

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received MAR 11 1985
date entered APR 11 1985

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

1. Name

historic Cresthaven

and/or common Boston House

2. Location

street & number 239 South Indian River Drive N/A not for publication

city, town Ft. Pierce N/A vicinity of

state Florida code 012 county St. Lucie code 111

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

4. Owner of Property

name JAFCO, Inc.

street & number 239 South Indian River Drive

city, town Ft. Pierce N/A vicinity of state Florida

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Lucie County Courthouse

street & number 231 South Indian River Drive

city, town Ft. Pierce state Florida

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date N/A federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Cresthaven is a large two-and-one-half-story red brick building constructed in 1909 in Ft. Pierce, Florida. The building exhibits design characteristics of both the Georgian Revival and Neo-Classical Revival styles and represents a vivid contrast to other Ft. Pierce residences constructed in the early twentieth century. The building has recently been rehabilitated and is in excellent condition although the front portico, roof, and interior have been altered over the years.

Cresthaven is a large two-and-one-half-story red brick building. The structure is unusual in coastal Florida in that it has a basement. It is also unusual in its use of black mortar, now bleached to a white color. The building combines three intersecting gables with a hipped roof. Originally sheathed with cypress shingles, the roof covering was replaced with asphalt shingles in the 1950s. Fenestration is generally one-over-one, double-hung, wood sash. Windows rest on projecting masonry sills and have masonry lintels. On the east, north, and south facades these windows are often grouped in pairs.

The east (main) facade is highlighted by three boxed columns which support a wide entablature and wood shingled pediment. A Palladian window accents the pediment. In addition to the portico and detailed classical cornice, the main facade includes a cantilevered balcony which spans the facade above the main entry. The entry consists of a paneled wood door with a fixed glass top panel, side lights, a top light, and paneling which forms a vestibule for the entire unit. Entry porches allow egress on both the north and south sides of the building. The sole addition to the exterior of the house is a addition from the 1950s which has been added to the roof of the rear porch.

A full entablature with an unadorned frieze and dentiled cornice extends around each of the four faces of the building. This feature, combined with the porch's original Ionic columns, gave the building a distinctly Neo-Classical appearance. The columns were replaced in the 1920s after suffering damage during a hurricane. The Georgian influence in the building is in turn evidenced by its brick construction and front portico. The Palladian window used as a focal point is particularly noteworthy for its association with the Georgian Revival style.

The interior of the building, although altered for commercial purposes in the 1950s, retains significant details and features representative of early twentieth century construction. The window and door surrounds are generally rather simple although the surrounds are capped with a slightly more elaborate moulding. Interior doors are generally paneled wood doors, some of which have fixed glass panels in the upper half. The staircases in the building have square balusters with simple handrails. The main staircase has two landings and features a square, oak newell post with panel insets. This staircase offers separate access to both the anteroom and hallway from the mid-floor landing. A fireplace on the first floor is built of red brick and has a simple wooden mantle and facings. The back of the fireplace and chimney are exposed in the room adjacent to the firebox opening. The walls and ceilings throughout the building are finished with a smooth plaster finish. Floors are a hard pine; ceilings are generally ten feet high.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1909

Builder/Architect Blanchard (Ft. Pierce, Florida)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Cresthaven, better known as the Boston House, is architecturally and historically significant at the local level. Constructed in 1909, the building is one of the most architecturally distinguished structures in Ft. Pierce. The building is an unusual amalgam of the Georgian Revival and Neo-Classical styles, architectural styles not commonly seen in South Florida. The building is also significant historically through its association with individuals significant in the history of Ft. Pierce, most notably William T. Jones and John McCarty. It is an important architectural and historic resource to the City of Ft. Pierce.

Ft. Pierce was established in 1837 during the Second Seminole War by the United States Army. The Fort was named for Lt. Colonel Benjamin Kendrick Pierce and was located on what later became Indian River Drive.¹ Permanent settlement in the Fort Pierce area began around the site of the old fort in the 1860s. Most of the early homes were clapboard and wooden frame with the lumber and materials rafted ashore from the transports on the Indian River.²

In vivid contrast to the typical Ft. Pierce residences dating from the late 1800s and early 1900s, stands Cresthaven, or the Boston House. Located approximately one-half mile from the site of the old fort, Cresthaven was constructed in 1909 for William T. Jones. Jones was a railroad man who arrived in Fort Pierce in the early 1900s after being in a job related accident.³ He had "always dreamed of building a house like Cresthaven for his family."⁴ Jones named his house for its location at the top of the hill, "Crest" and for its being a place of rest, "haven."⁵

In 1905, when St. Lucie County was created from what was then Brevard County, the taxable valuation was \$2.3 million, with less than one million dollars representing real estate.⁶ It is therefore easy to understand that the estimated \$15,000 that Jones had expected the residence to cost was a significant sum of money.⁷ The original cost did indeed exceed that \$15,000 estimate. Mr. Blanchard, now deceased, was the builder.

