

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FINAL

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC William H. Roberts Home

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
523 Main Street

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Pecatonica

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

— VICINITY OF

35th

STATE
Illinois

CODE

12

COUNTY

Winnebago

CODE

201

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
John & Carol Barron

STREET & NUMBER
625 Main Street

CITY, TOWN
Pecatonica

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Illinois

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Recorder of Deeds Office

STREET & NUMBER
Winnebago County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN
Rockford

STATE

Illinois

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Illinois Historic Sites Survey Inventory - Department of Conservation

DATE
October 1977

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN
Springfield

STATE

Illinois

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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The 2 story structure was built with a front, center, and rear section. The front section's exterior consists of No. 1 Indiana Pressed Brick, the center and rear sections having common brick with all window and door trimmings of Joliet Stone.

To the left of the facade is a double door entry (the doors and transom having etched frosted glass) sheltered by an ornamented porch; the center line boasts an identical set of bay windows, one atop the other; inset to the right is a single entry door with porch which was the doctor's office entrance and is designed to match the front porch but in lesser proportion. A squared set of bay windows is featured on the south side of the front section. All bay windows and porches are trimmed in ornamented wood brackets and patterns of geometric, scrollwork, and incised stylized flowers, and all topped with oriel roofs and, except for the lower front bay, crowned by iron fences. The deck roof also features an iron fence. The verge boards under the peaks of the 3 roof gables, front section, are festooned by a sawnwood ornament resembling a medieval spear pointing downward. There is a special whistle and talking tube device at both facade entrances used to reach the doctor in his sleeping chamber upstairs.

An addition to the rear section was added within the last 25 years. One window on the south side of the rear section was altered. The baluster and hand rail leading to the double door entry was removed. The natural brick was painted white during the 1930's and has remained.

Except for minor repairs, the building is in excellent condition.

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/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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1883

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Henry Hebard/John Winchester

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Dr. William H. Roberts home was built in 1883 at a cost of \$3,240¹ and was considered to be, at that time, one of the finest residences in Pecatonica². Dr. Roberts' concept of locating his residence/office on the Main Street near the downtown area and making it easily accessible to the people is, in itself, significant in that it connected his life and work as a physician and surgeon with that of the Pecatonica community. Also, his fine taste for quality construction and design are evidenced in the architecture of this late 19th Century home. The exterior of this home still retains its 1880's charm, and although progress has destroyed it's immediate neighbor and others nearby, it still stands proudly among newer structures reminding us of an era long since passed.

In 1960, an attractive offer to purchase this home was made by an Oil Company to the owner for its removal along with the neighboring home, the latter home being demolished and a gas station erected. Fortunately, the 30 year owner rejected all offers made by the Oil Company; thus, a significant step towards its preservation. Being located in a zoned business district, the house is highly vulnerable to commercialization, and for that reason, it was purchased in 1977 to preserve and protect its historic value.

Dr. Roberts passed away June 23, 1886 from a lengthy illness at the early age of 33.³ While his life and profession in Pecatonica was shortlived, he had won many friends and was highly respected by all.

The Dr. William H. Roberts home was built during a transition era when Gothic Revival and Italianate styles were realizing their conclusions and a new birth of Queen Anne was being accepted--all of these styles including basic principles of Eastlake influenced the total design of this architecturally classic home.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Article of Agreement & Specifications for Dr. William H. Roberts Home, dated April 1883: John & Carol Barron, Pecatonica, IL
2. The Pecatonica News (Dec 1882 - Dec 1883 Book) Brevities: Mitchell's Print Shop, Pecatonica, IL
3. The Pecatonica News, Vol XIV, No. 27, June 26, 1886, Obituary of Dr. Roberts

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME _____ QUADRANGLE SCALE _____
UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Southerly 56 ft of Lot 4, North 6 ft of Lot 5, Block 12, Original Plat of Pecatonica, Range 10, east part of northeast 1/4 (South of Pecatonica River)

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: **Carol Barron** DATE: **May 18, 1978**
ORGANIZATION: _____ DATE: _____
STREET & NUMBER: **625 Main Street - Box 69** TELEPHONE: **(815) 239-1776**
CITY OR TOWN: **Pecatonica** STATE: **Illinois**

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL _____ STATE _____ LOCAL X

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 _____ DATE _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE
ATTEST: CHIEF OF REGISTRATION	DATE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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WILLIAM H. ROBERTS HOUSE (PECATONICA, ILL.)

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

The Dr. William H. Roberts home was built during a transition era when Gothic Revival and Italinete styles were realizing their conclusions and a new birth of Queen Anne was being accepted--all of these styles including basic principles of Eastlake influenced the total design of this home.

Basically the style of this home is Italinete (era concluded 1885) with touches of Gothic Revival (which had lost its influence by 1880) and, Queen Anne (1875-1900) complemented by Eastlake. Its Italinete characteristics are its asymmetrical arrangements of the squared shapes and lines on the bay windows and porches, heavy ornate brackets that support the five oriel roofs and the "port-hole" attic windows set under the medieval spear on the north and south sides.

Symbolic of its Gothic Revival style is the Joliet stone trimmings that drape the tall slender windows and the medieval spear attached to each of the 3 vergeboard peaks.

In 1883, the Queen Anne era was approaching its height and these characteristics influenced by Eastlake principles are: The ornamental iron fences with Eastlake medieval motifs; the geometric squares and scrollwork, incised stylized flowers appearing on porches and bay windows; the frosted etched glass in double doors and transom; and lastly, the gallery effect of spindles which line both porch rails.

Prior to 1900, not many homes of substantial quality of design were built in Pecatonica, and the Dr. Roberts home is noted to be the only home of its particular craftsmanship and architecture from the 1880 period.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Article of Agreement & Specifications for Dr. William H. Roberts Home, dated April 1883: John & Carol Barron, Pecatonica, IL
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10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME PECATONICA ILL-WINNEBAGO CO. QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24 000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	30,55,20	4,68,69,00	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Carol Barron

May 18, 1978

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

625 Main Street - Box 69

TELEPHONE

(815) 239-1776

CITY OR TOWN

Pecatonica

STATE

Illinois

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

David Kenney

DATE 9/26/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

Sent to D.C. 10/2/76

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered JAN 29 1979

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Mineola Hotel	Fox Lake Lake County
Roberts, William H., House	Pecatonica Winnebago County

Also Notified

Honorable Charles H. Percy
Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson
Honorable Robert McClory
Honorable John B. Anderson

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.

7. Historical Themes : (check one or more of the following)
- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archeological Site | (Pre-Columbian) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archeological Site | (Post-Columbian to 1673) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> French Influence | (1673-1780) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Frontier | (1780-1818) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Early | (1818-1850) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illinois Middle | (1850-1900) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Late | (1900-present) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Famous People | (give names & dates) |

8. Specific Date: ca. 1870

Areas of significance (check one or more of the following)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (historic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (pre-historic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Military |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Music |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | |

Brief statement of significance: (include all names and dates) Use additional sheets if necessary. Substantial Italianate residence.

9. Form prepared by:

Name and Title: _____ Date: _____

Organization: _____ Phone: _____

Street and number: _____

City or Town: _____ County: _____ Zip Code _____

During the course of the Survey we often find it necessary to search for references for a particular site. When filling out the Survey form, please list according to the following example, published references to the site for which forms are being completed. If a bibliography can be compiled, it will greatly deduct from the Survey's task.

Bibliography

Robertson, Robert, Of Whales and Men. New York, Alfred K. Knopf, Inc., 1954.

