Pyle House Name of Property

Linn County, Iowa County and State

5. Classification Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) (Check only one box)		erty	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)		
[X] private [_] public-local [_] public-State [_] public-Federal	[X] building(s) [_] district [_] site [_] structure [_] object		Contributing 1	Noncontributing 0	sites
			1	0	
Name of related multiple pro (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a r N/A	nultiple property listing.)		of contributing tional Register 0	resources previo	usly listed
6. Function or Use					
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)			Functions	20)	<u></u>
	denee				
DOMESTIC/single dwelling/resi		DOMEST	C/single dwelling	g/residence	<u></u>
			<u> </u>	· · ·	
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	<u></u>			······································	
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<u>.</u>			<u></u>		
	<u> </u>				
2.0					· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
7. Description Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Mate		ories from instructior	ns)	
LATE 19Th and 20th CENTURY	MOVEMENTS/	foundation			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Bungalow/Craftsman		walls	STUCCO		-
LATE 19th and 20th CENTURY					
Colonial Revival	·····			а	
		other			

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [X] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- [] A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- [] D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- [] F a commemorative property.
- [] G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References	
Bibliography	
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form or	n one or more continuation sheets.)
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:
[] preliminary determination of individual listing	[X] State Historic Preservation Office
(36 CFR 67) has been requested	Other State agency
[] previously listed in the National Register	Federal agency
previously determined eligible by the National	Local government
Register	University
] designated a National Historic Landmark	[] Other
[] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey	Name of repository:
· #	
[] recorded by Historic American Engineering	
Record #	

Linn County, Iowa County and State

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 1924

Significant Dates

1924

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder Pyle, Glenn O.

Linn County, Iowa County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 [1]5]	[6]1]6]4]5]3]	[4]6]5]4]3]0]6]
Zone	Easting	Northing
3 [1]5]	[]]]]]]	[]]]]]]]

2 [1]5] []]]]] []]]]] Zone Easting Northing 4 [1]5] []]]]]] [] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

 11. Form Prepared By

 name/title
 Leah D. Rogers/Consultant with research conducted by Judy Potter, Richard Noska, and Judy Hull

 organization
 date
 July 15, 2002

 street & number
 217 NW 5th Street
 telephone
 319-895-8330

 city or town
 Mt. Vernon
 state
 IA
 zip code
 52314

 Additional Documentation
 Image: State State

Submit the following items with the complete form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

nameJudy Potter	Property Owner (Complete this item at	the request of SHPO or FPO.)	
			telephone <u>319-373-4372</u>
city or town Marion stateIA zip code52302	city or town	Marion	stateIAzip code52302

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Pyle House Linn County, Iowa

Narrative Description

The Glenn O. and Lucy O. Pyle House is located at 1540 8th Avenue, City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa. The house faces south fronting 8th Avenue and is at the northeast corner of 15th Street and 8th Avenue. Historically, 8th Avenue was the fashionable and wealthy neighborhood in Marion in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This neighborhood was known locally as "Pucker Street," reportedly for the superior attitude of some of its upper class residents. The Pucker Street Historic District, of which the Pyle House is a contributing building, is also being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. The Pyle House is built on a large corner lot, with the house set on the east side of the lot close to the alley, with the west and south sides serving as an expansive yard and garden areas. There are no outbuildings on the property, with the house having a garage built into the original design of the house itself. The garage is entered from the alley on the east side of the lot. Concrete sidewalks extend into the property from the south to the formal front door and from the west leading up to the kitchen door. The only addition to the lot has been a handwrought iron fence that surrounds the lot edge on the south and west sides. The current owner added this fence to the property.

The house is a 1.5-story Craftsman and Colonial Revival-influenced bungalow of frame construction, with an exterior stucco finish. The house is essentially a side-gabled bungalow with a lower cross-gabled ell on the front and a two-story hip-roofed ell off the rear (north side). The rear ell consists of an enclosed sleeping porch on the second floor over the original one-stall garage. The front ell has a large walk-in closet on the second floor of the ell, with the sunroom on the first floor. The asphalt-shingled roof flares at the eaves on both the main side-gabled body of the house and the ells. The foundation is poured concrete.

