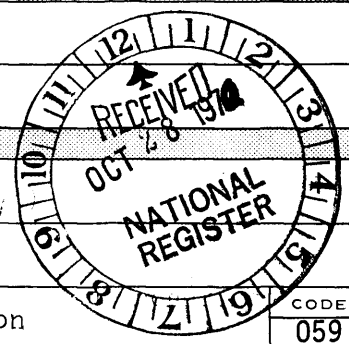


STATE: Iowa  
 COUNTY: Dickinson  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 ENTRY NUMBER: APR 3  
 DATE: 1973

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)



**1. NAME**  
 COMMON: Spirit Lake Massacre Log Cabin and Museum  
 AND/OR HISTORIC: Gardner Log Cabin

**2. LOCATION**  
 STREET AND NUMBER: Pillsbury Point  
 CITY OR TOWN: Arnolds Park  
 STATE: Iowa CODE: 14 COUNTY: Dickinson CODE: 059

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	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"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**  
 OWNER'S NAME: State Historical Society of Iowa  
 STREET AND NUMBER: 402 Iowa Avenue  
 CITY OR TOWN: Iowa City STATE: Iowa CODE: 14

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**  
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Dickinson County Court House  
 STREET AND NUMBER: Spirit Lake  
 CITY OR TOWN: Spirit Lake STATE: Iowa CODE: 14

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**  
 TITLE OF SURVEY:  
 DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Dickinson County Court House  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
 CITY OR TOWN: Spirit Lake STATE: Iowa CODE: 14

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

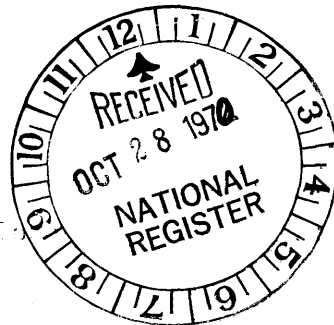
FOR NPS USE ONLY

**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

The Gardner Cabin remains basically unaltered on its original site. It is a small two-story log cabin, with a basement which is now sealed. The loft is empty and now unused. The structure was erected in July of 1856 by Rowland Gardner one of the earliest settlers in Dickinson County in the Okoboji Lakes region. The cabin passed to J.S. Prescott by preemption in 1858 following the massacre of the Gardner family (excepting Abigail), and was used as a residence. In 1891 Abigail Gardner Sharp (Rowland's daughter) purchased the property and operated the cabin as a museum until her death in 1921. Due to its continuous use as a home and museum the cabin has remained intact and relatively well preserved. The windows, chinking, and shingle roof are in reasonable repair, although the foundation is weak in places. The site was acquired by the State of Iowa in 1942 and passed to the State Historical Society in 1959. Since that time a protective overhang roof of pole-type construction has been placed over the cabin. All traces of Mrs. Sharp's museum have been removed and the interior of the cabin has been restored with pre-1857 furnishings including a bedstead, trundle bed, spinning wheel, churn, implements, table, and chairs. Adjacent to the cabin are the Spirit Lake Massacre Museum built in 1961-2 and a memorial monument commissioned by the State of Iowa in 1891.



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)

March 8, 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"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric         | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture         | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture        | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                 | <input checked="" 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

The Gardiner Cabin was the scene of a major incident between Indian and white settlers in the Upper Midwest. On March 8, 1857 a small band of Sioux under the leadership of Inkpaduta ("Scarlet Point") killed twenty white settlers and captured a young white girl, (Abigail Gardner). The following day the band attacked and killed twelve more settlers and captured three additional women. The incident has been generally referred to as the Spirit Lake Massacre.

The Indians involved were a band of brigands alienated from their tribal structure (Wahpekuta Sioux) and outlawed by every band. They were responsible for a series of depredations on settlers and Indians alike over a thirty year period. Particularly vicious, they found easy prey in the three groups of settlers who had moved into the Okoboji Lakes region in 1856. The settlers lead by Rowland Gardner were relatively inexperienced in frontier life, although living on the fringe of an agricultural settlement. Through a series of rapid moves westward they found themselves isolated in the Spring of 1857 from other settlements and unaware of rising difficulties with the Sioux (especially Inkpaduta's band). The 1856-7 winter had been particularly hard for whites and Indian alike and dissension over recent land cession treaties had strained relationships.

While the killing actually began at another cabin, the Gardner residence received the most notoriety because Abigail Gardner (later Sharp) survived her captivity and was ransomed to authorities by the Yankton Sioux. Her published account of the massacre and her captivity stirred interest which has continued until today. She later regained possession of the cabin where her family was murdered and operated a museum on the premises. The Gardner Cabin also served as part of the setting for McKinley Kantor's novel, Spirit Lake. The incident itself hastened government attempts to remove the remaining Sioux from Minnesota and Iowa and served to deter white settlement for some time. Thus the site commemorates an unpleasant but important part of Iowa history.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Contemporary Accounts  
Books

Charles E. Flandrau, The Ink-Pa-Du-Ta Massacre of 1857  
(St. Paul: H.N. Smyth, 1895).  
Abigail Gardner, History of the Spirit Lake Massacre  
(Des Moines: Iowa Printing, 1885) [eight other eds.].  
Lorenzo P. Lee, History of the Spirit Lake Massacre  
(New Britain, Conn.: L.P. Lee, 1857) [reprinted by  
State Historical Society of Iowa, 1971].

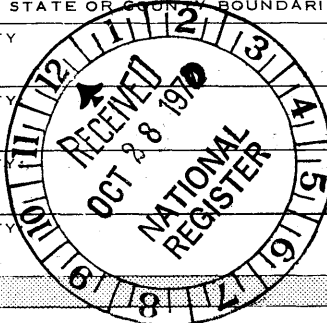
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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	° ' "	° ' "		43 ° 22' 3"	95 ° 8' 28"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2.97

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: Peter T. Harstad, Director

ORGANIZATION: State Historical Society of Iowa DATE: 10-10-72

STREET AND NUMBER: 402 Iowa Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Iowa City STATE: Iowa CODE: 14

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 Adrian D. Anderson

Title State Liaison Officer

Date 20 October, 1972

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

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

Date 4/3/73

ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 3/23/73

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Iowa
COUNTY	Dickinson
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
APR 3 1970	

(Number all entries)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Historical Studies  
Books

Thomas Teakle, The Spirit Lake Massacre (Iowa City: State Historical Society of Iowa, 1918).

Periodicals

Cyrus Carpenter, "The Spirit Lake Expedition", Annals of Iowa (third series) Vol. 3 (October 1898), 481-553.

\_\_\_\_\_, "The Spirit Lake Massacre," Midland Monthly, Vol. 4 (July, 1895), 17-31.

Dan E. Clark, "Frontier Defense in Iowa," Iowa Journal of History, Vol. 6 (May, 1918), 315-389.

The Palimpsest, Vol. XLIII, no. 10 (October, 1962), 433-496 (entire issue devoted to massacre).

Fiction

MacKinlay Kantor, Spirit Lake (Cleveland: World, 1961).



229  
1A



Woodbury County Courthouse, Woodbury County, Sioux City. *George Lindblade*

Spirit Lake Massacre Log Cabin (historic photograph), Dickinson County, Arnolds Park. *HABS (Library of Congress)*



Bowman Livery Stable,  
Muscatine County, Muscatine.  
*Michael D. Bendle*