



Abercrombie, John H. and Mary, House  
 Name of Property

Allen County, IN  
 County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
 (Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
 (Check only one box.)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
 (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- Private
- public – Local
- public – State
- public – Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	0	buildings
0	0	district
0	0	site
0	0	structure
0	3	object
3	3	<b>Total</b>

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

**Current Functions**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
 DOMESTIC/secondary structure  
 AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/animal facility

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
 DOMESTIC/secondary structure  
 DOMESTIC/secondary structure

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

**Materials**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals: Tudor Revival  
 Late 19<sup>th</sup> and Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century American  
 Movements: Bungalow/Craftsman

foundation: BRICK  
 walls: BRICK  
 STUCCO  
 roof: ASPHALT  
 other: WOOD: weatherboard  
 METAL: aluminum

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## Narrative Description

### Summary Paragraph

The John H. and Mary Abercrombie House, built in Fort Wayne, Allen County, Indiana, successfully combines hallmark architectural features of the Craftsman and Tudor Revival styles in this outstanding example of early twentieth-century residential construction. Constructed circa 1914, the two-story, side-gabled, brick and half-timbered house is located on the southeast side of Parnell Avenue just north of Vance Avenue. The Craftsman style features exhibited here include a side-gabled form; wide gabled porches with solid balustrade walls supported by large, square brick columns continuing to ground level; gabled wall dormers; wide, extending vergeboards; exposed rafter tails under the deep eaves; the use of decorative, exposed roof beams under the gables; and the side porte-cochère. The stucco and decorative half-timbering of the upper stories, often used by the builder to define upper floor openings, is characteristic of the Tudor Revival style. The wood-framed window types used throughout the house reflect the influence of both architectural styles, and include multi-paned, double-hung sashes over single-paned lower sashes, multi-paned casements, and leaded glass or art glass casements. Most of the windows are placed singly while some are grouped in pairs or in multiple pairs.

Also on the property are a garage and a former chicken coop that now serves as a gardening and storage facility. The design of the one-story garage echoes the house in form and materials. It features a side-gabled form with a large, front-gabled wall dormer, a brick lower story with a stucco and half-timbered upper story, wide overhanging eaves, and multi-paned, double-hung wood windows. Constructed with a shed roof and with wood clapboard siding, the gardening and storage structure has several multi-paned windows and a pointed-arch window. It is topped with a small tower with pointed-arch windows. The landscaping around the entire property consists mainly of large, open grassy areas, a few mature trees, and some newer plantings, but a small pond and fenced-in garden area were recently constructed near the garden shed. The site also includes three non-contributing objects; all are historic streetlamps that were relocated to the property in the 1970s and 1980s.<sup>1</sup>

## Narrative Description

The John H. and Mary Abercrombie House stands on approximately one acre of land in the Riverside Second Addition of the City of Fort Wayne, Indiana, platted in November 1903 by John Ferguson. Originally platted with large, estate-like lots each about an acre in size, the Riverside Second Addition is approximately two miles northeast from the town center. Only the lot where this house is and a few others exist of this size today. Most of the lots have been further divided, and most of the homes were built after about 1945.

The Abercrombie House is located on the southeast side of Parnell Avenue just north of Vance Avenue. Parnell Avenue, known as Lawton Avenue prior to 1914, is a well-traveled, two-lane thoroughfare lacking a public sidewalk on the side of the street as the Abercrombie House. Only recently was a public sidewalk added on the opposite side of the street as the Abercrombie House. A definitive date of construction for the house could not be determined. The northern boundary of a 1907 birdseye map of Fort Wayne stops about where the Abercrombie House would have been if it existed then, but no structure is noted. Also, no Sanborn Fire Insurance maps exist for this portion of Fort Wayne to be able to consult for help with establishing a date. Therefore, based upon being able to place, or not place, known early owners of the property at its current address, the house was built circa 1914.<sup>2</sup>

The Abercrombie House is side-gabled, two stories tall, and has approximately 4,000 square feet of finished living space. It exhibits exceptional architectural integrity. The first story of the house is brown brick laid in a running bond pattern, while the second and attic stories are finished in cream-colored stucco with decorative wood half-timbering painted dark

<sup>1</sup> *Fort Wayne City and Allen County Directory*, (Fort Wayne, IN: R.L. Polk and Company, 1908 - 1925); James and Nancy Delaney, current Abercrombie House residents, in-person interview by Jill Downs, Fort Wayne, IN, March 11, 2011.

