NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM COMMENT Lancaster FOR NP3 USE ONLY ENTY DATE (Type all entries - complete applicable sections) Entry Date FOR NP3 USE ONLY ENTY DATE 2. NAME COMMON: NUMPERSONAL AND/OR HISTORIC: NUMPERSONAL ENTY DATE Robert Fulton Birthplace 2. COCKTON STATE Robert Fulton Birthplace 2. COCKTON STATE Robert Fulton Birthplace 2. COCKTON STATE COMMENSIONAL DISTRICT: Sisteent Cook County 3. CLASSFICATION COMMENSIONAL DISTRICT: Sisteent Cook County Sisteent Cook County 3. CLASSFICATION COMMENSIONAL DISTRICT: Sisteent Cook County Sisteent Cook County 3. CLASSFICATION COMMENSION Consection Status Poblic Procession Consection Status ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Sisteent Cook County 3. CLASSFICATION Commental Status Poblic Procession Consection Status ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Sisteent District Cook County ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Sisteent District District Cook County ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Sisteent District District District District Cook County Counter Sisteent Distric	·			STATES	AISTORIC LAN DEPARTMENT OF IONAL PARK SERV	THE INTERIOR	THEME	Pennsylvania	orkScien	.ce	and
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections) It Matter is a complete applicable sections) Robert Fulton Birthplace AND/OR HETORIC Robert Fulton Birthplace 2 Cochion Street AND NUMBER: RD \$1, 7.5 miles South of Quarryville on US Rtc. 222 CITY OR TOWN: Contentsmont, District: Street AND NUMBER: RD \$1, 7.5 miles South of Quarryville on US Rtc. 222 CITY OR TOWN: Contentsmont, District: Street AND NUMBER: RD \$1, 7.5 miles South of Quarryville on US Rtc. 222 CONTENT: Contentsmont, District: Street AND NUMBER: RD \$1, 7.5 miles South of Quarryville on US Rtc. 222 Contentsmont, District: Street AND NUMBER: RD \$1, 7.5 miles South of Quarryville on US Rtc. 222 Contentsmont, District: Content on a Mine as A							CES				l
Image: Common: Robert Fulton Birthplace AMD/OR HISTORIC: Robert Fulton Birthplace Street AND NUMBER: RD #1, 7.5 miles South of Quarryville on US Rtc. 222 Street AND NUMBER: RD #1, 7.5 miles South of Quarryville on US Rtc. 222 Street AND NUMBER: RD #1, 7.5 miles South of Quarryville on US Rtc. 222 Street AND NUMBER: RD #1, 7.5 miles South of Quarryville on US Rtc. 222 Street AND NUMBER: RD #1, 7.5 miles South of Quarryville on US Rtc. 222 Common: Commonstance Street AND NUMBER: RD #1, 7.5 miles South of Quarryville on US Rtc. 222 Common: Commonstance Commonstance Commonstance Commonstance Commonstance Commercial Muscurve Preservation work Munearized Commercial Industrial Preservation work Wurservicted Commercial Multing Preservation work Wurservicted Cownere or Brodestr			(Type all	entries	- complete app	licable section	ns)	ENTRY DATE			
Robert Fulton Birthplace Robert Fulton Birthplace 2 CONTON: State: National State: RD #1, 7.5 miles South of Quarryville on US Rte. 222 State: National State: RD #1, 7.5 miles South of Quarryville on US Rte. 222 State: National State: RD #1, 7.5 miles South of Quarryville on US Rte. 222 State: Sixteenth State: Sixteenth State: Sixteenth Construction Colspan="2">Construction Colspan="2">Constructin Colspan="2">Conston Colspan="2" <		1.						1 <u>.</u>			I
2. LOCATION STREET AND NUMBER: RD #1, 7.5 miles South of Quarryville on US Rte. 222 CITY OR TOWN: Quarryville STATE Pensylvania 42 Lancaster 71 Stateenth Core Covertion State State State Core Covertion State State State Core Covertion State Core Covertion State Core Covertion State Core Covertion State Covertion State State State State State Covertion				Rober	rt Fulton Bi	rthplace					
STREET ANG NUMBER: RD #1, 7.5 miles South of Quarryville on US REC. 222 City OR TOWN: Quarryville STATE Quarryville STATE Quarryville Stateenth State CATEGORY (Check One) District M Building Phile Public Acquisition: District M Building Phile Preservation work Winter M Building Phile Preservation work Winter M Building Phile Preservation work Minetry Preservation work Commercial District M Building Private Residence Other (Specify) Bath Preservation work Geoernment Perivate Residence Other (Specify) Box 1026 City on Town: Box 1026 City on Town: Box 1026 City on Town: Bacartical and Museum Commission Street AND NUM				Rober	<u>rt Fulton Bi</u>	rthplace					
CITY OR TOWN: CITY O		<u> </u>	STREET AND NUMBER	• RD #'	1 7 5 mi 1	es South o	F Augrery	villo on US Pto	222	<u> </u>	
