

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 The John M. Pierce (1850-1927) House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER N. side SR 1559, 0.4 mi. W. of jct. with SR 1549

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Crumpler

VICINITY OF Weaver's Ford 5th

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

North Carolina

37

Ashe

009

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mrs. Lucy Pierce Bell

STREET & NUMBER
Route 1

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Crumpler

VICINITY OF

North Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Ashe County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Jefferson

North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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

Like many other family farmhouses in the New River Valley, the John M. Pierce house, located near the North Fork of the New River, began as a log house. Later frame additions, clad in weatherboards, considerably enlarged the house to its present appearance. John M. Pierce, who built the log structure ca. 1871, added a one-story frame ell to the rear (north) elevation of the structure ca. 1881. In 1892, he raised the log house to a full two stories and with the addition of a large two-story wing to the west, the house was brought to its present "L" plan. The roof is extended on the front (south) to cover a two-story engaged porch which carries across the five-bay south elevation.

The small one-and-a-half story log house had a brick exterior and chimney constructed in common bond on the west elevation, and a symmetrical three-bay front elevation with central entrance. The one-room house was enlarged ca. 1881 with the addition of a one-story frame ell to the rear elevation. The gable roof on the ell sheds to cover a partially enclosed porch along the east elevation. A large brick exterior end chimney stood at the north gable end, but was taken down about 1955 and the bricks used to rebuild the north wall.

In 1892, Pierce again altered the house. He added a large two-bay wing to the west end of the log house and raised the entire five-bay facade to a full two stories under a gable roof fronted by a full length two-story porch. The 1871 brick chimney was rebuilt to rise above and through the now higher gable roof. A second, common bond, brick single-shoulder chimney with tumbled weatherings was constructed at the west gable end.

On the front elevation the first level porch was rebuilt ca. 1930. The supports were replaced by four tapering posts, squared-in-section, which rest on the cement caps with common-bond brick piers below. The floor is now cement. The second level porch has a five-bay division with the end bays enclosed for summer sleeping rooms. The frieze boards which carry across the end bays are supported by pilaster boards with simply-molded capitals. A window containing six-over-six sash is centered on the front of each of the enclosed bays. The roof of the loggia, formed between the enclosed bays, is supported by chamfered posts, square-in-section, with molded triangular brackets. The balustrade linking the posts is comprised of a repeating frieze of vase-shaped scroll-sawn balusters.

The central bays on both levels have doors of four flat panels flanked by three-light sidelights set in a simple molded architrave. The windows throughout the house have similar architraves. The other windows on the south elevation have four-over-four sash.

The single-bay east elevation has windows containing six-over-six sash at each level. On the west elevation windows with four-over-four sash flank the chimney at both levels. On the rear elevation is a shed-roof porch, supported on chamfered posts, square-in-square section, which continues along the east elevation of the ell forming a "L" shaped porch. Part of it has been enclosed for a washroom. Another part of the porch was enclosed ca. 1930, to provide a bathroom. A common bond brick flue stands beside the north elevation.

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The interior plan is very little changed from the 1892 scheme. With his additions, Pierce created a center-hall plan (adding the hall and parlor to the west of the log house) in the main block and maintained the one-room plan of the kitchen ell. The walls and ceilings have flush sheathing much of which has been wallpapered. The baseboards are unmolded. The window and door surrounds vary from room to room but generally have flat surrounds with applied moldings around the outside edge and curved-corner aprons. Some of the woodwork was replaced by Mr. Bell, the husband of the present owner.

An enclosed stair was removed by Pierce from the one-room log section and a new stair installed in the central hall. The log portion retains vertical flush sheathing and the exposed beam ceiling. On the west wall of the one-room log house a door of three flat panels now opens into the hall. The present mantel was installed by Mr. Bell about 1940. Plain unmolded boards flanking the refronted fire opening support a frieze board with a plain shelf above.

The dog leg stair is simply constructed with a newel, square-in-square, from which rises the shaped handrail with plain balusters, rectangular-in-section. The molding of the architrave around the entrance bay is repeated in the parlor which Pierce also constructed. The 1892 mantel has molded pilaster boards, applied to a flat back band, flanking the brick fire opening, and supporting square end blocks. A curved edge lintel applied on a frieze board rests on the end blocks and supports a band of molding above which projects the plain shelf. In the bedroom above this parlor the mantel has plain boards flanking the fire opening with a wide frieze board supporting the shelf. A simple curved-face molding carries around the edges. The rest of the interior wood work is simple and representative of rural construction in Ashe County at that time. The kitchen has been divided by a partition.