<sup>2</sup> Plat of Riverside 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition, <http://inlaredo.fidlar.com/INAllen/WebSenseCustom/Details.aspx> (accessed April 28, 2011); *Fort Wayne City and Allen County Directory*; B.J. Griswold, "Griswold's birds-eye view of the city of Fort Wayne, Indiana, indexed for ready reference," [http://international.loc.gov/cgi-bin/map\\_item.pl?data=/home/www/data/gmd/gmd409/g4094/g4094f/pm001950.jp2&style=citymap&itemLink=r?ammem/gmd:@filreq%28@field%28NUMBER+@band%28g4094f+pm001950%29%29+@field%28COLLID+citymap%29%29&title=Griswold%27s%20birdseye%20view%20of%20the%20city%20of%20Fort%20Wayne,%20Indiana%20indexed%20for%20ready%20reference.%20B.%20J.%20Griswold](http://international.loc.gov/cgi-bin/map_item.pl?data=/home/www/data/gmd/gmd409/g4094/g4094f/pm001950.jp2&style=citymap&itemLink=r?ammem/gmd:@filreq%28@field%28NUMBER+@band%28g4094f+pm001950%29%29+@field%28COLLID+citymap%29%29&title=Griswold%27s%20birdseye%20view%20of%20the%20city%20of%20Fort%20Wayne,%20Indiana%20indexed%20for%20ready%20reference.%20B.%20J.%20Griswold) (accessed April 28, 2011).

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brown. Other exterior materials include wood frieze board, wood-framed primary and storm windows, wood beadboard eaves, copper gutters, and asphalt shingle roofing. The first floor windows have stone window sills and a brick soldier lintel course. Architecturally, the house features design elements of the Craftsman and Tudor Revival styles.

The house sits in the middle and to the south side of the one acre-sized lot, and is oriented widthwise from northeast to southwest. The length of the front, or northwest, façade is interrupted in the middle by a front-gabled wall dormer, while a large front porch with gabled roof entrance extends from the centrally placed front door to just past the western corner of the house. A porte-cochère is the primary feature of the southwest side. Positioned off-center on the rear, or southeast, façade is a front-gabled dormer and a gabled roof back entrance similar to those of the main façade. An octagon-shaped kitchen addition juts off the eastern corner. Wide, overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails and decorative, exposed roof beams under the gables further accent the house.

The northwest façade (photo 1) features the centrally-placed front door which is accessed by a set of concrete stairs flanked by brick cheek walls with stone caps. The door itself is constructed of quarter-sawn oak with a multi-paned glass center and is accented by sidelights, detailed with shades of green stained glass in a stylized floral design, that are about two-thirds its height (photo 2). The entire entry is surrounded by a wide, quarter-sawn oak trim. Protecting the entrance is a gable-front, half-timbered, porch roof with overhanging eaves, exposed roof beams, and beadboard ceiling supported by two pairs of square, brick columns with stepped, stone capitals with a raised triangle detail. Extending from the gable-front porch roof to just past the western corner of the house is a large, wood-floored porch area covered by a relatively flat roof with exposed roof beams and beadboard ceiling. The roof is supported on the southwest end by two square, brick columns continuing to ground level and also accented with stepped, stone capitals with a raised triangle detail. A low, brown brick wall with stone cap surrounds the porch area on the northeast, northwest, and southwest sides. To the southwest of the front door is a pair of multi-paned, wood French doors providing an entrance to the covered porch area from the front parlor of the house. Northeast of the front door is a three-sided bay with a double-hung, eight-over-one, window in each side. Each window of this bay is accented at the corners by a decorative, interlocking brick detail. On the second story, a front-gabled wall dormer, positioned over the main entrance, includes two sets of paired, leaded-glass casement windows. On either side of the dormer is an eight-over-one double-hung window. At the attic level of the dormer, a pair of multi-paned casement windows form a triangular arch that echoes the gable peak immediately above.

Extending off the first story of the southwest façade (photos 3 and 4) is the gable-roofed, porte cochère accented with wide, overhanging eaves, exposed roof beams under the gables, and exposed rafter tails. The exposed gable end is detailed with cream-colored stucco and decorative half-timbering, and the open area below contains a wood trellis. Positioned toward the northwest on the façade and encompassing concrete steps to the front porch, the porte cochère is supported on its southwest end by two square, brick columns with stepped, stone capitals with a raised triangle detail each set on top of two stockier and shorter square, brick pedestals topped with a thick stone accent piece. A brick chimney located off-center to the northwest runs the height of the façade and through the roof eave. Penetrating this façade are nine window openings of varying design. Two, multi-paned, fixed windows appear at the basement level of a shallow box bay positioned southeast of the porte cochère. Under the wide, overhanging roof of the bay are two, side-by-side sets of paired, leaded-glass casement windows of geometric-cut clear glass with stylized flowers in colored glass and a stone window sill. Northwest of the chimney and under the porte cochère is an eight-over-one, double hung window. Adjacent to the northwest side of the chimney on the second floor is a pair of multi-paned casement windows, while a smaller pair of leaded-glass casement windows is adjacent to the southeast side of the chimney. Further southeast of these windows is an eight-over-one, double-hung window. At the attic level, a pair of multi-paned casement windows form a triangular arch that echoes the gable peak immediately above.

