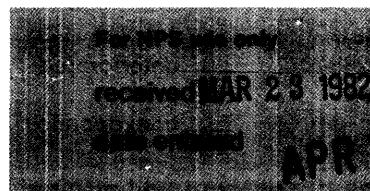


100-10000000

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**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 Roswell Spencer House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number Pleasant Valley Township S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 7       not for publication

city, town Pleasant Valley       vicinity of      congressional district *1st*

state Iowa      code 19      county Scott      code 163

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
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"/> museum
structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> park
site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Fred H. Schutter Estate

street & number

city, town Pleasant Valley       vicinity of      state Iowa

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office

street & number Scott County Courthouse

city, town Davenport      state Iowa

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title None      has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date       federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town      state

## **7. Description**

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>		<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date	
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed				

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

The Roswell Spencer House, facing the Mississippi River and situated in the hamlet of Pleasant Valley between Davenport and LeClaire, has been a landmark in this section of the state for well over a century. Spencer, an early Scott County settler and businessman, erected this simple Greek Revival style edifice in the early 1850's, principally utilizing Wisconsin white pine in its construction. The structure consists of a two-and-one-half story, three by four bay wide, rectangular shaped main block and a one-story wing on its east side. The house is of wood frame construction, and its exterior walls are sheathed in white painted narrow clapboards. Double hung windows set in rectangular surrounds and featuring pediment shaped window heads are employed throughout. One-over-one windows are utilized on the first floor and the six-over-six variety on the upper portions. Both main block and wing are capped with medium pitched gable roofs that are pierced at their respective apexes by single rectangular brick chimney stacks.

Exterior ornamentation is minimal on this essentially simple house. Besides pediment shaped window and door heads, the exterior is highlighted by pilastered corner boards, projecting boxed cornices, and a plain frieze on the gable ends pierced by double hung windows. Both the hip roofed front porch supported by Doric columns and featuring a small triangular pediment over the entranceway and hip roofed bracketed rear portico appear to be of early twentieth century vintage. Except for the porches, this residence appears to have undergone little exterior alteration.

Inside, the house follows a side hall plan and contains five rooms on the first floor, four on the second, and a large attic. The interior arrangement is unchanged and most of the original woodwork, including the double layered white pine walls, is intact. Many of the window sashes, as well as the glass in them, are believed to date from the Spencer occupancy as well.

Adjacent to the slope at the east end of the house is an unobtrusive one-story, two stall garage of relatively recent vintage. A short distance northeast of the residence are several agricultural outbuildings. All are of wood frame construction, sheathed in board and batten siding, and capped with gable roofs. Like the two and one-half story residence, located approximately forty feet west of the Spencer house, these structures appear to date from early in the twentieth century.

## **8. Significance**

<b>Period</b>	<b>Areas of Significance—Check and justify below</b>							
<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 checked="" 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/				
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation				
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)				

**Specific dates** ca. 1850–present

**Builder/Architect:** Roswell Spencer

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

The Roswell Spencer House, erected by one of Scott County's most prominent early citizens, aptly illustrates the risks and rewards of early settlement and industrial enterprises and the ambitious individuals who started them. Spencer, a Vermont native, joined the westward movement in 1830, when at the age of 29 he moved to Greene County, Illinois. Later, he settled in Rock Island and after service in the Black Hawk War, Spencer turned his attention to lands in eastern Iowa. In the fall of 1833 he took a section of land and built a log cabin near the mouth of Spencer Creek, becoming the first white settler in what would become Scott County's Pleasant Valley Township. He soon abandoned this residence, however, and in 1834 erected another cabin above the mouth of Crow Creek.

Although Spencer described himself as a farmer, he devoted much of his time to business and industrial pursuits as well as agricultural ones. By 1836, he and his partner Stephen Henley were operating sawmills on both Spencer and Crow creeks. In 1837 he and John Work erected another sawmill on Spencer Creek. In 1838 Spencer and Henley brought down one of the earliest rafts of white pine logs down the Mississippi River from the great pineries of Wisconsin. Throughout the 1840's Spencer was heavily involved in numerous lumbering and building projects. He also took some part in local politics, and when Scott County was organized, he was chosen as its first treasurer.