From an architectural standpoint, Cresthaven represents what is perhaps the oldest remaining masonry building in Fort Pierce. It was constructed in 1909 and took over a year to complete.⁸ It was constructed of red brick from Georgia with black mortar joints, now bleached white with weather and age. The brick work was done by C.A. Justice and Mr. Jensen. Cresthaven was almost three stories high with five bedrooms and two baths, an unheard of luxury for its time.⁹

The building combines details and influences from both the Georgian Revival and Neo-Classical architectural styles. The Georgian Revival influence is reflected in the overall feeling of the building and in its Palladian window. The Neo-Classical influence is communicated by the columned portico, trabeated window openings, and cornice detail.¹⁰ With the exception of changes to the front columns, necessitated by storm damage in the 1920s, the building retains much of its architectural integrity. As a reflection of this integrity, a second story window displays the name of its original owner, Lewis Jones. Clifford Jones recounts: "Lewis brought home a diamond and none of us believed that it was real so we went ahead and scratched his name in the glass. He also did the same thing on a mirror downstairs."¹¹

(See Continuation Sheet)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(See Continuation Sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property Less than 1

Quadrangle name Fort Pierce

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

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3	0	3	5	8	0	0
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Verbal boundary description and justification Lots 5 and 8, W.T. Jones Subdivision as recorded in Plat Book 7, page 24 Public Records, St. Lucie County, Florida. This boundary includes all significant property directly associated with Cresthaven.

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title J.H. Pincus/Michael F. Zimny, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Florida Division of Archives date February 20, 1985

street & number The Capitol telephone (904) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

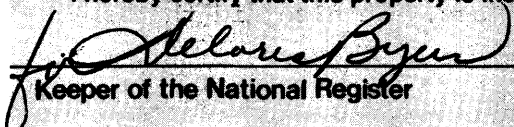
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title George W. Percy, State Historic Preservation Officer date 2/25/85

For NPS use only

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

 **Delores Byrum**
Keeper of the National Register

**Inscribed in the
National Register**

date 4-11-85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation sheet One

Item number 8

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While the building occupies its original site, the site itself was the location of another building prior to construction of Cresthaven. This two-story, seven-room frame structure was moved after its second floor was razed to another location. Under Cresthaven, in the crawspace, were found artifacts reminiscent of a trash pit: i.e., shards of glass, porcelain, bottles and dishes which may have been associated with the previous structure. One lot to the south of Cresthaven is the "Governor's House," the residence of former Florida Governor Dan McCarty and his brother, former State Senator John McCarty were raised. John McCarty was, at one time, an owner of Cresthaven.

From a historical perspective, W.T. Jones, the original resident of Cresthaven, was perhaps its most colorful. He was appointed to the post of Sheriff of St. Lucie County by Governor Park Trammel in 1915. He was the second man to hold that position after the formation of St. Lucie County in 1905. His appointment followed what has been described as an "old west shootout" in which D.S. Carlton was gunned down by Marshall D.J. Disney. D.S. Carlton had been nominated and appointed sheriff without opposition in 1901 at the meeting for incorporation of Fort Pierce.¹² Witnesses recounted hearing several volleys of gunshots and, "when the smoke of the battle had cleared it was seen that Sheriff Dan S. Carlton was on the ground near the edge of the sidewalk, gasping, and Disney was staggering near the building."¹³ Sheriff Carlton expired several minutes after being carried into the office of Doctor Clark. The headlines also proclaimed "Several Candidates for Sheriff: Bill Jones Favorite."¹⁴ W.T. Jones was elected to the office twice thereafter before resigning in 1920 for financial reasons and because he was tired of "juries turning loose the criminals he arrested."¹⁵

W.T. Jones was indeed a powerful sheriff who commanded the respect of such notable outlaws as the Ashley Gang who "caused no trouble in his county."¹⁶ During the prohibition years Jones prided himself on enforcing the law. After being apprehended by Sheriff Jones, one purveyor of illegal spirits claimed that during his trial he was able to "buy off every sheriff in the area except him."¹⁷ Also to his credit, Jones was responsible for arresting a German spy named Griswall during World War I.