Positioned off-center to the northeast on the rear, or southeast, façade (photo 5) is a front-gabled projecting section and a gabled-roof porch entrance similar to that of the northwest façade. The first story of this façade has been subject to some alterations in recent years. In 2000, the rear wall of the kitchen was extended further to the southeast to enclose a large portion of the porch area. Just southwest of the porch, the kitchen extension also included a basement-level exterior entrance, accented by an octagon-shaped window above and a six-over-one, double-hung window on the southwest wall, while an octagon-shaped area was added just off the eastern corner of the house and extending into the northeast facade. A single-paned window appears at the basement level in all sides of the octagon-shaped addition. The porch itself is entered by a set of concrete stairs flanked by paneled concrete cheek walls. Two square, brick columns with stone capitals each set on top of two shorter, square brick pedestals topped with a thick stone accent piece support the porch roof. The contemporary steel entrance door, with a multi-paned window over two lower panels and topped by a

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transom, is located below the peak of the porch roof. Next to the door to the southwest is a six-over-one, double-hung window. Each of the five exposed sides of the octagon addition, detailed with interlocking bricks where each side connects to the next, contains an eight-over-one, double-hung window. Other windows on the first floor, placed some distance apart toward the southwestern end, include two matching, six-over-six, double-hung windows. On the second floor, and adjacent to the southwest wall of the projecting gable, is a large pair of multi-paned casement windows. Next to this to the southwest is an eight-over-one, double-hung window. The gable itself contains a two-over-one, double-hung window and, northeast of this, a six-over-one, double-hung window which was changed from a door by the current owners. Above this window at attic level and just below the gable peak is a short, pointed triangular arch window. Although there have been some slight alterations to this façade, the changes blend seamlessly with the original architecture which retains extraordinary integrity.

With the exception of the previously-described octagon-shaped bay addition, the northeast façade (photo 1) lacks any other accessory structures such as porches, dormers, or bays. Four, multi-paned, fixed windows appear at the basement level. On the first story and toward the southeast end of the façade is an eight-over-one, double-hung window. Near this to the northwest and of the same height is a narrow, four-over-one, double-hung window. Some distance further to the northwest, and positioned lower on the wall, is a double window consisting of six-over-one, double-hung sashes. Centrally-placed on the second story is a small, one-over-one, double-hung window. On either side of this window, but placed some distance away, is a much larger, eight-over-eight, double-hung window. At the attic level, a pair of multi-paned casement windows form a pointed triangular arch that echoes the gable peak immediately above.

Also on the property is a one-story garage (photo 6) located southeast of the house facing northwest and in-line with the porte-cochère. The design of the garage echoes the house in form and materials. It features a side-gabled form with a large, front-gabled wall dormer, a brick lower story with a stucco and half-timbered upper story, wide overhanging eaves, and multi-paned, wood, double-hung windows that, with the exception of the one attic window, have brick soldier lintel courses and stone windowsills. On the northwest façade, below the dormer, automobiles enter the structure through two sliding, wood garage doors featuring nine panes of glass over a large beadboard panel below. There is a three-over-one window at the attic level. Two matching, six-over-one windows penetrate the southwest façade, while both the southeast and northeast facades have just one, six-over-one window. A wood service entrance door, with a multi-paned window over three horizontal panels, appears on the northeast façade near the northern corner.

In the eastern corner of the property and facing southwest is a former chicken coop that now serves as a gardening and storage shed (photo 7). Constructed of wood clapboard siding, the structure has a split shed roof, with the southeast half being slightly lower than the northwest half, sloping back toward the northeast. A row of three, four-paned windows runs across the northwest portion of the southwest façade while the southeast portion incorporates a single, four-paned window. This entire stretch of windows is protected by a metal porch roof with wood porch posts and wood balustrade constructed in 1990. The shed is entered through a wood-paneled service door on the northwest side where there is also a single, pointed-arch window. In 1989, the current owners added a small, square tower with mansard roof on the higher split roof section. Each side of the tower is penetrated by a pointed-arch window.

The landscaping around the property consists primarily of large, open grassy areas, a few mature trees that include a weeping mulberry in the front yard and a cedar tree on the north side, as well as some newer plantings, but a small pond and fenced-in garden area were recently constructed near the garden shed. In the early 1970s, the current homeowners salvaged and installed two matching, historic free-standing street light fixtures in the front and back yards that once graced the West Main Street Bridge, built in 1920, over the St. Mary's River in Fort Wayne. In the 1980s, another salvaged Fort Wayne lamppost was installed in the northeast yard. A long, slightly-curving asphalt driveway, made larger in front of the garage and paved from gravel in the early 1970s, extends from Parnell Avenue under the porte cochère and widens near the garage entrance toward the southwest to accommodate a surface parking area (photos 8 and 9).

Original interior features throughout the home include plaster walls, wide, varnished wood trim around windows and doors as well as a wood staircase, wood doors, wood baseboards, wood crown molding, and wood flooring. In general, most of the wood used is quarter-sawn oak, although the second-story rooms have pine trim and maple flooring, and the original kitchen cabinetry is pine. Most of the privacy doors are oak wood in a single-panel style. In the kitchen, some trim and cabinets have been painted white. The home is heated by hot water heat, so most rooms contain a cast-iron radiator. Many original light fixtures also remain in the home (photos 10, 11, and 12).

