

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	TEXAS
COUNTY:	Harrison
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	APR 13 1973

<b>1. NAME</b>	
COMMON:	Old Pierce House or Magnolia Hall
AND/OR HISTORIC:	John Pierce House

<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: 303 N. Columbus			
CITY OR TOWN: Marshall		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: #1 Wright Patman	
STATE TEXAS	CODE 048	COUNTY: Harrison	CODE 203

<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify) _____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____			

<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>			
OWNER'S NAME: Mr. & Mrs. Emory F. Elder			
STREET AND NUMBER: 303 N. Columbus			
CITY OR TOWN: Marshall		STATE: TEXAS	CODE 048

<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Harrison County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER: Peter Whettstone Square			
CITY OR TOWN: Marshall		STATE: TEXAS	CODE 048

<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>			
TITLE OF SURVEY:			
DATE OF SURVEY:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	CODE

STATE:	COUNTY:
APR 13 1973	ENTRY NUMBER
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## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Magnolia Hall, the Pierce House, at 303 North Columbus Street, Marshall, is an outstanding example of a late Greek Revival raised cottage. This house, as indicated in the deed records, was constructed in the 1850's. The design and construction of the house is attributed to Colonel W. R. D. Ward, a local builder in the Marshall area.

The house is a nearly square frame structure raised on brick piers. The property on which the house sits slopes downward from the intersection of Columbus and Rusk streets so that the house is approximately one-half story above the ground on the principal facade and a full two stories in height at the rear of the house. Consequently, the brickwalled basement level is one room deep and extends the width of the rear of the house. The area way under the front half of the house is latticed, and large double latticed doors on the north facade. The area appears to have been used as a parking facility for a carriage.

The upper floor (or piano nobile) with its four large rooms and front and rear, central halls was the main living quarters of the house. A small square columned porch with full entablature covers the double entrance doors. The porch is reached by a flight of eleven steps which extend the width of the porch. The simplicity of the detail add to the monumental quality of this relatively small residential building.

The entrance composition is flanked by pilasters which repeat the design of the porch columns. The columns support an entablature. The double doors have two long narrow fields in each door. The jamb and head of the doorway are simple fascia members with plinth blocks and an undecorated square blocks at the meeting of the jamb and head. This Greek Revival door composition is unusual for East Texas in that there are no side-lights and no transom.

The exterior walls of the house are sheathed in clapboard. Windows throughout the house are six-over-six light sash windows with exterior shutters. The entablature of the columned porch surrounds the house. A simple box cornice with crown and bed molds complete the composition.

The house is surmounted by an unusual truncated hipped roof. The deck formed the truncating of the roof rises above the roof and has a small box cornice. This unusual feature does not appear to have been ballustrated nor does it seem to have functioned as a widow's walk.

The principal floor has two rooms on each side of the double hall. The front hall has large double doors opening into the parlor to the north and the dining room to the south. The rear hall provides access to the two rear bed chambers and contains the staircase to the lower floors. Each of these four

(See continuation Sheet # 1)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian      ☐ 16th Century      ☐ 18th Century      ☐ 20th Century  
☐ 15th Century      ☐ 17th Century      ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                      |   |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | losophy                                 |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | itarian                                 |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Magnolia Hall, the Pierce House, located at 303 N. Columbus Street, in Marshall, Texas, is an outstanding example of mid 19th century residence architecture and among the best preserved examples of an East Texas Greek Revival raised cottage.

The house was probably built in the 1850's. This date is indicated by the significant change in value from the 1851 sale to that of the 1864 sale. In addition, the wording, "all and singular rights improvements and herediataments" in the 1864 deed of sale indicate that a house had been erected on the property by that date. The property was owned by James B. Wilson from 1851 to 1856, and George W. Ewell from 1856 to 1864. Since the first page of the 1856 transaction has been removed from the county records, it is impossible to ascertain if the house was built by Wilson or Ewell.

After an eleven-month ownership by Ezekiel and Caroline Schwartz, the house was sold to John H. Lee on November 28, 1865. The property remained in the hands of Lee's decendents for over one hundred years. Lee, an influential planter with extensive holdings in land, sold the property to his daughter, Anna E. Pierce in December 1869, for five hundred dollars less than he had paid for it four years earlier. Anna E. Pierce had married John L. Pierce in January 1867. This was not a happy marriage as evidenced by a subsequent divorce suit. It appears that John Lee sold the house and property located in Block 22 to Anna E. Pierce, singly, to provide her with a home that would not be community property, co-owned by both Anna and John Pierce.

Anna E. Pierce lived in the 303 N. Columbus Street house until her death in the late 1920's. Jack T. Pierce, son of Anna and a lawyer in Marshall, lived in the house until the late 1930's. After his death, the property was owned by Hope Pierce Tarrt, the daughter of Anna E. Pierce. Hope Pierce Tarrt willed the property to the first Methodist Church in 1966.

The house was unoccupied for twenty-six years, after the

(See continuation Sheet # 2)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

# 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Alexander, D. B. 1966. Texas Homes of the 19th Century. Austin: University of Texas Press.

Official Texas Historical Marker file, Texas State Historical Survey Committee

# 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	32 ° 32 ' 48 "	92 ° 21 ' 52 "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

# 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: <u>Gary Hume, Project Director</u>		DATE <u>1-9-73</u>
ORGANIZATION <u>Texas State Historical Survey Committee</u>		
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>108 West 15th Street</u>		
CITY OR TOWN: <u>Austin</u>	STATE <u>Texas</u>	CODE <u>048</u>

# 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name Truett Latimer  
Title State Liaison Officer

Date 1-9-73

# NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert W. Utley  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

Kepler of The National Register

Date 4/10/73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) # 1

STATE	TEXAS
COUNTY	Harrison
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(Number all entries)

7. (continued)

rooms has a fireplace on their common wall. The detailing on the mantles, doors and windows is very restrained with little or no carved molding appearing on any elements. Cabinets are built into the wall flanking the fireplace in the dining room and in both bedrooms.

The rear of the residence has a narrow double gallery. The rear hall and both bedrooms have doors, with fixed lights in the upper portion, opening onto the upper gallery. The gallery has a Victorian ballustrade, does not match the building's Greek Revival detail and is most probably a later addition.





NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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(Continuation Sheet) # 2

STATE	
TEXAS	
COUNTY	
Harrison	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
APR 13 1983	

(Number all entries)

8. (continued)

death of Jack T. Pierce and was in a serious state of deterioration. The property was purchased from the First Methodist Church on July 25, 1966, by Mr. & Mrs. Emory Elder. They spent approximately two years restoring the structure, and have accomplished one of the finest restorations of a private house in Texas.

In the process of restoration, worn out materials were refurbished and repaired wherever possible. New materials were introduced only where absolutely necessary, and no alterations were made to the four principal chambers or the front and rear central hall. All improvements such as heating and air conditioning, bathroom facilities, and modern kitchen equipment were confined to secondary spaces in the lower or on-grade floor of the residence.

The house has been furnished with mid-nineteenth century furniture from the Marshall area. Consequently, this raised cottage provides a good illustration of a late Greek Revival town residence in East Texas in the decade before the Civil War.







Magnolia Hall

303 N. Columbus

Marshall, Texas 048-203

320 000  
FEET

32°30'  
94°22'30"

32° 32' 48"

32°30'



2970 000 FEET

