Craftsman details include the wide overhanging eaves, the multi-pane over single pane double-hung windows, the use of stucco wall finish, the use of massive half-height tapered posts setting on brick piers on the front, and a number of interior details including the use of natural wood finishes, a textured brick and tile fireplace, and built-in cabinets, buffets, and china cabinets. Interestingly, the dining room buffet is actually a piece of furniture built into the room. Colonial Revival details include the Palladian window in the front gable peak and the curving hoods over the dormers and side porch entry (McAlester and McAlester 1998).

There have been only a few modifications through the years including the removal of the porch railings on the second floor front and side porches and the enclosure of the front porch. However, the porch enclosure is in keeping with the common treatment of Craftsman porches, with many either screened-in or fitted with glass windows as is the case in the Pyle House, to make an all-weather porch. Likewise, the current owner reconstructed the porch railings based on the design of the original railings. Otherwise, the house retains its original windows, doors, and other details dating from its 1924 construction. Of great interest is the interior of the house, with many older details including built-in cabinets and cupboards, oak woodwork, the swinging door with diamond-shaped window between the kitchen and the dining room, the breakfast nook with built-in cabinet in the kitchen, and the white-painted roughened brick fireplace with tile hearth. The interior shows strong Craftsman and Mission stylistic details throughout.

Overall, the house retains very good integrity and is a well-preserved example of the bungalow house type in this neighborhood. This particular example shows stylistic flair, which was obviously meant to impress when it was built in 1924 by Glenn O. Pyle, whose family was in the lumber and construction business in Marion for many years. Pyle built this house as his own residence and appears to have made an effort to fit it with unique and stylish details. While it may be a pattern book design, it is likely that Pyle had a strong hand in selecting the final design and adding his own details along the way. One interesting interior detail is the second floor hallway, which has two landings and a very unique angled wall that had no other purpose than to play with space and add interest to an otherwise functional space. The house was meant to be seen both inside and out. As such, it fits well with the architectural and social history of the Pucker Street neighborhood, reflecting both the wealth and influence of the Pucker Street occupants. The Pyle house is a continuation of that history into the early twentieth century.

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Pyle House Linn County, Iowa

Statement of Significance

The Glenn O. and Lucy O. Pyle House is considered locally significant under Criterion C as a good representation of the stylish homes that were added along 8th Avenue to the Pucker Street Historic District in the early twentieth century. This home and its history reflect the later years of the social and architectural evolution of this neighborhood, which was populated by Marion's wealthy and influential citizens in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The Pyle House is a notable landmark along this avenue. The significant date for this property is the year that it was built, 1924.

Historical Background

Glenn O. Pyle built this house for his own home on this large corner lot in 1924. He and his wife, Lucy Oxley had previously lived in another house that he had also built at 896 14th Street in the same neighborhood [the house at 896 14th Street is also a contributing building to the Pucker Street Historic District]. Glenn and Lucy Pyle owned their new home at 1540 8th Avenue until 1933, although they may have lived in Florida for at least part of that time. The March 6, 1924, edition of the *Marion Sentinel* carried the following notice about this property:

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Pyle have moved into their new elegant new home on Eighth avenue. Since they sold their former home last fall, they have been living in the C.A. Pyle home, Mr. and Mrs. Pyle having spent the winter in Florida.

The Pyle family, including Glenn's father Clarence and his brother Edgar, operated the C.A. Pyle Lumberyard in Marion. This lumberyard was located at the corner of 7th Avenue and 13th Street, just one block south of the Pucker Street Historic District. In 1914, the lumberyard suffered a devastating fire, but was soon rebuilt as a substantial masonry building. Interestingly, the fire had been a case of arson, having been set by a serial arsonist then operating in the Midwest (Tanner 1971). Today, Pizza Hut and an automotive business occupy the site (*Marion Times*, January 18, 1996).

