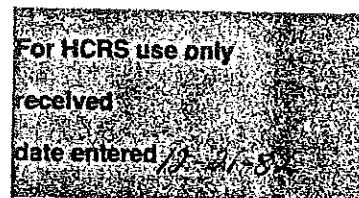


United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections



1. Name

historic The Austin-Magie Farm and Mill District

and/or common Felix Fryman Farm

COPY

2. Location

street & number Section 14, Oxford Township

not for publication

city, town Oxford vicinity vicinity of congressional district Kindness

state Ohio code 039 county Butler code 017

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial |
| | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. J. Felix Fryman

street & number Morning Sun Road

city, town Oxford vicinity of state Ohio 45056

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Butler County Administration Building

street & number 130 High Street

city, town Hamilton state Ohio 45011

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Ohio Historic Inventory has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date July 3, 1978 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Miami Purchase Association

city, town Cincinnati state Ohio 45214

7. Description

Condition

___ excellent

☒ good

___ fair

☒ deteriorated

☒ ruins

___ unexposed

Check one

___ unaltered

☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site

___ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Austin-Magie Farm and Mill District occupies a picturesque setting along the banks of the Four Mile Creek one mile north of Oxford, Ohio. The ridge of hills that rise up from the broad flood plain form a strong backdrop for the complex, while historically Four Mile Creek provided the catalyst for settlement and mill development. Fronting on Four Mile Creek, the Austin-Magie House is a strong visual landmark in this predominantly rural setting.

Five of the seven resources nominated herein are clustered near the intersection of Route 732 and Somerville Road. Dominating the complex is the Austin-Magie Farmhouse, a two-and-one-half story dwelling built in 1841. As an example of vernacular "I" architecture, it exhibits a symmetrical five bay front elevation and simple fenestration. A lighted transom enhances the entrance. The front elevation exhibits Flemish bond, all other walls were laid in the American bond. Tall narrow windows in the house are nine-over-nine double hung with flat arch brick lintels and projecting slip sills. There are two small square four-paned windows in the gable ends of the attic story. A plain frieze panel forms the cornice, and interior end chimneys top peaks in the gable roof. A one story frame addition was attached to the rear of the house about 1926. A one story wood and concrete porch with paired columns and a hip roof stretches across the south facade. A doorway has been cut into the southwest corner of this facade. The classical frontispiece was tastefully added to the house in 1927. Much of the interior woodwork was carefully duplicated by Mr. Cordes.

Associated with the farmhouse are a large gambrel roofed dairy barn and related outbuildings. These structures were built as part of a dairy by Louis Cordes in the late 1920's. The gambrel roofed dairy barn (5), gable roof barn and corn crib were all built in 1927. The arched roof barn (4) was added to the complex by Mr. Fryman in 1938. The two story frame residence at Route 732 and Somerville Road (7) was constructed in 1940 by John Felix Fryman. Immediately to the east and at the terminus of a dirt lane are a dilapidated braced frame house (3) and a vertical board corn crib and implement shed (2). Preliminary fabric analysis indicates the vernacular frame house is of early nineteenth century construction, and was likely built by Aaron Austin, who owned the property from 1815-1863.

The millrace that diverted the water from Four Mile Creek to the millsite is approximately one mile in length. Dimensions of the race vary from six to eight feet in depth and twenty to thirty-five feet in width. Lying parallel to the east side of Four Mile Creek, the race wall is the largest such earthen structure in Oxford Township. Only the stone foundation remains from the original overshot mill building. A portion of the limestone tailrace has been altered by the embankment of State Route 732.

The nominated property is comprised of approximately 34 acres of farmland originally owned by Austin and further developed and expanded by Magie and Fryman. Also included is the remains of the millrace. The nominated acreage conveys the integrity of the farmsite by including the features historically associated with the continual agricultural use of the site.

8. Significance

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Specific dates circa 1815-1940 Builder/Architect Aaron Austin (mill)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Austin-Magie farm, mill site, and millrace are significant as they represent the intensive nineteenth century agricultural and processing activities in Butler County, Ohio. From 1815-1916 the Austin-Pugh mills were an integral component of this area's industry and commerce. The main farmhouse, built 1841, is a solid embodiment of rural vernacular architecture, and the associated outbuildings enhance the agrarian setting. The limestone mill foundation and mile-long mill race are tangible evidence of Oxford Township's largest mill complex. Aaron Austin, builder of the house, braced frame building, and mill, owned the property from 1815-1863. Subsequently the property was acquired by David M. Magie, one of Ohio's most prominent stock farmers and swine breeders. As early as 1837 Magie had earned a reputation for his superior breed of swine. These large, well proportioned hogs, forerunners of the Poland China breed, were widely known as the "Magie Breed." Many agrarian historians consider the Poland China hog Ohio's greatest contribution to the breeding of fine livestock in the United States.

Today the property is owned by John Felix Fryman, who purchased the farm in 1955 after being its manager for eighteen years. Fryman is a prominent Oxford businessman and farmer. His autobiography, From the Mountains to the Valley, is not only an inspiring story of individual endeavor, but also an important sociological document.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Fryman, John Felix. From the Mountains to the Valley. Oxford Typoprin', 1971. McBride, James. History and Biographical Cyclopedia of Butler - County, Ohio. Illustrated. 1882. Butler County Atlas, 1875. Butler County Court House tax-duplicate records.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property @ 34 acres

Quadrangle name Oxford

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

| | | |
|------|---------|----------|
| 116 | 6957125 | 43771150 |
| Zone | Easting | Northing |

B

| | | |
|------|---------|----------|
| 116 | 6953815 | 43775100 |
| Zone | Easting | Northing |

C

| | | |
|------|---------|----------|
| 116 | 6949125 | 43770000 |
| Zone | Easting | Northing |

D

| | | |
|------|---------|----------|
| 116 | 6947915 | 43771200 |
| Zone | Easting | Northing |

E

| | | |
|------|---------|----------|
| 116 | 6948615 | 4377285 |
| Zone | Easting | Northing |

F

| | | |
|------|---------|----------|
| 116 | 694710 | 4377285 |
| Zone | Easting | Northing |

G

| | | |
|------|---------|----------|
| 116 | 6942510 | 43786000 |
| Zone | Easting | Northing |

H

| | | |
|------|---------|----------|
| 116 | 6944000 | 43786000 |
| Zone | Easting | Northing |

Verbal boundary description and justification

see continuation sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| N/A | | | |