The rooms of the Abercrombie House are arranged around an open, main hallway (photo 13) that bisects the house from northwest to southwest. Also opening into the hallway is the centrally-located, northwest entrance. Just inside and ahead

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of this entrance is the oak staircase to the second-story featuring square posts and a balustrade constructed of square balusters that extends along the upper floor hallways. The exposed staircase wall in the first floor hallway is detailed with wood panels. To the northeast of the central entrance is a single, large pocket door leading to the living room located on the north corner of the house. The northwest wall of this room contains the three-sided bay window as described earlier. Another feature of this room is a fireplace and chimney that protrudes into the room from the center of the southeast wall. The chimney wall above the thick wood fireplace mantel, detailed with wood modillions, is finished in painted plaster, while the fireplace surround is constructed of brown brick laid in a running bond pattern. Stepped back from and on either side of the fireplace is a bookcase with two, elongated diamond-patterned, leaded glass doors (photo 11).

To the southwest of the central entrance is another single, large pocket door leading to the parlor located on the west corner of the house. Centered on the northwest wall are the French doors that enter onto the front porch as previously described, while the south corner contains a fireplace. Detailed like that of the living room, the fireplace has a similar mantelpiece with a painted plaster wall above and brown brick surround (photo 10).

Heading southeast from the parlor and on the south corner of the house is the dining room entered from the hallway through a single, large pocket door. The current homeowners have added an oak bookcase along the northwest wall that echoes the original built-in oak sideboard on the southwest wall (photo 12). A swinging wood door on the northeast wall near the east corner provides access to a butler's pantry. Just outside the dining room to the southeast is a half-bath that is original to the house. It features an interior window leading to the butler's pantry. Across the hall diagonally from the half-bath and under the staircase is a storage closet.

Northeast of the storage closet is a doorway leading into the kitchen located on the east corner of the house. An access door to the basement is directly across a short, narrow hall from this kitchen door. The kitchen (photo 14) is primarily a large, open area with mostly original stained and painted pine cabinetry along the southwest and northeast walls with some newer oak cabinetry along the northwest wall. There is also a newer kitchen island with oak base and laminate countertop. Off to the north corner of the kitchen is a doorway leading to a back enclosed staircase to the second floor. An entrance to the butler's pantry is located just southeast of the cabinets on the southwest wall. The northwest wall of this pantry area contains base cabinetry of stained pine with painted casing, and upper storage shelving with painted, wood-framed glass doors. Near the west corner on the southwest wall is the swinging door to the dining room. To the southeast on this same wall is a similar, smaller set of base cabinets as the northwest wall, but with a laminate countertop and stained pine upper cabinets. Centrally-placed on the southeast wall of the pantry is a double-hung window looking onto the now enclosed back porch area. Below this window is a laminate countertop set on base cabinets of painted casing with stained pine doors. The rest of the kitchen area to the southeast consists of the enclosed back porch area and the octagon-shaped addition which functions to hold a large table and chairs. The remaining area, on the southwest part of the kitchen, contains some new built-in, wood cubby holes and hooks for storage and organization.

The staircase to the upper story connects to the central hallway in about the middle of the house. Upstairs, a hallway area runs around the southeast, southwest, and northwest sides of the opening of the staircase (photo 15). The second floor rooms are arranged off these hallways and consist of four bedrooms and two full bathrooms. The stairs opens onto the southeast hallway. Just to the northeast toward the end of this hallway is a small doorway to a narrow, enclosed staircase to the attic area. To the southeast of this doorway and on the northeast end is the entrance to a small bedroom on the east corner of the house. The window on the southeast wall of this room was changed from a door by the current owners. Southwest down the hallway from this bedroom is a small, original bathroom featuring a white, cast iron pedestal tub and a white, porcelain pedestal sink (photo 16) that replaced an earlier, wall-mounted fixture. Further southwest and where the hallway meets the next is a recessed, open area featuring the pair of casement windows described earlier on the southeast wall. Heading northwest from this area and at the southwest end of the southeast hallway is the entrance to the south bedroom. Down the southwest hall to the northwest is a recessed area, with built-in bookcase on the southeast wall, and southwest wall doorway to a larger bathroom featuring original white, hexagonal floor tiles; original tub, medicine cabinet and sconce lights; and sink, vanity, and built-in cabinetry (photo 17) installed by the current owners. Next to the bathroom on the west corner of the house is another small bedroom. The northeast wall of this room opens into a walk-in dressing area with closet storage on the southeast wall. Outside this bedroom entrance on the northwest hallway wall is a large storage closet with paired, wood doors. Opening off the northeast end of the northwest hallway is a large bedroom, with walk-in closet, on the north corner of the house.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Delaney, James and Nancy; James Delaney, current Abercrombie House resident, e-mails to Jill Downs, November 29 and 30, and December 13, 2011.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

c. 1914  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

c. 1914  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance is circa 1914, the approximate time of construction.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Abercrombie House is significant under National Register Criterion C as an outstanding example of Craftsman and Tudor Revival architecture. Built circa 1914, the two-story house exhibits Craftsman style features such as its side-gabled form; wide gabled porches with solid balustrades walls supported by large, square brick columns continuing to ground level; gabled wall dormers; wide, extending vergeboards; exposed rafter tails under the deep eaves; the use of decorative, exposed roof beams under the gables; and the side porte-cochère. The combination of a brick first story with a stucco and decorative half-timbered upper story is characteristic of the Tudor Revival style. The wood-framed window types used throughout the house reflect the influence of both architectural styles, and include multi-paned, double-hung sashes over single-paned lower sashes, multi-paned casements, and leaded-glass casements. Most of the windows are placed singly while some are grouped in pairs or in multiple pairs.

John and Mary (McClure) Abercrombie were the first owners of the house. John was a locomotive engineer for the Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad and Mary was a school teacher.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

### **Architecture**

The Abercrombie House is significant under National Register Criterion C. Built circa 1914, it is a well-designed combination of primarily the Craftsman style of architecture with Tudor Revival style influences that retains exceptional integrity. Tudor Revival architecture was first seen in the United States in the late nineteenth century primarily in architect-designed houses, and was based on late Medieval English Renaissance architecture popular during the Elizabethan and Jacobean eras of the mid-sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. Tudor Revival style houses have steeply pitched roofs and are most often side-gabled with one or more cross-gables. Other characteristic features of the style include the use of decorative half-timbering in a variety of placement combinations; groupings of tall, narrow windows, usually casements, with multi-paned glass often with leaded mullions creating a diamond or lattice design; and massive chimneys with decorative chimney pots. Wall cladding materials may include stucco, brick, stone, or wood. Also commonly seen is patterned brickwork and stonework, and front porches are either small or non-existent. Doorways tend to have flattened, pointed arches. Interior details include darkly stained, oak wall paneling; elaborately-designed stone or terra cotta fireplaces; and floors of stone, plain wide boards, or wood laid in geometric patterns such as herringbone or checks. Beamed ceilings, either made of substantial dark wooden beams or of plaster beams finished to look like wood, are another common Tudor Revival style feature.

The Craftsman style gained a following in the United States in the early 1900s after California-based brothers Charles and Henry Greene began designing homes based upon Asian-inspired architecture and the English Arts and Crafts Movement, which emphasized the use of craftsmanship over machine-made objects. The "Craftsman" terminology took hold after Gustav Stickley, an American furniture maker also inspired by the Arts and Crafts Movement, began publishing the magazine *The Craftsman* in 1901 to further the Arts and Crafts ideals, as well as his own house designs based upon them. Eventually, the Craftsman style of architecture was more typically seen in the one-story bungalow type of house, and had a limited popularity for house design spanning only the years from about 1905 to 1930. Characteristic Craftsman style features include a low-pitched gable roof with wide, unenclosed, overhanging eaves; exposed roof rafter tails; the use of triangular braces or exposed roof beams, usually decorative rather than structural, under gables; large porches supported by square, often tapered, columns; and a frequent use of gabled or shed roof dormers. Although Craftsman houses are generally one- or one-and-one-half story in height, two-story houses do exist and often with a porte cochère extending off to one side. Additional commonly seen exterior elements include wood clapboard siding, and wood windows consisting of a multi-paned upper sash over a single-paned lower sash, while interior elements include a use of natural woodwork, built-in features, and exposed ceiling beams.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Rachel Carley, *The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture* (New York, NY: Henry Holt and Company, Inc., 1994), 208, 211, 213; Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1984), 355 – 359, 453, 454; James C. Massey and Shirley Maxwell, *House Styles in America: The Old-House Journal Guide to the Architecture of American Homes* (New York, NY: Penquin Group, 1996), 198 - 199, 220, 224 – 225; Paul Duchscherer and Douglas Keister, *The Bungalow: America's Arts & Crafts Home* (New

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From an architectural perspective, the design of the Abercrombie House clearly utilizes elements associated with the Craftsman and Tudor Revival styles. The overall appearance of the home reflects the Craftsman style as illustrated by its side-gabled form; wide gabled porches with solid balustrade wall and supported by large, square brick columns; gabled wall dormers; wide, extending vergeboards; exposed rafter tails under the deep eaves; the use of decorative, exposed roof beams under the gables; and the side porte-cochère. The combination of a brick first story with a stucco and decorative half-timbered upper story as well as the decorative brick work on the front bay window and kitchen bay addition is characteristic of the Tudor Revival style. Placed mostly singly and in occasional pairs, the majority of the wood windows of the house are double-hung with multi-paned upper sashes over single-paned lower sashes typical of the Craftsman style, although small pairs of multi-paned, casement windows, associated more with the Tudor Revival style, appear in rooms such as the attic, a bathroom, and one bedroom. A larger pair of multi-paned, casement windows also appears in the upstairs hallway.

Simply detailed, the interior of the Abercrombie House also combines features associated with the Craftsman and Tudor Revival styles. The use of natural woodwork throughout the home for baseboards, doors, trim, and the staircase is an element common to both styles, while smaller references to each style appear here and there. The built-in living room bookcases and dining room sideboard, although later additions to the home, are typical of the Craftsman style. The flattened, pointed arch over the dining room sideboard and the elongated diamond-patterned, leaded glass windows in the living room bookcases are Tudor Revival in style.