The Pyle family operated this lumberyard from 1901 to 1925. The business had been purchased from the Green Bay Lumber Company in 1901. The Pyle family sold the business to the Biddick Brothers on October 30, 1925, with J.F. Anderson Lumber Company later occupying the old Pyle lumberyard building (Tanner 1971). Therefore, when Glenn Pyle built his new home along 8th Avenue, his family was nearing the end of their tenure of ownership of the lumberyard. It may be that by that time, Clarence had retired, with Glenn and his brother Edgar moving on to other endeavors. It was noted in the *History of Marion, Iowa*, that Clarence Pyle "had important holdings in Hollywood, Florida, being a pre-boom investor in that area" (Oxley 1995:53).

While it is not entirely clear what role Glenn actually played in the family lumber business (he was listed simply as a "clerk" for the Pyle Lumber Company in the 1916 Marion city directory and later as a bookkeeper for the business), a 1925 advertisement placed by Glenn Pyle to try to sell his new home at 1540 8th Avenue made the statement that he had "disposed of my lumber business" in Marion and was planning to leave town.

Having disposed of my lumber business here I am planning to leave Marion in the near future and will offer for sale at far below cost, my fine modern home centrally located at 1540 Eighth avenue, Marion, Iowa. C.O. Pyle (*Marion Sentinel* 1925).

He did not sell the property. However, from the statement it would appear that, by that time, he had come into ownership or owned a controlling interest in the family business.

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Pyle House Linn County, Iowa

It is known that both his father and his brother Edgar moved to Florida in the 1920s-1930s, with the family heavily invested in the land boom then in full swing. However 1925-28 turned out to be the beginning of the bust when a combination of a nationwide railroad strike slowed delivery of building materials to Florida, a series of negative articles about the Florida land rush in national newspapers began to dampen enthusiasm, a ship loaded with lumber sank at the mouth of Biscayne Bay blocking the port for months, and two major hurricanes struck first Miami and then Palm Beach killing thousands and effectively drove the "final nail in the boom" (Riley 2002). It is interesting to note that Pyle was trying to sell his home to leave for Florida (it is presumed) the same year that things began to sour in the land boom. Whether he and Lucy ever actually moved to Florida is uncertain; however, it is known that they were living at their home at 1540 8th Avenue in 1933 when it was sold to Louis A. and Nellie Turner, who would retain possession until 1939. It was noted in a June 23, 1933, notice in the *Marion Sentinel* that:

Glenn Pyle Wednesday sold his home at 1540 8th Avenue to Lew Turner, Milwaukee train dispatcher. The home is one of the finest in Marion. Mr. Turner also purchased the lot adjoining, owned by Edgar Pyle of Hollywood, Florida. The purchase price was not disclosed.

Thus, by 1933, Edgar Pyle was residing in the same town in Florida where his father had investments.

A notice in the August 1933 *Marion Sentinel* noted that "The Glenn Pyle family moved Tuesday from 1520 [sic] Eighth Avenue to 1008 Eleventh Street," which was a rental property. In the 1930 Marion City Directory, Glenn Pyle was listed as the proprietor of the Marion Bootery. Interestingly, the 1935 and 1937 Marion/Cedar Rapids telephone books listed neither the Marion Bootery nor Glenn Pyle; however, in the 1970s, it was noted that he was then living at 350 8th Avenue (*Marion Times*, July 25, 1971). By the time he passed away in 1981, he was living in Naples, Florida, at his daughter, Virginia Benson's home. Lucy Pyle died in 1985 and had been living with their other daughter, Helen A. Crim in Naugatuck, Connecticut, at the time of her death. The obituary for Glenn Pyle noted the following:

