

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: West Virginia	
COUNTY: Tyler	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 19 1973

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Durham-Peters Residence

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
E.A. Durham ~~Home~~ *House* *use this*

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
110 Chelsea Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Sistersville (1st. Congressional District)

STATE: West Virginia      CODE: 54      COUNTY: Tyler      CODE: 095

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Peters

STREET AND NUMBER:  
110 Chelsea Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Sistersville

STATE:  
West Virginia

CODE:  
54

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Tyler County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Middlebourne

STATE:  
West Virginia

CODE:  
54

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: An Historic Preservation- Economic Development Study for Sistersville, West Virginia

DATE OF SURVEY: January 1971     Federal     State     County     Local

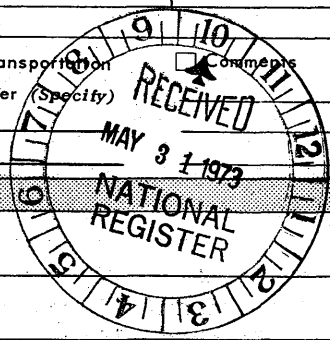
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Sistersville Planning Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Sistersville City Building

CITY OR TOWN:  
Sistersville

STATE:  
West Virginia

CODE:  
54



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: West Virginia

COUNTY: Tyler

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE: JUN 19 1973

Spanish Colonial  
Revival

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This twenty room residence was built in 1921 for Mr. and Mrs. E.A. Durham, oil executive, by Edward B. Franzheim, architect of Wheeling, West Virginia.

The building is an ~~Italian Villa style~~ featuring . . . pale stone and stucco with low pitched green tile roofs. It is elaborate and distinguished with handsome stone panels carved in the Quattrocento manner also with two loggie--one an open porch and the other a sun room which suggest pleasantly the pavilion of the Villa Medici at Rome."

The exquisite details of the exterior of the home feature the use of stone in the Ionic columns, pediment of the front entry, porch balustrades, and the carved stone shields and della robbia design in the panels. Delicate iron grille work was used on the front doors as well as the second floor balconies. Elaborate scrolled wood was used in the eaves with Italian tile for the porches.

All the interior rooms display the finest detailed execution of workmanship and beauty. The spacious reception hall has four Ionic wood columns and the paneled wood walls display moulding, garlands, Grecian urns and dentil grooved carvings. The wide stairway of the hall leads to a landing with a huge, clear leaded glass window of intricate pattern and beading relieved with delicate pink glass garlands of opaque glass. The Bernini type spindles of the staircase are enhanced by scrolled wood carvings on the exposed side.

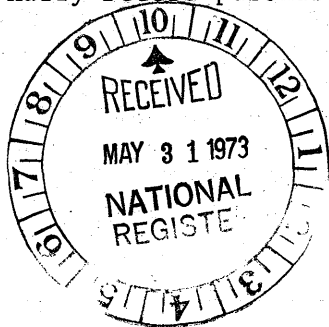
The mahogany paneled living room has beautifully carved wood in the cornices and door pediment. The ceiling was elaborately decorated while this floor, as well as others, are parqueted. The focal point of the room is a magnificent six foot Carrara marble fireplace. It is decorated with the shield, della robbia, and dentil design with the shield motif repeated in the brass hood and the cast iron backing of the fireplace opening.

The Durhams traveled to Europe to select many fixtures and furnishings for the home. This is most evident in the two marble fireplaces; all the crystal chandeliers, sconces, decorated silver ones, and most notably the Dresden chandelier, sconces, and ceiling lights in the master bedroom; Italian tile used in the sunroom floor and rear entry hall; German silver in the sink of the butler's pantry and in the door knob, hinges, and window fittings of the dining room. Italian milk glass is found as the wall tile of the kitchen, powder rooms, bathroom, and utility room.

Though the home is centrally steam heated, all rooms have gas burning fireplaces with wood carved mantels with either marble or tile facing and hearths. The oak paneled billard room with oak beamed ceiling has a massive stone woodburning fireplace.

The home was meticulously and methodically maintained by Mrs. Durham until her death in the 1960's. Mr. and Mrs. Harry Peters purchased it in 1971 from her heirs.

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**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |                                        |                                       |                                       |                                                  |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                                  |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |                                                  |                                                 |                                                         |                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy            | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |                                                         | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |                                                 |                                                         | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Of the private residences constructed in Sistersville, West Virginia, as a result of the rich oil strikes of the 1890's, the Durham-Peters home is the most elaborate and elegant. Although its first owners were from Ohio, they chose to make their home, and to build their mansion in West Virginia, close to the source of their wealth. So intimately related to this source is the home that in its backyard there is a producing oil well which was capped in 1948.

As was to be expected, this local showplace became the center of the social life which grew up around the Sistersville oil industry. There are records of elaborate parties, balls, and other gatherings which were held amid the Mediterranean-type surroundings of the Durham home. Caterers from Wheeling, Pittsburgh, and Columbus furnished food and drink to the guests.

Edward B. Franzheim, the architect, painstakingly oversaw the entire construction with its myriad details. One story, related by Mr. Franzheim's daughter, illustrates this:

"Mr. Franzheim wanted the eaves to be painted cafe au lait and when the painter said that he couldn't mix the paint that color, Mr. Franzheim went to Springer's Restaurant, bought a cup of coffee with cream, carried it to the paint shop, and worked with the painter until they had the exact shade desired."

There are other fine residences in Sistersville which resulted from the discovery of oil, but none are so representative of the community's desire to have the best that money could obtain. The Durham-Peters House is a symbol of the gifts that petroleum can bring.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

An Historic Preservation-Economic Development Study for Sistersville, West Virginia, by Zeighler, VanTrump & Shane of Pittsburgh, 1971.

Original Blueprints, Edward Bates Franzheim, architect, Wheeling, W.Va., 1921

Bryant, Laura, Notes on the History of Sistersville, West Virginia, Annual Report of the West Virginia Antiquities Commission, 1971, Morgantown, W.Va.

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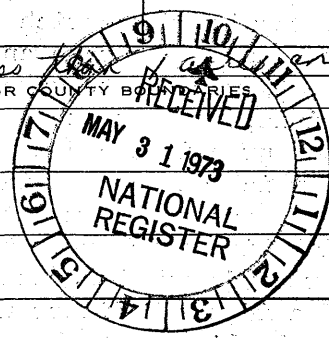
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' ' "	0 ' ' "		39° 33' 38 "	81° 00' 03"	
NE	0 ' ' "	0 ' ' "				
SE	0 ' ' "	0 ' ' "				
SW	0 ' ' "	0 ' ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 150' x 200' *less than 1 acre*

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Mrs. Harry Peters, Owner; Maurice G. Brooks, Research Analyst for the

ORGANIZATION: West Virginia Antiquities Commission      DATE: April 23, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Old Mountainlair--West Virginia University

CITY OR TOWN: Morgantown      STATE: West Virginia      CODE: 54

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Maurice G. Brooks  
Maurice G. Brooks

Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: May 30, 1973

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

Robert M. Utley  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 6/19/73

ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 6 14 73