

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation 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 Pattison, Martin, House

and/or common Douglas County Historical Museum

## 2. Location

street & number 906 East 2nd Street not for publication

city, town Superior vicinity of congressional district 7th

state Wisconsin code 55 county Douglas code 031

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> in process	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input 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 City of Superior, Bruce C. Hagen, Mayor

street & number 1407 Hammond Avenue

city, town Superior vicinity of state Wisconsin 54880

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Douglas County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Superior state Wisconsin 54880

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wisconsin Inventory of Historic  
Places

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1975  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

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## 7. Description

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

date \_\_\_\_\_

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

The Martin Pattison house, "Fairlawn," is situated on an entire city block with a commanding view of Lake Superior bay to the east. The house was begun in 1889 and completed two years later, in 1891. It is a two and one-half story building, set on a rock-faced ashlar Lake Superior brownstone foundation. Modern siding covers the clapboard and decorative shingle siding that once differentiated the first and upper floors.

The house is representative of the rambling and complex American Queen Anne building tradition. A wrap-around brownstone trimmed porch affords view of the lake to the east. A tower accents the southeast corner, its cupola lost to a windstorm in the late 1920s. The hip roof has many complex and intersecting gables.

Although much of the decorative work has been hidden behind the siding, the decorative copper work with the date "1890" can still be seen in the east gable that marks the front entry. A porte-cochere with brownstone trim is on the north side of the house, marking the entrance now used by museum visitors.

The interior of the building's main floor is much as it was originally. Handsome oak, cherry and mahogany wood detailing marks the parlor, library, dining and music rooms, as well as an impressive central hall and staircase. An Egyptian marble fireplace in the library is one of the most handsome of the several remaining fireplaces and mantels. These first floor rooms are furnished with period pieces donated to the Douglas County Museum. The Museum offices are also located on the first floor. The upper levels have been greatly divided to contain historical displays. Little of the original fabric is apparent.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input 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)
				Association with significant person
<b>Specific dates</b>	1889-1891 <sup>1</sup>	<b>Builder/Architect</b>		

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

Martin Pattison, lumber and mining baron, banker, politician and philanthropist, exerted his influence upon the city of Superior and the upper lake region for nearly forty years. After his death, Pattison's home "Fairlawn" continued to serve the community, first as a children's home and now as a museum. The Martin Pattison House is also the City of Superior's sole remaining concrete historical tie to a lifestyle that has disappeared. The last surviving mansion from the city's boom period (1890-1920), is architecturally interesting as well, though its significance has been weakened by exterior alterations, something the local historical society hopes to remedy in the near future.

Martin Pattison was born in Niagara County, Ontario, in 1841, son of New York State natives. In 1854 Pattison moved with his parents to Salinac, Michigan. After acquiring a common school education, he began working for a lumber company in Marquette, Michigan. By 1870 he had gained control of the company. During his years there, he embarked on what would be a long career in public service. He served as a member of the local school board. He also served two terms in the Michigan State Legislature.

In 1879 Pattison moved to Superior, Wisconsin, extending his lumber interests to the Black River area, south of Superior. Three years later, Pattison sold out his lumber interests and focused his energies on iron mining in the Vermillion range in Minnesota, locating the Chandler and Pioneer groups of mines. He became one of the largest individual holders of iron lands in the state of Minnesota. In addition to these business interests, Pattison became a director of the United States National Bank of Superior in 1912. Three years later he was elected as president of that institution. Pattison also found time to continue his interest in public office. In 1884 he was elected sheriff of Douglas County. He also served as mayor of Superior in 1890, 1891 and again in 1896.

It was during the period of his logging in the Black River falls area that Pattison began acquiring several contiguous tracts of land for use as a public park. One year before his death, Pattison gave to the State of Wisconsin several hundred acres of land that included scenic portions of the Black River falls area for a state park. In 1920 the Wisconsin State Legislature established Pattison State Park with this land.

Pattison died in 1918 at the age of 77. A year later, the Superior Public School Board of Education honored Pattison by the naming of a public school, Pattison School, located at 1016 N. 21st Street.

"Fairlawn" was constructed during the years of Pattison's most active time in civic affairs. Built in the best baronial manner, it reflects his concern with living quarters for his family of ten as well as pleasant surroundings. He engaged a landscape architect to transform the city block into an exotic garden. The basement of the house boasted

<sup>1</sup> Saturday Evening Call (Superior), June 1, 1889.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED  
UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property 1.85

Quadrangle name Superior, Wisconsin

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

1	5	5	7	1	6	3	0	5	1	7	4	0	3	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

Block, 31, Original Plat, Superior City

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

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marilyn McMillan, Historic Preservation Assistant

organization Northwest Regional Planning Commission date July 15, 1980

street & number 302 Walnut Street telephone (715) 635-2197

city or town Spooner state Wisconsin 54801

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Richard Murray

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin date 11/4/80

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Bell Carson</u>	date <u>2/10/81</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u>Lynne Flint McMillan</u>	date <u>2-5-81</u>
Chief of Registration	

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1981

Pattison, Martin, House, Superior, Wisconsin

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8. Significance

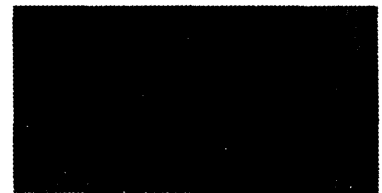
a bowling alley and plunge bath while the attic contained a billiards room. "Fairlawn" served as a gathering center for Superior society for many years.

"Fairlawn" continued to play a role in Superior public interests after Pattison's death. In 1920 his widow, Mrs. Grace Emma Pattison, gave the home and gardens to the Children's Home and Refuge Association. She had been among the earliest members of the association that had incorporated in 1904. The house served as a children's home for 42 years.

In 1963 the City of Superior acquired the home for the Douglas County Historical Museum and Society headquarters. In addition to the historical displays, tours of the house are conducted by Museum staff and members.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Biographical Record of the Upper Lake Region. J. H. Beers & Co. Chicago, 1905.

"F.A.F." The Eye of the Northwest. 1890. In possession of the Douglas County Historical Museum.

Saturday Evening Call (Superior), June 1, 1889.

Superior Evening Telegram, May 16, 1891.

Superior Times, December 21, 1918.

Superior Inland Ocean, April 2, 1893.

Memorial Service of Superior Lodge #326, F. & A.M., December 10, 1919. In possession of the Douglas County Historical Museum.