Spencer erected his handsome two-and-one-half story residence in the early 1850's at the height of his economic, political, and social power. Widely regarded as the "most elaborate in the region of that time," the house originally was painted brown. It was furnished with hand carved furniture and rich hangings, boasted a delicate china service, and featured a library with numerous works of American and English literature. In the minds of his contemporaries, Spencer's home was a mansion.

In 1856 Spencer built at great cost a steam powered flouring mill across from his home which ultimately proved to be his downfall. In 1857, hard hit by the panic of that year, he lost most of his property except for his home. He remained in Pleasant Valley (then known as Valley City) until 1862, serving as the town's postmaster. At this juncture, he moved to Cedar County to farm. In 1866, however, Spencer returned to Rock Island where he engaged in the grocery business until his death in 1876.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED  
UTM NOT VERIFIED

(see continuation sheet)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property ca. three acres

Quadrangle name Silvis

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 15 7114940 4604990  
Zone Easting Northing  
C                
E                
G              

B                       
Zone Easting Northing  
D                
F                
H              

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

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

state	n.a.	code	county	code
-------	------	------	--------	------

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

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ralph J. Christian, Architectural Historian

organization Division of Historic Preservation date February, 1982

street & number 26 East Market Street telephone 319/353-4186 / 353-6949

city or town Iowa City state Iowa

## 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 Director

date February 24, 1982

For NPS use only

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

John D. Anderson  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Division of Historic Preservation  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

date

for John D. Anderson  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 23 1982

DATE ENTERED

---

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

---

Downer, Harry E., History of Davenport and Scott County Iowa, Vol. I (Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1910).

History of Scott County, Iowa (Chicago: Inter-State Publishing Company, 1882).

Muebinger, M., "Plat of Valley City," 1894, copy in Division of Historic Preservation files.

Writers Program of Work Projects Administration, Scott County History (Davenport: Scott County Public Schools, 1942).

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 23 1982

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE one

Verbal Boundary Description. That part of Lot one (1) in Section Seven (7) Township Seventy-eight (78) North, Range Five (5) East of the 5th P.M. As the said lot is shown by a plat recorded in Book 49 of Land Deeds, page 505 in the office of the Recorder of Scott County, Iowa, particularly described as follows, to wit:

Commencing at a stone at the Southwest corner of the South-east Quarter (1/4) of said Section Seven (7); thence North One Hundred-Ninety-four and 3/10 (194.3) feet to the center of the Davenport-Princeton Road (formerly known as the Davenport-LeClaire Road); thence North Seventy-five (75°) degrees East along the center of said road (as now established and paved) Six Hundred Eighty-Seven (687) feet to the center of Spencer Street, which is the South-westerly corner of said Lot one (1); thence continuing North Seventy-five (75°) degrees East Thirty and 7/10 (30.7) feet to the angle in said road, which point is the Easterly line of Spencer Street; thence north Sixty-two (62°) degrees East Forty-seven and 6/10 (47.6) feet to the point of beginning of the tract hereby conveyed; thence North Twenty-seven (27°) degrees Forty-two (42') minutes West along the Easterly line of premises now owned by Fred H. Schutter, to the Northerly line of the premises (conveyed to Rachel Schutter by deed recorded in Book 63 of Land Deeds on page 197 in the Recorder's office of Scott County, Iowa; thence, North Fifty-one (51°) degrees Eighteen (18') minutes East Eighty-nine and 5/10 (89.5) feet; thence North Twenty-eight (28°) degrees West Eight (8) feet; thence North Sixty-two (62°) degrees East One Hundred Eight (108) feet; thence South Thirty-four (34°) degrees Forty (40') minutes East Two Hundred Twenty-seven and 5/10 (227.5) feet to center of Davenport-Princeton Road (formerly known as Davenport-LeClaire Road); thence South Sixty-two (62°) degrees West along the center of said road as now established a distance of Two Hundred Twenty-two and 6/10 feet (222.6) to point of beginning.