

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New York	
COUNTY: Erie	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Millard Fillmore House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Millard Fillmore House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
24 Shearer Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
East Aurora

STATE: **New York** CODE: COUNTY: **Erie** CODE:

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>artist's studio</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. and Mrs. Irving Price

STREET AND NUMBER:
36 Shearer Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: **East Aurora** STATE: **New York** CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Erie County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Franklin Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Buffalo** STATE: **New York** CODE:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Aurora's Architectural Heritage

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Aurora Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
40 South Grove Street

CITY OR TOWN: **East Aurora** STATE: **New York** CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

- Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

- Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

- Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Millard Fillmore built this simple clapboard one-and-one-half-story house in 1826, and today, despite its having been moved and altered, it retains most of the original form, fabric, and structure. Fillmore constructed this house on Main Street when he was first married, and the Fillmores lived here until they moved to Buffalo in 1830. His law office was across the street.

In 1915 the house was moved farther back on its lot on Main Street to make room for a movie house. For a long time it was abandoned and deteriorating. In 1930 the present owners moved the front one-and-one-half-story section to 24 Shearer Street, about 1 mile away, and renovated it. They replaced earlier spindle-type columns with the present classic-type columns and constructed additions to the rear of the original section.

They made an artist's studio of the front section by removing the ceiling and joists and adding a large window on the north facade and a small skylight through the roof. They also removed the fireplace and chimney from the north side and built new ones on the south end. While the ceiling joists have been removed, the notched perimeter support beam remains exposed. Of the original Fillmore House, they retained the floorboards, the plain woodwork interior trim, and the old windows, except the one enlarged as a side skylight.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input 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)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginol | <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/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itorian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This simple one-and-one-half-story frame and clapboard house in East Aurora is the only remaining residence of Millard Fillmore, except for the White House. Today the house is a private home and artist's studio and retains much of the original form and structure, although it has been moved and altered.

Fillmore built this house in 1826 and resided here until 1830 when he moved to Buffalo. Preferring a small town practice over a partnership in Buffalo, he moved to East Aurora after passing the bar examination in 1823 and became the town's only attorney. Here he established a large practice which soon spread through western New York. Fillmore quickly became a prominent citizen of East Aurora and in 1828 he was elected to the State legislature.

Fillmore was the 13th President of the United States. Although he assumed the Presidency accidentally, upon the death of Zachary Taylor in July 1850, nevertheless, he exemplifies the men who won national elections in the antebellum years, when party rivalries and sectional conflicts demanded moderate, compromising figures. In 1850 he suitably met the Nation's need for a conservative executive who could sustain the precarious balance of the sections at a critical juncture of the slavery fight.

The most notable domestic achievement during his administration was the Compromise of 1850, achieved by his cooperation in passing the omnibus resolutions proposed by Clay, which resulted in postponing civil war for a decade. The administration which Fillmore assembled, of men representing "national" interests, strictly enforced the Compromise, including the Fugitive Slave Act. Most Americans welcomed the Compromise, put the slavery question aside for a time, and turned to other things. The respite was conducive to a great surge of economic development and prosperity and the peace lasted through Fillmore's administration.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Early Life of Millard Fillmore: A Personal Reminiscence
Buffalo; The Salisburg Club, 1958.

Rayback, Robert J. Millard Fillmore, Biography of a President
New York; Henry Stewart, Inc., 1959.

Scarry, Robert J. Millard Fillmore: Thirteenth President
Moravia, New York, 1970.

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	0 . "	0 . "		42 0 46 . 06 .	78 0 37 . 21 .	
NE	0 . "	0 . "				
SE	0 . "	0 . "				
SW	0 . "	0 . "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 1 acre

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

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Blanche Higgins, Research Assistant, with assistance of Benjamin Levy, Senior Historian

ORGANIZATION: Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service DATE: 10/4/73

STREET AND NUMBER: 1100 L Street NW

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: _____

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 _____

Title _____

Date _____

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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8. Significance (page 1)

Millard Fillmore House

Biography

Millard Fillmore was born in a log cabin to a pioneer family in Cayuga County, New York, January 7, 1800. As a youth on the frontier, he worked on his father's farm, was employed as a clothier-dresser's apprentice, and attended school irregularly. At 18 he began to read law with a country judge. After a year he moved to East Aurora, New York, with his family and there taught school, continued to study law, and was finally admitted to the Erie County bar in Buffalo in 1823.

He returned to East Aurora to practice and, as the area's only lawyer, quickly became a very prominent citizen. In 1828, supported by the editor, Thurlow Weed, he was elected to the New York Legislature as an Antimason. For the next 20 years he was associated with Weed in Antimason and Whig politics and in operating the political machine of western New York. In 1830 he moved to Buffalo where he maintained his law practice and permanent residence for the rest of his life. Again in 1829 and 1830 he was elected to the State legislature as he rose in the Antimason Party.

In 1832 he entered the United State House of Representatives where he served four consecutive terms. As chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, he engineered passage of a stringent protective tariff in 1842. In 1844 he was defeated in a race for the governorship. In 1847 he was elected State comptroller, but he resigned after a year to assume the Vice Presidency.

At the Whig convention of 1848, Zachary Taylor won the nomination with a stampede vote on the fourth ballot. Delegates of the free States were outraged at the choice of a slaveholder. Then John A. Collier, temporary chairman, seized the moment, sympathized with the group of Clay supporters, and offered a surprise compromise candidate--Millard Fillmore--and the delegates quickly approved.

When the new administration took office, Congress was already in the midst of a bitter debate over the admission of California and the organization of the New Mexico and Utah Territories. At issue was the position of slavery in these territories. Henry Clay devised a package of resolutions, an omnibus bill, which could be approved piecemeal and, in so doing, end in a compromise of sectional interests. In essence the compromise allowed for (a) the admission of California as a free State; (b) the organization of New Mexico and Utah without reference to slavery; (c) a new and more stringent fugitive slave law; (d) abolition of the slave trade in the District of Columbia, and (e) settlement of the Texas-New Mexico boundary dispute and Federal assumption of the Texas debt.

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8. Significance (page 2)

Millard Fillmore House

Fillmore, as Vice President, presided over the dispute in the Senate. However, President Taylor shared no counsel with Fillmore and kept him isolated from the White House debates. Taylor opposed the omnibus bill and thus invited attack from many quarters. Extremists were calling for his impeachment and he retaliated with threats of reorganizing the Cabinet. In the midst of the confrontation, the welcomed July 4 recess intervened. At a holiday ceremony Taylor was stricken ill with what the doctors called "cholera morbus." He died July 9, leaving as President the shocked and rather ill-prepared Fillmore.

Fillmore filled his cabinet with all new people--moderate, "national" men who would reflect his desire for sectional peace--Daniel Webster as Secretary of State, John J. Crittenden as Attorney General, William Alexander Graham as Secretary of the Navy, Thomas Corwin as Secretary of the Treasury, and Alexander H. H. Stuart as Secretary of the Interior.

Fillmore opened the way to a peaceful solution to the Congressional debate by announcing that he would approve any constitutional measure passed by Congress. By the end of 10 weeks he had signed all the Compromise measures, including the controversial Fugitive Slave Act. Then he carried his effort for sectional peace to the homefront, traveling throughout the country. He made plain that he would enforce the compromise measures and sent military reinforcements into Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and South Carolina to uphold the laws. But he tried to redirect the attention of Americans by emphasizing that preservation of the Union would give economic forces of transportation, commerce and industry an opportunity to develop.

Gatherings throughout the country celebrated passage of the 1850 Compromise and, although extremists in the North and South still agitated, the majority of people turned with relief to other interests. Millard Fillmore and his Cabinet sought to keep their attention there. The remainder of Fillmore's administration was a period of growth and prosperity marked by the opening of large railroad lines, settlement on the prairies, the organization of unions, Perry's expedition to Japan, concerts of Jenny Lind, growing popularity of baseball, and the beginning of the America's cup races.

Southern Whigs supported Fillmore for re-election in 1852. However, at the convention, the National Party split and finally nominated Winfield Scott. The Know-Nothing Party nominated him for President in 1856 but without success.

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8. Significance (page 3)

Millard Fillmore House

Fillmore returned to Buffalo to become that city's most prominent citizen. He was the first chancellor of the University of Buffalo, which he helped to organize. He was also the first president of the Buffalo Historical Society and a founder of the Buffalo General Hospital. During the Civil War, he organized and commanded a home guard militia unit of middle-aged men, the Union Continentals, whose chief purpose was to escort departing regiments and give them a patriotic sendoff at the train station. He continued his very active interest in civil affairs until his death on March 8, 1874.