The farm outbuildings include:

1. A meathouse (early twentieth century). Frame construction set on a stone foundation with board-and-batten sheathing under a gable roof. A long, frame building, ca. 1930, vertically sheathed, is attached to the north side of the meathouse and contains a wood house, granary, and other storage areas under the shed roof.
2. A springhouse (ca. 1930). Concrete with a gable roof.
3. Barn (ca. 1883). A large double-pen log barn of "V" notch construction with sheds attached to either side at the gable roof eaves.
4. Barn (ca. 1945). Frame construction, vertically sheathed under a shed roof.
5. Chicken house (ca. 1945). Frame construction, vertically sheathed under a shed roof.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1871, ca. 1881 & 1892 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Pierce family homestead on the South Fork of the New River, like other family farms, both expanded and diversified its operations over the course of several generations. Rufus Kincaid Pierce settled in the valley in 1845 and erected his log house on the banks of the river. His son, John M. Pierce, who managed the farm while his father operated a blacksmith shop, built his house about 1871 in the periphery of the Pierce homestead. His later frame additions, ca. 1881 and 1892, enlarged the house to its present appearance. A complement of farm buildings complete this farm complex.

Located near Crumpler on the North Fork of the New River in Ashe County, the John M. Pierce House was probably built about 1871 on property owned by his father. According to local tradition, John M. Pierce was living on the property at that time, but he probably did not receive title to the Pierce home tract until after the death of his father in 1898. In his will of 1897 Rufus Kincaid Pierce left to his wife, Eliza Pierce, "all the lands whereon (he) then lived for life then to be equally divided among (his) children."¹ Apparently after the death of Eliza Pierce, the administrators of her estate awarded that portion of the Pierce land containing the family home to John M. Pierce.

The 1880 census indicates that the Pierce farm was a prosperous one. The farm included one hundred acres of land and was valued at \$2,500. Evidently, John M. Pierce ran the farming operations while his father, Rufus Kincaid Pierce, maintained a blacksmith trade. The family had one "servant" who worked as a farm hand, and they owned a considerable amount of livestock valued at \$500. In 1879 John M. Pierce produced 700 bushels of corn, 100 bushels of oats, 56 bushels of rye, 100 bushels of wheat, and 107 gallons of molasses. He also cultivated an apple orchard and derived and sold significant quantities of butter and cheese from the milk of his dairy cows.² In addition he owned 20 acres of land on the South Fork of the New River which his father conveyed to him in 1882.³

In 1924 John M. Pierce sold to his daughter, Lucy V. Pierce, 44 acres of "property being that previously conveyed to J. M. Pierce by R. K. Pierce plus other parcels of land acquired by J. M. Pierce."⁴ This sale included the Pierce home. Since obtaining her father's property, Lucy V. Pierce has married. Her last name is now Bell, and she still owns the John M. Pierce House.

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FOOTNOTES:

¹ Ashe County Record of Wills, Office of the Clerk of Superior Court, Ashe County Courthouse, Jefferson, Will Book E: 337.

² Tenth Census of the United States, 1880: Ashe County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, 10.

³ Ashe County Deed Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Ashe County Courthouse, Jefferson, Deed Book EE: 381, hereinafter cited as Ashe Deed Books.

⁴ Ashe Deed Book G-2: 394.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ashe County Record of Wills. Office of the Clerk of Superior Court, Ashe County Courthouse, Jefferson.
 Ashe County Deed Books. Office of the Register of Deeds, Ashe County Courthouse, Jefferson.
 U. S. Bureau of the Census. Tenth Census of the United States, 1880: Ashe County, North Carolina, Population Schedule.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 6

UTM REFERENCES

A

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4	6	8	7	2	0
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4	0	4	2	7	2	0
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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Research by Joe A. Mobley, survey specialist; architectural description by Davyd Foard Hood, consultant

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Division of Archives and History

June 29, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

109 East Jones Street

919/829-4763

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Raleigh, North Carolina

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

Lamy E. Jm

TITLE

DATE

7/8/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER.

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER