

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wisconsin	
COUNTY: Dane	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
1	OCT 18 1972

1. NAME

COMMON:
Pierce (Carrie) House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
McDonnell (A.A.) House

Congressmen to be notified
Sen. William Proxmire
Sen. Gaylord A. Nelson
Rep. Robert W. Kastenmeier

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
424 North Pinckney Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Madison

STATE: **Wisconsin** CODE: **55** COUNTY: **Dane** CODE: **025**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC	
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" 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"/> Comments
<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:
James Korb

STREET AND NUMBER:
1244 Sherman Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Madison

STATE:
Wisconsin

CODE:
55

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Dane County Register of Deeds, City-County Building

STREET AND NUMBER:
210 Monona Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Madison

STATE:
Wisconsin

CODE:
55

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Madison Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: **1971**
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Madison Landmarks Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
210 Monona Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Madison

STATE:
Wisconsin

CODE:
55

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Wisconsin
COUNTY: Dane
ENTRY NUMBER: OCT 18 1972
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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The most notable exterior features of the Pierce House, a two-story structure of Prairie du Chien sandstone, appear on the main (east) facade, which is singularly attractive. It is divided into three distinct bays, of which the outer two are low-pitched gable ends, with a horizontal-roofed bay between them. The roof line catches the eye because of a denticulated cornice below which is a pair of arcaded corbel tables, which repeat in miniature the round arches of all openings, running parallel to the raking and horizontal cornices. In addition there is a torch-like ornamental turret at each roof corner, rather heavy in appearance but not out of proportion with the mass as a whole. About halfway back from front to rear on the flat middle portion of the roof is an octagonal cupola which is quite Italianate with round-arched windows and with heavy brackets supporting the wide eaves.

Second story windows are paired and round-arched, the pairs being enclosed by round-arched hood molds which are moderately ornamented. Window pairs are separated by heavy wood mullions, and between each pair at the top is a nearly circular, but slightly teardrop-shaped light enframed in a round mullion, and at either side of this is a small geometric pane to fill in the interstice. The round-arched windows within the pairs are divided by heavy wood muntins into six rectangular panes topped by a pair of pointed arched panes, introducing a Gothic touch.

On the first floor are bay windows in the outer (gabled) bays, and the windows within these are round-arched, similar to those above. The main door opening is round-arched with a pair of rectangular doors, each with a large round-arched pane above and a pair of round-arched panels below. There is a central one-story porch with four wrought iron columns at the front. The roofs of the bay windows and porch are balconied with lacy wrought iron railings and there is delicate wrought iron tracery between the upper parts of the porch columns. Slender, fluted, engaged stone columns support the doorway arch, and at either side of the entry is a slender, round-arched wall panel.

The house is a solid mass, very symmetrical, and slightly T-shaped. The crosspiece of the T is near the front and its raking eaves and upper ornamentation duplicate those on the front gable ends. Between the upper windows and the lower corbel table is, at either end of the T, a quatrefoil, almost circular window, and in corresponding locations at the rear gable end of the house is a pair of truly circular windows. At the rear a single-story, hip-roofed wing was built long ago but was not an original part of the house.

The house was built in 1857-58 and designed by S.H. Donnel, a well-known local architect of the period. The exterior is essentially unaltered, but the interior has undergone considerable alteration over the years in its conversion first to a rooming house--some 65 years ago--and later into an apartment house, which it remains today. In the later alteration, however, the owner tried to remodel with the idea of preserving interior details for possible future restoration. For example, the parlor doors were sealed into the walls with the keys in the locks. Despite the remodeling, a number of important details of the original interior were left intact.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

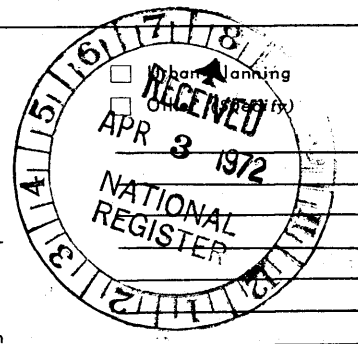
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1857**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <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 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

Many of Madison's finest surviving historic houses were built in the first decade after Wisconsin's admission to statehood in 1848. The Pierce house, built in 1857, is generally considered one of the very best of these and certainly one of the most unique architecturally. It was designed by S.H. Donnel of the firm of Donnel and Kutzbock, a prominent local architectural firm. In addition to the second Wisconsin State Capitol and the old City Hall, their works included homes for former Governor Leonard Farwell, Mayor W.T. Leitch, banker and entrepreneur Napoleon B. Van Slyke, and other prominent Madisonians. The Pierce house was originally built for A.A. McDonnell, one of the builders of the new capitol.

The Pierce house is a strikingly attractive building in which were incorporated a number of features of varying but yet related architectural styles. In its exclusively round-arched openings, with round-headed windows paired under round-arched hoodmolds, and with arcaded corbel tables under the eaves repeating in miniature the round-arched form, it meets the criteria of being basically Romanesque Revival in style if one follows Marcus Whiffen's classifications.¹ In its pointed-arched panes in a few windows and its quatrefoil windows under the two side gables, it has Gothic details. Its octagonal cupola is unequivocally Italianate. The ornamental torch-like turrets in miniature, which occur at the roof corners, are definitely medieval and not inconsistent at all with Romanesque styling. The problem, of course, is that like much architecture of its day, this is a composite of at least three European styles which have certain close affinities, so that the blend produced is well balanced, harmonious and attractive. Compounding the classification problem is that, again according to Whiffen, Romanesque was used during the 1850's and 1860's almost exclusively for churches but not houses.

Style complexities notwithstanding, there is no disagreement that this is one of the finest historic houses in Madison. It imparts a feeling which one does not find in any other of the city's survivals of this important period, and it is one of four remaining significant houses on the crest of what was contemporarily called "Big Bug Hill," a site overlooking Lake Mendota on which several prominent and affluent Madisonians chose to build fine homes. The Pierce house has been designated an Official Madison Landmark, worthy of the most careful preservation.

1. Whiffen, Marcus, American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles M.I.T. Press, Cambridge, Mass., 1969, p. 61.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Holmes, Fred L., Ed., Wisconsin, The Lewis Publishing Company, Chicago, 1946, Vol. 2, 564-565.
 City of Madison Landmarks Commission, Landmarks and Landmark Sites Nomination Form, "Pierce House," April 2, 1971.
 Cass, Betty, "Madison Day by Day," Wisconsin State Journal, Madison, Oct. 1938.
 Dean, Jeffrey and Frank Custer, Sandstone and Buffalo Robes, Madison (Wis.) City Planning Department, August 1969.
Madison City Directory, 1858-9, Smith, DuMoulin & Co., Comp. & Pub., Milwaukee, 100-101, passim.

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	° ' "	° ' "		N 43 ° 04 ' 43 "	W 89 ° 23 ' 15 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Less than 0.5**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Donald N. Anderson, Assistant Director, Historic Sites & Markers Division
 ORGANIZATION: **State Historical Society of Wisconsin** DATE: **December 30, 1971**
 STREET AND NUMBER:
816 State Street
 CITY OR TOWN: **Madison** STATE: **Wisconsin** CODE: **55**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 James Morton Smith
James Morton Smith
 Title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin
Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin
 Date MAR 20 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

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

Date 10/18/72

ATTEST:
Samuel Roper
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 10/12/72

SEE INSTRUCTIONS