1. NAME (COMMON):
   Paul Dresser Birthplace
   "as near as I can tell, was born about 1837."

2. LOCATION:
   STREET AND NUMBER:
   "northwest corner, First and Farrington Streets, Fairbanks Park"
   CITY OR TOWN:
   Terre Haute
   STATE:
   Indiana
   CODE:
   18
   COUNTY:
   Vigo
   CODE:
   167

3. CLASSIFICATION:
   CATEGORY:
   Building
   OWNERSHIP:
   Public
   STATUS:
   Public Acquisition
   ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC:
   Yes: Restricted
   "restored home of laborer, furnished pre-Civil War"

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY:
   OWNER'S NAME:
   Vigo County Historical Society, Inc.
   STREET AND NUMBER:
   1411 South Sixth Street
   CITY OR TOWN:
   Terre Haute
   STATE:
   Indiana
   CODE:
   18

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION:
   COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
   Vigo County Court House
   STREET AND NUMBER:
   Third and Wabash Ave.
   CITY OR TOWN:
   Terre Haute
   STATE:
   Indiana
   CODE:
   18

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS:
   TITLE OF SURVEY:
   Open Space Plan and Park and Recreation Plan
   DATE OF SURVEY:
   1971-1972
   DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
   Area Planning Dept.
   Housing and Urban Development Office
   120 So. 7th St., Terre Haute, Ind.
   Indiana Office, also in Washington, D.C.
   CITY OR TOWN:
   Terre Haute
   STATE:
   Indiana
   CODE:
   18
When Paul Dresser (composer of Indiana's state song, "On the Banks of the Wabash") was born in this house in 1859, it was a one-story, two-room brick with lean-to, shed roof kitchen. The second floor was added by his father, John Paul Dreiser, two rooms of brick with outside wooden stairway. Over the years the house was added to, changed, and the original location of 318 South Second Street became a decided slum neighborhood. In the city's urban redevelopment program, this house was due to be bulldozed, so the Vigo County Historical Society raised the necessary funds to have it moved to Fairbanks Park on the banks of the Wabash river.

The original two rooms plus the second floor two rooms, in other words, the four-room brick house was moved to its present site, and the shed-roof wooden frame kitchen was added later in the restoration work. The five rooms are furnished authentically and the restored home is now the second museum of the Vigo County Historical Society.
### SIGNIFICANCE

**PERIOD**  
- [ ] Pre-Columbian  
- [ ] 16th Century  
- [x] 17th Century  
- [ ] 18th Century  
- [ ] 20th Century

**SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)**

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- [x] Aboriginal  
- [ ] Prehistoric  
- [x] Historic  
- [ ] Agriculture  
- [x] Architecture  
- [ ] Art  
- [ ] Commerce  
- [ ] Communications  
- [x] Conservation  
- [ ] Education  
- [ ] Engineering  
- [ ] Industry  
- [ ] Invention  
- [x] Landscape Architecture  
- [x] Literature  
- [ ] Military  
- [ ] Music  
- [ ] Political  
- [ ] Religion/Philosophy  
- [ ] Science  
- [ ] Sculpture  
- [ ] Social/Humanitarian  
- [ ] Theater  
- [x] Urban Planning  
- [x] Other (Specify)

**Theodore Dreiser was younger brother of Paul and one room has items pertaining to him; 200 ft. by 200 ft., grounds being landscaped to period by garden clubs in area.**

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A highway historical marker is set at Third and Farrington streets, in the center of the median of U.S. Highway 41, directing tourists to site at First and Farrington, directly west. Another state historical marker is placed at the front entrance of the house.

The City of Terre Haute and the Vigo County Historical Society felt it was important to save for posterity an excellent example of the type of dwelling of the working man of Terre Haute of the pre-Civil War period. The fact that Paul Dresser (original name Dreiser) was born in the house gave it additional importance from the local and state history angle. He wrote Indiana's state song "On The Banks of the Wabash, Far Away." As one of the most noted popular song writer of the Gay Nineties, Paul Dresser gained national and international fame as the "King of Tin Pan Alley."

It was felt the house was worth saving by the Indiana Historical Society as it was so typical of the working man's home before the Civil War. A restoration of this period (1859) was unique in the state. Only mansions or log cabins had been preserved up to this time. The Indiana General Assembly has proclaimed the house as a State Shrine & State Memorial.
files of Vigo County Historical Society (library collection)
Dreiser files in Ell Lilly Library, Indiana University
files of TRIBUNE-STAR PUBLISHING CO., Terre Haute, Ind.
Dreiser files in University of Pennsylvania Library

49.92 elevation U.S.G.S.

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES
DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

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<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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<td>Degrees</td>
<td>Minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>NE</td>
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<td>SW</td>
<td>Degrees</td>
<td>Minutes</td>
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LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES
DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY
OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

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<td>Degrees</td>
<td>Minutes</td>
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<td>25'</td>
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 200ft x 200ft leased park land

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
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FORM PREPARED BY

(Mrs.) Dorothy J. Clark, Executive Secretary

Vigo County Historical Society, Inc.

4-6-1972

1411 South 6th Street

Terre Haute

STATE: Indiana

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date