

PH001407

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Kentucky
COUNTY:	Jefferson
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	JUN 28 1974

1. NAME

COMMON: **Head House**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **Main Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Middletown** CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: **03**

STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **021** COUNTY: **Jefferson** CODE: **III**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<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 type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
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 _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: **Thomas Fisher**

STREET AND NUMBER: **1211 Shelbyville Road**

CITY OR TOWN: **Middletown** STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **021**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **Jefferson County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER: **527 West Jefferson Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Louisville** STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **021**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: **Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky**

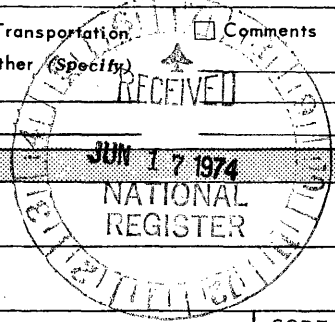
DATE OF SURVEY: **1971** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: **Kentucky Heritage Commission**

STREET AND NUMBER: **401 Wapping Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Frankfort** STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **021**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" 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		

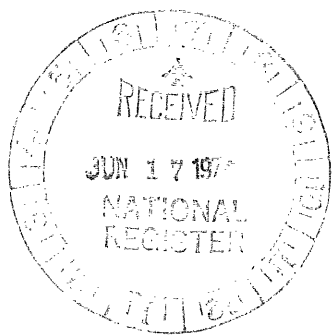
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Head House is an ambitious two-and-a-half story stone structure. Its twenty to twenty-two inch thick Kentucky Stone Masonry walls are superbly laid hand-cut limestone. The fenestration of the side walls is consciously symmetrical and contrasts to the front facade with the large entrance to one side. With elliptical arched fanlight (probably altered within the stone framework), the entrance, conforming to the generous scale of the building as a whole, leads into a very broad stairhall on the house's west side. The staircase with its low risers and their Georgian balustrade rises to the second floor in two flights with a landing across the back width of the room.

On the first floor low doorways lead off the stairhall into two large rooms and into the back of the house, which may be older, with its two smaller rooms. Downstairs is a brick-floor warming kitchen and (not connected) a full basement spanned by a 15 x 15 inch, forty-four foot summer beam with floor joists mortised into it. On the second floor of the house is a bedroom and a large front room bearing traces of a peg-rail above arm's reach, suggesting the Shaker custom of hanging chairs up and out of the way as the functions of the room vary. Above the back portion of the house is an attic reached by a steep flight of steps. Its slanting room beams still bear Roman numerals which (other than for the fact that in one place the order varies!) indicate the construction sequence.

The huge stone chimneys, thick walls, and unusual (for an early house in the area) asymmetry of the plan and facade give this house considerable distinction. Now abandoned (supposedly in the process of restoration), the building deserves sensitive preservation.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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8. 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) **C. 1813**

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 type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

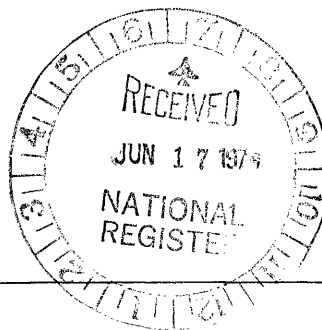
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Captain Benjamin Head House in Middletown, a community settled in 1797 east of what is now Louisville, was built for Benjamin I. Head between 1813 and 1815.

The first record of Head (born 1783) in Middletown is from 1804; by 1815 he was one of the trustees of the town. In 1813, with Basil Hobbs and Benjamin Lawrence, he organized the Head, Hobbs, and Lawrence General Store. The stone commercial structure built alongside the Head House, also under construction in 1813, was located on the southwest corner of lot #1, Main Street. For the store's excellent stock Head rode on horseback to Philadelphia and Baltimore. Middletown was growing rapidly and at the time was expected to easily surpass Louisville in size. Much of the evidence for this speculation was generated by the business of Head, Hobbs, and Lawrence; the store became quite well known, attracting well-to-do families from Louisville and throughout the county.

In the 1820s, during which Head is said to have developed large gambling debts, he moved to the family farm about two miles away. His daughter Amelia was the mother of Robert Chester Tway, who built up the well-known Plainview Farms, recently sold and now under development. The tract contains the site of the original Head Farm.

Of the few remains of this local family, the ambitious and distinctive Head House is one of the most important landmarks in the early settlement and growth of Jefferson County. Moreover, it is one of the few early stone houses left in the area.



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Jefferson County Deed Book #160.

Lancaster, Clay. The Architectural Heritage of Kentucky. Louisville: The Louisville Courier-Journal and Times (pending publication).

Langsam, Walter E. Metropolitan Preservation Plans. Louisville: Falls of the Ohio Metropolitan Council of Governments, 1973.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

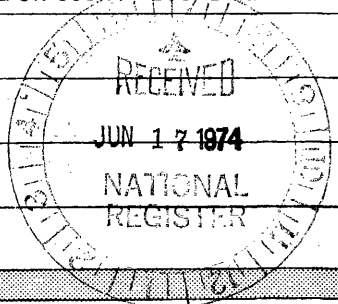
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38° 14' 43"	85° 32' 28"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

UTM
16/627640
423820
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Walter E. Langsam, Assistant Professor, Assisted by Rowland D. Miller

ORGANIZATION: **University of Louisville** DATE: **May 30, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Louisville** STATE: **Kentucky 40208** CODE: **021**

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 Mrs. Cedra W. Mutton

Title State Liaison Officer

Date June 11, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

[Signature]
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 6/28/74

ATTEST:
[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date 6-28-74

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Kentucky	
COUNTY Jefferson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 28 1974

(Number all entries)

9. Bibliographical references (continued)

Ledger of the Head, Hobbs, and Lawrence General Store (The Filson Club, Louisville).

Wilder, Minnie S., Compiler. Kentucky Soldiers in the War of 1812. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1969.

Wood, Edith. Middletown's Days and Deeds. Published by the Author, 1946.

Head, Descent of Henry Head (1695-1770) in America. Compiled by Idress Head Alvord. Columbia, Missouri: By the Author, 1949.

