

48

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Nebraska	
COUNTY:	Lancaster	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
	11/29/72	

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Ferguson (William H.) House LC13: D8-3

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: 700 South 16th Street

CITY OR TOWN: Lincoln

STATE: Nebraska CODE: 31 COUNTY: Lancaster CODE: 109

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	Rented by
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		State to private
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		individual

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: State of Nebraska

STREET AND NUMBER: 1445 K Street

CITY OR TOWN: Lincoln STATE: Nebraska CODE: 31

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Register of Deeds, County-City Building

STREET AND NUMBER: 555 South 10th Street

CITY OR TOWN: Lincoln STATE: Nebraska CODE: 31

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

STATE: Nebraska

COUNTY: Lancaster

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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
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;">           (Check One)  <input type="checkbox"/> Altered    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered         </div> <div style="width: 45%;">           (Check One)  <input type="checkbox"/> Moved    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site         </div> </div>
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE <p style="text-align: center;">1909-1911</p> <p>The Ferguson house, built in 1866-67, is constructed in the Renaissance Revival mode of design. In addition to the Renaissance Revival character there are latent flourishes of an Italianate treatment in detailing and material usage. <i>Designed by Cleveland Architects Searles, Hirsch &amp; Gavin.</i></p> <p>The exterior walls are constructed of solid masonry with a total depth of 16 inches. The surface is of Roman dry pressed brick, manufactured in St. Louis, Missouri, with detailing; keystones, platebands, and lintels, in smooth finished limestone. The house is two and a half stories in height. The top story is incasted in the roof volume with projecting dormers which define the usable living space. The roof covering is of heavy clay tile supported by wood framework. Steel beam framework was used in the second story plate while in all of the first level floors a concrete slab system was used. This marks a very early use of these materials in residential construction and may be the first of this type in Lincoln. The house contains seventeen rooms and four and a half baths. The interior of the house incorporates several typical features inherent to the Renaissance Revival mode of design, the "grand staircase" which extends a full two stories, and an opulent use of highly finished mahogany wall and ceiling wainscoting. Also throughout the house are imported marble fireplaces.</p> <p>The sleeping porches on the east and the south sides of the second level appear to have been added after the house was originally constructed. They are of wood construction with inner walls faced in brick. Also the ceiling joists are exposed and the window sills are wood instead of stone which was used in the rest of the house.</p> <p>To the rear and south of the house, within the property, is a one and a half story frame with brick veneer structure. It was originally used as a carriage house and caretaker's living quarters. It was latter converted into a garage and is now used as storage space.</p> <p>This old mansion is of such solid construction that it is today still in very good physical condition. Through the years there has been little need for repair and the only physical alterations are the addition of the two sleeping porches on the second floor. The interior also exists in its original state and is in no urgent need of redecoration.</p> <p>Restricted use of this style in Nebraska can in part be explained by the high popularity of the Queen Anne style, enjoyed in Nebraska from 1880 to 1910 and the continued acceptance, nationally as well as in Nebraska, of the Beaux-arts style from 1890 to 1940.</p> <p>This old mansion reflects well the considerable success Mr. Ferguson experienced in his business ventures and can be considered typical of a scale of building and way of life in Lincoln during the early 1900's of a man of Mr. Ferguson's wealth and prominence in the community and state.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

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

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

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

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ferguson House was built by William Henry Ferguson, Lincoln capitalist and successful entrepreneur, in ca. 1906-07. Mr. Ferguson was born in Earlville, Illinois and came to Nebraska in a covered wagon in 1879. His start was in the farming industry where he took an active interest in the introduction of winter wheat into Nebraska. In 1890 he brought alfalfa seed from Denver. Convinced that it was the best product for Nebraska, he contributed substantially to this crop's introduction and growth in the farm markets of Nebraska.

Mr. Ferguson gained his first vast wealth when he purchased land in the central lands of Nebraska during periods of financial depression. He would then share the profits of these lands with the men who farmed them for him. In 1913 he owned 6,000 acres of such lands.

Ferguson is most remembered as a successful grain merchant. In 1902 he sold all but a few of his eighty-five to ninety grain elevators and went into the milling business.

In the late 1890's he established the Beatrice Creamery Company, founded the Western Sand and Gravel Company, and was president of the Lincoln Traction Company for a short time.

In 1903 Ferguson moved to Lincoln and continued to expand his business ventures. Among these was the establishment of the Capitol Beach Amusement Park in 1917. One of his largest concerns was the Yankee Hill Brick Co. in Lincoln. During its peak years this company manufactured 75,000 bricks per day to supply the building boom of Lincoln and its surrounding area in that early 19th century period.

Mr. Ferguson was also vice-president of the Tri-State Land Company, of Omaha. This company owned 30,000 acres of land in Scotts Bluff County, and undertook the building of a fifty-six mile long irrigation ditch, setting a precedent in Nebraska.