Glenn O. Pyle, 336 Hollywood Lane, Naples, Fla, died there Thursday, July 30, 1981, following a two month's illness. He was born May 31, 1892, at Mt. Vernon. On July 12, 1917, at Marion, he was married to Lucy M. Oxley. The coupled noted their 64th anniversary in July 1981. Mr. Pyle was a member of First United Methodist Church, Marion; a life member of Marion Masonic Lodge No. 6; Royal Arch No. 10; Royal and Select Master No. 27; Apollo Commandory No. 26; Eastern Star No. 183; and El Kahir Temple Shrine. He was a member of Marion American Legion Post 298. Survivors in addition to his wife, include two daughters, Helen A. Crim, Naugatuck, Conn, Virginia Benson, Naples, Fla, four grandchildren, Robert and Thomas Crim and Jon Benson and Linda Coffman; three great grandchildren, and a nephew, Gordon B. Pyle (*Marion Sentinel* August 6, 1981).

Both Glenn and Lucy Pyle were buried at Cedar Memorial Cemetery in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

During the period from the 1910s to the mid-1920s, it is known that Glenn Pyle was responsible for the construction of two other bungalow type homes in the Pucker Street Historic District including his first house 896 14th Street built in 1917 and the adjacent Robert Oxley House at 880 14th Street built in 1922. In addition, Edgar Pyle, who was then the manager of the Pyle Lumber Company, built his own home at 895 14th Street in 1910 on the north side of the Pucker Street Historic District.

Subsequent owners of the Glenn Pyle House included Paul and Marie Rose (1939-1989), Gregory and Jill Warrick (1989-1992), and Judy Potter (1992 to the present).

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Pyle House Linn County, Iowa

Architectural Significance

The architectural significance of the Pyle House lies in its representation of the stylish homes that were still being built in the Pucker Street Historic District into the early twentieth century as the neighborhood reached its full build. This rather modest-sized bungalow is loaded with stylistic details reflecting the influence of the Craftsman and Colonial Revival styles of architecture and the Mission style of furniture and furnishings. This may have been a pattern book or catalog house design; however, it appears to have a number of custom details strongly suggesting that Glenn Pyle not only built this house but had a hand in its design as well. As noted above, this was one of three houses known to have been built by Glenn Pyle in the Pucker Street Historic District, with this one the most elaborate of the three. The other two examples are even smaller in size and scale and less elaborate in their detailing. They are both, however, examples of Craftsman-influenced bungalows using a stucco wall finish, although one of these bungalows has since been covered with vinyl siding (i.e., 880 14th Street).

The Craftsman style of architecture originated in southern California. "Like vernacular examples of the contemporaneous Prairie style, it was quickly spread throughout the country by pattern books and popular magazines" (McAlester and McAlester 1998:454). Interestingly, the style nearly as rapidly faded from popularity after the mid-1920s, with few built after 1930 (ibid.). Therefore, the Pyle House was being built at a time when the Craftsman style was waning in popularity, which might explain the Colonial Revival influence added to its design details.

Craftsman houses "were inspired primarily by the work of two California brothers—Charles Sumner Greene and Henry Mather Greene—who practiced together in Pasadena from 1893 to 1914" (McAlester and McAlester 1998:454). They began designing simple Craftsman-type bungalows around 1903, with the overall style drawing its influence from the English Arts and Crafts Movement as well as an interest oriental wood architecture (the flared roof of the Pyle House seems to reflect an oriental inspiration). The Craftsman bungalow lent itself well to patternbook designs and even pre-cut catalog kits, particularly the more modest-sized bungalows that became so popular in the Midwest. High-style interpretations are rare outside of California (ibid.).

Therefore, the Pyle House reflects a popular architectural style of the day, even though it was late in its popularity but also reflects a more elaborate expression of this vernacular type in the Midwest strongly suggesting that Glenn Pyle customized an otherwise pattern book design to his personal tastes and financial position in the Marion community.

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Pyle House Linn County, Iowa

Major Bibliographic References

Hull, Judith, compiler

1998 A Walk Down Pucker Street (8th Avenue). Third Annual "Housewalk," Swamp Fox Festival, Marion, Iowa.

Marion Sentinel

- 1924 Move Into New Home. Marion Sentinel, March 6, 1924.
- 1925 G.O. Pyle (advertisement). Marion Sentinel, December 3, 1925.
- 1933 Glenn Pyle Place Sold to L. Turner. Marion Sentinel, June 23, 1933.

Marion Times

1996 Yesterday...Today.... Marion Times, January 18, 1996.

McAlester, Virginia, and Lee McAlester

1998 A Field Guide to American Houses. Alfred A. Knopf, New York.

Oxley, Marvin

1995 *History of Marion: 1838-1927.* Edited, revised and reprinted by Marion High School, Marion, Iowa. Patterson, Roy E.

c.1915 Marion the City Beautiful. Commercial Art Printing Company, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Riley, Darrell G.

2002 History of Marion County, Florida: 1925-1929. Star-Banner Website.

Rogers, Leah D.

- 2001 Architectural/Historical Survey and Evaluation of the Pucker Street Historic District, City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa. Prepared for the Marion Historic Preservation Commission and the State Historical Society of Iowa.
- 2002 Pucker Street Historic District. National Register of Historic Places nomination.

Tanner, Larry

1971 Burned in 1914. Marion Times, July 25, 1971.

Other Sources:

Sanborn fire insurance maps, 1913-1926+

Assessor's Records, Linn County Administrative Building, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Marion City Directories 1916 and 1930

Obituaries on file Cedar Memorial, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Additional notices in the 1933 Marion Sentinel about Glenn Pyle: July 27, August 3, and August 17

Marion/Cedar Rapids Telephone Books, 1935 and 1937

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 Pyle House

 Linn County, Iowa

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property consists of Lots 3 and 4 of Block 6 of Daniels 1st Addition to the City of Marion.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the lot historically associated with this house and its surrounding front, back, and side yards.

N

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Pyle House Linn County, Iowa

Location of Pyle House Property within the Pucker Street Historic District (Source: 2001 City Plat Map Provided by the City of Marion)



United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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Pyle House Linn County, Iowa

1926+ Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Showing Site Plan Map Pyle House and Nominated Property Ν +------×' > өтн AV. 625 X 2 D النتا | ب | النتا boundary of nominated property 7. : A. D. Ъ 1/11 5 . R 16TH ע g, D 1500 ng? 1301 NA 5 2 <u>8тн</u> AV. (60 ft. wide) 153 1595 1425 1505 33' v ď. 3 R. 8 A ٩ 3 1) ور SН H'S TANTAN 1:20

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Pyle House Linn County, Iowa



9

FIRST FLOOR

SECOND FLOOR Palladian window

Additional

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Pyle House Linn County, Iowa

1925 Photograph and Advertisement Showing the Glenn Pyle House (Source: Marion Sentinel, December 3, 1925)



 Additional

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Pyle House Linn County, Iowa

Photographs:

Date of Photograp Photographers:	hs: January and August 2001, February 2002 Leah Rogers and Katrina Krupicka			
Location of Original Negatives: City Hall, Marion, Iowa				
Photo Number	Description/View			
1	General View of Pyle House, View to the NW			
2	General View of Pyle House, View to the ESE			
3	General View of Rear of Pyle House, View to the SW			
4	Detail of Front Façade, View to the ENE			
5	General View of West Side of Pyle House, View to the NNE			
6	Detail of Front Porch, View to the North			
7	Detail of West Side Entry, View to the East			
8	Detail of Front windows, View to the North			
9	Interior detail of living room fireplace, View to the East			
10	Interior of sunroom, View to the South			
11	Interior of dining room showing built-in cabinets, View to the West			
12	Interior of kitchen showing built-in cabinets, View to the ENE			
13	Interior of kitchen showing breakfast nook, View to the North			
14	Interior of kitchen showing built-in cabinet and swinging door to dining room, View to the SE			

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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Pyle House Linn County, Iowa



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