

FINAL - No Sig

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Indiana
COUNTY:	Vigo
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Paul Dresser Birthplace

AND/OR HISTORIC:
same

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 (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) 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** Federal State County Local

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.**

STREET AND NUMBER:
120 So. 7th St., Terre Haute, Ind.

CITY OR TOWN: **Terre Haute** STATE: **Indiana** CODE: **18**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

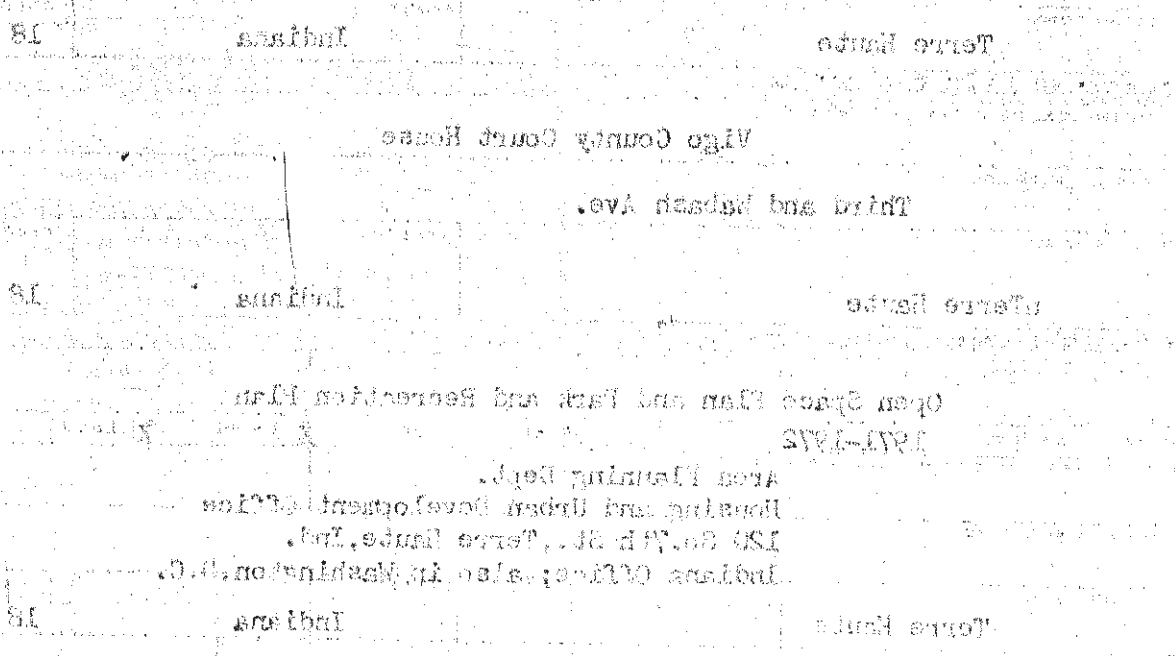
CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>Theodore Dreiser was younger brother of Paul and one room has items pertaining to him; 200ft by 200ft grounds being landscaped to period by garden clubs in area.</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

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.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

files of Vigo County Historical Society(library collection)
 Dreiser files in Eli Lilly Library, Indiana University
 files of TRIBUNE-STAR PUBLISHING CO., Terre Haute, Ind.
 Dreiser files in University of Pennsylvania Library

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

494.92 elevation U.S.G.S.

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' ' "	0 ' ' "		39° 27' 23" N	87° 25' 00" W	
NE	0 ' ' "	0 ' ' "		U.S.G.S.	U.S.G.S.	
SE	0 ' ' "	0 ' ' "				
SW	0 ' ' "	0 ' ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 200ft x 200ft leased park land

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: (Mrs.) Dorothy J. Clark, Executive Secretary

ORGANIZATION: Vigo County Historical Society, Inc. DATE: 4-6-1972

STREET AND NUMBER: 1411 South 6th Street

CITY OR TOWN: Terre Haute STATE: Indiana CODE:

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

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 _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS