

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NATIONAL REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Elkwood

other names/site number Mc Dowell, William, House; WD 112

2. Location

street & number 158 Leestown Pike West not for publication N/A

city or town Midway vicinity

state Kentucky code KY county Woodford code 239 zip code 40347

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
David M. ... SHPO/Executive Dir./11/18/93
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State Historic Preservation Office/Kentucky Heritage Council
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
 - entered in the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet.
 - determined eligible for the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet.
 - determined not eligible for the National Register.
 - removed from the National Register.
 - other, (explain:)

for Signature of the Keeper Raymond Lapsley Entered in the National Register Date of Action 1/27/94

Elkwood
Name of Property

Woodford, Kentucky
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
7	3	buildings
		sites
1		structures
		objects
8	3	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
Historic and Architectural Resources of
North West Woodford County, Kentucky

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / Single dwelling
DOMESTIC / multiple dwelling
DOMESTIC / secondary structure
AGRICULTURE / agricultural outbuilding
AGRICULTURE / processing

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / single dwelling
AGRICULTURE / agricultural outbuilding
VACANT / NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

MID 19TH CENTURY / Greek Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE / limestone
walls BRICK
WOOD / weatherboard
roof ASPHALT, METAL
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

ELKWOOD
Name of Property

Woodford, Kentucky
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

AGRICULTURE

ETHNIC HERITAGE (Black)

Period of Significance

c. 1835 - 1910

Significant Dates

c. 1835

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

na

Architect/Builder

Shryock, Gideon (attributed to)

Kennedy, Matthew (attributed to)

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Kentucky Heritage Council

Elkwood
Name of Property

Woodford, Kentucky
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 24 acres

UTM References Midway, KY. 7.5 min. quad
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1,6	7,0,3,0,6,0	4,2,2,6,4,2,0
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2	1,6	7,0,3,2,3,0	4,2,2,6,4,0,0

3	1,6	7,0,3,0,8,0	4,2,2,5,9,0,0
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4	1,6	7,0,2,8,9,0	4,2,2,5,9,7,0

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Christine Amos, Historian
organization Burry & Amos, Inc. date December 1, 1992
street & number 926 Main Street telephone (502) 633-5530
city or town Shelbyville state Kentucky zip code 40065

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Leslie Mitchell
street & number 158 Leestown Pike West telephone (606) 846-4186
city or town Midway state Kentucky zip code 40347

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Narrative Description

The property is the main residence, associated domestic out buildings, associated agricultural buildings and slave dwellings of a diversified farm established in the 1830s with acreage in both Woodford and Scott County. The agricultural buildings and landscape not included within the boundary of the nominated property are primarily post WWII tobacco, hay storage and cattle barns built by the present owners, who purchased the farm in the late 1930s. Many of the buildings on the farm, including some within the nominated area, are undermaintained. The nominated property contains seven contributing buildings, three non-contributing buildings and one contributing structure within an area of 24 acres.

1. Main residence, contributing building. The main house at Elkwood is an impressive, five-bay, two-story, double pile, brick masonry, center passage residence with hip roof and limestone foundation built circa 1835 and often attributed to noted Kentucky architect, Gideon Shryock. Elkwood is strikingly similar to the Matthew Kennedy residence in Lexington, c.1816 (see Figure 1) and Calumet, c. 1820, south of Midway on the Old Frankfort Pike (see National Register nomination included with this MPL). Although the exterior of Elkwood strongly resembles these Federal period homes, the interior woodwork design suggests an early Greek Revival influence. The front facade is built of Flemish bond with Queens closers, and is divided into five regular recessed bays by four brick wall piers that are joined by a wood eave/cornice. A gabled pediment rests on the end piers and tops an inset, elliptical brick arch that enframes a multi-light fan window in the attic area. All sash windows have heavily rounded wood architraves with gauged brick flat arch heads. The sash are 6-over-4 on the second floor and 9-over-9 light on the first floor. The upper central bay features a triple window of a centered 9-over-6 sash with 3-over-2 side lights, surrounded by a wood molding with circular corner blocks. The central entry bay features six-panel double doors with elliptical fanlight (not original glass), Greek Revival surround of engaged Doric columns flanking sidelights set above paneled bases with square motifs. A Victorian era three-bay porch with flat roof, chamfered posts on bases, decorative frieze and brackets is in poor condition and probably dates to the second floor frame addition to the rear ell. The roof is pierced with four chimneys that project slightly from the exterior wall plane and have corbelled caps. A single bay, east side entry porch is earlier than the present front porch and may be original with similar door surround of engaged Tuscan columns, transom and side lights and triple columns on piers that support the gable pedimented roof. Massive stone steps lead to the porch and to

the east is a stone mounting block. The 1877 deBeers Atlas indicates the original farm entry was from Georgetown Road to the east and not Leestown Road, as is presently the case. The bed of the original drive is still visible and extends east-west from the house toward the road through a pasture.