Quarryville Sixteenth BTATE CONE CASSIFICATION COUNTY: CATEGORY OWNERSHIP STATUS ACCESSIBLE CATEGORY OWNERSHIP STATUS ACCESSIBLE CATEGORY OWNERSHIP STATUS TO THE PUBLIC Construction Building State State State State Object District Bath Being Considered District Bath Commercial Industrial Commercial Industrial Commercial Industrial Box 1026 State Contender Wiltery Restricted Tonsportation Commercial Industrial Box 1026 State City on towns Harrisburg Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission State Antecorder of Deeds Street Antecorder of Deeds Street Coort Counthouse Coort City on town		;			-, /. 5 mil		- 0		• ~~~		
STATE CODE COUNTY: CODE STATE Pennsylvania 42 Lancaster 71 STATE CATEGORY OWNERSHIP STATUS ACCESSIBLE OTHERSON OWNERSHIP STATUS ACCESSIBLE District Building Public Public Acquisition: Cocupied Yes: Site Structure Private In Process Unoccupied Yes: Commercial Industrial Being Considered Preservation work Wonservice Commercial Industrial Private Residence Other (Specify) Wonservice Educational Multary Religious Entertainment Museum Scientific STREET AND NUMBER: Pennsylvania Harrisburg Private Residence Other (Specify) STREET AND NUMBER: Pennsylvania Harrisburg STATE: Coort Toort STREET AND NUMBER: Lancaster Pennsylvania Harrisburg State: Coort STREET AND NUMBER: Lancaster Pennsylvania Harrisburg State: Coort Street AND NUMBER			CITY OR TOWN:					_			
Pennsylvania 42 Lancaster 71 S: CLASSIFICATION CATEORY (Check One) OWNERSHIP STATUS ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC District & Building Public Public Acquisition: Occupied Restricted District & Building Public Public Acquisition: Occupied Restricted District & Building Power Power Process Vest Object Both Process Discricted Restricted District Querestricted Process Process No Agricultural Government Process Process Other (Specify) Educational Industrial Private Residence Other (Specify) Educational Military Religious Correct (Specify) Street AND NUMBER: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Top Street AND NUMBER: Lancaster Pennsylvania 42 City OR TOWN: Lancaster Pennsylvania 42 City OR TOWN: Lancaster Pennsylvania 42 City OR TOWN: Eucot Eucot Eucot City OR TOWN: Fulton Birthplace Coore Pennsylvania DepositroRY FOR SUAVEY: RECOR			STATE	Quari	ryville	CODE		nth	Cor		
CATEGORY (Check One) OWNERSHIP STATUS ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC District M Building Public Acquisition: District No Preservation work in Process Preservation work in progress Restricted Workswitched in progress District M Boilding Private Boin Point In Process Being Considered Uncescujied Preservation work in progress Restricted No PRESENT USE (Check One or More an Appropriate) Agricultural Government Pork Transportation Commercial Industrial Private Residence Other (Specify) Entertainment Museum Scientific M OWNER OF PROPERTY OWNER OF PROPERTY OWNER OF PROPERTY OWNER REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Recorder of Deeds STREET AND NUMBER: Lancaster M State Counthrouse, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Recorder of Deeds Country ON TOWN: Country ON TOWN: Lancaster Country Counthouse City OR TOWN: Country FOR SURVEY: Intile OF SURVEY: Depository FOR SURVEY: NTHE OF SURVEY: Fulton Birthplace DATE OF SURVEY: DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission STREET AND NUMBER: DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY: RECORDS: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission				Penns	sylvania		Lancas	ter			
Image: Check One) OWNERSHIP STATUS TO THE PUBLIC Image: Check One of More as Appropriate) District MS Building MS Public Public Acquisition: Cocupied Yes: Image: Site image:		3.	CLASSIFICATION						1		
District Studiding Structure Public Publi						OWNERSHIP		STATUS	1		
PRESENT USE (Check One or Mice as Appropriate) Agricultural Government Agricultural Government Commercial Industrial Private Residence Other (Specify) Educational Military Religious	_	1	Site Stru		Private	🗌 In Proc	ess	 Unoccupied Preservation work 	Restricted	4	
Commercial Industrial Private Residence Other (Specify) Commercial Industrial Private Residence Other (Specify) Educational Militory Religious Monteners Museum Scientific Monteners Monteners Monteners Museum Scientific Image: Scientific Museum Box 1026 City on town: State: Recorder of Deeds State: Street and number: Recorder of Deeds Lancaster Pennsylvania 422 State City on town: State Court of survey: Fulton Birthplace Date of survey: Fulton Birthplace Date of survey: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Street and number: Pennsylvania Date of survey: Fulton Birthplace Date of survey: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Street and number: Box 1026 City or town: State Court of survey: State: Cool Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission <th>υ</th> <th></th> <th>PRESENT USE (Check</th> <th>One or Me</th> <th>ore as Appropriate)</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th>L</th> <th></th> <th></th>	υ		PRESENT USE (Check	One or Me	ore as Appropriate)				L		