As was noted earlier, the Abercrombie House is one of very few within its addition and those neighboring it of such substantial size and on such a large lot. A tour of the area shows that most of the nearby lots and homes are approximately half the size. Many of the homes are simply detailed, square or rectangular-shaped one-story structures lacking porches, dormers, bay windows, or any type of architectural texture indicating they were built after about 1945. Although there are several examples of homes, particularly along Parnell Avenue, built in about the same time period or within a decade later as the Abercrombie House, none are brick or stucco, and they exhibit architectural styles such as Dutch Colonial Revival, a mix of Colonial Revival and Tudor Revival, and American Foursquare.

The Abercrombie House clearly stands out as unique among its neighbors. The nearest home with any similar architectural characteristics is at 3402 Woodrow Avenue, about half a mile to the northeast. Built circa 1930, it is a side-gabled, brick Craftsman bungalow with wide eaves, exposed rafter tails and roof beams, and brick porch supports that extend to the ground like the Abercrombie House, but it lacks any discernible Tudor Revival details. In the 2800 to 3000 blocks of North Anthony Boulevard, about one mile to the east and slightly south of the Abercrombie House, there are several examples of Tudor Revival homes (2827, 2901, 2915, 3008, 3021, 3025) built circa 1930. These exhibit features characteristic of the style such as brick first stories with stucco and half-timbered upper stories, casement windows, steeply pitched rooflines, and small or non-existent front porches. No clearly Craftsman details, such as wide eaves, wide porches with large supports, or exposed rafters or roof beams are present.

The Abercrombie House more closely relates to architect-designed homes built in planned additions in Fort Wayne such as Forest Park Boulevard and Old Mill Road, located 1.5 and 5.0 miles away respectively, both of which are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Both additions were first established in the early 1910s and contain numerous notable and outstanding examples of Craftsman and Tudor Revival homes. Although lot and home sizes in the Forest Park Boulevard addition are comparable in size to the Abercrombie House, there is no example of a home that combines both Craftsman and Tudor Revival architecture as seen in the Abercrombie House. The home at 1719 Forest Park Boulevard is a large, two-story, side-gabled brick Craftsman-style structure with a wide front porch, wide eaves, exposed rafter tails, and shaped vergeboards, but without Tudor Revival influences. The wood-shingled, side-gabled home at 2007 Forest Park Boulevard exhibits these same Craftsman characteristics as well as a porte-cochère off to one side like that of the Abercrombie House. Minimal Tudor Revival architecture is evident here in the two, stucco and half-timbered front dormers. The homes at 1601, 1806, 1830, 1848, 2016, and 2225 Forest Park Boulevard are all Tudor Revival in style but lack any typical Craftsman-style details.

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The Old Mill Road addition of the Southwood Park Historic District contains two outstanding examples of suburban estate homes that closely resemble the Abercrombie House. Designed by Fort Wayne architects Marshall and Guy Mahurin (Mahurin and Mahurin) circa 1910, the house at 4220 Old Mill Road exhibits a side-gabled form with a large, half-timbered, front wall dormer over a front-gabled porch entrance. It also has a large porch area connected off one side of the porch entrance and extending along the front of the house to meet a side-gabled porte-cochère. Other details in common with the Abercrombie House include a combination brick and stucco exterior with wide, brick porch columns, wide, overhanging eaves, and exposed rafter tails. Mahurin and Mahurin also designed 4405 Old Mill Road constructed circa 1912. Although built with a hipped roof, it has a brick first story with a stucco upper story, but with minimal half-timbering Tudor Revival elements. It lacks a wide front porch like that of the Abercrombie House, but does incorporate a front-gabled porch entrance with half-timbering details and a porte-cochère off one side of the structure. Other Craftsmen elements displayed here include large square porch supports that extend to the ground, wide eaves, and exposed rafter tails and roof beams. Despite exhibiting clear similarities to these two homes, it is not known if Mahurin and Mahurin designed the Abercrombie House.<sup>5</sup>

**Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)**

First settled by the Native American Miami tribe and known as "Kekionga," Fort Wayne, Indiana, was established in 1794 at the confluence of the St. Mary's, the St. Joseph, and the Maumee Rivers in the northeastern part of the state. Named for a fort built here by General Anthony Wayne, the site was chosen for the three rivers and close proximity to the Wabash River which provided access to the Great Lakes and Ohio River and resulted in Fort Wayne becoming a center of trade and commerce. Attracted by the economic possibilities of the area and availability of land no longer occupied by Native Americans, early settlers began arriving in Fort Wayne in the early 1820s. Allen County, for which Fort Wayne is the county seat, was created in 1823. In the 1830s, the highest point of the Wabash & Erie Canal was in Fort Wayne, thus resulting in the town's nickname of the "Summit City." Naturally, residential and commercial buildings sprang up around this new source of commerce for Fort Wayne. The development of major industries such as Wayne Knitting Mills, Jenney Electric Company, and Bass Foundry led to the building of more residential neighborhoods in the late 1800s. Between 1900 and 1930, during the time when the Abercrombie House was built, Fort Wayne's population grew from 45,115 to 114,946.

