

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 23 1975
DATE ENTERED	JUN 5 1975

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Charles and Letitia Shelby Todd House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Highway 55, Five miles north of Shelbyville

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Shelbyville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Kentucky

VICINITY OF

CODE

021

COUNTY

Shelby

CODE

201 - 211

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input 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"/> 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 type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Logan Brown

STREET & NUMBER

Eminence Road

CITY, TOWN

Shelbyville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Shelby County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Shelbyville

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 type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" 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

Seven miles outside of Shelbyville, about a mile and a half from Highway 55, stands Letitia and Charles Todd's House. The house sits on a hill overlooking the farm. The Todd house is thought to have been modelled after the Old Governor's Mansion on Frankfort's High Street where the Todds were married during Shelby's second term as Governor. The design of the house, however, more closely resembles a combination of John Rowan's Federal Hill (My Old Kentucky Home in nearby Bardstown) and John Brown's Liberty Hall in Frankfort. The two-story brick facade is laid in Flemish bond, with the central portion laid one brick forward. The central section, the width of the front hall, is crowned by a pediment with a small fan window (see photo 1). The solid brick walls are fifteen inches thick and stand today as sturdy as when they were built, except for the collapsed rear wall of the ell.

The central portion of the facade, similar to that of My Old Kentucky Home, has a window of full height, but only half the regular width on either side of the front door and the middle window directly above. The window arrangement of the remainder of the house is six-over-six panes. The ends of the front section of the house have interior chimneys and four false windows to complete the symmetry of the facade and ends. One unusual feature is the multi-layered cornice that extends all around both the main block and the rear wing at the edge of the hipped roof; most early 19th-century Kentucky houses have end gables and cornices at front and back returned before the corners; this roof treatment suggest a strikingly self-contained appearance suited for the elevated site and analogous to the compartmentation of the interior rooms. On the north side, half way up the second story, just beyond the northwest corner is a brick that has the initials L. S. T. The Victorian porches, exceptionally elegant in themselves with a Moorish quality to the filigree, were added on three sides later in the 19th century. Exposed joist holes in the front gable suggest that there may originally or at one time have been a two-story porch.

The front door has a small fan-light set inside the squared casing of the door, the corners filled with fanned reeding. This door consists of two horizontal rows of six small rectangular panels (see photo 3). The fan-light and casing of the front door is repeated in the doorway at the opposite end of the central hall. This door is the same size as the front door but consists of six horizontal panels (see photo 4). Throughout the rest of the house a definite individuality is achieved in the short doors which are only about six and a half feet tall. Each has six horizontal panels which increase in size from top to bottom.

The floor plan of the house is also unusual. The central entry hall is large with doors leading to the parlors on either side and to a rear cross hall containing the main stairway with low, wide treads, square balusters and round cherry railing.

The woodwork is in keeping with the Federal period and finely carved. The mantel in the west parlor is of particular interest with its deeply carved, convex oval sunbursts, paired reeded engaged columns, square blocks inset in the pedestals (the height of the high baseboards),

(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 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/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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

circa 1825

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Todd house was built circa 1825 on the land Governor Shelby gave his youngest daughter Letitia. The house or Stockdale Farm, as it was called, was the home of Charles and Letitia Shelby Todd. Todd was an important figure in local and national politics, as well as in the agricultural community of Shelby County. This fine Federal house befits its builders.

Long before Kentucky became a state, Governor Patrick Henry of Virginia issued a treasury warrant for one thousand acres of land situated in what is now Shelby County to Isaac Shelby, later Kentucky's first Governor. In 1825, Shelby put five hundred acres of land in trust for his daughter, Letitia. In turn Letitia's husband, Charles S. Todd, was granted perpetual and irrevocable power of attorney over the property.

Colonel Todd, a soldier and diplomat, son of Judge Thomas Todd of the U. S. Supreme Court, was born near Danville, Kentucky, January 22, 1791, and died at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, May 14, 1871.

Well educated, he was graduated from William and Mary College in 1809. He studied law under his father and Judges Gould and Reeves in Connecticut. Todd practiced in both Lexington and Frankfort. During the War of 1812, he volunteered for service in the army and served on the staff of General William Henry Harrison. After the war, he returned to Frankfort for a short time before beginning his diplomatic career. During this period in 1816 he married Letitia Shelby. The same year he was appointed Kentucky's Secretary of State under Governor Madison, but resigned at the Governor's death. From 1818 to 1823 Todd served as Chargé d' affaires to Colombia, becoming the first American emissary to Latin America.

After his return from Colombia, Todd and his wife settled in Shelby County on her land. For the next sixteen years Todd devoted himself to the improvement of Stockdale Farm. He planted bluegrass in the cleared areas and introduced the first blooded cattle in the county. He also served for a number of years as the president of the State Agricultural Society and wrote many articles on agriculture. In 1840 the Todd family entertained President-elect General William Henry Harrison at Stockdale.

Shortly afterwards Todd became the editor of the Cincinnati Republican, a Whig newspaper. In 1841 he was appointed U. S. Ambassador to Russia by President Tyler. In the course of his diplomatic career, he toured the interior of Russia and was received by King Bernadotte of Sweden, the only Napoleonic Marshal who retained his crown.

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- "Charles S. Todd," The Biographical Encyclopedia of Kentucky of the Dead and Living Men of the Nineteenth Century. (1878) Vol. II, p. 518.
- Green, James A. William Henry Harrison His Life and Times. Richmond: Garrett & Massie, Inc., 1941. p. 319 & p. 377.
- Griffen, G. W. Memoir of Colonel Charles S. Todd. Philadelphia: Claxton, Pemsen & Haffefinger, 1873. p. 44. (continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 152 NO UTM
 UTM REFERENCES HL Latitude: 38° 17' 04"
 Longitude: 85° 13' 03"

A	B	C	D
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Mrs. Edith Roberts	(WEL & MC)
ORGANIZATION	DATE July, 1974
STREET & NUMBER 601 Plainview	TELEPHONE
CITY OR TOWN Shelbyville	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 Cedric W. Minton
 TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE 5/20/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY	DATE
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<u>AB [Signature]</u>	DATE <u>6/5/75</u>
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	
ATTEST: <u>[Signature]</u>	DATE JUN 4 1975
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

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and pricked inner moldings--a combination of splendor and delicacy (see photo 6). The dining room and east parlor have cabinets flanking the chimneys similar to the panelled doors.

For the last few years the Todd house has been unoccupied and as the result the lovely old house has fallen into a state of disrepair. One rear wall has caved in and the plaster is falling off in many places. Several of the original mantels have been removed and all of the windows have been boarded up. The only remaining outbuilding is a circular brick smokehouse which was built strong enough to serve as a fort with walls three feet thick.

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In 1845 Todd returned to Kentucky and retired from public life but continued to write upon subjects of religion, agriculture, and politics. Armstrong includes the following sketch of Todd in the Biographical Encyclopedia of Kentucky (1878): "Col. Todd was warmly and earnestly devoted to his country, and was one of the most dignified, scholarly, able, and accomplished diplomats who had ever represented our Government in foreign courts. He is said to have very much resembled Louis Philippe, of France; was compactly and stoutly built, and a little below medium height, with fine bearing and manners, rich, musical voice; was a fine conversationalist and companion; was extremely kind and conciliatory in deportment; and was undoubtedly a man whose great ambition was to do good in the world. He was an accomplished gentleman, of the old Whig school of strong and dignified politics, and doubtlessly Kentucky had few more useful or able men."

After Todd's death in 1871, his son Thomas continued to reside and operate Stockdale Farm for many years. In turn it was passed on to his children. For at least the last fifty years the house has belonged to the Logan Brown family.

In conclusion the Todd house is of significance as the home of a talented figure of national note and the daughter of Kentucky's first Governor, as well as an excellent example of Federal style architecture of the early 19th century in a still undeveloped setting.

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Willis, George L. Sr. History of Shelby County, Kentucky. Louisville: C. T. Dearing Co.,
1929. p. 153.

