

PH0143294

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
JUN 9	1975
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	JUN 18 1975

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Felix Grimes House

AND/OR COMMON

Felix Grimes House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1301 Leitchfield Road

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Owensboro

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

Kentucky

__ VICINITY OF

CODE
021

COUNTY
Daviness

CODE
059

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Conrey, Sr.

STREET & NUMBER

1301 Leitchfield Road

CITY, TOWN

Owensboro

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Daviness County Courthouse, Deed Book 30, p. 107; Deed Book Y, p. 634

STREET & NUMBER

Second and Frederica Streets

CITY, TOWN

Owensboro

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1970

__ FEDERAL STATE __ COUNTY __ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Grimes House is located on the Leitchfield Road. It faces southwest. The structure is a two-story, white frame house with a central doorway. There are five shuttered windows on the front of the second story and four shuttered windows on the first story. There are no windows on either end of the house. A two-room wing is connected to the house at right angles in the rear. These rooms were used as an early school room (1884-1890) by Sarah Grimes, daughter of Felix Grimes.

The house has two bedrooms and bath upstairs; four rooms downstairs. The entrance hall has fifteen steps leading to the second floor representing Kentucky, the fifteenth State admitted to the Union. The floors are white ash, and the stair rails, posts and wainscoting in the living room and dining room are cherry. The sills are dove-tailed oak put together without nails. The weatherboard is yellow poplar.

There was some bric-a-brac on the face of the house but it was removed circa 1930 and the shutters added. No other changes have been made.

The house was a duplicate of the one Felix Grimes lived in Pennsylvania. The house originally stood on five acres, but now the Conrey family owns one acre.

Felix Grimes mined coal in several mines located slightly south of his house. The mines remain today but are sealed off. On top of one is an old Negro cemetery. This cemetery is not owned by the Grimes family.

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 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)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

Ca. 1867-76?

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although no direct proof has yet been found, it may be possible to link Felix Grimes with one of the most interesting historical and architectural episodes of the lower Ohio River, between Kentucky and Indiana. According to family tradition, Grimes was born in Ireland, and educated for the priesthood, but was not ordained. Instead he became a geologist. At an unknown date he emigrated to the United States, where he found employment in the coal industry in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. It is believed that he was sent West to locate minerals for a Pittsburgh firm. Apparently he recognized the potential for development of both coal and the native yellow limestone on both banks of the Ohio in the neighborhood of Hawesville, Hancock County, Kentucky, and what was to become Cannelton in Perry County, Indiana. Grimes is said to have led forty coal miners into Kentucky by barge down the Ohio River, first to Cannelton and then to Hawesville.

It is also the family tradition that Felix Grimes and his cousin Patrick Grimes were responsible for the construction of the Indiana Cotton Mill in Cannelton, as well as the Roman Catholic Church erected on the hill overlooking the factory. Both, along with a number of surviving residences and shops in Cannelton, are built of the fine local stone.

Grimes' second wife was Catherine Murphy. Her family came west from Providence, Rhode Island, to Hawesville, where they were identified with the Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church (now seriously deteriorated but also being nominated to the National Register).

On the basis of these family traditions--tenuous, but accurate as far as it has been possible to corroborate them with other sources--it may be justifiable to connect Grimes with one of the most interesting and potentially significant efforts to develop an industry west of the Alleghenies prior to the Civil War. Barbara Wriston in 1965 described this project and identified the designer of the mill with Providence architect Thomas Tefft (1826-1859), one of the most precocious and talented architects of the mid-19th century in America: "The Indiana Cotton Mill, a landmark on the north bank of the Ohio River in Cannelton, Indiana, was one of the few mills built in that area before the Civil War. The town of Cannelton had been laid out in 1835 under the supervision of Rhodes and McLane, who opened coal mines and brought colliers, after a group of Massachusetts capitalists, Hobart, Williams, and Russell, purchased about 7,000 acres of land. The American Cannel Coal Company was formed to exploit the area" (p. 171). About 1848 a number of entrepreneurs became interested in developing the manufacture of cotton in the West in order to overcome the

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Grimes-Conrey family traditions and records.

An Illustrated Historical Atlas Map of Daviess County, Kentucky. "Carefully Compiled From Personal Examinations and Surveys. Published by Leo McDonough & Co. 1876." M. Joblin & Co., Louisville Past and Present: Its Industrial History as Exhibited in the Life-Labors of Its Leading Men (Louisville: Printed by John P. Morton & Co., 1875,

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one acre

UTM OK
HL

"James C. Ford."
(continued)

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	6	4	9	2	1	4	0	4	1	7	9	5	4	0
ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

B

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

C

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

D

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

Mrs. M. David Orrahood, Daviess Co. Representative (WEL)

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

February 14, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

2725 Frederica Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Owensboro

STATE

Kentucky

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.

SIGNATURE *Cedred W. Melton*

TITLE *State Historic Preservation Officer* DATE *6/3/75*

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<i>[Signature]</i>	DATE <i>6/18/75</i>
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE JUN 17 1975
ATTEST:	
<i>[Signature]</i>	
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED JUN 9 1975	
DATE ENTERED	JUN 18 1975

Felix Grimes House

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

South's dependence on New England for processing the raw material, easily transportable on the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. These businessmen included Colonel, later General, Charles T. James of Providence, Rhode Island, who according to an 1876 source "had then put in successful operation similar mills in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and was putting up others in Pennsylvania and South Carolina" (Joblin, p. 73); Hamilton Smith and James C. Ford of Louisville. The last also hoped to avert the impending Civil War by providing an alternative economic base to agriculture and slaves for the South. According to Wriston, "Alexander McGregor of Newport, Rhode Island, was hired as superintending architect and found that excellent stone was available in the neighborhood. On 14 May 1850 he endorsed the stone: 'for durability and cheapness, the Cannelton Quarries offer the best building stone I have ever seen west of the mountains.' His foreman, who was described as being familiar with the best quarries in the United States and Great Britain, agreed.

"In 1849 Colonel James [a director of the company, engaged to organize the mill and procure the necessary materials, machinery, and engineers] published in Providence a pamphlet called, 'Practical Hints on the Comparative Costs and Productiveness of the Culture of Cotton and the Cost and Productiveness of Its Manufacture . . . Addressed to the Cotton Planters and Capitalists of the South.' In it he mentions the mill at Cannelton and describes in glowing terms the advantages of the site, the availability of coal, the well developed town, and the provisions of the charter given by the State of Indiana. Although the pamphlet was intended to encourage the South to enter the manufacturing business and is filled with elaborate statistics, it was really propaganda for Cannelton, which could be the 'great manufacturing city of the world.' In addition to the cheapness of coal and the excellence of the local stone, James said, 'Cannelton is situated in the midst of a vast fertile region, yielding in great abundance all the usual products of the farm and dairy, including large supplies of corn and wheat, which are sold in markets at prices much lower than similar articles in the markets of New England'" (*ibid.*).**

Although the enterprise was ultimately unsuccessful, not only in its own terms, but of course in terms of Colonel Ford's farsighted vision as well, the magnificent mill building, several boarding houses, and a Roman Catholic Church (perhaps the precursor of the present stone edifice) were erected prior to the Civil War in Cannelton. Mrs. Wriston has definitely identified the architect of at least the mill as Tefft, then working for the Providence firm of Tallman and Bucklin.

**Unfortunately, the New England manufacturers realized in time the threat that such Western development would present to their mainstay, and withdrew both expertise and capital before the Indiana mill was fully established.

(continued)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 9 1975

DATE ENTERED JUN 18 1975

Felix Grimes House

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

It seems possible that Felix Grimes may have played a small but crucial role in making this ambitious enterprise possible, by opening up the necessary resources for the erection and support of the mill in Southern Indiana, if he indeed he and his cousin were not actually responsible for the construction of what is still, although unused, one of the most impressive (and uncharacteristically ornamental) factories in the country.

The Grimeses lost two infants during a small-pox epidemic; they are buried in the cemetery of the Catholic church in Cannelton.

The family moved to Owensboro in nearby Daviess County in 1867, according to An Illustrated Historical Atlas Map of Daviess County, Kentucky, published in 1876. Grimes was listed at that time as "Farmer & Pro. of Coal Min." He mined coal in several mines located near his house on the Leitchfield Road, which was presumably built between 1867 and 1876 (although possibly earlier). The mines remain in the area today, but have been sealed off.

The house itself is of interest as one of the older and more prominent buildings in a relatively modest area of Owensboro, situated as it is on the junction of two much-used roads. In spite of its simplicity, it retains in its attractive setting a sense of substance and integrity no doubt reflective of its owners' character.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 9 1975
DATE ENTERED	JUN 18 1975

Felix Grimes House
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Barbara Wriston, "Who Was the Architect of the Indiana Cotton Mill, 1849-50?" The Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, XXIV, 2 (May 1965), 171-73.

From:

Historical Atlas map

Daviess County, Ky

Published in 1876

Page 38

PRECINCT

No 2

Scale 2 inches to 1 Mile

Felix James House

