

(**Note:** This is the seventh in a series featuring the 11 Underground Railroad sites in Oswego County that have been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.)

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Pease Family Home was a Way Station on Underground Railroad



EARLY ABOLITIONISTS Daniel and Miriam Pease began building their home on Cemetery Road, Town of Oswego, in 1817. The home was a way station on the Freedom Trail and is a fine example of the Federal style of architecture.

Daniel and Miriam Pease were early settlers of Fruit Valley in the town of Oswego. They began building their large two-story Federal-style home at 261 Cemetery Road in 1817, the year after they were married.

The Pease family was active in Oswego County's early abolitionist movement, and several newspaper articles in the late 19th and early 20th centuries refer to the use of their home as a way station of the Underground Railroad.

One local newspaper article stated that, "...hundreds of escaped Negroes [sic] are said to have been fed and sheltered in old barns on the place."

Daniel and Miriam were the parents of seven children. Daniel was apparently aided by at least one of their sons, Amos, in transporting and hiding runaway slaves. Daniel and Miriam and their daughter, Nancy, signed anti-slavery petitions in the 1830s.

In 1838, Daniel Pease signed a petition requesting that political parties of Oswego County support only Congressional candidates who were in favor of the “immediate abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia,” and who favored the right to petition.

Daniel and Miriam Pease died of typhus in 1847, within a month of each other. Daniel’s gravestone in the Oswego Rural Cemetery is inscribed with, “Break every yoke...Let the oppress [sic] go free.” (Isaiah, 58:6).

A 1915 newspaper articles discussing the Pease house suggested that “Daniel Pease, in the autumn of life, was a leader in a redhot Abolitionist community, and he put his principles into practice where he gave of his money and his substance to aid the black men he believed should be free, that they might attain freedom.”

The home built by Daniel and Miriam Pease was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in March, according to Barbara Dix, Oswego County Historian.

“This house is one of the oldest houses we have researched for the Underground Railroad,” said Dix. “It is in remarkable condition and we’re very pleased to have it on the National Register. This home is one of the best examples of the Federal style of architecture in Oswego County.”

The Oswego County Freedom Trail Commission was formed by the Oswego County Legislature to conduct research on Underground Railroad sites in Oswego County. Eleven Underground Railroad sites in Oswego County have been listed on the National Register.

For more information, contact Dix, chairwoman of the Freedom Trail Commission, at the Oswego County Records Center, weekdays, phone 349-8460 or 1-800-596-3200, ext. 8460.