date 1-31-85

  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration