

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Pennsylvania
COUNTY: Lancaster
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Robert Fulton Birthplace

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Robert Fulton Birthplace

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: RD #1, 7.5 miles South of Quarryville on US Rte. 222

CITY OR TOWN: Quarryville CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Sixteenth

STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42 COUNTY: Lancaster CODE: 71

3. CLASSIFICATION

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 1026

CITY OR TOWN: Harrisburg STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Recorder of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
Lancaster County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Lancaster STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Fulton Birthplace

DATE OF SURVEY: 1968 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 1026

CITY OR TOWN: Harrisburg STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Fulton Birthplace is a two-and-a half story stone farmhouse with a shingled gable roof and the approximate dimensions of 24' x 38'. Built before 1756, the house was destroyed by fire in 1822 and rebuilt from the rubble. The house continued to be used as a private residence for the next 147 years, during which time extensive frame additions were made. In 1969, the commonwealth of Pennsylvania acquired the property and removed the post-1822 additions in a general restoration to a 1765 appearance, although modern lighting and heating was retained. All stucco and whitewash was removed, leaving the stone in its natural color. The front porch was replaced with a gable hood over the front door. A box cornice at the eaves runs the length of the four sides of the house. The windows are arranged thusly: ten of the eleven windows are double-hung sashes, with twelve lights over twelve on the first two floors and six lights over six on the top floor. The front of the house has two windows on each floor, the side walls have two on the first floor, and one on the second floor, and the rear wall has one window in the stairwell, and four-light window on the top floor. A one story addition, 15' x 18', with a gable roof extends from the rear wall. This addition has a stone chimney, while the main house has a brick one. Both chimneys are interior gable-ended. The rear wing is built of wood except for the fireplace and chimney.

The interior of the house consists of, on the first floor, a parlor and kitchen, separated by a board partition, and a bedroom in the rear wing. The winding stairs are located in the northwest corner. On the second floor there are two bedrooms, and in the attic there is one central bedroom.

Directly behind the house is a picket fence-enclosed garden, and to the north of this is a one story frame restroom-service structure, dating from the 1969 restoration.

Boundaries

The Fulton house was originally contained in an approximately 400 acre farm. The boundary of the Fulton House is as follows: Beginning at the intersection of Route 222 and the abandoned Township road, proceed 205' along the southerly curb in a northwestern direction to a point, thence south 250' to a point, thence approximately 135' easterly to Route 222, thence approximately 135' northerly to the point of origin.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1765-1815**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Robert Fulton (1765-1815), artist, civil engineer, and inventor, was born on his father's farm in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania and moved within the year with his family to Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Perhaps best remembered for designing the Clermont, the first commercially successful American steamboat, Fulton was a many-sided genius who achieved success as an artist while still a young man, and then turned his energies toward the development of canal systems and engineering, and problems in transportation. In addition to the Clermont, Fulton patented other major inventions including a dredging machine and a double-inclined plane for canal systems, as well as torpedoes and diving boats.

The Fulton Birthplace is a reconstructed two-and-a half story stone house located seven and a half miles south of Quarryville. It is owned and maintained by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Biography

Robert Fulton was born on November 14, 1765, in a small, stone farmhouse, now quite changed, in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Within a year, Fulton's family moved away from that house, settling in Lancaster, where Robert soon exhibited his interest in drawing and mechanical matters. By 1782, the tall, slender, dark-eyed, even tempered and industrious Fulton lived in Philadelphia, where he eked out a career as a painter for four years. Desirous of improving his technique, Fulton sailed for Europe in 1786 to study, probably little realizing that he would not return for twenty years. Although he did study painting in England, his mechanical interests and inventive talents had weaned him away from art by the end of 1793. A visit to Devonshire and its canal system, plus meeting two scientifically inclined peers, proved to be a turning point in his career, he becoming intensely intrigued by the still numerous unsolved problems apropos of canals. Fulton, for example, subsequently originated a system of inclined planes for transporting canal barges over hills.

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

H. W. Dickinson, Robert Fulton, Engineer and Artist, His Life and Works, (London, 1913).
 Ellis and Evans, History of Lancaster County, (Phila., 1883) pp. 386, 428, 671.
 H. M. J. Kelin, Lancaster County, Pa., A History, 4 vols. (N. Y., 1924) p. 511.
 Alice C. Sutcliffe, "Robert Fulton and the 'Clermont'," Dictionary of American Biography, (New York, 1909), 234-235.
 Robert Thurston, Robert Fulton, His Life and Its Results, (N. Y., 1891).

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
NW	UTM A. 18.400740.4406590	' "		0	'	"
NE	B. 18.400580.4406670	' "		0	'	"
SE	C. 18.400610.4406410	' "		0	'	"
SW	D. 18.400760.4406440	' "		0	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Approximately 1 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Richard E. Greenwood, Historian, Landmark Review Task Force

ORGANIZATION:
 Historic Sites Survey, Landmark Review Project

STREET AND NUMBER:
 1100 L Street NW.

CITY OR TOWN:
 Washington

STATE:
 D.C.

Landmark Designated: JAN 23 1964 date

Boundary Certified: [Signature] CODE 11

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 _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION
 ((NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS))

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

[Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 6/29/77

ATTEST: _____
 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

((NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS))

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

((NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS))

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(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

8. Statement of Significance: (1)

Robert Fulton Birthplace

It was not too long before Fulton also became interested in the development of power-driven ships. His first practical success in that field lay in his submarine, the Nautilus, which he developed while in France during the European wars of the late eighteenth century. Encouraged by the French government, Fulton launched the Nautilus on July 24, 1800. This twenty-foot long, five-foot wide, and manually powered submersible, built at Fulton's own expense, dove for eight minutes, and then again for seventeen minutes at Rouen; later, Fulton remained beneath the surface for an hour and two minutes at LeHavre. Fully convinced that he had proved the possibility of sub-surface navigation, Fulton was shocked when France abandoned its interest in the further development of the submarine in 1801.

But late in 1801, Chancellor Robert R. Livingston, who, like Fulton, had already contemplated the value of a steam driven boat, arrived in Paris. The two men met, and Livingston promised to back the inventor's construction of a steamboat. Delighted at this turn in his fortune, Fulton set to work, and by August, 1803, he had built a steamboat and had sailed it on the Seine. When he returned to America in 1806, Fulton, backed by Livingston, began the construction of the Clermont. In August, 1807, the Clermont, measuring 150 feet long and thirteen feet wide, confounded the doubters of "Fulton's Folly" as it made its first trip on the East River. The middle of the same month saw the Clermont steaming up the Hudson River to Albany, thus opening a new era in water transportation. When the vessel reached Albany, her chief engineer celebrated the voyage so enthusiastically that he brought about his own discharge because of drunkenness. The instantaneous commercial success of the Clermont suitably rewarded Livingston and Fulton. The inventor, who married Harriet Livingston in 1808, in the following years built seventeen additional steamboats, but his work was cut short on February 24, 1815, when death overcame him.

Fulton clearly realized the commercial value of the steamboat and he did much to exploit its development. At the same time, he was very pleased that the steamboat would stimulate the growth of America, saying that he gained the greatest pleasure "in reflecting on the immense advantage that my country will derive from this invention."¹

¹Quoted in Alice Crary Sutcliffe, Robert Fulton and the "Clermont" (New York, 1909), 234-35.

Robert Fulton Birthplace UTM
Quarryville, Penn.

U.S.G.S. Wakefield Quad. 7.5 series

A 18.400740.4406590

B 18.400580.4406670

C 18.400610.4406410

D. 18.400760.4406440