Ferguson died in Lincoln in November of 1937. His life, from its early beginnings of breaking sod and putting up hay in the York, Nebraska area, during the 1880's, to Lincoln capitalist at the turn of the century, well exemplified the Nebraska pioneer spirit during this period.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

-CONTINUED-

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**#8. Significance** (Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

The Ferguson house is one of Lincoln's most outstanding old mansions. The house and property command an ideal location with respect to Lincoln's significant historic and architectural sites. It sets southeast and adjacent to the architecturally renown Nebraska State Capitol. Also directly to the rear of the Ferguson House is the Thomas P. Kennard House which serves as the Nebraska Statehood Memorial and is open to public tours as a historic information service. The Kennard House is presently on the National Historic Register and is administered by the Nebraska State Historical Society. The district in which these three structures lie is one of the first settled and built upon in the original plat of Lincoln.

Architecturally the Ferguson house can be considered as one of the best examples of the Renaissance Revival mode of design in Lincoln and perhaps in Nebraska. The Renaissance Revival style was moderately popular in the United States during the late 1880's and 90's, but few examples of this style were built west of the Mississippi.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blank area for Major Bibliographical References.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	° ' "	° ' "		96° 41' 52"	40° 48' 15"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Persijs Kolberg, Curator of Historic Sites

ORGANIZATION: Nebraska State Historical Society DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET AND NUMBER: 1500 "R" Street

CITY OR TOWN: Lincoln STATE: Nebraska CODE: 31

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 Martin D. Kewell Title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date Nov 29 1972

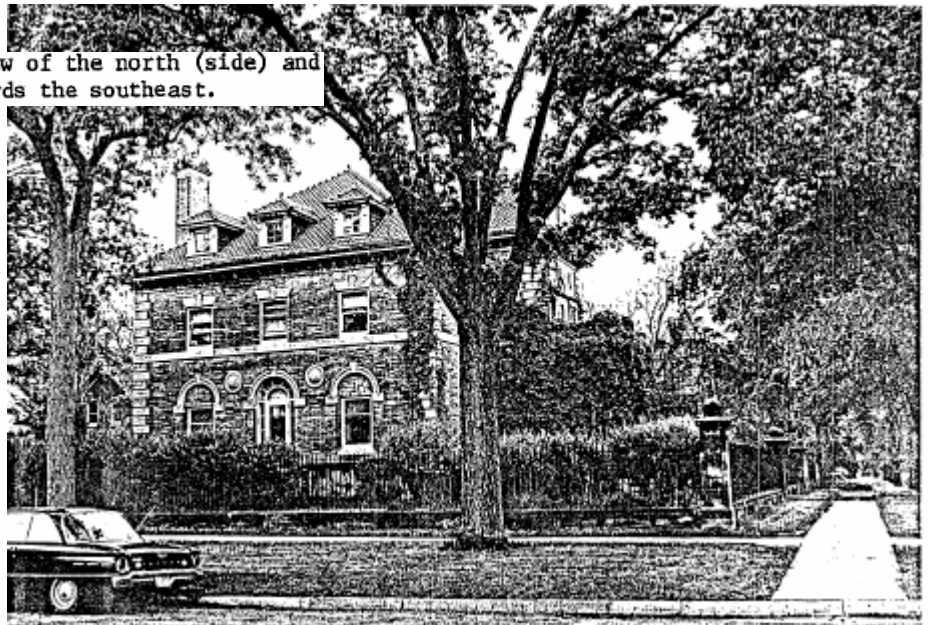
ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Keeper of The National Register

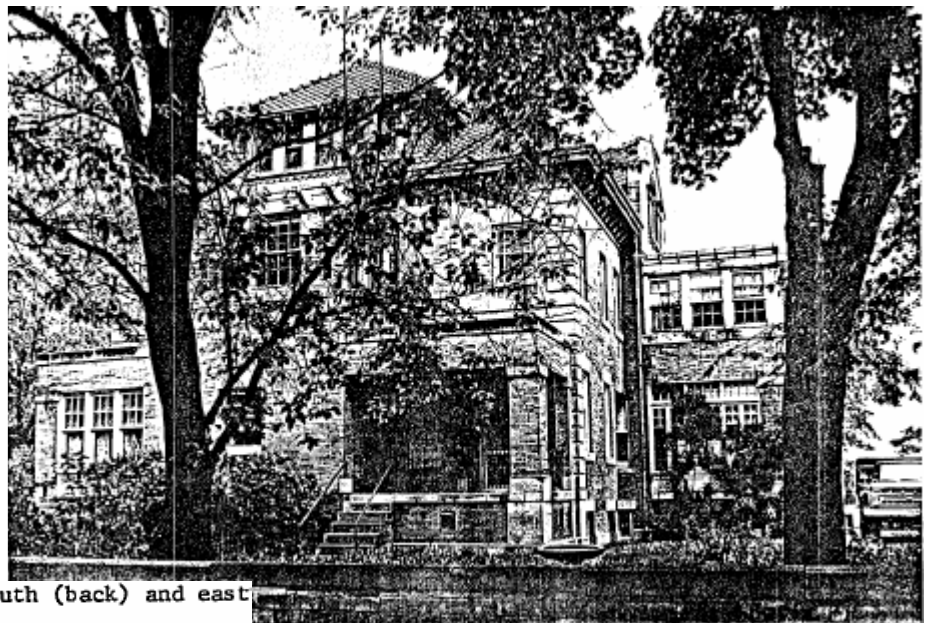
Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Ferguson (William H.) House; view of the north (side) and west (front) facades. View towards the southeast.



Ferguson (William H.) House; view of the south (side) and west (front) facades. View towards the northeast.



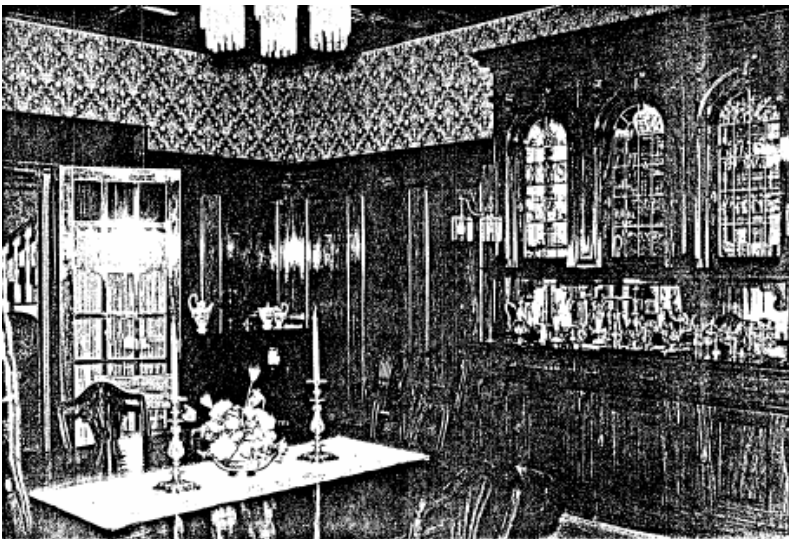
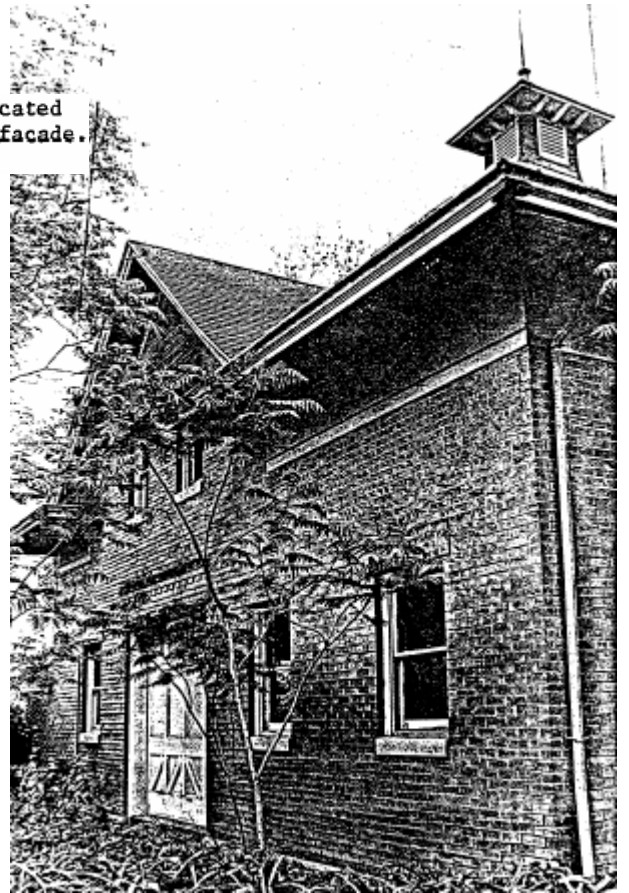
Ferguson (William H.) House; view of the south (back) and east (side) facades. View towards the northeast.



