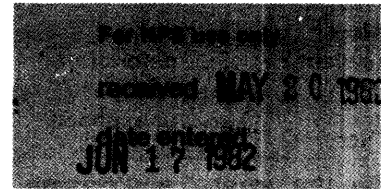


OMB NO. 1010-0010
EXP. 12/31/74

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



1. Name

historic Pierce, James, Jr., House

and/or common Piercestead

2. Location

street & number 4623 North, 140 West N/A not for publication

city, town West Lafayette vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Indiana code 018 county Tippecanoe code 157

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Walter and Annette H. Valentine

street & number 4623 North, 140 West

city, town West Lafayette vicinity of state Indiana

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorders Office, Tippecanoe County Courthouse

street & number 20 North Third

city, town Lafayette state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town state

7. Description

Condition
 excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair unexposed

Check one
 unaltered
 altered

Check one
 original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Piercestead is a farmhouse built in the Greek Revival style and situated in a rural area on County Road 140 West, three miles northwest of West Lafayette, Indiana. Built in 1833-34 by James Pierce, Jr., an early farmer and postmaster, the original portion of the house consists of a two story unit of rectangular plan with a small, one story ell projecting from the north end of the west (rear) facade. The foundation of the structure is of native stone, now largely obscured as a result of pargeting in 1929. The exterior walls of the house are constructed of red brick fired on the site and laid up in common bond. Each section of the house is covered by a simple gable roof of medium pitch, currently shingled in slate. Chimneys are located at each end of the main section of the house, and at the west end of the original ell. Roof trim includes a plain frieze and a plain box cornice with returns at the gable ends.

The main facade of the house faces east and is comprised of four asymmetrical bays. The two southernmost bays both contain six-over-six, double-hung windows on both the first and the second story levels. The third bay contains a simple doorway, embellished only with a transom, on the first floor level, and has no opening at all on the second floor level. The final, northernmost bay is identical to the first two bays described, with six-over-six, double-hung windows on each level. All of these windows have plain wood sills and lintels, and some contain a few of the original window panes.

Additions to the house include an extension to the original ell at its west end and a one story wing added to the extreme south end of the original structure. Both of these additions were constructed in a manner sympathetic with the original structure, using similar materials and construction techniques. A 1929 remodeling included the addition of a two story enclosed porch along the rear of the structure; this could be removed without damage to the house.

All but one of the interior walls of the house are brick, covered with plaster. Two original mantels remain; these are of poplar and feature simple grooving and panel work. One stairway and one fireplace have been removed, and new oak flooring has been installed on the first floor. Two bathrooms and a modern kitchen have also been added.

One outbuilding, construction date unknown, remains on the site. Thought to have been built as a well house, it was later used as a generator room and a storeroom. It is presently in deteriorated condition.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1833-34

Builder/Architect James Pierce, Jr.

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

Piercestead, built by James Pierce, Jr., is significant both for its architecture and for its role as a frontier post office. The house, one of the oldest in the county, is among the best examples of Greek Revival architecture remaining in the area. In 1846 the home also became the Cass Post Office, with Pierce as the postmaster. The building served this additional function until 1855, when the post office was closed.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Baker, J.D. Postal History of Indiana, Leonard H. Hartmann, Philatelic Bibliopole, Louisville, Kentucky, 1976
- Baker, O.C. "Piercestead Restored", Journal & Courier, Feb. 11, 1956) Newspaper,
- Baker, O.C. "Pierce's Interest in Whigs", Journal & Courier, Feb. 15, 1956) Lafayette,
- Baker, O.C. "Pioneer's Descendants", Journal & Courier, Feb. 25, 1956) Indiana

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 3.09
 Quadrangle name West Lafayette

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	1 6	5 0 5 7 4 5	4 4 8 1 3 8 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C			
E			
G			

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D			
F			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please see continuation sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Walter Valentine

organization N/A date October 1, 1979

street & number 4623 North, 140 West telephone 317/463-4393

city or town West Lafayette state Indiana 47906

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature J. M. Redman

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date May 6, 1982

For NPS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	Entered in the National Register
<u>Alous Byers</u>	date <u>6/17/82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 2

LOCAL HISTORIES AND ATLASES

Gilbert, Frank M. History of the City of Evansville and of Vanderburgh County, Indiana. 2 vols. Chicago: Pioneer Publishing Co., 1910.

Griffing's Atlas of Vanderburgh County, Indiana. Philadelphia: D. J. Lake & Co., 1880; reprint ed., Evansville: Unigraphic, Inc., and Friends of Willard Library, 1975.

An Illustrated Plat Book of Vanderburgh and Warrick Counties, Indiana. Evansville: Tillman & Fuller Publishing Co., 1889; reprint ed., Evansville: Unigraphic, Inc., and Friends of Willard Library, 1975.

PERIODICALS

"Fire Apparatus All Motorized". The Evansville Courier, 6 February 1921.

"Hose House Passing: End of Era." The Evansville Courier, 17 December 1973.

"March of Progress Brings Doom to Old Bells at 10 Hose Houses." The Evansville Courier, 9 August 1936.

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

(See above: The Evansville Courier, 17 December 1973.)

PRIMARY SOURCE MATERIALS

Central Library Newspaper Clipping File

City of Evansville Annual Reports, 1908.

Evansville City Directories, 1858+.

Vanderburgh County Deed Indexes and Records.