The Abercrombie House, part of the Riverside Second Addition to the City of Fort Wayne platted in 1903 by John Ferguson, is located on Parnell Avenue approximately two miles northeast from the town center. This area of Fort Wayne was never documented by Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, but the northern boundary of a 1907 birdseye map of Fort Wayne ends just slightly north of the southern boundary of this addition, and shows very few houses in the area. A 1915 street map of Fort Wayne ends just north of the entire addition and shows Parnell Avenue ending at the St. Joseph River which is approximately three-tenths of a mile northeast from the Abercrombie House. Although the addition was originally platted with large estate-like lots about an acre in size, only the lot where this house is and a few others exist of this size today. Most of the lots have been further divided, and most of the homes were built after about 1945. Parnell Avenue, currently a well-traveled, two-lane thoroughfare, now extends north across the St. Joseph River where it becomes a four-lane roadway for eight-tenths of a mile until it merges with Clinton Street, a major four-lane, divided roadway.<sup>6</sup>

John H. and Mary Abercrombie were likely the first owners of this house, buying the property in the summer of 1913 for \$2,000 from John and Nettie Adams, who had owned it since 1908. A search of Fort Wayne city directories indicated that

<sup>5</sup> Forest Park Boulevard Historic District, [http://www.in.gov/dnr/historic/files/forest\\_park\\_nr.pdf](http://www.in.gov/dnr/historic/files/forest_park_nr.pdf) (accessed December 13, 2011); Southwood Park Historic District, <http://www.in.gov/dnr/historic/files/hp-SouthwoodPark.pdf> (accessed December 13, 2011).

<sup>6</sup> B.J. Griswold, *The Pictorial History of Fort Wayne Indiana: A Review of Two Centuries of Occupation of the Region About the Head of the Maumee River*, vol. 2 (Chicago, IL: Robert O. Law Company, 1917), 36; City of Fort Wayne, "Fort Wayne History," <http://www.cityoffortwayne.org/fort-wayne-history.html> (accessed April 21, 2011); Archiving Early America, "Mad Anthony' Wayne at Fallen Timbers," <http://www.earlyamerica.com/review/fall96/anthony.html> (accessed April 21, 2011); Plat of Riverside 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition; "Griswold's birds-eye view of the city of Fort Wayne, Indiana, indexed for ready reference;" and *The "Progressive" Street Guide and Map of the City of Fort Wayne, Ind.* (Fort Wayne, IN: Progressive Advertising Company, 1915).

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the Adamses never lived at the address for this house, but the Abercrombies first appear at the address in 1915. An assumption can be made that the house was built in 1914, the year prior to the appearance in the city directory.

John was born in March of 1866 to native Scotland parents James and Eleanor Abercrombie in New Brighton, Pennsylvania. According to James' obituary, James had "accumulated a snug fortune" while mining in California after the discovery of gold in 1849, but at the time of John's birth, he worked in the railroad industry and eventually settled his family in Kalamazoo, Michigan where he was employed as a locomotive engineer with the Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad (GR & IRR). John followed in his father's footsteps by also becoming a locomotive engineer with GR & IRR, and came to Fort Wayne in the early 1890s to work for the company. It likely was in Fort Wayne where he met Mary McClure, daughter of Eliza and Andrew McClure. Mary was born in 1864 in Claysburg, Pennsylvania, and moved with her family to Fort Wayne in 1872. She worked as an elementary school teacher, and married John on June 27, 1906. John's parents had both died by 1909, leaving him as the sole surviving heir.

In 1924, the Abercrombies sold their house for \$17,500 to the Citizens Trust Company. John died in 1937 and Mary died in 1945 while still residing in Fort Wayne. In December of 1926, the house was purchased by Harry and Callie Frame and shortly thereafter by Caroline Harlor in 1928. Sisters Christina Fitch and Luella Ninde became the owners in 1933, although only Ms. Fitch lived in the house until her death in 1952 at which time Ms. Ninde took up residence. James and Nancy Delaney became the current owners when they bought the home from Ms. Ninde in 1970.<sup>7</sup>

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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<sup>7</sup> Property deeds for lot 41 of Riverside 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition, Allen County, Indiana Recorder's Office; *Fort Wayne City and Allen County Directory*; Public Library of Fort Wayne and Allen County, Reynolds Historical Genealogy Department, Interment records 1860-1972: abstracted from the original records (of the Lindenwood Cemetery Assoc.), vol. 1A (Fort Wayne, IN: Public Library of Fort Wayne and Allen County, 1973), 2; <http://www.ancestry.com>; "First Engineer on the Grand Rapids & Indiana Dead," *Fort Wayne (IN) Sentinel*, 6 May 1909, 10; "Andrew M'Clure Dead," *Fort Wayne (IN) Daily Gazette*, 29 March 1898, 4; "M'Clure.," *Fort Wayne (IN) Sentinel*, 28 December 1908, 2; *Fort Wayne City and Allen County Directory*; and "Services Tuesday for Mrs. Fitch," *Fort Wayne (IN) Journal-Gazette*, 7 April 1952, 2.