The rear ell appears to have originally been one-story, as it is of brick masonry, with the second story of frame being added in the late 19th century. The first floor is of 6-course header bond with the east elevation featuring paired sash windows topped by mullioned, half-circular windows. The second floor area has a low, hip roof and slightly flared wall base covered with wood shingles, creating a gambrel profile. Windows of this area are vertical, 2-over-2 sash with simple wood trim board.

The house interior details include both original ash flooring and late 19th century oak strip flooring (in the two east rooms); distinctive Greek Revival trim with triangular pediment and repetitive square relief; molded baseboards, and a grand, double pile central hall with central arch supported by paired columns on paneled bases and a cantilevered circular stair to the rear. The free-standing stair extends three stories to the attic and features cherry woodwork of a newel encircled by square spindles. This staircase is a rare example of exceptional design ability and craftsmanship. Undoubtedly, it is because of this beautifully proportioned and structurally challenging staircase, that the house has often been attributed to Gideon Shryock.

The two west rooms open to each other with paired, double leaf doors, creating a double parlor. The mantel in the north west room (rear room) features collonettes and a broken shelf. The south west room was not viewed. The southeast room (front room) features a large, Greek Revival mantle with raised rectangular molded panels flanked by the entry door (opening to the side porch) to the left, and a tall, built-in press to the right. Built-in book cases with torch appliques and narrow strip flooring date to a late 19th century interior remodeling. The northeast dining room was also included in that renovation and features a carved oak mantle with dark green tile surround, a built-in oak china cabinet, and strip flooring.

2. Smoke house, ca. 1835, contributing building. A rectangular, brick masonry smoke house, built at the time of the residence with 6-course common bond walls, limestone foundation, flue in the north end, asphalt shingled hip roof, diamond patterned brick openings in the top area of each wall, interior battened door facing west to the rear ell of the house and exterior dimensions of 13'6" by 15'.

3. Slave quarter, ca. 1835, contributing building. Located beyond (NE of) the domestic yard area, this three-room brick masonry quarters was probably built to house field slaves and families (as opposed to domestic slaves). Built with a Flemish bond front (facing west) and 6-course header bond sides and rear, the multiple dwelling rests on a limestone foundation with slight water table and features two end and one interior chimney. A full shed porch across the front with the north 1/3 enclosed with frame, rests on a new concrete block foundation. Like other regional examples of slave housing, doors only face to the main residence while five, asymmetrical window openings (with non-original sash windows) face rear to the east. No interior woodwork or mantels remain. Both the first and loft floors of the 50' by 18' building have plaster finished wall surfaces.

4. Sorghum shop, mid-19th century, non-contributing building. In extremely poor condition, this collapsing, frame building with gable roof is located east of the blacksmith shop. It was built upon a limestone foundation with a limestone-lined pit to the east. The approximately 15' by 8' building is counted as non-contributing because of extensive deterioration and loss of physical integrity. It no longer suggests any historic use, although the owners recall that it has always been known as the "sorghum shop".

5. Blacksmith shop, mid-19th century, non-contributing building. In poor condition, a gable roofed, frame building with lower sill and upper plate timbers joined by vertical plank board and battens that form the exterior walls with widths that vary from 18" to 6". A hinged entry door is offset in the south gable end and two window openings (without sash) and a flue hole pierce the north wall. Like the sorghum shop, this building is counted as non-contributing because of extensive deterioration and loss of physical integrity.

6. Corn crib, late 19th century, contributing building. In fair condition with central gable flanked by sheds to the east and west and gable extended south to form a protected, transverse drive area. Built of 4" uprights, 24" on center, with 1" by 4" interior slat walls. The sheds and gable extension walls are of vertical planks. The center gable portion is divided into three areas with corn cribs flanking the central granary with divided bins.

7. Privy, late 19th century, contributing building. A two-compartment privy with asphalt shingled gable roof, stone perimeter foundation, clapboard siding over vertical tongue and groove walls, two, four-panel doors with upper wood louvered panels face north. Poor condition, 10' by 6'.

8. **Buggy barn, mid-19th and 20th century, contributing building.** The original portion of this building is a brick masonry single bay buggy barn, open to the east (toward the house) with mid-20th century, board and batten, shed frame wings and east overhang on pole supports. The brick portion measures 9'3" by 12'.

9. **Domestic servant house, ca. 1835, contributing building.** Called the "jail" by the owners, probably originally the house for domestic slaves and possibly also a summer kitchen. A two-section, hall-parlor dwelling of brick and frame, with the brick portion predating the frame. The brick cell is of 9-course common bond with a limestone foundation, chimney in the north end wall, an asphalt shingled, low gable roof, and collapsing gable porch fronting the central entry that faces south (to the house). The building is open to the elements and has plaster walls, a flat wood mantle two-light vertically-divided sash windows and a stair in the northwest corner (left of the mantle) accessed via a door with two vertical panels. Interior stairs to the right of the mantle lead down to the frame room. This portion is built on a timber sill with vertical plank walls covered with clapboard fixed with cut wire nails. An original 6-over-6 light sash remains in the north gable end above an entry door and large single light sash. Stairs begin within this room to meet the closeted stairs in the adjoining room. This second portion is probably later than the brick, possibly 1850s.

