

FINAL

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

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street & number 4623 North, 140 West N/A not for publication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 X 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" 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 Walter and Annette H. Valentine

street & number 4623 North, 140 West

city, town West Lafayette X 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
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 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.

2. 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input 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 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 Bibliophile, 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

Acreeage of nominated property 3.09

Quadrangle name West Lafayette

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

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 Zone Easting Northing

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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Please see continuation sheet

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			
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

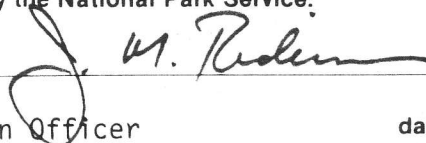
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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



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

date

Keeper of the National Register

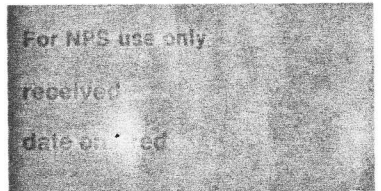
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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



Continuation sheet Piercestead

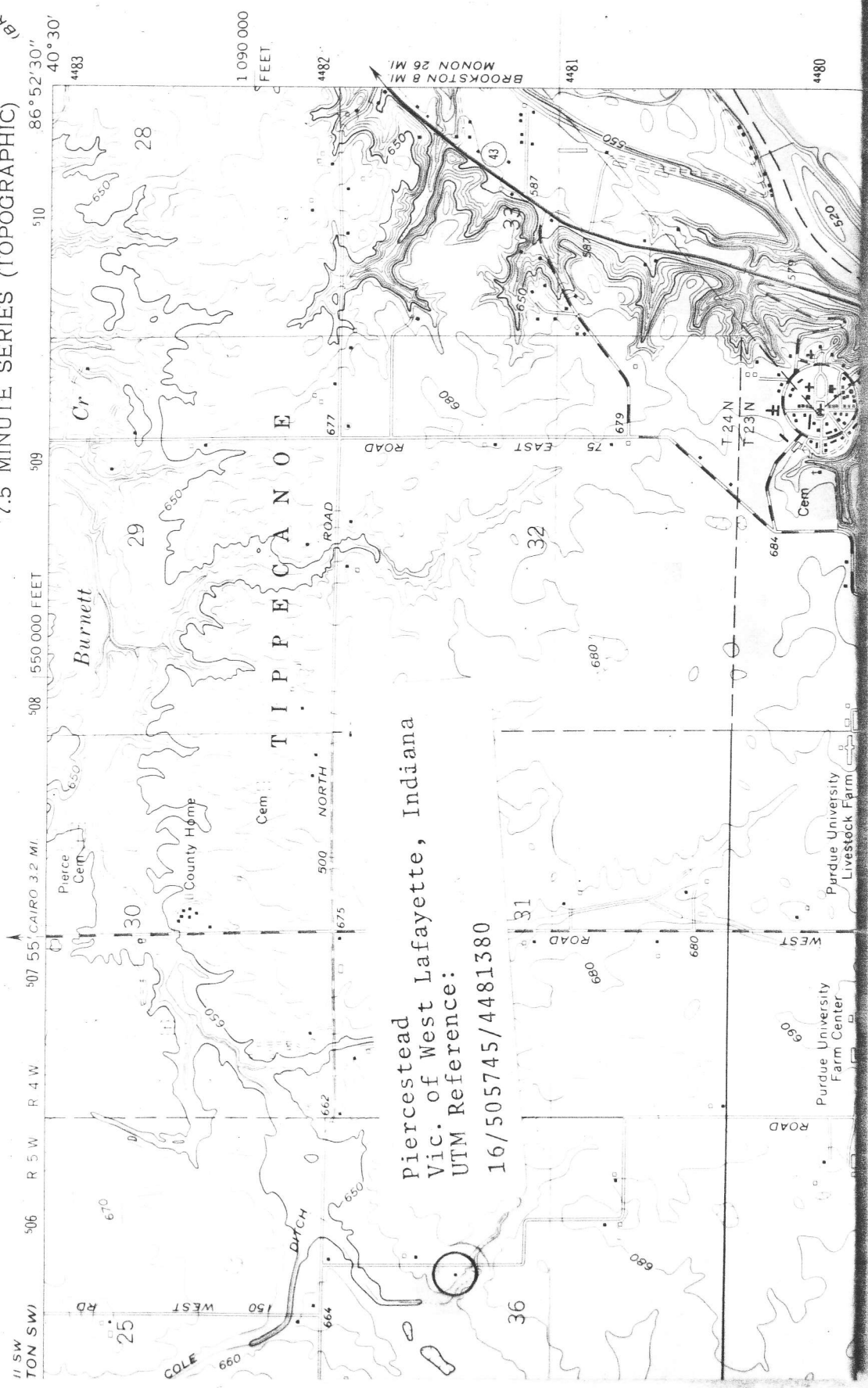
Item number 10

Page 1

A part of the Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 36, Township 24 North, Range 5 West, Wabash Township, Tippecanoe County, Indiana, described as follows:

Commencing at the southwestern corner of the Northeast Quarter of said Section 36, and running thence North 89° 55' East along the southern line of the Northeast Quarter of said Section 36, 659.47 feet to the centerline of Yeager Road; thence North 0° 43' West along the centerline of Yeager Road, 714.05 feet to the point of beginning of this description, thence South 89° 17' West, 364.15 feet; thence North 0° 43' West, 370.00 feet; thence North 89° 17' East, 364.15 feet to the centerline of Yeager Road; thence South 0° 43' East along the centerline of Yeager Road, 370.00 feet to the point of beginning, containing 3.09 acres, more or less.

LAFAYETTE WEST QUADRANGLE
 INDIANA - TIPPECANOE CO.
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Piercestead
 Vic. of West Lafayette, Indiana
 UTM Reference:
 16/505745/4481380

3665 11 55
 (BROOKSTON)