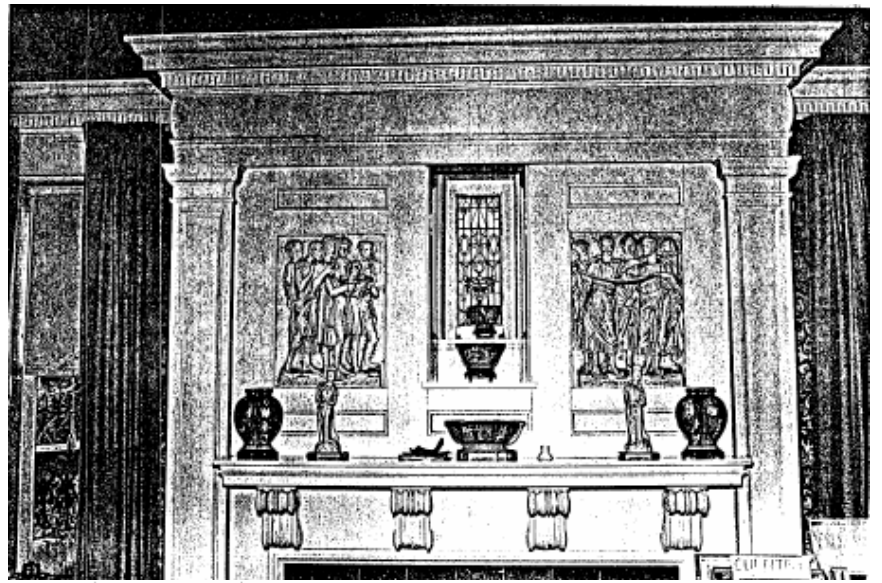


Ferguson (William H.) House; view of the carriage house located northwest of the main building. View of the west (front) facade. View towards the east.

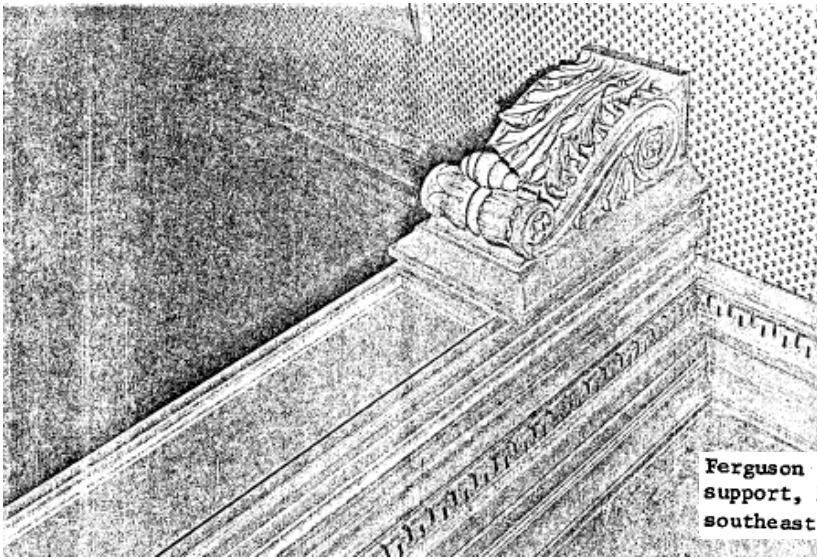
Ferguson (William H.) House; view of the carriage house located northwest of the main building. View of the north (side) facade. View towards the southeast.



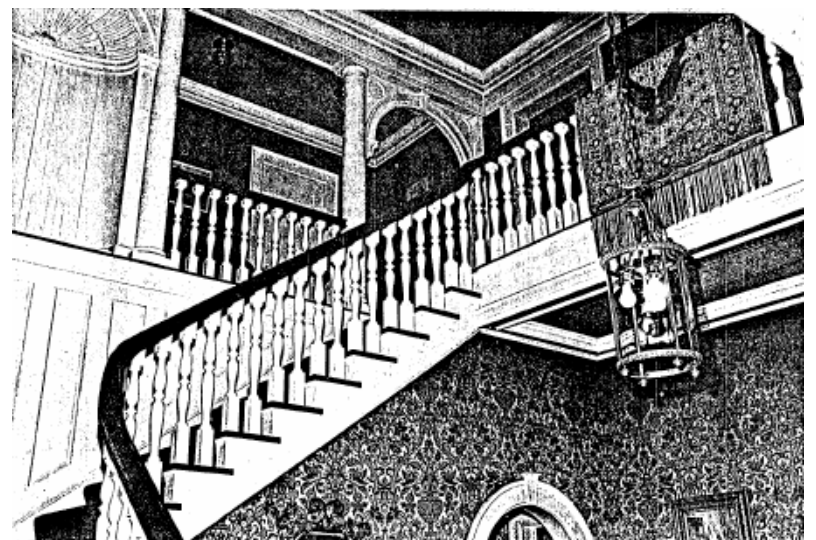
Ferguson (William H.) House; interior view of the dining room. View towards the southeast.



Ferguson (William H.) House; interior detail of the main fireplace. View towards the east.



Ferguson (William H.) House; interior detail of a decorative beam support, located in the third floor ballroom. View towards the southeast.



Ferguson (William H.) House; interior view of main stairs and staircase well. View towards the southeast.