10. **Carbide cellar, ca. 1835, contributing structure.** According to the owners, this structure was a carbide cellar. In appearance and form it is identical to a root cellar with heavy, hinged metal doors covering subterranean stone steps that lead to a room about 5' square with brick vaulted ceiling. Apparently, the vault originally had a copper plate covering that collected acetylene gasses derived from calcium carbide, a crystalline compound (CaC₂). The gas was piped into the house and into lighting fixtures. It is possible that this is a root cellar and the carbide house was above this vault. This structure suggests a possible function of the "gas house" at Auvergne in Bourbon County. The owners of homes like Auvergne and Elkwood would likely desire and be able to afford carbide lamp lighting in their homes.

11. **Vehicle shed, post 1950, non-contributing building.** A five-bay vehicle/machine shed located west of the house with pole supports and vertical board siding.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

Elkwood is architecturally significant on a regional level under criteria C, representing the context of domestic antebellum architecture. It is also historically significant on a local level under criteria A, for representing both domestic support building characteristics and ethnic heritage, contexts developed in the North West Woodford County Multiple Property Form.

Elkwood is an exceptional example of masterful craftsmanship and distinguished architectural design of the early Greek Revival era. The house has been attributed to both Gideon Shryock, recognized as Kentucky's first trained architect, and Matthew Kennedy (the residence is strikingly similar to Kennedy's own home in Lexington built c.1816), men whose architectural contributions influenced decades of regional design in Kentucky.

The home was built for William McDowell about 1835 and maintains excellent integrity of design, materials and workmanship. It is a notable surviving example of the massive, two-story, double-pile center passage plan, a traditional mansion-type sometimes built on prosperous farms of the inner Bluegrass prior to the Civil War.

According to Railey (1927), William McDowell purchased a large tract of land here, less than one mile from Midway in 1835 - soon after the Lexington and Ohio Railway established the town - and hired architect Gideon Shryock to design a home. Shryock was working on the state capitol building in Frankfort at the time, about 12 miles to the west, so the McDowell house construction would have been logistically very feasible. The building, constructed of bricks burned on the property took almost three years to build. It is very similar to both Calumet WD 105, located on the Old Frankfort Pike (see NR nomination with this MPL) and the Matthew Kennedy residence in Lexington. Very probably, McDowell knew of Calumet. He could have commissioned Shryock to design a similar home and distinguish it with signature elements, such as the three-level, curved, cantilevered stair and the unique interior molding details.

The support buildings of Elkwood comprise a dense complex of historic resources that, through characteristics of location, association, design and materials, reveal information concerning housing practices for slaves and support the concept of a variety of domestic and farm activities such as vehicle storage, food processing and energy generation occurring in specific buildings located near the main dwelling.

The slave house and quarters contribute to local understanding of the nature of housing for domestic and field workers. This complex is one of two surviving examples in the area where both house and quarters exist to support the notion of separately located dwellings for the two sets of workers. The other example is at Cane Springs, located in the Big Sink Rural Historic District, also part of this MPL. In addition to the slave housing, the carbide house, smoke house, privy and carriage house, etc. provide insight into the variety of domestic and farming activities that occurred on a prosperous, self sufficient diversified farm of the antebellum era.

Although many of Elkwood's buildings are in poor condition, they are materially intact survivors of an era. Documentation of the physical characteristics of these types of properties is limited, making surviving complexes all the more important. Elkwood causes reflection on why this particular complex survived. Certainly other grand period homes have endured, but very few with an array of intact support buildings. Perhaps it is longevity of farm ownership, the quality of the buildings themselves, or reluctance on the owners to tear down unused buildings. Regardless of the reason, what remains at Elkwood, and at a few other exceptional farms of the area, is a view to the physical character and functional variety of domestic farm buildings on a prosperous antebellum farm.

9. Bibliography

- Oberwarth, C. Julian. A History of the Profession of Architecture in Kentucky. ed., William B. Scott, Jr. (Louisville, Kentucky: Gateway Press) 1987.
- Railey, William E. History of Woodford County. (Versailles, Ky., Woodford Improvement League), 1968.

10. Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the nominated property contain approximately 24 acres and correspond to the points on the accompanying topographic map. That map was drawn from Woodford County Property Valuation Assessor map 38, parcel #4.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property contains only the acres immediately surrounding the domestic complex and the long, tree-lined drive that gives access to the buildings from the Leestown Road. This acreage does not include agricultural fields as this land does not contribute to the significance of the property.

PHOTO LOG: Elkwood (William McDowell House, WD 112)

Property location: Woodford County, Kentucky.

Photographer: Christine Amos

Date of photograph: 1992

Location of original negative: Kentucky Heritage Council,
Frankfort, Kentucky

1. Looking northeast to front and west side of residence.
2. Looking west to east side. Notice entry portico, mounting block in foreground, wood shutters over blind windows, and arched transoms over windows of rear ell.
3. Interior detail of door trim and baseboards, center passage.
4. Looking east-northeast to slave quarter (triple quarter), now used as tenant residence.