

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Pierce, Jonas J., House

other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number 18 East Shenango Street n/a not for publication

city or town Sharpsville n/a vicinity

state Pennsylvania code PA county Mercer code 085 zip code 16150

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Brent Glass Dr. B. Glass, Exec. Dir 9/12/96
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

PA Historical and Museum Commission

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain): _____	_____	_____

Jonas J. Pierce House
Name of Property

Mercer County, PA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>one</u>	<u>none</u>	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>one</u>	<u>none</u>	Total

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

n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC, single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN, Second Empire

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls wood

roof asphalt

other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Pierce, Jonas J., House
Name of Property

Mercer Co., PA
County and State

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

ca. 1868

Significant Dates

1868

Significant Person

(Complete 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Pierce, Jonas, House
Name of Property

Mercer Co., PA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	7
---	---

5	44	4	00
---	----	---	----

45	6	8	2	0	5
----	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

3

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

4

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rebecca M. Rogers

organization Rebecca M. Rogers date July 10, 1996

street & number 44 Audubon Road telephone 330-757-8986

city or town Youngstown state OH zip code 44514-1925

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name Michael and Amy Lucas

street & number 131 Wansack Road telephone 412-346-3092

city or town West Middlesex state PA zip code 16159

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page I

Jonas J. Pierce House

Mercer County, PA

7. DESCRIPTION

Built in 1868, The Jonas J. Pierce House is a three story, wood-sided, wood frame residence in the Second Empire style. The house has six first floor rooms, is three bays wide and five bays deep and has a large octagonal tower rising above the third story. The design of the house is dominated by the asymmetric massing, concave Mansard roof, tower, and a variety of windows. The house retains its essential form and appearance as a large, in-town Second Empire style residence. A one-story garage, second story access stairs and several small additions were added to the east and south facades of the house in the late nineteenth and mid-twentieth centuries (Smith). The house is located on a city lot in the northeast portion of Sharpsville, east of the Shenango Street-Mercer Avenue intersection at the residential edge of a mixed residential/commercial area. Shenango Street is on a relatively flat plateau halfway up the southeast steep river bank of the Shenango River. The house site is a .4 acre flat lot that rises steeply at the south side of the lot.

The irregular footprint of the house articulates the interior rooms of the house. The main block of the house and the rear ell are two stories with the third story beneath a Mansard roof. An octagonal tower is on the northwest corner. The front entry and reception hall is beneath the tower with a front and back parlor on the east side of the house, another parlor faces west. The dining room and kitchen are in an original two-story wing with Mansard roof, to the south. A one-story garage addition (ca. 1890-1900) is at the south end of the kitchen wing. The north, front parlor projects slightly and has a 1-story, 3-sided bay window. The west parlor also projects and has a 2-story, 3-sided bay window. The center bay of each bay window has no fenestration.

The house has a cut sandstone foundation, vertical chiselled sandstone water table and 8" wide corner boards. The house, including the base of the tower, has original 4" dropped siding and two 1-story porches. The porch across the north center and west bays wraps to include the two north bays of the front entry hall. It has a shed roof supported by temporary 4x4's and is missing the original flooring. The second porch on the rear two bays of the west facade has a hip roof and fluted Tuscan columns.

The house cornice has wide fascia, deep soffits with brackets, incised modillions, bed mold and crown mold. Brackets are located at corners and in place of every fourth modillion. The cornice adorns the front block of the house including the top of the west bay window, the rear

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2

Jonas J. Pierce House

Mercer County, PA

wing, and the roof of the octagonal tower but is not articulated on the base of the tower. The Mansard roof has a bold wooden curb that also is the cornice for the tower base. The house roof has replacement asphalt shingles. The concave Mansard roof has original dormers above the north front parlor bay window and the west parlor bay window, at the center of the main block on the east facade, above the west bay of the north facade, above the dining room in the rear wing and at the center of the rear (south) wing. The octagonal tower has four dormers facing north, east, south and west. All original dormers have segmental arch roofs, full pediments, consoles and flush board cheeks.

