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: Ohio
COUNTY: Jefferson
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Benjamin Lundy House; Warren House

AND/OR HISTORIC: Benjamin Lundy House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Union and Third Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Mt. Pleasant

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

STATE: Ohio — CODE:

COUNTY: Jefferson — CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building	☐ Public	Public Acquisition:	☒ Occupied	Yes:
☐ Site ☐ Structure	☒ Private	☐ In Process	☐ Unoccupied	☐ Restricted
☐ Object	☐ Both	☐ Being Considered	☐ Preservation work in progress	☐ Unrestricted
				☒ No

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☒ Private Residence	☐ Other *(Specify)*	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mr. and Mrs. Martin Warren

STREET AND NUMBER: Union and Third Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Mt. Pleasant

STATE: Ohio — CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Steubenville

STATE: Ohio — CODE:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: none

DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: — CODE:

STATE:
COUNTY:
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☐ Good	☒ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)		(Check One)			
	☐ Altered	☒ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(if known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Benjamin Lundy House at Union and Third Streets in Mt. Pleasant, Ohio, is a two-and-one-half-story rectangular brick building. The structure is a double block, each a separate house joined by a common wall and connected by an interior door. The left, or southeast block, is built several steps up from the right block. A clapboard annex, 2 bays wide, is attached to the southeast wall of the left block and served as a Quaker-operated free labor store, at which one could purchase products not made by slave labor. The double block has inside end chimneys.

The left block is three bays wide. The windows are flat arched in brick with double-hung sash, 12 lights over 12 on the lower floor and 8 over 8 on the upper floor. Entry is through a modern door which opens beneath a simple rectangular fanlight into a right side hall with straight stairway. To the left are two rooms, front and back, and a third room behind the stairway which has been made into a bathroom.

The lower or right-hand block is two bays wide. The windows have stone lintels and double-hung sash, mostly one over one lights. The block is entered through a new door under a simple transom. Several steps up to the left of the entrance is an enclosed staircase with straight stairs to the second floor. The two rooms of the main block on the first floor are front and back with a lean-to addition which serves as kitchen and laundry with porch. The second floor plans of both blocks are similar to the first floor.

There is some disagreement as to which side of the double house Lundy occupied. It is generally held to be the southeast or upper block, although it may bave been both.

The Lundy home is located within a currently proposed historic district, pending nomination by the State of Ohio to the National Register. The district is an attractive ensemble of pre-Civil War houses and the very important Quaker Meeting House which is owned and operated by the State. Together with the Free Labor Store, the Lundy House is an essential part of a community operated as a center for Quaker antislavery activity and a regional capital for Quakerism in general.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. 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)* 1820-21

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Aboriginal	☐ Education	☒ Political	☐ Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	☐ Engineering	☐ Religion/Philosophy	☐ Other *(Specify)*
☐ Historic	☐ Industry		
☐ Agriculture	☐ Invention	☐ Science	
☐ Architecture	☐ Landscape Architecture	☐ Sculpture	
☐ Art		☒ Social/Humanitarian	
☐ Commerce	☐ Literature		
☐ Communications	☐ Military	☐ Theater	
☐ Conservation	☐ Music	☐ Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This private two-and-one-half-story brick rowhouse (not opened to the public) was occupied by the abolitionist Benjamin Lundy after he moved from nearby St. Clairsville in 1820. During a nearly year-long stay here, he established his newspaper the Genius of Universal Emancipation, one of the germinal chronicles of the antislavery movement in America. Possibly the most important figure in antislavery reform in the decade before 1830, Benjamin Lundy was instrumental in stimulating organized protest societies and developing practical methods for spreading abolitionist ideas. The achievements of later antislavery leaders may overshadow his work, but Benjamin Lundy is recognized for persistent efforts towards the establishment of an actual abolitionist movement. Albert Bushnell Hart writes, "To him must always be ascribed the credit of being the first abolitionist journalist and the first link in a chain of impulse to which nearly all other abolitionists traced their beginnings."[1]

Lundy is generally noted for having directed the fervor of William Lloyd Garrison, but, more importantly, he encouraged organized activity at the grassroots level. He sold a prospering saddlery business in 1819, often left family and home behind him, and began a life of writing and speaking for the abolitionist cause. By 1828 Benjamin Lundy had traveled on foot or horseback, through 19 of the 24 States. Wherever he could gather a few people to listen to his ideas, he held meetings and sometimes was able to organize an antislavery society. Altogether he helped found 130 societies, mostly among Southern Quakers.[2] He usually traveled with his type in his knapsack and would print whenever he could find a press and some funds.

