

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received SEP 22 1986

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic O'Brien, William, House

and or common Pearson, James W., House

2. Location

street & number 114 E. Poppleton

N/A not for publication

city, town Sheridan

N/A vicinity of

state Montana

code 030

county Madison

code 057

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name James W. and Michelle L. Pearson

street & number 114 Poppleton Street

city, town Sheridan

N/A vicinity of

state Montana

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Madison County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Virginia City

state Montana

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

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The William O'Brien House is an irregularly-shaped, Italianate style house located at the corner of Poppleton and Jefferson Sts. in Sheridan, Montana. The hip roofed building is built of brick and has a two story, square-shaped front section and a one story, hip roofed rear wing with an enclosed porch.

The south-facing facade of the roughly L-shaped main block has a segmental brick arch opening and double doors. Each door has two panels and two small windows. The entry is covered by a small, hip roofed porch supported by two free-standing and two engaged square wooden posts with brackets. The three bay facade features the main entrance in the eastern bay and two 1/1 double hung windows in the other bays. The second floor has three 1/1 double hung sashes aligned over each of the first floor openings. All of the windows have segmental brick arches and stone lintels.

The west elevation has a one story, angled, projecting bay located toward the front of the house with three segmental arch openings, each with a 1/1 double hung sash. There is a 1/1 double hung window on the first floor and two windows of the same configuration on the second story. A one story, hip roofed, brick extension with a 1/1 double hung window and four-panel door on the west wall projects to the north (rear) of the main block. Attached to the west side is a shed roofed, enclosed porch featuring a side entrance with transom, solid railing and four large screens. The porch rests on a rubblestone foundation that has been reinforced with concrete.

The east wall of the one story extension has a four-panel door and transom flanked by two 1/1 double hung windows. A corbeled brick chimney is located at the rear of the building. One 1/1 double hung window pierces the second story north wall of the main block. Part of the east wall projects to widen the house toward the rear, making it flush with the one story extension. The east side of the projection features two 1/1 double hung windows on each floor that are aligned above each other. One 1/1 double hung sash is located on each floor of the narrow, south-facing wall of the projection, and another 1/1 double hung window pierces the second story of the other east-facing wall. A one story porch formerly covering part of the east side of the house was removed at an undetermined date.

The brick bearing walls rest on a rubblestone foundation and have overhanging eaves and wide fascia boards. The standing seam metal roof is original while all of the double hung sashes were replaced in 1984. The interior of the house was extensively remodeled in 1984 although all interior doors, hardware and trim remain intact.

A one story, hip roofed garage sheathed with clapboard stands northwest of the house, and is a contributing feature to the property.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below					
<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 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 type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

Specific dates 1890-93 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Built between 1890-1893, the William O'Brien House is architecturally significant in a local context as an outstanding example of an Italianate style residence in Sheridan, MT., a small (1980 pop. 646) central Madison County community. The distinctive Italianate features of the residence, seen in the overall massing, clean vertical lines, a pronounced cornice above tall, segmentally arched windows, double entrance doors and simple entrance stoop, indicate a design sophistication unmatched by any other residential structure in the town.

The original owner, William O'Brien, came to Montana Territory in 1877 and established a liquor business in Sheridan four years later. As O'Brien's business flourished, he assumed several civic positions, serving as a school trustee, one of the community's original alderman, and as a member of the Montana legislature. As an expression of his financial prosperity and political success, O'Brien had this large and stylish home constructed for his wife and three daughters by 1894. The house has typical characteristics of the Italianate style with its two story, three bay facade, rectangular, irregular box-shape and hipped roof. The one story porch of the O'Brien House is small and restrained with square, bracketed posts. The Italianate style windows are tall, 1/1 double hung sash with segmentally arched tops. The paired doors at the front and side entrances to the O'Brien House are the same shape as the windows. The wide, projecting cornice, while without eave brackets, is nevertheless another distinctive architectural feature that draws attention to the low-pitched hipped roof.

In a local context, the William O'Brien House is an excellent representation of a late Italianate style house. With the exception of the east-facing porch that has been removed, the house retains exceptional historic architectural integrity. Because of its size and appearance, the O'Brien House is a highly visible landmark and the best example of a stylized residence in Sheridan.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Miller, Joaquin, An Illustrated History of the State of Montana, The Lewis Publishing Co., 1894, pp. 420-21.
The Madisonian, 13 October 1894, 10 February 1899.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Sheridan, Montana

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	2	4	0	6	6	1	0	5	0	3	3	9	2	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

Lot 7, Block 9 of the Original Townsite of Sheridan.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michelle L. Pearson, edited by Michael Koop, Montana SHPO

organization _____

date April 8, 1986

street & number 114 E. Poppleton Street

telephone (406) 842-5105

city or town Sheridan

state Montana

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. MK

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Manella *Shay*

title

SHPO

date

Sept. 19, 1986

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

10-23-86

J. Andrew Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration