

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JAN 07 1976
DATE ENTERED	MAY 4 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

****** "Arcadia" (Isaac Shelby, Jr., Plantation)

AND/OR COMMON

"Arcadia"

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Highway 127

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

near Shelby City

VICINITY OF

05

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

Lincoln

CODE

137

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. I. F. Burks

STREET & NUMBER

Rural Route

CITY, TOWN

Danville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Lincoln County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Stanford

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1971

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Arcadia stands on a knoll about one-half mile from Highway 127, one mile south of Shelby City, overlooking many broad acres of bluegrass land. It is surrounded by a forest of trees of exceptional grandeur and exemplifies the solidity and aesthetic beauty of the architecture of the period when the artisans of the highest caliber were imported to execute the ideas and wishes of landed proprietors.

The bricks used in the construction of the house were made on the premises, and the lime used in the mortar was slacked for a year before using.

Although built as a unit, the house still retains the character of a late Georgian or Federal two-story block with superimposed Greek Revival portico. The independence of the portico in a sense allows it a greater air of authenticity than the often freer but less architectural treatment of the portico and the cubical main block as an integrated entity, characteristic of the later Greek Revival. In Arcadia the portico is most impressive yet almost naively "correct." The beautifully proportioned gable rests on a frieze of triglyphs and plain metopes enlivened by exquisitely precise mantels and guttae. The somewhat attenuated columns are cut back just below the pure Doric capitals. The porch itself is a handsome stone platform. (See photo 1.)

The rather wide central intercolumnation is more than compensated for by the striking entrance bay, which no doubt owes a debt to the pattern books of Minard Lafever so influential in and around Harrodsburg. The wide, double front door is flanked by freestanding Doric columns and sidelights, all framed massively by a full entablature surmounted by a panel over the doorway. The flat pilasters of the frame have stylized partial fret so characteristic of Lafever. Another version of this pattern occurs at the ends of the lintels of the upper central feature, which subtly repeats on a more delicate scale the composition of the entrance below. Aside from the square corner blocks at the ends of the lintels the remainder of the facade is plain. The entablature of the portico simply stops at the wall over its flat inner pilasters.

The side walls are bare except for windows only in the center and tall chimneys above the standing-seam metal roof. At the left side is a handsome one-story gallery, perhaps original, with square brick piers on stone bases and a heavy but plain entablature. A similar gallery extends across the rear to the long single-story ell that extends a considerable distance back of the house, interrupted only by a very tall chimney. From the rear, except for a certain generosity of proportion, the house could well pass as innocent of any Grecian aspirations.

The window sashes, frames and doors are of black walnut wood grown on the farm. The flooring is tongue-and-groove white ash of varying widths and is pegged to locust joists.

(continued)

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 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/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1836

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Isaac Shelby, Jr.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Arcadia, an excellent example of Greek Revival architecture, was built in 1836 by Isaac Shelby, Jr. Shelby, Jr., a gentleman farmer, was the fourth son of Isaac Shelby, the first Governor of Kentucky (1792-1796). Arcadia remained in the Shelby family until the early 1960s and still contains many pieces of their original furniture.

Isaac Shelby, Jr., born in Frankfort, Kentucky on May 30, 1795, was the son of Isaac Shelby and Susannah Hart Shelby. Isaac Shelby (1750-1826), a soldier, pioneer, and statesman originally from Virginia, settled in Lincoln County, Kentucky in 1782. He held several local political offices as well as serving as a military leader in the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. Shelby was elected the first Governor of Kentucky in 1792-1796 and once again from 1812-1816. Isaac Shelby, Jr.'s mother, Susannah Hart, was the daughter of Captain Nathaniel Hart. (Hart was influential in organizing the Transylvania Company and arranging the preliminaries of the Treaty at Sycamore Shoals in 1775. He and his family were among those first to settle in Kentucky.)

In 1817 Shelby, Jr. received from his father one thousand acres of land and a log house on the southwest corner of his father's estate, Travelers Rest. The two estates are divided by Big Creek. The same year he married Marie Boswell Warren of Lincoln County, Kentucky, daughter of Captain John and Judith Swann Warren of Danville and sister of his brother Evan Shelby's wife. For nineteen years the Shelby family lived in a log house on the estate.

In 1836 Isaac Shelby, Jr. replaced the original house with the present brick structure. The original house, kept for other purposes, burned in the late 1860s. The family lived in the new house for six years before moving to Lexington. They returned to Arcadia in 1862.

The Shelby's eldest daughter, Ann Nelson, married Beriah Magoffin, Jr., of Harrodsburg who served as Governor of Kentucky from 1860-1862.

Isaac Shelby, Jr. died at the home of his son, John Warren, in Lincoln Springs, Boyle County, Kentucky. The last Shelbys to own the house were Isaac Shelby IV and his sister Miss Florence Shelby. The house was sold at public auction in the early 1960s. The present owners are Mr. and Mrs. I. F. Burke of Danville.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Dunn, Shirley. Historic Homes and Old Outbuildings of Lincoln County, Kentucky. (Pamphlet).
- Thomas, Elizabeth Patterson. Old Kentucky Homes and Gardens. Louisville: Standard Printing Co., 1939.
- Kinchloe McPherson and Related Families. Lewin Dwinell McPherson, 1951, Room 712 - 1404, New York Avenue, Washington D. C.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5 acres

Latitude: 37° 33' 08" ³⁶
 Longitude: 84° 47' 22"

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 185000 185000
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Mrs. M. H. Dunn

WEL:MC

ORGANIZATION

Lincoln County Historical Society

DATE

March, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

103 Pettus Court

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Stanford

STATE

Kentucky

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 National Park Service.

SIGNATURE

Eldred W. Mettler 12/15/75

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting *W. M. ...*

DATE

5/4/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Charles ...

DATE

5.3.76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Newcomb describes Arcadia's interior (1953), "The unique feature of this house is its parlor with an Ionic mantel flanked by arched panels carried on fluted Ionic columns. The wide central hall is spanned by arches likewise carried on Ionic columns" (p. 138). All the interior decorations of the house are in keeping with the general design presented in the archways in the hall. The rooms are large and in each is preserved the large open fireplace of pioneer days. The mantels and cupboards display the decorative skill of artisans.

A cellar extends the entire house, providing many rooms for storage. The entrance to the cellar is from a side porch which extends the full length of the house. Unusual mounting steps still stand near the side porch, and a very old horse-hitch chain is deeply imbedded in a huge and ancient oak tree, the largest and probably one of the oldest of the trees on the grounds, shading the front lawn.

North of the main house stands a two-story brick slave quarter. The bricks are laid in common bond and remain in good condition, although the interior has lost its flooring. The slave quarter has an interesting double joined exterior stairway, as well. A few hundred yards down a hill from the main house is a brick springhouse from which the spring still flows.