Original historic windows are similar on each floor. First story windows are 2/2 double hung sash with round, continuous head with a bold, semi-circular Italianate molding. The fourth story, tower windows are the same design as the first story windows with 1/1 sash. The east and west tower windows are paired. Second story windows have segmental arch heads and the same heavy semi-circular molding at entablature and jambs. Dormer windows, described above, have 2/2 sash on the main and wing roof, 1/1 sash on the tower. Some windows have been reglazed, losing the center muntin bar during the reglazing. The seven windows in the alterations are 1/1 with plain heads and jambs. These are found on the second story base of the tower, on the fill-in east back porch and on three plain shed roof dormers in the east and south facades. All were added ca. 1942.

The north, East Shenango Street, facade has three bays. The east bay projects beyond the center bay. It has a one-story 3-part bay window with corner boards and shallow fascia. The center bay, the base of the octagonal tower, is covered by the front porch on the first floor. The third floor of the center bay is the base of the tower. It is square with corner boards, narrow fascia and the same cornice as the curb at the top of the Mansard roof. The front window in the tower base, added ca. 1942, is wider in proportion to the historic windows. The octagonal tower has corner boards, wide fascia, corner brackets and modillions. The east and west sides of the tower are longer than the other sides. The tower Mansard roof has four dormers similar to the Mansard roof dormers in design and ornamentation. The third bay of the north facade is the side of the west parlor, covered at the first story by the front porch and showing the profile of the two story west-facing bay window.

The west facade has six bays. The north two bays are covered by the front 1-story porch. These two bays are part of the mass that becomes the tower base at the third floor. Like the north facade, the base of the tower has two 1/1 windows (added ca. 1942) of a different

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Jonas J. Pierce House

Mercer County, PA

proportion from the historic windows. The center bay projects with a 3-part bay window. This bay window has corner boards and rises to include the bracketed roof cornice. The next two west bays are covered by the rear 1-story porch and are the original kitchen/dining room wing. The porch retains fluted Tuscan columns, likely added ca. 1889 when the neighborhood, porches and yard sustained severe wind damage (1889 historic photo). The garage bay, a ca. 1890-1900 addition at the farthest south, has one story, clapboard siding, an historic window likely removed from the original south facade and a gabled dormer adorned with incised brackets.

The east facade has five bays. It shows the most modification. All changes were made ca. 1942 (Smith). The north two bays of the house have two round top first story windows, two segmental arch windows above and a centered original dormer. Added to the south side of the mass of the house is a staircase/entry with a shed roof and gabled pediment. This staircase addition is covered in narrow, wooden drop siding. The two-story original kitchen/dining room wing retains its second story original fenestration. The original east one-story kitchen porch has been replaced with a 1-story, two-bay, shed roof addition. Above the kitchen/dining room addition is a shed roof addition with exterior door in the corner of the main mass/rear wing. The east facade Mansard roof has two added shed roof dormers. The southern most bay, the garage, has two projecting, shed roof additions, the most eastern has a roll-up garage door.

The rear, south facade, shows the full Second Empire decorative articulation on those building elements that are original to the structure: windows, cornices and dormers. The one-story gabled garage covers half of the window of the rear wing. The south elevation of the garage has two windows, an attic louver and a door. The shed roof staircase/entry addition has a diamond window on its south side. The rear of the main building mass has a plain, added dormer above the second story shed roof addition.

The house has three flues. One original flue is between the front and back parlors on the east side of the front mass of the house. The second original flue is between the west parlor and dining room. The third flue is a modern exterior brick furnace flue at the northeast corner of the west side porch. The two interior, original chimneys have been blocked off and roofed over.

This property has always been a town, not farm, residence. Oral tradition, the 1876 and 1901

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 4

Jonas J. Pierce House

Mercer County, PA

birdseye views and the 1888 J. J. Pierce Allotment Plan each show several outbuildings, notably a carriage house, storage building and a pergola. All have been removed, replaced by the south 1-story gabled garage. The 1888 plan and 1901 view show that outbuildings were attached to the south of the kitchen wing, like the present garage. The present garage, while not clearly discernable in the 1901 birdseye view, has a character and location similar to the attached outbuildings and additions seen in historic views.

The house has been modified at least twice. Early alterations were the attaching of additions on the south end of the kitchen wing and replacement of porch posts with Tuscan columns. The date of the preplacement of the porch columns and the addition of a carriage house to the rear of the house cannot be determined, but they occurred between 1869-1918 during the occupancy of the house by either Jonas J. or his son J. J. Pierce. Likely both alterations occurred in 1889, following a devastating wind storm that demolished the free-standing carriage house, the garden pergola, parts of the front porch roof, front iron fence and roof of the Pierce bank across Shenango Street. The ornament on the west window of the garage additions suggests a date ca 1890. All other alterations occurred ca. 1942 when the house was modified for apartments for officers and wives at Camp Reynolds (Joyce). These are a kitchen/dining room 1-story addition that replaced the kitchen porch, the covered east staircase/entry, the small second story shed roof addition, the three unadorned roof dormers, the three windows in the tower base and the east extensions on the garage date (Smith).

On the first floor, the front hall, north and west parlors retain their original interiors. The front door has a semi-circular transom with painted glazing and four panel door. Other doors are original. The sliding doorway entry between the front hall and the north front parlor has a jig-sawn wooden transom screen. The north front parlor retains an Italianate white marble mantle with consoles supporting the mantle shelf, a central floral cartouche and semi-circular firebox opening. The west parlor has a Late Victorian oak mantle influenced by the Aesthetic Movement, heavily carved with applied turned jambs and a carved overmantle with beveled glass mirror. This mantle was added some years after the completion of the house. Doors at either side of the bay window give access to original china storage areas. Both the dining room and kitchen retain original interior details. The dining room has a Late Victorian mantle influence by the Aesthetic Movement, less ornate than that in the west parlor, with heavy side volutes, consoles supporting the mantle shelf, encaustic tiles surrounding the firebox opening, carved overmantle and beveled glass mirror.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 5

Jonas J. Pierce House

Mercer County, PA

The interior of the house retains original chestnut, cherry, pine and poplar door and window jambs and other woodwork. Most facings have heavy semi-circular Italianate moldings. The staircase retains robust turned walnut newel posts and balustrade on the floors above the first floor. The bedroom above the west parlor has a black Italianate marble mantle with semi-circular firebox opening and central cartouche.

The interior was altered to accommodate apartments for officers early in World War II, about 1942 (Joyce). Changes mostly are the conversion of rooms to bathrooms and closets. The second parlor fireplace was removed and a bathroom constructed in the northeast corner of the room. A bathroom was added in the bedroom above the second parlor. The same floor plan of bathroom and hall alterations were made on the third floor. Also on the second floor, a doorway was opened between the room above the west parlor and the room above the dining room. A bathroom was added at the east end of the room above the kitchen. Another bathroom was added on the third floor above this bath. The entry of the back staircase into the kitchen was reworked. A staircase to the third floor was added. As noted on the exterior description, the corner of the front mass/rear wing was added on to permit access between the kitchen wing and front of the house on the second floor.

Despite the addition of bathrooms and secondary staircases, this house retains its bold, majestic and imposing historic appearance. Its site on Shenango Street, seen from the east and north, continues the neighborhood character apparent during the decades of Pierce ownership before the 1920s. The front (north) facade has the addition of one window in the tower base (ca. 1942) and is missing ca. 1889 porch posts. The west facade retains ca. 1889 porch posts. The east facade has the addition of a second floor access stairs, filled-in rear porch, dormers that clearly read as later additions and two small second story rear modifications. The south facade, with a later garage, evokes the character of the rear of the house throughout its history when additions were added and subtracted from the house as service needs changed.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

Jonas J. Pierce House

Mercer County, PA

8. SIGNIFICANCE

The Jonas J. Pierce House is eligible for the National Register under criterion C, for architecture, as an outstanding regional residential example of the Second Empire style. Sharpsville, an early center of pig iron and coal production in Western Pennsylvania, was a village with immense wealth, largely vested in the family of General James Pierce. The family traveled widely, displaying its prodigious wealth particularly in the architecture of this house and in the larger, more elaborate, Second Empire house of James Pierce at the west end of Shenango Street (demolished in 1950s), the Italianate Pierce bank on the northeast corner of Mercer and Shenango Streets and the Pierce family church, the Sharpsville Universalist Church, farther north at 133 Mercer Street. This house was occupied by the oldest son of James Pierce, Jonas J. Pierce, and his son from 1869 until the 1918. The interior was modified for apartments and exterior changes were added ca. 1942, to accommodate officier's apartments for Camp Reynolds.

This large, stylish Second Empire residence is a full blown and early, for Western Pennsylvania, example of the architectural style. This house retains most of its original interior and exterior architectural detail. While the house has been modified by the introduction of later alterations, its architectural character is as well preserved or better preserved than other Second Empire residences in the Shenango Valley (Mercer and Lawrence Counties).

Sharpsville, Pennsylvania, is a borough on the east side of the Shenango River, on the west side of Mercer County, where a blast furnace was established in 1846. The furnace prospered because it was close to locally mined low-sulphur bituminous coal and was next to the Beaver and Erie Canal (1844) that ran from Lake Erie to the Beaver River (White, p. 135). A small village with school, stores, and churches was constructed near the Sharpsville furnace by 1848. The Pierce family became prominent in the development of the town in the 1850s, continuing as the wealthiest family in the Borough into the twentieth century.

In other Mercer County, Shenango River or Mahoning River industrial towns, grand Italianate or Second Empire houses were infrequently constructed. Sharon has one imposing wood frame Second Empire house, the Alexander McDowell residence at 264 State Street at South Pine, and a brick Italianate, the J. M. Willson residence, at 281 East State Street at Oakwood. The McDowell residence has a tower and the exterior articulates the interior spaces. Smaller

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2

Jonas J. Pierce House

Mercer County, PA

and far less grand than the Pierce House, it has lost architectural integrity of windows, cornice, and porches under aluminum siding. It has a modern porte cochere and much later rear and side additions. The Willson House retains nearly all exterior detailing, including brickwork, entry tower with cresting and porches. However, this residence is balanced and sedate when compared with the bold volumes and heavy detailing of the Pierce House. The T. C. Gibson residence at 285 East Main Street in Greenville is a brick, two-story Second Empire residence with convex Mansard roof. It retains the imbricated slate roof with attic dormers, sandstone window lintels and sills. This house has lost its rear wing and front porch and has gained a three-story fire escape on the east facade.

New Castle, Lawrence County, was far more receptive to the Second Empire style than were Mercer County towns. New Castle had at least seven Second Empire residences, all constructed of brick but one. Of these, four survive. The brick Second Empire William Patterson residence at 315 North Mercer Street was designed by Isaac H. Hobbs of Philadelphia. The design was published in Godey's Lady's Book in 1869. The residence has a projecting entry bay, and west bay window; the floor plan articulates the interior spaces. The kitchen wing is the same height as the main living rooms. Best preserved of the brick Second Empire houses in New Castle, the house has been sandblasted and repointed and has lost the residential character of its hillside site. Elaborate fire escapes obscure the west side of the house. The John Bower residence at 328 Highland Avenue also was designed by Hobbs in the Second Empire style. It was published in Hobb's Architecture (1873) at Plate XXIX and in Godey's of 1871. The Bower House is far plainer, less robust in the play of exterior surfaces, and has a simple spindle wooden front porch, replaced windows and no brackets on the cornice. Like the Patterson and Gibson House, it has no tower. The brick James Crawford residence at 715 Harbor Street is by an unknown designer. This residence is the main component of a nursing home. It too has no tower, retains the original porch, slate roof and detailing that is simpler than the Pierce house. The lower, wood frame kitchen wing shows on the north side. The yard is taken up with 1-story low-pitched gabled nursing home units, office and facilities. The wood frame Jacob Jenkinger residence at 1005 Butler Avenue is much later than the Pierce House or the other New Castle houses. It combines many Eastlake and Queen Anne details with belt courses and bands of vertical siding, scalloped shingles and clapboards. The house has a center entry tower, concave, incised jambs on the dormers, two-story bay window, rear entry tower with steep hip roof and finial. This is a country residence by an unknown designer with many remnants of an old Victorian estate landscape.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 3

Jonas J. Pierce House

Mercer County, PA

In Youngstown, Mahoning County, Ohio, one of the most pretentious residences, that of Richard Brown, also was the work of the Philadelphia architect Hobbs. An Italianate villa, it was published in Godey's in 1872.

ARCHITECTURAL SOURCES FOR THE PIERCE HOUSE DESIGN

The 1860s was the period of transition from carpenter-builders to architects in the design of important residential architecture in the Mid-West. While Cleveland's Euclid Avenue had several men declaring themselves architects who designed richly decorated, often symmetric houses with elaborate Mansard roofs, none of their works showed the play of masses and asymmetry of the Pierce House at Sharpsville. Warren and Youngstown, Ohio had Second Empire houses whose designers left no record. Neither town had an architect who worked so early as the late 1860s. The Shenango Valley also had carpenter-builders but no known designers who produced Second Empire houses. Two of the four surviving Second Empire houses in New Castle were the work of Isaac Harding Hobbs of Philadelphia. The McDowell House in Sharon, PA, has similarities in form, tower and dormers to the Pierce House, but so much detail has been obscured that definite comparison cannot be made. Neither builder nor designer of the Pierce or McDowell houses can be ascribed. The later, 1881, Gibson House in Greenville has no known builder or designer. In greater Pittsburgh, wealthy men often relied upon a Philadelphia architect, Isaac Harding Hobbs, for the Italianate villas and Mansard Second Empire designs for their imposing residences.

Isaac Harding Hobbs (1815-1896), a Philadelphia carpenter/builder turned architect, published designs in Godey's Lady's Book beginning in 1863, in the second year that the Philadelphia publication offered house designs. Hobbs was soon the staff architect, providing a design for nearly every issue during the ensuing decade. Usually his designs were for free-standing single residences: a mix of expensive residences for the leaders of a community, country houses for those wanting a second residence and modest cottages of one or two stories. Hobbs was early enamored with Italianate detailing, round top windows, heavy entablatures, porches with heavy cornices and robust balustrades and he loved the Mansard roof, which he first published in Godey's of 1863 (Godey's, Vol. 67, p. 104). All his designs have massing that robustly articulated the rooms within. Between 1867 and 1873, Hobbs published many designs for large residences of men from Pittsburgh and its nearby towns, as well as designs for Bellefonte, Meadville, Altoona, New Castle and Youngstown. During those seven years, he designed ten residences for Pittsburgh men, a church and the Dollar Savings Bank (NR

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 4

Jonas J. Pierce House

Mercer County, PA

listed in 1976) in the city. In 1868, the July-December Godey's published a floor plan just like that of the Jonas Pierce House except that the hall was drawn as two rooms, a narrow entry hall and a small library (Godey's, vol. 77, p. 278). The intended client for the design was not named. While Pierce's residence was never offered by Godey's as a sample of Hobbs's design skills, Hobbs remarked that he designed many more residences than were ever shown in the women's magazine or in his pattern books, Hobbs's Architecture. By 1875, Hobbs's published work had moved away from western Pennsylvania, focussed more on the eastern half of the state or cities farther west, such as Kansas City, Missouri or Topeka (Tatman, pp. 382-3). Even though the Pierce House cannot be ascribed to Hobbs, the influence of Hobbs's designs for Godey's can be seen in the design of the Jonas J. Pierce House.

GENERAL JAMES PIERCE & HIS SON JONAS J. PIERCE

General James Pierce was from New England, moving to Erie, Pennsylvania, in the 1840s. He leased coal banks in Hermitage Township, northeast of Sharpsville in 1851, constructing a horse-drawn tram railroad to convey the coal to the Shenango River Valley. Following the success of the operation, Pierce purchased and opened coal banks. This was only the beginning of James Pierce's industrial success. He prospered in mining and supplying coal and iron ore, in the producing of pig iron at the Sharpsville blast furnaces he bought or helped finance and in constructing railroads to move raw materials and finished products. His oldest son Jonas participated in the business success. Jonas Pierce became manager of the Sharpsville furnace in 1862, as the family firm became James J. Pierce & Sons. A third son, Wallace, became part of the business in 1870 (White, pp. 356-57; Brown, Runk & Co., p. 193).

While General James Pierce had a large plain late Greek Revival style farm house near the Mount Hickory coal banks in Hermitage Township, he and his eldest son aspired to more fashionable residences as their wealth increased. With business connections in Cleveland, Pittsburgh and along the Ohio River, Pierce had exposure to much new residential architecture. Between 1865-1869, General James Pierce paid for a residence on East Shenango Street for his newly married eldest son Jonas and wife Kate Pritzl. The Sharon Herald, published 1864 to the present, does not record the marriage or the construction of this residence. Jonas is recorded as residing in Sharpsville in the Directory of Beaver, Shenango and Mahoning Valleys (1869). A few years later, General Pierce had a much larger, more

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

Jonas J. Pierce House

Mercer County, PA

opulent Second Empire villa constructed for himself northwest of Jonas's house, at the corner of West Shenango Street and Mercer Avenue. These were the only Second Empire houses in Sharpsville. In 1873, James Pierce & Sons and two others formed the Iron Banking Company, building a three-story brick Italianate bank with an opera house upstairs, on the northeast corner of Shenango and Mercer Streets. The family also financed the construction of a brick, Late Victorian Queen Anne church on Mercer Street, the Sharpsville Universalist Church, in 1882. The bank, the church and the Jonas J. Pierce House survive. The father's house was demolished in 1954.