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY OWNER'S NAME: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Box 1026 City or town: Harrisburg Street AND NUMBER: Box 1026 City or town: Harrisburg Pennsylvania 4.2 Street AND NUMBER: Harrisburg Pennsylvania 4.2 Street AND NUMBER: Lancaster County Courthouse City or town: Lancaster Pennsylvania 4.2 Street AND NUMBER: Lancaster Courthouse City or town: Lancaster Pennsylvania 4.2 Box 1026 City or town: Box 1026 City or town: Box 1026 City or town:		:	Commercial Educational	☐ Ind ☐ Mil	ustrial (itary] Private Reside] Religious	nc e		Comments	_	
OWNER'S NAME: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Image: Street and Number: Box 1026 City or town: Harrisburg Street and Number: Pennsylvania Coc Ation OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION courthouse, Recistry of Deeds, etc: Recorder of Deeds Street and Number: Lancaster Lancaster Pennsylvania 42 Street and Number: Lancaster Pennsylvania Street and Number: Lancaster Pennsylvania 42 Street and Number: Lancaster Pennsylvania 42 Fulton Birthplace Date of Survey: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Street and Number: Box 1026 City or town:		4.			seum] Scientific					1
Image: Street and NUMBER: Box 1026 Image: Street and NUMBER: State: Image: Street and NUMBER: Federal Image: Street and NUMBER: State: Image: Street and NUMBER: Image: State Image: State Image: State <th>_</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th>sylvania His</th> <th>torical and</th> <th>l Museum</th> <th>Commission</th> <th></th> <th>Per</th> <th>STA</th>	_				sylvania His	torical and	l Museum	Commission		Per	STA
3 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Recorder of Deeds Recorder of Deeds Street and number: Lancaster County Courthouse STATE CITY OR TOWN: STATE CITY OR TOWN: STATE CODE Fulton Birthplace Date of survey: 1968 Depository For survey records: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Street and number: Box 1026 City or town: STATE:			STREET AND NUMBER	:							Ē
3 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Recorder of Deeds Recorder of Deeds Street and number: Lancaster County Courthouse STATE CITY OR TOWN: STATE CITY OR TOWN: STATE CODE Fulton Birthplace Date of survey: 1968 Depository For survey records: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Street and number: Box 1026 City or town: STATE:			CITY OR TOWN:	DOX			STATE		CODE	175	4
3 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Recorder of Deeds Recorder of Deeds Street and number: Lancaster County Courthouse STATE CITY OR TOWN: STATE CITY OR TOWN: STATE CODE Fulton Birthplace Date of survey: 1968 Depository For survey records: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Street and number: Box 1026 City or town: STATE:					_		Penns	sylvania	42	ni.	
Recorder of Deeds STREET AND NUMBER: Lancaster County Courthouse CITY OR TOWN: STATE CODE CITY OR TOWN: STATE CODE		5.								ļ	
CITY OR TOWN: STATE CODE CODE Lancaster Pennsylvania 42 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS TITLE OF SURVEY: 42 TITLE OF SURVEY: Fulton Birthplace 77 DATE OF SURVEY: 1968 Federal Store DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission 77 STREET AND NUMBER: Box 1026 STATE: CODE			COORTHOUSE, REGIST			s				Lar	C O C
CITY OR TOWN: STATE CODE CODE Lancaster Pennsylvania 42 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS TITLE OF SURVEY: 42 TITLE OF SURVEY: Fulton Birthplace 77 DATE OF SURVEY: 1968 Federal Store DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission 77 STREET AND NUMBER: Box 1026 STATE: CODE			STREET AND NUMBER							lca	NTY
Lancaster Pennsylvania 42 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS TITLE OF SURVEY: 1000000000000000000000000000000000000									1.4		
TITLE OF SURVEY: Fulton Birthplace TT DATE OF SURVEY: 1968 Federal State County County Cocal DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission TT TT STREET AND NUMBER: Box 1026 STATE: CODE CODE			ÇÎTY OR TOWN:	Lanca	aster			sylvania		ůř.	
Fulton Birthplace 77 DATE OF SURVEY: 1968 Federal State County X Local DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission 78 78 STREET AND NUMBER: Box 1026 STATE: CODE 74		6.	REPRESENTATION IN	EXIST			l		I		
STREET AND NUMBER: Box 1026 CITY OR TOWN: CODE			TITLE OF SURVEY:								TT Z
STREET AND NUMBER: Box 1026 CITY OR TOWN: CODE			DATE OF SURVEY:		on Birthplac		C State	County N	Local	┝	R V O
STREET AND NUMBER: Box 1026 CITY OR TOWN: CODE					CORDS:						
Box 1026					sylvania Hist	torical and	<u>Museum</u>	Commission			U Sc
			STREET AND NUMBER	:							
			CITY OR TOWN:	ROX 1	1020		STATE:		CODE		NL
				Harri	lsburg						

7.	DESCRIPTION								
					(Chec	k One)			
	CONDITION	🗙 Excellent	🗌 Good	🗌 Fair	Dete	eriorated	🗌 Ruins	Unexposed	
	CONDITION		(Check Or	те)			(Che	ck One)	
		🗙 Alte	red	Unaltered			Moved	🔀 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 mordern 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 fourlight 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 gableend. 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 Townshiproad, 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.

ERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	🗶 18th Century	20th Century
15th Century	17th Century	🗙 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicab	le and Known) 1765-18	15	
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che	eck One or More as Appropri	ate)	
Abor iginal	Education	Political	🔲 Urban Planning
Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
🔲 Historic	Industry	losophy	
Agriculture	🔀 Invention	Science	
Architecture	Landscape	Sculpture	
🔀 Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
Commerce	Literature	itarian	
Communications	Military	Theater	
Conservation	Music	X Transportation	

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 <u>Clermont</u>, 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 <u>Clermont</u>, 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 intriqued 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.

1000									
9.	MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES								
	H. W. Dickinson, Robert Fulton,	Engin	eer and Ar	tist, His	Life and Work	us,			
	(London, 1913). Ellis and Evans, <u>History of Lancaster County</u> , (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 Full	ton an	d the 'Cle	rmont'," D	ictionary of				
	American Biography, (New York Robert Thurston, <u>Robert Fulton</u> ,				(NI V 1901	、			
_		1113 13		s Resurcs,	(1. 1., 1091	.)•			
10	GEOGRAPHICAL DATA								
	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATE DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROP				POINT OF A PROPI				
			R	OF LESS TH	AN TEN ÁCRES				
	CORNER LATITUDE LONGITUD Degrees Minutes Seconds Degrees Minutes			TUDE nutes Seconds	LONGITUD Degrees Minutes				
	NW UTM A. 18.400740.4406590	"	o	, seconds	o , ,	seconds "			
	NE B. 18.400580.4406670 ,	"							
	SE C. 18.400610.4406410 · SW D. 18.400760.4406440 ·	-							
	APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPER		pproximate	lv lacre	<u></u>		S		
	LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIE	S OVERL	APPING STATE	OR COUNTY BO	UNDARIES		m		
	STATE:	CODE	COUNTY			CODE	m		
	STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:		·	CODE	•••		
							- z		
	STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:			CODE	S		
	STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:			CODE			
							70		
D	FORM PREPARED BY						C		
	Richard E. Greenwood, Historian,	Landr	nark Roview	Tack Ford			0		
	ORGANIZATION	Danar			DATE				
	Historic Sites Survey, Landmark	Review	v Project	Landmark					
	street and number: 1100 L Street NW.			Designated	: JAN 29.	1964	0		
Í	CITY OR TOWN:		STATE	Darra 10	date	CODE	Z		
	Washington		D.C.	Boundary ((1) Timer	1	S		
12	STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION				A VERIFICACIÓN				
				IONAL HIST LANDMARKS)	Jan Jan 14,	(477)			
	As the designated State Liaison Officer for the		I hereby cert						
	tional Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Publi 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inc		National Re						
	in the National Register and certify that it has								
	evaluated according to the criteria and procedu								
	forth by the National Park Service. The recomm	mended	Director, Offic	ce of Archeology	and Historic Preserv	ation			
IG	Ievel of significance of this nomination is: National			V	, 7		H		
TOR				11.0			(MATIONAL HIST LANDMARES)		
IIS	2 Name		Date	0/2-0/	¥		h		
	G Name		ATTEST:	• /	l		HI C		
LANDIE							HISTORIC NRKS)		
TI(Title						RIC		
NATIONAL HISTORI			K	eeper of The N	ational Register)			
	Date		Date						

GPO 931.894

-----<u>|</u>|____

Form	10-300a
(July	1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

TATE	
Pennsylvania	
OUNTY	
Lancaster	
FOR NPS USE ONL	Y
ENTRY NUMBER	DAT

(Number all entries)

8. Statement of Significance: (1)

Robert Fulton Birthplace

с

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 <u>Nautilus</u>, which he developed while in France during the European wars of the late eighteenth century. Encouraged by the French government, Fulton launched the <u>Nautilus</u> 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 <u>Clermont</u> 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, <u>Robert Fulton and the "Clermont</u>" (New York, 1909), 234-35.

