

14-06-W005-61

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

Arkansas	
COUNTY:	
Columbia	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

NR  
9-2272

1. NAME	
COMMON:	
Frog Level	C00396
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
SE 1/4 of NW 1/4 of Section 11, T 17 S, R 22 W			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Friendship Community			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Arkansas	05	Columbia	027

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied 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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____
Comments _____ _____			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME:			
Mrs. W. A. G. Woodward			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
1710 Dogwood Drive			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE	
Magnolia	Arkansas	05	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:			
Columbia County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE	
Magnolia	Arkansas	05	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY:			
DATE OF SURVEY:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County    Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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## 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

The William Frazier House, named "Frog Level," was begun in 1852 and completed about 1854. This two story frame house, with two rooms on each floor plus a center hall, has a large chimney at either end with a two story temple portico on the front. This portico is supported by two sets of four columns each, one set for the first floor and the second set for the second floor, which includes a balustrade railing. The main entrance on the first floor has double doors with simple rectangular sidelights and transom with a second doorway matching this one, opening onto the second floor gallery above. The main house is crowned with a simple gable roof having a simple cornice line with one story extension to the back of the house having a simple shed roof. Shutters have been added to the windows of the main house, however, they are obviously not the original shutters. The exterior of the house is covered with simple clapboard with the two main chimneys being stuccoed brick or stone, however, they were probably not stuccoed originally.

The four main rooms of the house all measure twenty-two foot square with the center hall being fourteen feet wide. The fireplace mantels in each of the four main rooms are pegged together and are handcarved in several simple designs. The floors are heart pine, six inches wide and one and one-half inches thick. The handblown glass for the sidelights and transom over the front doors are back in place after having been removed and stored in Southern State College during the years that the house was deserted. Several of the doors of the house still have their original handwrought locks. The original wooden dado extends up the stairway and around each of the four original main rooms.

Frog Level has been changed relatively little since it was first built and its overall appearance is still very reminiscent of its ancestors first built in the Piedmont section of Virginia. Today the night noises still include the little amphibians which gave the house its unusual name, "Frog Level."

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 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)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Originally called the Frazier Plantation House, "Frog Level" was constructed in 1852. B. F. Askew, a young attorney who practiced in the area suggested the unusual name because of the noise created by the unusually numerous frogs in the bottoms near the house.

William Frazier, the builder and original owner of Frog Level, was a native of Ireland and was born in 1805. He lived for a time in Ouachita County until floods inundated his farm. Frazier then moved his family to high ground in what was then LaFayette County. In December, 1852 Columbia County was created from a portion of LaFayette County and Frog Level became a part of it.

A short distance from the house was the Ferguson and Morgan store. Here the first term of the Columbia County Court was held on March 21, 1853.

In 1852 the LaFayette County tax assessment lists show that Frazier owned 480 acres and 14 slaves. In 1853 the Columbia County tax assessment lists show he had expanded his holdings to 845 acres and 16 slaves. By 1866 Frazier owned 1046 acres, however, the Civil War had taken its toll. While the total evaluation for the property in 1861 was \$11,275, the total evaluation in 1866 including an increase of 201 acres to offset the loss of the slaves was \$1,156, or barely one-tenth of all his taxable property in 1861.

Following the close of the Civil War, a government controlled brewery was established and operated at Frog Level about one-half mile from the house.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Arkansas	
COUNTY	
Pulaski	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. Significance

Today Frog Level, due to the careful restoration of its owner, Mrs. W. A. G. Woodward, has been preserved as one of the few remaining gracious old plantation homes of southwestern Arkansas.

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Arkansas	
COUNTY Columbia	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Lafayette County Tax Assessment Lists, 1852.

Martel, Glenn G. "Early Days in Columbia County,"  
Arkansas Historical Quarterly, Vol. II, No. 3  
(September, 1943).

Woodward, Mary Davis. "Frog Level, Oldest House In  
Columbia County," Arkansas Historical Quarterly,  
Vol. VIII, No. 4 (Winter, 1949).