Jonas and his wife were in residence in the house on East Shenango Street in Directory of Beaver, Shenango and Mahoning Valleys for 1869. The obituary for J. J. Pierce noted that Jonas's son was born at the house in 1874, where he died in 1918, a bachelor living with his mother (The Sharpsville Advertiser, Jan. 30, 1918). The house appears in the 1876 Mercer County atlas, where the round-top Italianate windows, porch and tower are clearly visible just up the hill from the far more grand and imposing General Pierce Second Empire villa (Everts).

The house was vacant several years between its use as a residence and its conversion in the early 1940s to officers' housing for nearby Camp Reynolds or the Shenango Personnel Replacement Depot. Camp Reynolds was constructed south of Greenville, Mercer County, PA in the spring of 1942 to house U. S. Army enlisted men and officers awaiting assignment as replacements for military units needing new staff. The Pierce House was used by Camp Reynolds officers until 1945 (Joyce).

After the end of World War II, the house continued in use as rental apartments.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

Jonas J. Pierce House

Mercer County, PA

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Brown, Runk & Co.

1888 History of Mercer County, Pennsylvania, Its Past and Present. Chicago:
Brown, Runk & Company.

Cigliano, Jan.

1991 Showplace of America, Cleveland's Euclid Avenue, 1815-1910. Kent, OH:
Kent State University Press.

Everts, L. H.

1876 (Atlas and) History of Mercer County, Pennsylvania. Philadelphia: L.H.
Everts & Co.

Fowler, T. M.

1901 (Birdseye View of) Sharpsville, Pennsylvania. Morrisville, PA: T. M. Fowler
& James R. Moyer.

Godey, Louis A. and Sarah J. Hale.

1862-75 Godey's Lady's Book and Magazine. Volumes 64-90. Philadelphia: Louis A.
Godey.

Hobbs, Isaac Harding.

1873 Hobbs's Architecture: containing Designs & Grounds Plans for Villas, Cottages
& other Edifices. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co.

Joyce, Peter.

1995 "James Pierce." For the Pierce Dedication Dinner, The Sharpsville Historical
Society, July 8, 1995.

Joyce, Peter.

1996 Interview.

Phillips, Steven J.

1992 Old-House Dictionary. Washington, DC: The Preservation Press.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 2

Jonas J. Pierce House

Mercer County, PA

Sanborn Map Company.

1929 Map of Sharpsville, Pennsylvania. New York: Sanborn Map Company.

Sharpsville Advertiser.

Obituary of Jonas J. Pierce, January, 30, 1918. Sharpsville, PA.

Sharon Herald.

"Great Mansion is Fading Reminder of General Pierce." July 16, 1952.
Sharon, PA.

Smith, Gregory, Sharpsville Historical Society.

1996 Interview.

Tatman, Sandra L. and Roger W. Moss.

1985 Biographical Dictionary of Philadelphia Architects, 1700-1930. Boston: G. K.
Hall & Company.

Van Trump, James D., Arthur P. Zeigler, Jr.

1967 Landmark Architecture of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Pittsburgh:
Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation.

White, J. G.

1909 A Twentieth Century History of Mercer County, Pennsylvania. Chicago:
Lewis Publishing Company.

Wiggins, Joseph.

1869 Directory of Beaver, Shenango and Mahoning Valleys for 1869, with Historical
Sketches. Pittsburgh: Joseph Wiggins.

Woge, Mary Jane.

1952 "Great Mansion Is Fading Reminder of General Pierce." The Herald. July 16,
1952. Sharon, PA.

Zona, Beverly, Lawrence County Historical Society.

