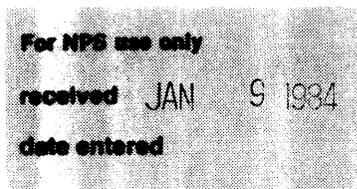


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Taos County, Red River
Red River Multiple Resource Area

1. Name: Pierce-Fuller House (Red River, Multiple Resource Area)
2. Location: Silver Bell Trail at the southwest corner of High Street
4. Owner: Mrs. Hal Yeager
2410 Speedway
Wichita Falls, Texas 76308
7. Description: The Pierce-Fuller House is a one-and-a-half story building constructed of squared log beams half-notched at the corners and chinked with concrete. The gabled roof is covered with metal terne plate. The house is square in plan, measuring about 32 feet by 32 feet. The lower floor is divided with log walls into four rooms each measuring about 16 feet by 16 feet. A porch stretches across the facade and wraps around the southeast corner. Plank additions were made to the rear and southwest corner in 1939.

The facade under the porch contains two centrally located entrances, each leading into one of the front rooms. The vertical board-and-batten doors are replacements for the originals. The windows contain the original double-hung wooden sashes with 2/2 lights of old "wavey" glass. They stretch nearly the full height of the walls, their sills reaching nearly to the ground.

Stairs centrally located in the interior were added after 1917 and lead to the attic which was finished for living quarters at about that time. The attic contains two bedrooms. A large clapboard dormer containing bathrooms was added to the center of the rear roof about 1950. In 1939, one-story, shed-roofed, clapboard additions were made to the southwest corner of the building. The gables are finished with horizontal log-slabs covered with bark.

The porch has a plank floor. The pitch of the roof extends unbroken to cover the porch and is supported by logs. Square wooden posts were the original supports. A brick walkway in front of the house is an original feature and is made of bricks fired in Orin Mallette's kilns at the west end of the valley.

A rock chimney was added to the exterior of the south gable in 1939. The terne plate roofing was also added at this time. Previously, the roof had been a patchwork of metal and other roofing materials. Terne plate roofing has been used in New Mexico since about 1850 when it began to be hauled over the Santa Fe Trail. At the time that the terne plate roofing was added to this cabin in 1939, building materials still had to be brought to Red River from some distance and with some difficulty. The terne plate was mail ordered from Montgomery Ward and delivered by railroad to Ute Park, the "end of the line" 30 miles away on the eastern side of the mountains.

The Pierce-Fuller Cabin is maintained in excellent condition. A frame garage with attached two-bedroom apartment built about 1950 on the property is a non-contributing structure.

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Taos County, Red River
Red River Multiple Resource Area

Pierce-Fuller House (Red River Multiple Resource Area)

8. Significance: The Pierce-Fuller Cabin is significant both architecturally and historically. It is significant architecturally as a good example of the square block log house measuring four multiples of the 16-foot square single log pen, called the "foursquare four pen." It is a fine representation of a pioneer building type of the settlement years of the mining town of Red River. It is historically significant by association with its early owners, the Pierces and the Fullers, who were pioneer settlers of Red River.

The Pierce-Fuller House is a rare example of the "foursquare" or "block" pioneer log house. Such houses are unusual anywhere in the United States. Because of their size, they were viewed as status symbols of folk log construction. An additional half-story, such as that of the Pierce-Fuller House, further elevated the prestige value of the house. Perhaps partly for these reasons, oral tradition in Red River has always claimed that the builder of this house was the "original owner or manager of the original gold mine."

The symmetry of the foursquare plan of this type of log dwelling is thought to be associated with the Georgian style of architecture, but the dimensions of its units are derived from Medieval Europe. Each of the four square rooms of the ground floor are 16 feet square. This is the measurement of the one-bay house of Medieval England. In British terminology, a "bay", or "rod", is 16 feet square. The unit originated in the dimensions of a space wide enough to house four oxen side-by-side. The simple one-room house of this size was introduced by English colonists to the Virginia and Maryland Tidewater. As the house type traveled westward in the form of log construction, larger dwellings were sometimes created by erecting connecting multiple units of the square pen. The Pierce-Fuller House is a fine example of this practice.

Other significant aspects of log construction in this house are the half-notched corners and the squared logs which are hewn on all four sides. Only rarely were such squared beams produced because of the extra labor involved. Usually, only two sides were hewn, the inner and outer wall surfaces. The Pierce-Fuller House is an exceptionally well-crafted log structure.

Local oral tradition maintains that the house was built before the platting of "Red River City" in 1895. This tradition is substantiated by an old, undated photograph that shows the house as the lone occupant of the meadows later subdivided into streets and lots on the west side of "Red River City." (Photograph in collection of John H. Brandenburg, Red River.)

The earliest owners of record of the lots upon which the house is situated were Caribel and Melville D. Pierce, who had obtained the property before 1915 when they sold the house to C. M. Richmond. Melville D. Pierce was listed in the 1900 census report

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Pierce-Fuller House (Red River Multiple Resource Area)

as a 34-year-old gold miner from Missouri. His wife, Carrie, was from Illinois and they had a young son named Edward. At that time, they rented the home in which they lived. Pierce may not have been the builder of the house.

In 1917, the house was sold by C. M. Richmond to Gilbert S. Fuller. Gil Fuller and his wife Mattie had seven children. A carpenter by trade, Fuller finished the attic half-story in order to provide additional living space for his large family. It is said that Fuller also worked in the mines. He is listed in the early 1920s business directories as a justice of the peace.

The Fullers sold the house in 1928 to Horace Johnson, owner of Red River's largest general store, T. D. Neal Mercantile Company. After being occupied by tenants and being left unoccupied for some years, the house fell into disrepair. In 1938, it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Bachman and Mr. and Mrs. Hal Yeager, of Texas, for use as a summer retreat. These new owners restored the building and made several small additions to the rear. According to Mrs. Yeager, the interior rooms were papered with turn-of-the-century newspapers when they purchased the house. Notable among interior features that remain are the vertical board-and-batten doors with brown porcelain knobs.

10. Geographical Data: The nominated property consists of Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 in Block 38 of the Red River Townsite.

Quadrangle name: Red River
Quadrangle scale: 7.5 minute

UTM References:
Zone 13 Easting 463360 Northing 4062770