

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only
received **SEP 27 1982**
date entered

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 Benjamin Piatt, Fowler House

and/or common The Old Stone House

2. Location

street & number ~~U.S. 42~~ North of Union on US 40 not for publication

city, town Union vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Kentucky code 021 county Boone code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

4. Owner of Property

name Dr. Wilbur Houston

street & number Route # 1, Box 503

city, town Union vicinity of state Kentucky 41091

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Boone County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Burlington state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

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

Situated near the small town of Union, the Benjamin Piatt Fowler House is a two-story, single-pile rectangular building of dressed limestone construction. The facade consists of five bays with a center entrance which is enhanced by a one-story, one-bay modillioned portico supported by two Ionic Order columns. All bays have limestone jackarches, and windows are 6/6 pane with limestone sills. A gable roof with boxed cornice with returns, and interior gable-end chimneys complete the structure. The walls are twenty-two inches thick with an endless chain laid in the mortar at each story.

The interior of the dwelling remains intact. The entrance hall is flanked by single rooms, which are of equal size, with fireplaces with plain mantels centered in the north and south walls. Both rooms retain the original chairrailing and wall presses. Interior door and window trim is plain with no embellishments. A two-run open stairway in the entrance hall leads to the second floor.

Structurally the house has been altered by a one-story limestone wing on the east gable end which was built ca.1930. In addition, the one-story portico over the facade entrance was added at the same time.

Associated with the house is a one-story limestone smokehouse constructed at the same time as the dwelling and approximately twentyfeet from the east end of the house.

Situated on a rise overlooking the highway from the front and Fowler Creek from the rear, the Fowler House is in an excellent state of repair. Although one hundred sixty-five years of age, the house has suffered no structural problems or deterioration.

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 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 1817-1819 **Builder/Architect** Benjamin Fowler, Builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Benjamin Piatt Fowler House is significant for its historical associations with the development of Boone County. The house is architecturally significant as one of nine stone houses documented in the county, and is the only one not situated on the Ohio River. The Fowler House is an outstanding example of stone masonry and significant for its detail and craftsmanship.

Born in Virginia, Benjamin Piatt Fowler was an early settler in Boone County which was established in 1798, the thirtieth county created in Kentucky. In 1817 he constructed his limestone house on land belonging to his father, Jacob Fowler. The limestone was quarried from a nearby creek which flows behind the house, and the creek was named after his family.

In 1821 Fowler purchased a two hundred fifty-eight acre tract of land, which included the stone house from his father for five hundred dollars. This land was part of a twenty-four hundred acre tract his father had purchased from a fifteen thousand acre land grant surveyed for Willouby Tibbs.

Primarily depending on the land for his livelihood, Fowler later built the Boone House also situated near Union, and operated a hotel there.

After Benjamin Fowler's death, the stone house and farm was inherited by his eldest son, Edward Fowler, who was superintendent and keeper of the poor farm in Boone County from 1856 to 1859. From 1861 to 1865 he was a deputy sheriff under W. H. Baker, and in 1866 he was elected Boone County Tax Assessor and served in this capacity until his death.

9. Major Bibliographical References

An Atlas of Boone, Kenton & Campbell Counties, Kentucky. Philadelphia: D.J. Lake & Co., 1883.
Boone County Deed Books C, E & G.
Boone County Tax Assessment Records, 1825-1846.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property 2 acres

Quadrangle name Union

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6	7	0	0	8	8	0	4	3	1	4	7	0	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Situated in a rural environment and surrounded by open fields, the Fowler House sets on a rise about 170' from U.S. Highway 42. Beginning at the intersection of
(continued)

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 William Gus Johnson, Senior Historian

organization Kentucky Heritage Council

date August 1982

street & number Capital Plaza Tower

telephone 502/564-7005

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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Mary Ann Spivey

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date Sept. 17, 1982

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 10/29/82

for Delores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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Boone County, Kentucky
Continuation sheet Benjamin Piatt Fowler House Item number 9 Page 2

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Boone County, Kentucky

Continuation sheet Benjamin Piatt Fowler House Item number 10

Page 6

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the farm lane with U.S. 42 proceed 400' in a northward direction along the frontage with U.S. 42, thence 200' in an eastward direction, thence 400' in a southward direction to the farm lane, and thence 200' in a westward direction on the farm lane to its intersection with U.S. 42.

The boundary is drawn to include the house, smokehouse and farm lane leading up to the house.

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