1996 Interview.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

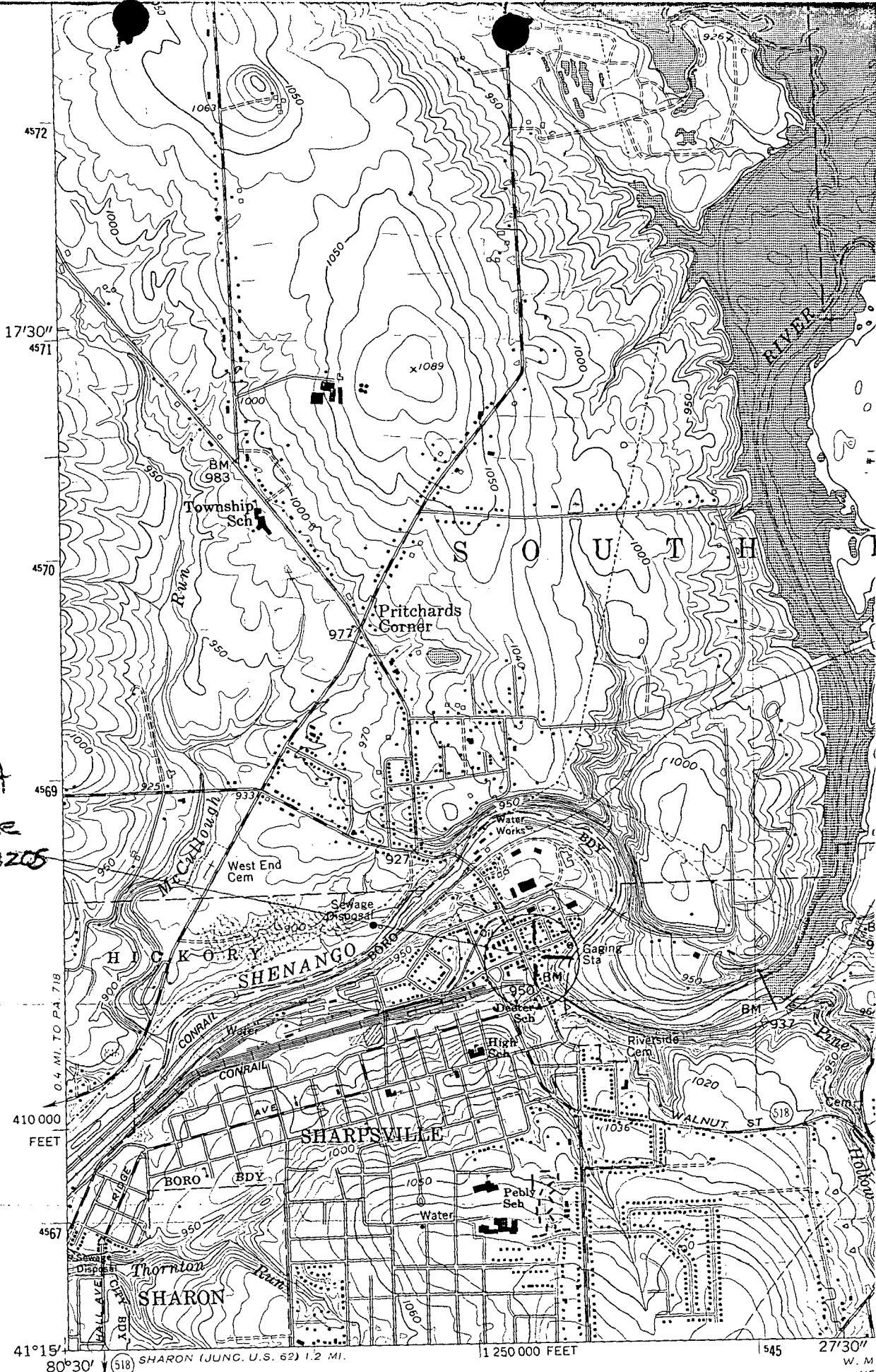
Jonas J. Pierce House

Mercer County, PA

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary: The nominated property corresponds to the deed in Mercer County Registry of Book 1994, Deed Reference 11485.

Boundary Justification: The boundary includes the land immediately associated with the Jonas J. Pierce House.



Mercer Co, PA
 Jonas J Perce House
 17 544300 4568205
 Sharpshville
 Quad

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and USCE
 Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs

(RON WEST)
 6 11 NE



41°15' 80°30' 1 250 000 FEET 545 27'30" W. M NE

410 000 FEET

4569

4570

4571 17'30"

4572

0.4 MI. TO P.A. 718

SHARON (JUNC. U.S. 62) 1.2 MI.