While many abolitionists concerned themselves with theoretical arguments of gradual versus immediate emancipation, Lundy continued, rather independently, to experiment with almost any method which would relieve

[1]Albert Bushnell Hart, Slavery and Abolition; 1831-1841 (New York: Haskell House Publishers Ltd., 1968), p. 180.

[2]Laureen White, Giants Lived in Those Days (New York: Pageant Press, Inc., 1959), p. 15.

(Continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Armstrong, William Clinton, The Lundy Family and Their Descendants. New Brunswick, N.J.; J. Heidingsfeld, 1902.

Barnes, Gilbert Hobbs. The Anti-Slavery Impulse, 1830-1844. New York: Harcourt Brace & World, Inc., 1964.

Dillon, Merton L. Benjamin Lundy and the Struggle for Negro Freedom. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1966.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY						OR	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	°	'	"	°	'	"		40 °	10 '	29 "	80 °	48 '	14 "
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"							
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"							
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"							

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, and Benjamin Levy, Senior Historian

ORGANIZATION: Division of Historic and Architectural Surveys, National Park Service

DATE: 11/30/73

STREET AND NUMBER:
1100 L Street NW

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: District of Columbia

CODE:

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

_____

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

_____

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. Significance (page 1) Benjamin Lundy House

the situation of the Negroes. Through the 1820s and 1830s he worked on colonization projects, a free-produce movement, the Genius of Universal Emancipation and The National Enquirer, and opposition to Texas annexation, all the while traveling extensively to organize widespread anti-slavery activity.

Biography

Benjamin Lundy was born January 4, 1789, to a Quaker family in Handwich, New Jersey. As a child he received little formal schooling but did much heavy farm work which, he said, caused his deafness and weak health. He grew up in a Quaker atmosphere, and always found among the Friends, who were religiously opposed to slavery and violence, his most receptive audiences and staunchest supporters.

Lundy went as a saddler's apprentice in 1808 to Wheeling, Virginia, where the post roads joined and slaves were gathered before shipment to the new Southwest territories. He recorded that he first saw the realities of slavery there, "Their 'coffles' passed through the place frequently. My heart was deeply grieved at the gross abomination; I heard the wail of the captive; I felt his pang of distress; and the iron entered my soul." He vowed to break "at least one link of that ponderous chain of oppression."[3]

After 4 years apprenticeship, Lundy traveled awhile, then in 1815 he married, established a business, and built a house and shop in St. Clairsville, Ohio, still haunted by the slavery he had seen:

> "As I enjoyed no peace of mind, however, I at length concluded that I must act; and shortly after my settlement at St. Clairsville, I called a few friends together and unbosomed my feelings to them. The result was the organization of an antislavery association called the Union Humane Society. The first meeting, which was held at my own house, consisted of but five or six persons. In a few months afterwards, the Society contained nearly five hundred members."[4]

[3]Thomas Earle, The Life, Travels and Opinions of Benjamin Lundy (Philadelphia: William D. Parrish, 1847), p. 15.

[4]Earle, p. 16.

(Continued)

Lundy published a circular letter in 1816, explaining the goals of his group and encouraging other similar societies.

Charles Osborne and Elisha Bates, leading Quaker reformers, began publishing The Philanthropist, a journal of general reform, at nearby Mt. Pleasant, Ohio, in 1817, and invited Lundy to become a contributing editor, and later a partner. He quickly recognized journalism as the more powerful and far-reaching weapon he needed and set off with apprentices to sell his saddlery business in St. Louis for the capital to buy his share of the paper. However, in St. Louis he became embroiled in the slavery controversy of the Missouri Question and remained there nearly 2 years.

After this politicizing experience, Lundy decided to publish a newspaper devoted to antislavery information. He and his family moved to Mt. Pleasant, a strategic center of Quaker reform. Here he began the Genius of Universal Emancipation in January 1821. He moved his operation to Greenville, Tennessee, after 8 months. At this time the Genius grew in circulation but there was general quiet concerning abolition and the little pockets of slavery opposition seemed to be largely ignored. But, Merton Dillon states:

> "The effects of abolitionist activity proved to be cumulative. However limited the influence slaveholders in the 1820s may have thought Lundy's newspaper to have possessed, by the next decade they could not possibly evade the fact that increasing numbers of their countrymen regarded slavery as an evil which must be destroyed. Lundy's journalistic enterprise was then to achieve its aim."[5]

Lundy moved again, this time East to Baltimore in 1824, to be closer to political activity and to expand Genius readership.

Benjamin Lundy advocated various means to aid final emancipation and was an early proponent of definite political action. Because he recognized the depth of racial prejudice throughout America, he was concerned with changing attitudes toward the black man, as well as the institution of slavery. His Quaker views were generally optimistic and he hoped even to convince slaveholders of the immorality and impracticality of slavery. But his criticisms of the slaveholders were full of invective and soon

[5]Merton L. Dillon, Benjamin Lundy and the Struggle for Negro Freedom (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1966), p. 54.

(Continued)

8. Significance (page 3) Benjamin Lundy House

necessitated his traveling in disguise through Southern areas. His written attacks precipitated a severe assault on his life in 1827 by Austin Woolfolk, a notorious Maryland slave dealer, who was the repeated target of Lundy's abusive propaganda.

On a tour of the North in the winter of 1828, Lundy attempted unsuccessfully to enlist support of some of the better known figures of the later movement. Arthur Tappan in New York was not yet ready to commit himself, but offered encouragement. In Boston, at the home of William Collier, Lundy met with eight clergymen and reformers who supported the Genius but were skeptical of any specific plan such as a petition campaign or formation of an antislavery society. Only one, 22-year-old William LLoyd Garrison, eagerly offered unqualified support to Lundy.

In 1829, Lundy invited Garrison to join him as associated editor of the Genius and to publish it while he traveled. But Garrison was soon jailed for libel and left the paper. Sentiment in slaveholding Baltimore became too intense and Lundy moved to Washington, D.C. in 1830, and then to Philadelphia in 1831. He was now traveling constantly and hired people to operate the paper. Printing became very irregular, ceasing altogether in 1835. But in August 1836 Benjamin Lundy began a new publication, The National Enquirer and Constitutional Advocate of Universal Liberty.

In the 1820s Lundy supported colonization of free Negroes outside the United States as an additional way to aid freed blacks after emancipation and he tried unsuccessfully to establish a colony in Haiti. For about 10 years he worked for colonization and a free produce movement, hoping to prove the relative profitability of freely produced foodstuffs. He hoped that a system of plantation manned by free Negroes would provide economic competition for the slave plantations. He took numerous trips to Haiti, Upper Canada, and Texas searching for a feasible colony site.

Lundy arranged a strong political alliance with John Quincy Adams during the Texas Annexation Debate in 1836. By providing Adams with information and publishing his view in newspapers and pamphlets, Lundy did much to arouse popular hostility to head off what they saw as a plot by Southern slaveholders to annex Texas as slaveholding territory.

John Greenleaf Whittier assumed editorship of the National Enquirer in 1838, when Lundy decided to finally rejoin his family, now in Illinois. He bought farmland in Lowell, became active in local antislavery groups, and revived the Genius for 12 more issues before his death in August 1839.

(Continued)

8. Significance (page 4) Benjamin Lundy House

His recent biographer, Merton L. Dillon, writes of Benjamin Lundy's contribution:

> "Lundy was by no means the only antislavery spokesman in the country during the 1820s nor was he necessarily the most able, but he was one of the few who would speak boldly and consistently against slavery and virtually the only person in the entire land willing to make antislavery agitation his career."[6]

[6]Dillon, pp. 42-43.

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Ohio	
COUNTY	
Jefferson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

9. Bibliography (page 1) Benjamin Lundy House

Earle, Thomas. The Life, Travels and Opinions of Benjamin Lundy. Philadelphia: William D. Parrish, 1947.

Hart, Albert Bushnell, Slavery and Abolition; 1831-1841. New York: Haskell House Publishers Ltd., 1968.

White, Laureen, Giants Lived in Those Days. New York: Pageant Press, Inc.