

PH0015539

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Kentucky
COUNTY:	Lawrence
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	SEP 4 1974

1. NAME

COMMON: **Old Jailer's Residence; American Legion Hall**

AND/OR HISTORIC: **Birthplace of Fred M. Vinson** *Use this*

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **Corner East Madison and Vinson Boulevard**

CITY OR TOWN: **Louisa** CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: **07**

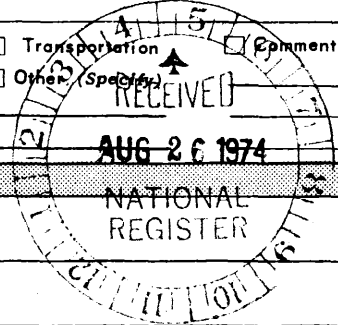
STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **021** COUNTY: **Lawrence** CODE: **127**

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"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		



4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: **Lawrence County Fiscal Court**

STREET AND NUMBER:

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

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Louisa** 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

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

SEP 4 1974

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruined Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Jailer's House is located on Courthouse Square in Louisa, the county seat of Lawrence County. The eight-room, two-story brick building was completed in 1889 and the Vinson family was the first to occupy it. From an older photograph it appears that the structure originally had a porch along the eastern front (photograph number 2) and a furnace room, attached to the west side. (photograph number 1) The furnace room, and ^{the} porch which gave a slightly domestic appearance to the otherwise austere design, have since been removed. (photographs number 3 and 4) The massing is composed of several narrow asymmetrical blocks that break up the overall bulk of this substantial dwelling. (photographs number 3, 4, 5)

The original perforated cornice was removed when the building was painted white. The austere verticality of the building is countered by the corbelled horizontal belt courses and strongly projecting cornice, and almost flat roof. (photograph number 3) Neither the segmental-headed windows nor the corbelled brick courses which accent them have been altered. These few details suggest a residual Italianate treatment.

The original jail was located at the rear of the Jailer's House. Judging from an older photograph it was a small stone building. (photograph number 1)

Other jails and buildings in the state reflect many of the same architectural forms as the Jailer's Residence. The same decorative work and massing is seen in the work of the McDonald Brothers of Louisville, at this period such as the Anderson County jail in Lawrenceburg.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1889**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" 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 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 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

Lawrence County, Kentucky, the birthplace and early home of the thirteenth Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, is located in the eastern part of the state. It was formed in 1821 and Louisa, its county seat, was established in 1822.

The Old Jailer's Residence is an effective symbol of the prominent role of that official in the community. It is primarily known as the birthplace of Fred M. Vinson, thirteenth Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court. The building serves as a tangible reminder of the social and political arena from which this favorite son of Eastern Kentucky emerged.

Fred M. Vinson was born in Louisa on January 22, 1890, into a family that had been in the Big Sandy Valley since the early 1800s. His father, James Vinson, was Lawrence County jailer at this time. The office of jailer has traditionally been one of utmost importance in the mountain communities, particularly during annual circuit court sessions. He was in charge of the prisoners who were to come before the judge. Annual circuit sessions have traditionally been a social event in the community. People came from throughout the area not only to see court in session but to gossip, swap, and gamble. Fred M. Vinson, as a child, sat outside the adjacent courthouse and listened to the courtroom dialogue. It was natural that Vinson should be interested in local politics since his father held one of the more important political offices in the county.

Vinson's family moved to neighboring Catlettsburg in 1902 where James Vinson opened a resident hotel. The family returned to Louisa in 1905. Fred M. Vinson attended Kentucky Normal School there before he entered Centre College, Danville, Kentucky. He was graduated in 1911 with the highest academic record in the history of the Law School. He also ranked as an outstanding college athlete due to his position as shortstop and captain of Centre's baseball team. At one time, he tried out for professional

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Block, Maxine, ed. Current Biography 1943. New York: The H. W. Wilson Co., 1943, pp. 793-796.

Bolner, Fred M., Register of the Kentucky Historical Society, "The Years of Relative Obscurity 1890-1938," Vol. 63, 1965, pp. 3-16.

Connelley, William, and Coulter, E. M., History of Kentucky. Vol. 3, New York: American Historical Society, 1922, pp. 563-564.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

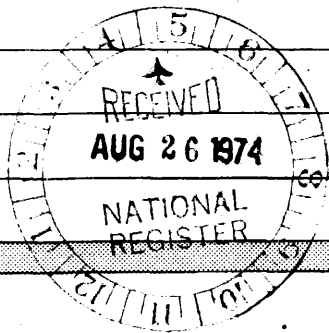
(continued)

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° 06' 54"	82° 36' 06"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than five acres

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: Dr. John N. Ryan

ORGANIZATION: Kentucky Heritage Commission DATE: 10/30/73

STREET AND NUMBER: 109 West Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Louisa STATE: Kentucky CODE: 021

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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. Cedred W. Melton

Title State Liaison Officer

Date 8/21/74

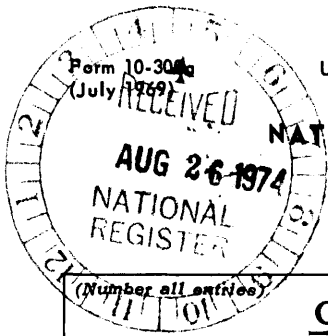
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

A. R. Mortensen
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 9/4/74

ATTEST:
Charles A. H... ..
Keeper of The National Register

Date 8-30-74



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Kentucky	
COUNTY	Lawrence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		SEP 4 1974

Old Jailer's Residence; American Legion Hall

8. Significance (continued)

Page 2

baseball at Cincinnati and in later years enjoyed using his baseball skills against his Congressional colleagues.

