



Richland County History Room photo.

Pease Mercantile Building – 172 West Court Street – 1890-1899.

The Pease Mercantile Building is a Romanesque Revival influenced commercial vernacular building that is no longer architecturally significant since much of its architectural detail has long since been lost. The replacement of the leaded glass windows, the filling in of the storefront and the removal of the arcaded parapet has greatly altered the architectural character of the building. However, the historically significant Pease Building contributes to the character of the Court Street Historic District. Built in 1899 to house the prosperous Pease Dry Goods and Clothing Store, this red



View of no longer extant arcaded parapet. Richland County History Room photo.

brick building exhibits Romanesque round arched windows and arched brick molding and a wide projecting brick cornice with a small ornamental Romanesque styled blind arcade placed between two courses of brick. The storefront and lower façade have been completely altered in a 1982 contemporary front that fills up the storefront. Leaded glass windows in the upper story and an arcaded parapet rising above the roof elevation were removed some time since 1976.

A prominent businessman in Richland Center, Dexter Pease first established his general mercantile business there in 1858. Dexter E. and David Glasier Pease had previously begun a general dry goods store in Rockbridge, Richland County in 1855. In 1858 to 1859, they erected a frame store at 172 West Court Street. Associated with Dexter Pease through the



The original Pease Store was moved and replaced with a brick department store in 1890. It is now located directly behind the City Auditorium, making it one of the oldest remaining buildings in Richland Center- Richland County History Room photo.

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Our stock of ladies' cloaks comprises all the different grades and styles to suit the tastes of the most exacting buyers. We carry a fine assortment of ladies' "Printzess" cloaks, made by one of the best cloak houses in the business and justly noted for their distinctive style and fit.

Ladies' fine plush lined fur trimmed cloaks, fur lined, fur trimmed cloaks, staple styles which do not change each season and which are just the thing for cold weather. Prices from **\$15 to \$40**

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A full line of "Mentor" union suits, noted for their fine fitting quality, made full standard sizes and in qualities from **50c** per suit to **\$5.00**

Ladies' vests or pants, good quality, **25c**

Ladies' vests or pants, a fine line, **50c**

Children's underwear in all qualities, two-piece or union suits, qualities to suit, at prices to please

Ladies, misses' and children's hose in weights and qualities which insure the very best of service

D. E. Pease
 We sell GILBERT'S CELEBRATED
The Home of The Sophomore Clothes

The Richland Observer photo archive.

nineteenth century, the business acquired a series of partners. In 1869 to 1870, Dexter Pease was joined by W.W. Baker and in 1873 by Myron Pease.

In 1871, Pease purchased such items as sheeting, cotton hose, shirts, ladies' furs, groceries, gun powder, tobacco, boots, garters, lace, wash bowls and pitchers, glassware and other goods on buying trips to St. Louis and Chicago. The Pease Store also wholesaled some goods to other stores.

Dexter Pease additionally participated in the merchant flour milling business with A.C. Parfrey from 1868 until 1881. During this time, Pease left the merchandise store in the hands of his wife, Fidelia. Mrs. Fidelia Reed Pease played an important role in the development of the Pease Store and in community life in Richland Center. She was characterized by piercing black eyes, her beauty and dynamic personality. Mrs. Pease gave much of her time and energy to the store and took a great interest in the civic development of Richland Center. Her leadership

was illustrated in a December 8, 1888 "Rustic," an early Richland Center weekly newspaper, of an "Address of Welcome" she presented to the Woman's Suffrage Convention held in Richland Center.



Mrs. Fidelia Reed Pease, businesswoman, temperance worker and suffragists. Richland County History Room photo.

The Pease family is one of the oldest in American genealogy. It is descended from two brothers, Robert and John Pease, who landed in Boston in 1632. Dexter Pease was a direct descendant of the older brother Robert.

The Pease Store had a long and interesting history from its humble start in the Village of Rockbridge in 1854 until its closing in 1969. Dexter Pease died in 1914 at the age of 82 and Mrs. D.E. Pease died in 1922 at the age of 84. Fidelia Pease was one of the original woman suffragists in Richland Center who lived long enough to see the 19th amendment passed into law giving women the right to vote.



The Pease Store on West Court Street in 2014 minus its original 1890s character and detail.