

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED AUG 9 1978

DATE ENTERED SEP 1 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1** NAME

HISTORIC

Lucius Frierson House

AND/OR COMMON

## LOCATION

STREET &amp; NUMBER

West Seventh Street

\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

\_\_ VICINITY OF

Sixth

STATE

Tennessee

CODE

47

COUNTY

Maury

CODE

119

## 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:

## OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

West Seventh Street Church of Christ

STREET &amp; NUMBER

West Seventh Street

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Tennessee

## LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Registry of Deeds Office

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Maury County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

STATE

Tennessee

**6** REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Tennessee Historical and Architectural Survey

DATE

March 1977

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Tennessee Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Nashville

STATE

Tennessee

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Lucius Frierson House, built in 1876, represents a rare combination of Italianate architecture and French Second Empire detailing. Exemplification of the two styles is found in the asymmetrical floor plan; false Mansard roof; projecting pavillions; floor-length, porthole, and bay windows; elaborate hood molds; and rich three-dimensional architectural details. The house bears a strong resemblance to the work of John L. Smith, a Nashville carpenter-architect of the late nineteenth century; Smith may have influenced the architecture of the Lucius Frierson House. The brick structure has two floors and a full basement. Oriented to the south, the two-story part of the house forms an L with a one-story service wing running north.

The main facade faces south on West Seventh Street; the secondary facade faces east on Dunnington Street. These two elevations have a coursed limestone foundation, limestone water tables, a penciled stretcher bond facade, a tin cornice adorned with dentils and paired brackets, and a false Mansard front with hexagonal slate shingles applied to a standing seam roof. Both elevations have a central pavillion surmounted by a tin pediment with a central lozenge-shaped attic vent and a crowning tin finial. Fenestration is uniform throughout the south and east elevations: arched floor length windows are double hung with one-over-one lights and have a simple limestone sill and carved hoodmolds which consist of a broken Italianate arch with keystones.

The south elevation forms the front of the house and has three main sections, including a central pavillion. The main entrance is recessed into a small alcove faced with a wooden archway carved as an elaborate version of the hoodmoldings and with a cartouche of acanthus leaves set into the keystone. The carved double doors are surmounted by a semi-circular etched fanlight engraved with the initials "L F." To the right of the central pavillion is a two-bay, one-story porch with a standing seam roof, tin cornice, carved wooden columns, and turned balusters. To the left of the central pavillion is a bay window with a shingle roof and tin cornice; evidence of iron cresting remains in the form of ghosts on the bricks above the bay window. On the second floor level a double window is situated above the doorway with two windows flanking either side of the central pavillion.

The east elevation which faces on Dunnington Street has three main sections with single windows located on either side of the central pavillion. Five arched openings in the foundation provided light to the basement. A second bay window, identical to the first, extends from the central pavillion; a double window rests above it on the second story level. Two interior chimneys with limestone drip courses are located behind the Mansard front.

The west elevation of the house is treated in a simpler manner. The water table is not expressed; the brick pattern changes to four course American common bond; hoodmolds are replaced by a plain semi-circular brick arches; a decorative brick cornice replaces the Mansard front. A porthole window is located on the second floor level. The two-story section of the north elevation is treated with the same architectural details.

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A one-story service wing extends northward from the L-shaped house and forms part of the east, north, and west elevations. A brick exterior wall of common bond rises directly from the coursed limestone foundation; the hip roof has asphalt shingles and a simple tin box cornice; a chimney is located at the north end of the ridge line. The rectangular windows with segmental arches have limestone sills. Outside doors with transoms for ventilation are located in the east and west elevations (an open porch in the east elevation was glassed in at a later date). Another porthole window is found in the north elevation. The unweathered color of the outside wall brick on the main house-block under the roofline of the service wing indicates that the wing is original to the house and not a later addition.

The interior of the house has been altered somewhat in the twentieth century; nineteen of the present twenty-two rooms are original (original walls can be identified as thick plaster with horsehair over wooden lathing); eight of the ten rooms in the basement level are original and were probably intended as servants quarters and/or a laundry. The rooms on both floors are arranged around a central hall with a dogleg stair to the left. An elongated cyma recta molding is seen in the downstairs hall; a series of crown moldings form the remaining downstairs cornices; no cornice moldings appear upstairs. Torus moldings adorn the doors and woodwork throughout the house, and elaborately carved floral pendills and projections of castellated French Gothic inspiration ornament the downstairs hall and the double-pocket doorway between the parlor and dining room. Many base moldings have been altered or removed completely through remodeling. The original four-inch tongue and groove pine floor boards have been covered over with hardwood and linoleum. The stair rail is mahogany; the rest of the woodwork in the house is carved walnut grained to resemble mahogany (now painted over). Of the six original cast iron mantels which were marbelized and stencilled, five remain. The house was originally heated by coal burning fireplaces and later by steam heat and radiators. Indoor plumbing was added in the twentieth century. None of the original gas lighting fixtures remain, but a bronze lamp in the shape of a Confederate general which once adorned the newel post is now located at the Williams Funeral Home in Columbia. Many of the original door handles are still intact; those on the first floor were silver plated, porcelain handles were used on the second floor. Three original paint colors can be identified: a dark green and a putty green on the walls, and a candlelight color on the ceiling. All of the early wallpaper has been removed through successive renovations.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

___PREHISTORIC	___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	___COMMUNITY PLANNING	___LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	___RELIGION
___1400-1499	___ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	___CONSERVATION	___LAW	___SCIENCE
___1500-1599	___AGRICULTURE	___ECONOMICS	___LITERATURE	___SCULPTURE
___1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	___EDUCATION	___MILITARY	___SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
___1700-1799	___ART	___ENGINEERING	___MUSIC	___THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	___EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___PHILOSOPHY	___TRANSPORTATION
___1900-	___COMMUNICATIONS	___INDUSTRY	___POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	___OTHER (SPECIFY)
		___INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1876

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Lucius Frierson, the son of a banking family, was one of Columbia's most prominent citizens in the late 1800s. He and his brothers added to their fortunes by speculating in real estate after the Civil War. Frierson himself was co-founder of the Columbia Ice Company and the famous Bethel House Hotel (1880); he also owned the Electric Light and Water Company of Maury County and co-owned the First National Bank of Columbia. His marriage to Sarah Catherine Morgan was one of the social events of 1870. For a suitable wedding present the bride's father, John Morgan, gave them a corner lot from his fashionable West Main Street property (now known as West Seventh Street).

Early in 1876 the construction of their future residence was underway. As an Italianate-Second Empire structure, the Lucius Frierson House was in the mainstream of the architectural styles of the 1870s. Local tradition has it that Frierson was so taken with a Second Empire residence three lots down on West Seventh Street (built in 1873) that he determined to surpass its gradeur with his new townhouse. As the construction progressed, the Columbia Daily Herald published regular reports in the "Around Town" society section:

- March 31, 1876 "Workmen are now engaged in making the necessary preparations for Mr. Lucius Frierson's house on a part of the John Morgan lot on West Market Street. It will be a magnificent house when finished."
- May 19, 1876 "The foundation of Mr. Lucius Frierson's new house is almost finished and a splendid piece of masonry it is. The edifice promises to add greatly to the appearance of West Main Street."
- July 28, 1876 "Mr. Lucius Frierson's house is rapidly approaching completion. When finished it will be the handsomest house in the city, and quite an adornment."

The Friersons continued to live in their elegant mansion until Lucius' bank failed in 1893. Financially ruined, Frierson sold his house to Dr. Robert Pillow in January of 1894.

(Ft. Pillow was another of Columbia's more prominent citizens: he was a member of the board of education and served as mayor of the city from 1888 to 1889. Although active in public life, Dr. Pillow's most important contribution was that of a medical innovator: in the 1890s he founded Columbia's first infirmary (now demolished) which was located across West Seventh Street from the doctor's new house, where he had his offices until his retirement.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Century Review of Maury County: 1807-1907. Board of the Mayor and Aldermen of Columbia: Columbia, Tennessee. 1905 (reprinted by the Maury County Historical Society, 1970)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .45

QUADRANGLE NAME Columbia, TN

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 496340 3941130

B               

C               

D               

E               

F               

G               

H               

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The property nominated is a rectangular lot which measures 100' by 170' and is bounded as follows: beginning at the NW corner of West 7th Street and Dunnington Street; thence W 100' along West 7th Street; thence N 170'; thence E 100' to Dunnington Street; thence S 170' along Dunnington Street to the beginning.

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

Gail Ernst, Peg Davitt, and Tom McCamy

ORGANIZATION

O'More School of Design

DATE

1978

STREET & NUMBER

819 West Main Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Franklin

STATE

Tennessee

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE     

LOCAL X

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

*Herbert F. Hays*

TITLE

Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

7/31/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*W. S. [Signature]*

DATE

9-1-78

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Charles [Signature]*

DATE

9-1-78

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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In 1919 a Mrs. Street bought the house, lived on the first floor and rented the second floor as a separate unit. Eugene Anderson, a prominent Columbia store owner, purchased the house in 1931; he and his wife lived there until their deaths at which time the house passed to their daughter, Lelia Anderson Wike, who sold it to a Dr. George Williamson in 1947. The doctor's plans to use the building for his practice never materialized, and he sold it eight months later to the Tennessee Farm Bureau for use as their offices. In 1952 William's Funeral Home bought the house and converted it to a mortuary, using the upstairs as a private residence. In 1962 Sullivan's Flower Shop purchased the house for a florist and frame shop. In 1972 the West Weventh Street Church of Christ bought the house at auction with the intention of demolishing it and converting the site into a parking lot. For several years the house was rented to students of Columbia State University, but since 1975 it has remained vacant, awaiting demolition.

When last used the plumbing, heating, and wiring were in relatively good condition. The roof has several leaks, the bathroom and kitchen areas require remodeling, and the interior finishes are in a state of total neglect. The entire house is in need of care and maintenance, but is fundamentally sound. It is hoped that enough interest can be generated in this historic structure to save and adapt it to some functional modern use, simultaneously maintaining its character by the preservation of its beautiful exterior and interior details.