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jim Clemes and Lucy Curry

organization Miami Purchase Association 812 Dayton St date 6/3/79 Revised 12/80

street & number telephone 721-4506

city or town Cincinnati state Ohio 45214

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

W. Ray Luce

title

SHPO

date 10/26/82

For HCRS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

date

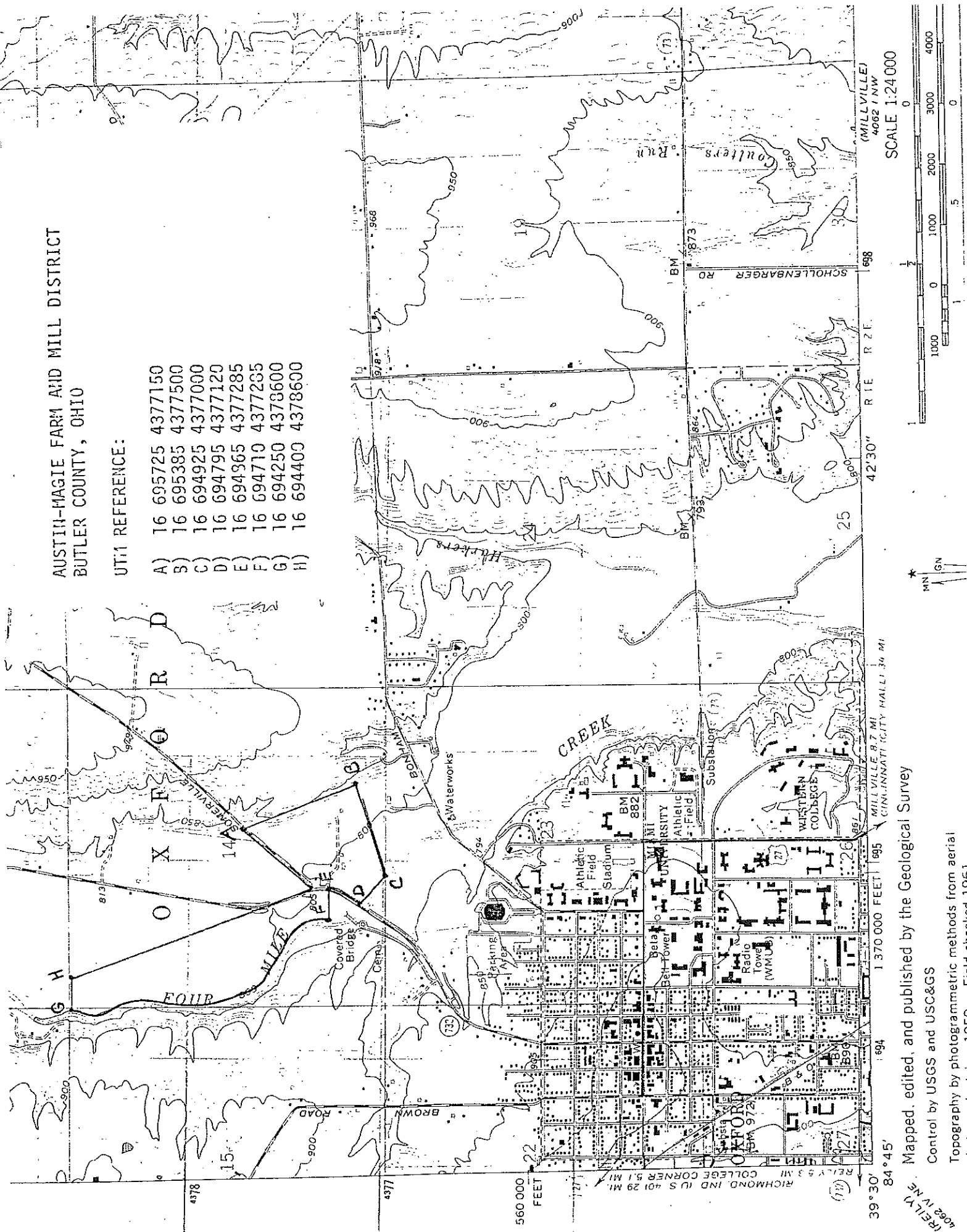
Attest:

Chief of Registration

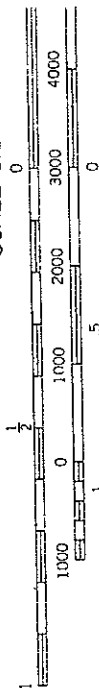
AUSTIN-MAGIE FARM AND MILL DISTRICT BUTLER COUNTY, OHIO

UTM REFERENCE:

| | |
|----|-------------------|
| A) | 16 695725 4377150 |
| B) | 16 695385 4377500 |
| C) | 16 694925 4377000 |
| D) | 16 694795 4377120 |
| E) | 16 694365 4377285 |
| F) | 16 694710 4377265 |
| G) | 16 694250 4378600 |
| H) | 16 694400 4378600 |



SCALE 1:24 000



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial

photographs taken 1950. Field checked 1951

4062 INW
84° 45'
39° 30'

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

AUSTIN-MAGIE FARM AND MILL DISTRICT -- BUTLER CO., OHIO
Continuation sheet

Item number

10

Page 1

Beginning at a point at the intersection of County Rd. 732 and Somerville Rd. proceed northeast along Somerville Rd. for 1450[±] feet to a point A; proceed southeast along 850' contour line (USGS) map for 2000[±] feet to a point B; proceed southwest 1600[±] feet to the point C on the USGS map where 4377 meets Four Mile Creek; following east bank of Four Mile Creek 1000[±] feet northwest to east side of County Rd. 732; proceed northeast along east side of County Rd. 732 for 400[±] feet to southeast corner of intersection of County Rd. 732 and main entrance to Austin-Magie Farm; proceed due west to the east bank of Four Mile Creek (point F); proceed north following east bank of Four Mile Creek 4800[±] feet to a point G which is 2000[±] feet south of Buckley Rd. and 2200[±] feet west of County Rd. 813; proceed due east 450[±] feet to a point H; proceed southeast for 4400[±] feet to point of beginning.

