

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Neale, George, Jr., House

and/or common Pence Building

2. Location

street & number 331 Juliana Street not for publication

city, town Parkersburg vicinity of congressional district

state West Virginia code 54 county Wood code 107

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Richard F. Pence

street & number Morningside Circle

city, town Parkersburg vicinity of state West Virginia 26101

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wood County Court House

street & number Court Square

city, town Parkersburg state West Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible? yes no

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

The Pence Building was constructed in 1840 and is one of Parkersburg's most splendid surviving examples of Greek Revival style architecture. The two-story structure has a stone foundation and walls of handmade orange-red brick. Its exterior Federal Greek Revival traits are immediately striking to the eye: a low-pitched roof, smooth facade and large glazed areas: elliptical fan lights in the gables; slender flanking side lights to the front door; a tripartite window over the front door; window lintels with reliefs; reduced architraves; and a smooth brick finish with fine joints.

In 1958 the original building was increased when a concrete structure was built on the south end. Another addition, made of brick, was placed on the west side in 1973. In 1960, Richard F. Pence, a Parkersburg attorney, purchased the building. His long ownership has given the structure its present name. Mr. Pence immediately undertook to renovate and repair the building, improvements which have continued up to the present day: Mr. Pence has paneled most of the interior walls; replaced the building's floors; repaired the roof and replaced all the windows; had the exterior walls sandblasted removing a yellow paint that had covered them, and the bricks were repointed and siliconed; the interior of the second floor was completely redone; the basement floor was remodeled; central heating and air conditioning was installed; the whole building was entirely rewired and conduits installed; one bathroom was remodeled and two more were added. While the building has been continually well maintained, no restoration work has yet been attempted for the front steps, front door and entrance hall areas. Mr. Pence has plans to replace the present dilapidated front iron stoop and steps with a Federal style porch which will be in keeping with the building's 1840 era appearance.

The Pence Building is currently occupied in the following manner: The first floor houses the offices of Mr. Pence, his assistant, and the Blennerhassett Historical Park Commission; the second floor houses the offices of three lawyers; the south annex is occupied by a small social club, and the basement contains a barber shop.

Despite alterations to the original fabric, the Pence Building retains a high degree of exterior integrity. Damage to brick surface and stone trim resulting from sandblasting has been stabilized, though future deterioration is possible.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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) Local History	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

Specific dates 1848 Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Pence Building is a locally significant example of vernacular Greek Revival architecture, and is assuredly one of the best examples of the type remaining in Parkersburg. Its beauty of line and construction cause it to be frequently commented upon even by people who know nothing of its history. The edifice is also significant for its association with individuals who played important roles in the history and development of Parkersburg and Wood County, (West) Virginia.

The building was raised in the year 1840 by George Neale, Jr., to serve as his private residence. It was the second home he built in the area. The first was constructed at nearby Blennerhassett Island in 1833. Both homes were faced with handmade red brick (probably with slave labor as the Neales were slaveholders). They still stand as tangible reminders of Neale's prominence in the Parkersburg region which stemmed both from his business career and lifelong association with Blennerhassett Island.

Stylistic elements of both the Federal and Greek Revival periods are evident in the Pence Building. The strengths of the Federal styling apparent in the end wall fenestration incorporating large glazed areas and semi-elliptical fanlighted gable openings are subordinate, nevertheless, to the Greek Revival.

Federal architecture in areas west of the Appalachians never flourished; it was slow in reaching the small, isolated centers and was quickly supplanted by the universal popularity of neo-classicism. The Pence Building reflects this evolutionary development of upper-class architecture in the American hinterland during the decades preceding the Civil War, and has survived with many of its significant classical features intact. Among these are: Pedimented gables; tripartite center-bay windows and door openings; a horizontal door transom above a pier-supported transom bar; and lintels with blocks carved in a Greek key pattern.

George Neale, Jr., was born in Loudoun County, Virginia in 1802, son of George and Sarah Neale. Soon after this he was taken to Wood County where his father settled on a large tract of land at "Washington's Bottom". This lay at the foot of Blennerhassett Island then occupied by Harman Blennerhassett and his wife Margaret. After the Blennerhassetts were involved in the 1806-07 ill-fated Aaron Burr Expedition to the Southwest, George Neale Sr., and his family rented part of the Blennerhassett estate and took residence in the vacant Blennerhassett Mansion. They were asleep in it during the early morning hours of March 31, 1811, when it accidentally caught fire and burned to the ground. The family members, including nine-year-old George, Jr., barely escaped with their lives. George, Jr., never forgot the excitement of this tragedy.

In 1827 George Neale, Jr., purchased the upper end of Blennerhassett Island from Blennerhassett's Philadelphia business partner. Six years later Neale built the large brick home on the Island which still stands there. Its style of architecture is similar to that of the Pence Building.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Neale, George, Jr., House; Pence Building, Parkersburg, Wood Co., West Virginia

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George Neale, Jr., moved to Parkersburg ca. 1840 where he continued to develop what became a brilliant business career. At the age of twenty-one, Neale became the owner of a general store in the city having as his partner one William Gardner. The two of them greatly prospered, for as a later historian recorded, "The firm of Neale & Gardner was well known in all the region about, not only concerned in mercantile business, but as foremost factors in river transportation, road development, and all that went to make Parkersburg one of the principal cities of that day". (Miller and Maxwell, 1913, p. 964). Neale also was a director in the Northwestern Bank, which is today the Parkersburg National Bank. He died in 1880.

During the 1880's, the Neale home ceased to be used as a private residence and was converted into law and real estate offices. It passed through a long succession of owners. The most famous took brief possession in 1902. In this year the structure was owned for a few months by the Mellons, the well-known Pittsburgh banking family. Since 1960 it has been owned by Richard F. Pence, a prominent Parkersburg attorney.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- (1) "Handsome Gordon Property Torn Down to Make Way for Parking Spaces," Parkersburg News-Sentinel (Centennial Edition), June 18, 1963.
- (2) "Neale-Gordon, Thomas C. Miller and Hu Maxwell, West Virginia and Its People (N.Y., 1913), pp. 964-965.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1 city lot

Quadrangle name Parkersburg, West Virginia-Ohio

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	7	4	5	1	4	6	0	4	3	4	6	2	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Pence Building at the northwest corner of Juliana Street and Fourth Street on a city lot measuring approximately 100' x 100'.

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. Ray Swick, Historian

organization Blennerhassett Historical Park Com. date July 18, 1979

street & number 331 Juliana Street telephone (304) 428-3000

city or town Parkersburg state West Virginia 26101

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Charles Moran*

Director, Historic Preservation Unit, W.V.

title Department of Culture and History

date Nov. 1, 1979

For HCRS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

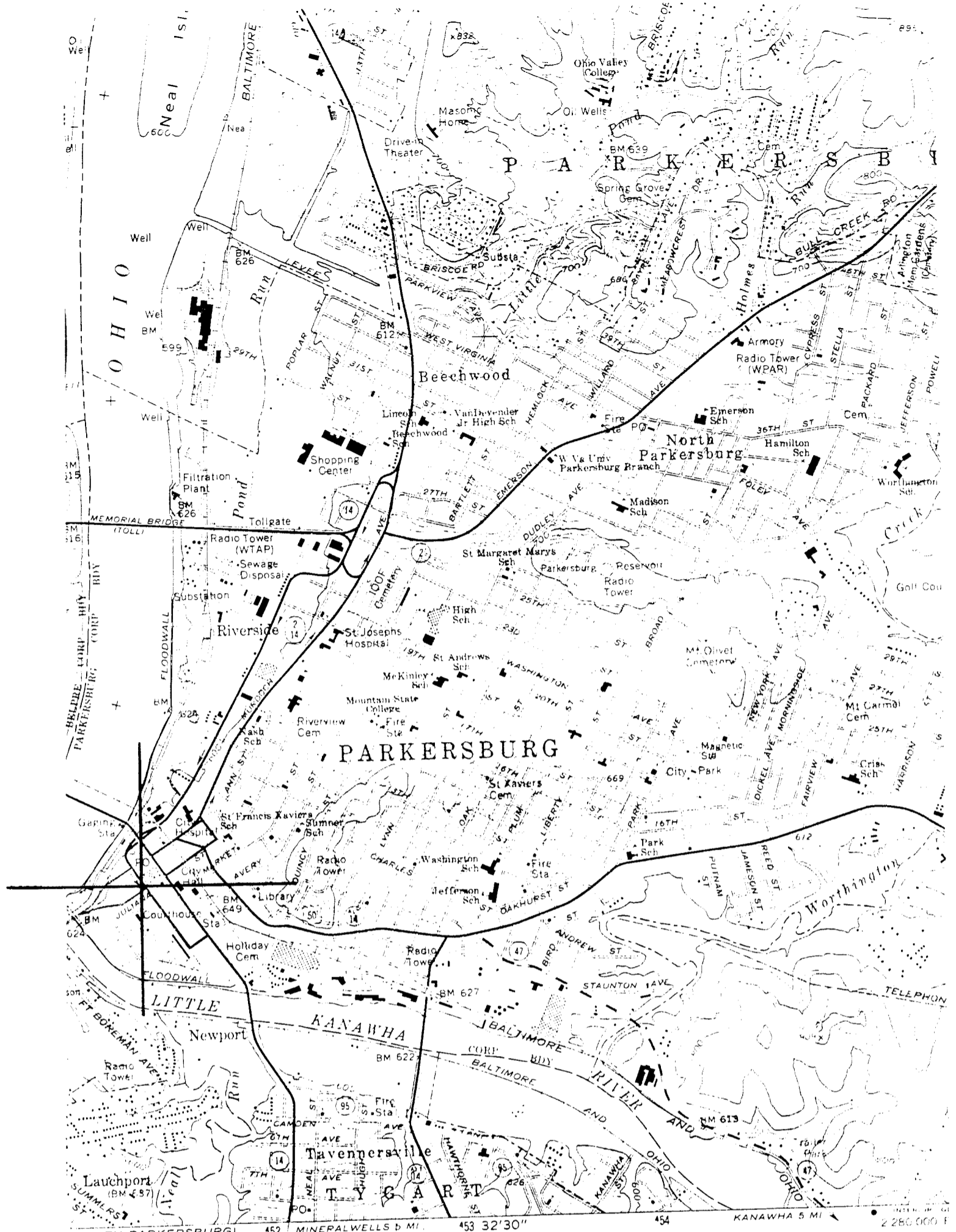
Neale George, Jr., House; Pence Building, Parkersburg, Wood Co., West Virginia

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Major Bibliographical References (Cont'd)

- (3) Interview with Richard Pence 7--6--79
- (4) Interview with Allen Carney 7--9--79
- (5) Minnie Kendall Lowther, Blennerhassett Island in Romance and Tragedy, (Rutland, Vermont, 1936), pp. 122-125.



(SOUTH PARKERSBURG) 4602 11 NE
 SCALE 1:24,000
 0 1 MILE
 452 MINERAL WELLS 5 MI. RIPLEY 35 MI. 453 32'30" 454 KANAWHA 5 MI. 2286 000 F
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