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[bin/map\\_item.pl?data=/home/www/data/gmd/gmd409/g4094/g4094f/pm001950.jp2&style=citymap&itemLink=r?amem/gmd:@filreq%28@field%28NUMBER+@band%28g4094f+pm001950%29%29+@field%28COLLID+citymap%29%29&title=Griswold%27s%20birdseye%20view%20of%20the%20city%20of%20Fort%20Wayne.%20Indiana%20indexed%20for%20ready%20reference.%20B.%20J.%20Griswold](http://international.loc.gov/cgi-bin/map_item.pl?data=/home/www/data/gmd/gmd409/g4094/g4094f/pm001950.jp2&style=citymap&itemLink=r?amem/gmd:@filreq%28@field%28NUMBER+@band%28g4094f+pm001950%29%29+@field%28COLLID+citymap%29%29&title=Griswold%27s%20birdseye%20view%20of%20the%20city%20of%20Fort%20Wayne.%20Indiana%20indexed%20for%20ready%20reference.%20B.%20J.%20Griswold) (accessed April 28, 2011).

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)  
 previously listed in the National Register.  
 previously determined eligible by the National Register

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government

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designated a National Historic Landmark  
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

University  
 Other  
Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 1.0  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>16</u>	<u>657156</u>	<u>4552040</u>	3	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	4	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundaries of the Abercrombie House include lot 41 of the Riverside Second Addition to the City of Fort Wayne, Indiana. This is the property associated with the house during the period of significance.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries of the Abercrombie House correspond to the legal description of the property encompassing the significant resources of this nomination.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Jill D. Downs  
organization Partners in Preservation, Inc. date February 8, 2013  
street & number 1202 Elmwood Ave. Telephone (260) 424-4197  
city or town Fort Wayne state IN 46805  
e-mail andyandjill@juno.com

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

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- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Abercrombie, John H. and Mary, House

City or Vicinity: Fort Wayne

County: Allen

State: IN

Photographer: Jill Downs

Date Photographed: March 11, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 1 of 17. Northeast and northwest west façades, looking south. (IN\_AllenCounty\_AbercrombieHouse0001.tif)
- 2 of 17. Inside of front door, looking northwest. (IN\_AllenCounty\_AbercrombieHouse0002.tif)
- 3 of 17. Northwest and southwest facades, looking east. (IN\_AllenCounty\_AbercrombieHouse0003.tif)
- 4 of 17. Northwest and southeast facades, looking north. (IN\_AllenCounty\_AbercrombieHouse0004.tif)
- 5 of 17. Southeast façade, looking northwest. (IN\_AllenCounty\_AbercrombieHouse0005.tif)
- 6 of 17. Garage, looking south. (IN\_AllenCounty\_AbercrombieHouse0006.tif)
- 7 of 17. Garden shed, looking east. (IN\_AllenCounty\_AbercrombieHouse0007.tif)
- 8 of 17. Overall view of property from Parnell Avenue, looking southeast. (IN\_AllenCounty\_AbercrombieHouse0008.tif)
- 9 of 17. Overall view of property from backyard, looking west. (IN\_AllenCounty\_AbercrombieHouse0009.tif)
- 10 of 17. Parlor, looking southwest. (IN\_AllenCounty\_AbercrombieHouse0010.tif)
- 11 of 17. Living room, looking southeast. (IN\_AllenCounty\_AbercrombieHouse0011.tif)
- 12 of 17. Dining room, looking southwest. (IN\_AllenCounty\_AbercrombieHouse0012.tif)
- 13 of 17. At northwest end of first floor hallway, looking southeast. (IN\_AllenCounty\_AbercrombieHouse0013.tif)
- 14 of 17. Kitchen and butler's pantry, looking southwest. (IN\_AllenCounty\_AbercrombieHouse0014.tif)
- 15 of 17. At top of main staircase, looking west. (IN\_AllenCounty\_AbercrombieHouse0015.tif)
- 16 of 17. Southeast upstairs bathroom, looking southeast. (IN\_AllenCounty\_AbercrombieHouse0016.tif)
- 17 of 17. Southwest upstairs bathroom, looking southwest. (IN\_AllenCounty\_AbercrombieHouse0017.tif)

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**Property Owner:**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

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name James and Nancy Delaney  
street & number 3130 Parnell Ave. Telephone (260) 484-8104  
city or town Fort Wayne state IN zip code 46805

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



John H. and Mary Abercrombie House, Allen Co., IN #001



John H. and Mary Abercrombie House, Allen Co., IN #003



John H. and Mary Abercrombie House, Allen Co., IN #005



John H. and Mary Abercrombie House, Allen Co., IN #007



John H. and Mary Abercrombie House, Allen Co., IN #011



John H. and Mary Abercrombie House, Allen Co., IN #012



John H. and Mary Abercrombie House, Allen Co., IN #015