

PH0354104

# DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 21 1976

DATE ENTERED OCT 3 1976

## 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

\*\* Fryer House *Wb*

AND/OR COMMON

Same

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

U.S. 27 northeast of Route 609 *a few blocks on  
left with Hwy*

CITY, TOWN

Butler

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

COUNTY

Pendleton

CODE

191

### 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

Mrs. Percy Fryer

STREET & NUMBER

U.S. 27

CITY, TOWN

Butler

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Pendleton County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Falmouth

STATE

Kentucky

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Places in Kentucky

DATE

1970

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

EXCELLENT                       DETERIORATED  
 GOOD                                 RUINS  
 FAIR                                  UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Fryer House is set on a low mound in the midst of an open area amid hills, surrounded by fields and woods. It is located in an area known as Flour Creek, formerly Flour or Flower Town, near a stream that flows into the Licking River. The small town of Butler is about two miles away to the southwest, in a bend on the other side of the river. There is a ruined log house (associated with the Jones family) a mile to the north and there was a similar stone house built by the French family farther north, giving evidence of pervasive early settlement in the area.

Now, however, the once-extensive Fryer property has been reduced. Although farmland still surrounds the house to the north and east, U.S. Route 27 descends from the steep hills in the north and cuts through the original property several hundred yards west of the house. Across it on the west is the very large modern elementary school building (not shown on the U.S.G.S. map), set in the gently rolling land. Route 60 crosses 27 farther south of the homestead. The turn-of-the century Flour Creek Christian Church is a quarter of a mile southeast of the house. Nevertheless, the dwelling, set among old trees, retains its own integrity and is all the more conspicuous as a landmark because of the relative proximity of the new roads.

The house is a compact two-story stone block, three bays wide, but with no window upstairs over the narrow entrance. There is a one-story frame addition to the east, with a recently enclosed porch on its south side, and a more recent frame addition to the north. A simple one-bay front porch replaces an earlier one. Originally, however, there was no porch, only a stone stoop (see photos 1, 2, & 3).

There are huge but squat stone chimneys at the ends of the main block: flush at the west end, half-projecting at the east. They have thin projecting towers at the top. The gray local stone is mainly laid in fairly random courses, and set in yellowish mortar. According to the owner, the inner structure of the two foot-thick walls is held together by yellow mud. There are roughly chiselled, thin alternating quoins at the corners, and the downstairs front windows have widely-splayed jack arches of 9 stones with higher, almost triangular keystones in the center. The upper and rear window arches are not visible. There are single tiny attic lookouts on only one side of the chimneys in the otherwise-solid end-walls. This, combined with the small 6-over-6 pane windows on the front and back, gives the structure a very dense, almost fortified appearance.

The plan is of the hall-and-parlor type, with no central hall. The entrances front and back lead into the larger west room, with a thin partition dividing the rooms. The staircase rises toward the entrance, starting on the west side of the partition but rising

(continued)

# 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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

1811

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Walter Fryer

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Fryer House, built in 1811 of fieldstone, is of architectural interest as an example of stone house construction popular in Kentucky from roughly 1780 to 1820 (Wooley, p. 592). As was characteristic of the type, the house is block-like in form and symmetrical in execution, with small windows on the first and second floors and well-crafted masonry. What may also be termed as prototypical is the personal history of the house, which was built by Walter Fryer, an Englishman who, like thousands of his fellow countrymen, immigrated to America in the late 18th century. By 1810 he had found his way to Pendleton County, on the Licking River in northern Kentucky, and joined the ranks of Kentucky pioneers who participated in what might be termed the second phase of settlement on the frontier. The house remains in the Fryer family, whose members have included several distinguished citizens of the County.

The house is located in Pendleton County (established in 1798), a hilly area but fertile along its bottomlands. Only a few miles of the county's northeast border front on the Ohio River, but this stream and the two forks of the Licking River influenced early settlement. Falmouth, the county seat, is situated on an elevated bottom at the confluence of the main Licking and South Licking forks. The town was founded in 1793 by Virginians and named after Falmouth, Virginia, which, in turn, was named for Falmouth, England (Guide to Kentucky). Until roughly mid-19th century, it was the only city in Pendleton County. The Fryer House is approximately ten miles north of Falmouth, just outside the small community of Butler in an area known as Flour Creek (once known as Flower Town), and is one of the oldest remaining structures in Pendleton County.

Walter Fryer and his Scottish wife Margery first located in Baltimore, Maryland, then later Lexington, Kentucky. In 1810 they moved to Pendleton County and purchased 300 acres that originally had been part of the Mosby grant, one of nine patents in the county. (Falmouth Outlook, August 4, 196 ). Fryer immediately built a log house until the more permanent home could be erected. (The log house, later used as a slave cabin, was torn down several years ago.)

(continued)

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

'As I Remember Butler.' Butler: Butler Woman's Club, 1975.

"Brief History of the County of Pendleton and His County Seat," on file at Kentucky Historical Society.

(continued)

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5 acres

Latitude-  $38^{\circ} 47' 37''$

UTM REFERENCES

Longitude-  $84^{\circ} 21' 09''$

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B	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
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Walter E. Langsam, Architectural Historian, and Gloria Mills, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

June 1976

STREET & NUMBER

104 Bridge Street

TELEPHONE

(502) 564-3741

CITY OR TOWN

Frankfort

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.

~~PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE~~ SIGNATURE

*Edna W. Melton*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 6/7/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Clayton W. Kistner*

DATE 10/8/76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 10/7/76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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Fryer House

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on the east side. The upstairs arrangement is similar to that below.

Through the years there have been some alterations to the interior, such as the plain mantels of the larger now closed fireplace openings, but the overall layout and structural features are essentially intact. The random-width floor boards on square joists are visible from the cellar below, but covered in the first floor. The central partition has been repaneled, but the flat boards on the ceilings, painted white but never papered or plastered, are said to be original. Plain chair-railing remains, and the very deep window frames are also plain. There is a handsome built-in cupboard with beaded inner edges beside the west main fireplace. Modern heating and electricity have been installed, but most of the plumbing has been confined to the additions.

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In 1811 the construction of the stone house was begun according to contract and by 1813 was completed. One source states the builder as Abraham Vastine, a "housejoiner" (Falmouth Outlook, April 5, 1940, p. 3). Another lists a man by the name of Williams as the mason (Falmouth Outlook, August, 196 ).

The Fryer family have been respected members of the Butler community since their entry into the county. Particularly well known was Judge L. P. Fryer, uncle of former owner of the Fryer homestead, Edward Percy Fryer, himself a well-known farmer and dairyman. Judge Fryer (1867-1942) was Pendleton County Attorney in the 1890s. In 1902 he was elected Commonwealth Attorney of the 18th district and served for eighteen consecutive years. His brother, Calvin Fryer (1860-1929), father of Percy and resident of the house, was for sixteen years Master Commissioner of Pendleton County, one of the most important political posts in the county.

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1874, p. 675.

Falmouth Outlook. April 5, 1940 p. 3; August 4, 196 .

Guide to Kentucky, Bicentennial 1974-1976. Shelbyville: Landmark Community  
Newspapers, Inc., 1974.

Meyer, Shelby L., Sr. "Pendleton County Cemeteries," on file at Kentucky  
Historical Society.

Woolery, Mrs. Louis A. "Some Old Homes of Pendleton," 1940, on file at the  
Kentucky Historical Society.

Wooley, Carolyn. "Kentucky's Early Stone Houses." The Magazine Antiques (March 1974),  
pp. 592-602.