Cresthaven first changed ownership in the mid-1920 as Jones lost the building to mortgage foreclosure in an attempt to save his grove acreage in Indian River County after the collapse of the Florida Boom.¹⁸ It was bought by two elderly sisters who occupied the home until their deaths. In 1949 Cresthaven was purchased by John McCarty for \$13,500.¹⁹ The youngest son of the prominent McCarty family, John McCarty was a gubernatorial candidate himself in 1960. He served as a circuit and municipal court judge and served as Judge of the Ninth Judicial Circuit from 1957 to 1959 prior to his candidacy for governor.²⁰ He later served as a Florida state senator. While never occupying Cresthaven, McCarty retained it for offices and was responsible for re-roofing the building.

Cresthaven became known as the Boston House in the mid-1960s after being purchased by Wood, Beard, and Associates. The name was changed to the Boston House as it is bounded on the south by Boston Avenue. Substantial alterations were also made to the interior of the building, including the installation of air conditioning and carpeting. In the mid-1970s the building became the center of a local controversy when the county considered razing the building for additional parking space.²¹ It was acquired by its present owner, JAFCO, Inc., in March of 1984 and has been sensitively rehabilitated into professional offices.

(See Continuation Sheet)

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Continuation sheet

Two

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FOOTNOTES

- ¹ Berol, Richard J., Pictorial History of Florida, Historical Publications, Inc., 1965, pp. 44-45.
- ² Ibid.
- ³ The Miami Herald, January 30, 1984, Section B, p. 3; personal interview with Clifford Jones, son of W.T. Jones and an original occupant of the building, 1984.
- ⁴ Ibid.
- ⁵ Rights, Lucille, Historical Tools and Tours in St. Lucie County, Career Education Publications, p. 1e.
- ⁶ Miley, Charles W., Miley's Memos, Indian River Community College Historical Data Center, 1980, p. 6.
- ⁷ Rights, loc. cit.
- ⁸ Personal interview with Clifford Jones, loc. cit.
- ⁹ The News Tribune, March 10, 1974, p. 10.
- ¹⁰ Personal interview with Robert Terry, noted local architect and guest lecturer to the St. Lucie County Historical Society.
- ¹¹ Personal interview with Clifford Jones, loc. cit.
- ¹² St. Lucie County Tribune, February 2, 1901, p. 1.
- ¹³ The Fort Pierce News, May 28, 1915, p. 1.
- ¹⁴ Ibid.
- ¹⁵ Personal interview with Clifford Jones, loc. cit.
- ¹⁶ Ibid.
- ¹⁷ Ibid.
- ¹⁸ The News Tribune, March 10, 1974, p. 11.
- ¹⁹ The Miami Herald, January 30, 1984, Section B, p. 3.
- ²⁰ Nance, McEllwood C., The East Coast of Florida, Southern Publishing Co., Vol. III, 1962, p. 471-2.
- ²¹ The News Tribune, March 10, 1974, p. 12.

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Berol, Richard J. Pictorial History of Florida Historical Publications, Inc., 1965.

Harris, John and Lever, Jill Illustrated Glossary of Architecture Clarkson N. Potter Publishers, 1966.

Miley, Charles S. Miley's Memos Indian River Community College Historical Data Center, 1980.

Nance, McEllwood C. The East Coast of Florida Southern Publishing Co., Vol. III, 1962.

Personal interview with Clifford Jones, son of W.T. Jones and an original occupant of the building, 1984.

Personal interview with Mr. Robert Terry, noted local architect and guest lecturer to the St. Lucie County Historical Society.

Rights, Lucille Historical Tools and Tours in St. Lucie County Career Education Publications, 1982.

Saylor, Henry H. Dictionary of Architecture John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 1962.

St. Lucie County Tribune, February 2, 1901.

The Fort Pierce News, May 28, 1915.

The Miami Herald, January 30, 1984.

The News Tribune, March 10, 1974.

Van Landingham, Kyle S. Pictorial History of St. Lucie County 1565-1910.

INDIAN RIVER

DRIVE

24' PVMT.

2' CURB

5' CONC. WALK

102.25

83° 52' 30"

CONC. WALL

CONC. WALK

WOOD PORCH

WOOD PORCH

10.1

18.81

3.61

9.19

3.61

6.06

10.1

7.50

5.01

12.25

5.00

11.68

7.30

12.5

16.06

WOOD PORCH

4.02

6.28

8.55

1.75

31.68

8

26.3

2' CONC. WALK

PARKING

ASPH.

CONC. DRIVE

DRIVE

5