In 1911 Vinson was admitted to practice before the Court of Appeals of Kentucky. He was an attorney in Louisa until he was elected City Attorney and later Commonwealth Attorney.

During World War I his brief stint ended at the Officers Candidate School when the Armistice was signed. Later, during his Congressional career, he consistently advocated and supported United States war veteran's benefits legislation.

In 1923 he was elected to Congress and served until he was defeated by the Hoover landslide in 1928. After his defeat he established a law partnership in Ashland, not far from his birthplace. He remained there until his 1932 race. In 1932 Vinson was elected to serve as the Kentucky-at-large delegate when he led the field of candidates for the nine congressional seats.

During his Congressional career he became a tax authority and served on the House Appropriations and Ways and Means Committees. He was also a member of the House and Senate Committee on tax avoidance and evasion.

As a Congressman Vinson had a one hundred percent labor record. He was a strong advocate of the first bituminous coal bill, the Vinson-Guffey Coal Bill. Since Eastern Kentucky's livelihood was dependent on the bituminous coal industry the bill was of extreme importance to Vinson's district. Vinson was a strong supporter of FDR's New Deal policies. He supported the National Labor Relations Act, the reciprocal trade legislation and the Social Security Act.

In 1937 Vinson was appointed to the bench of the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. He took the oath of office as an Associate Justice of that Court on May 12, 1938. In 1942 he was selected to serve as Chief Justice of the Emergency Court of Appeals to review administrative rulings of the Office of Price Administration. FDR's admiration for Vinson was demonstrated in 1945 when he appointed Vinson as Director of Economic Stabilization and later as a member of the Federal Loan Administration and then Director of War Mobilization (continued)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Kentucky	
COUNTY	Lawrence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		SEP 4 1974

(Number all entries)

Old Jailer's Residence; American Legion Hall

8. Significance (continued)

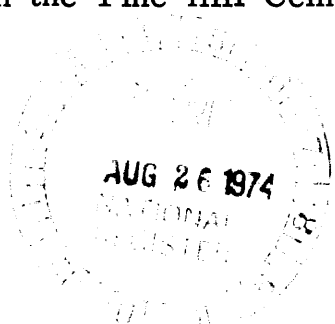
Page 3

and Reconversion. The office of War Mobilization and Reconversion was responsible for formulating the basic plans for converting the economy from a war time to a peace time economy.

In July, 1945, President Harry S. Truman appointed Louisa's favorite son Secretary of the Treasury. His service as Treasury Secretary was cut short when on June 6, 1946 the President appointed him to the United States Supreme Court. The Senate unanimously supported this nomination. For seven years, until his death, Vinson served as thirteenth Chief Justice. Many of the Vinson opinions dealt not with large issues, but with questions of a technical and limited scope which were of the most interest to professionals. The most famous case before his Court was the McLaurin versus Oklahoma State Regents decision which laid the groundwork for the future racial discrimination decisions of the 1950s and 1960s. This case was a landmark decision on racial discrimination in higher education.

Vinson had a very close relationship with President Harry Truman. Truman was said to have enjoyed Vinson's eastern Kentucky humor and wit. Vinson often joked with his friends that he was "born in jail." He told stories of his escapades with the prisoners in his father's jail. "When I was about four or five years old, there was a convict in jail to whom I took a liking and I decided he didn't belong there. He hadn't told me he wanted out, but I made up my mind I'd help him escape. I got hold of a small hatchet and one day when no one was looking I walked up to his cell and slipped it through the bars." Fortunately, the prisoner confessed to Vinson Senior that his little boy had given him a present.

When Vinson died in 1953, he was buried in the Pine Hill Cemetery in Louisa.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Kentucky	
COUNTY	
Lawrence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
SEP 4	1974

(Number all entries)

Old Jailer's Residence; American Legion Hall

9. Major Bibliographical References (continued)

Page 2

Daniels, Jonathan. The Man of Independence. New York:
J. B. Lippincott Co., 1950, p. 300.

Wolfford, George. A History of Lawrence County, 1974.

Hatcher, J. Henry. Fred M. Vinson: Congressman from Kentucky
A Political Biography: 1890-1938. Unpublished Ph. D.
dissertation, University of Cincinnati, 1967.

University of Kentucky, Special Collections, The Vinson Collection.

