NPS Form 10-900 (7-81)

**United States Department of the Interior**National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received FEB 1-3-1984
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*Type all entries—complete applicable sections

·	Complete applicable se	,0110113		
1. Nam	le			
istoric	THOMAS THRELK	ELD HOUSE		
nd/or common				4
2. Loca	ation			
treet & number	Benson Pike			not for publication
ity, town	Shelbyville //c	X vicinity of	cacagnassis nahdistritt?	
tate	Kentucky code	county	Shelby	code
3. Clas	sification	•	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
ategory  district  X_ building(s)  structure  site  object	Ownership public _x_ private both Public Acquisition NA in process NA being considered	Status  occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use  _X_ agriculture  commercial  educational  entertainment  government  industrial  military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
ame	er of Proper		anlan D. Diank	
	Weakley Farms, Inc. 1015 Cragmore Driv		aries P. Black	
ty, town			state	
	Seabrook ation of Lega		exas	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
***************************************	stry of deeds, etc. Shelby	<del>- 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1</del>		
ty, town	Shelby	···•!!!a	state 1	(entucky
<del></del>	resentation			Centucky
<del></del>		1	operty been determined elig	gible? yes _X
Burvey	of Historic Sites in	Kentucky nas uns pro	federal _X_ state	
ate Summer			reuerar State	e county lo
epository for su	rvey records Kentucky	Heritage Council		
ity, town Fra	nkfort		state k	Kentucky

### 7. Description

Condition excellent deterioratedgoodruinsfairunexposed	Check one unaltered altered	Check one _X_ original site moved date
--------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------	----------------------------------------

#### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Thomas Threlkeld House is located in Shelby County, Kentucky, near the Benson Pike, four miles east of Shelbyville, the county seat. The house stands approximately one-half mile from the road in a grove of oaks, locusts, and cedars. The site is north northwest of the course of Tick Creek, now flooded by the damming of Guist Creek, of which the creek is a tributary. The house has stood empty for many decades and is now used for the storage of straw and hay. The metal roof was recently installed, and the house frame and interior trim are sound.

The house is made up of three sections, all of which are of one story: a two-room frame section with garret and basement, built first; a stone wing to the west, built very soon after; and a log ell to the north, built at a considerably later date (see photos 1 & 2 and plans & elevations). The frame section is a three-bay hall-parlor house with a central door symmetrically placed in the principal (south) facade fronting the creek. The foundation is constructed of coursed, squared rubble. A barred vent below each of the two windows on the south front flanks the location of a now vanished wooden stoop. The frame section is sheathed with tapered weatherboard with a six inch weather incorporating a 1/2" bead. The fenestration and siding on the north facade indicate that it originally carried no porch or other appendage. It contains four asymmetrically located openings: two central doors flanked by windows (see photo 3). At each end of the house rise shouldered exterior stone chimneys between two small windows which light each end of the garret. The first floor windows on the north and south are equipped with pintles for exterior blinds. The three exterior doors are hung on butt hinges and bear traces of graining on their outer faces, although the exposed weatherboards and door frames are devoid of paint. The frame is constructed of 3" x 4" study resting on 12" x 12" sills and augmented by down braces (on the front and probably the rear). One arch brace is known to exist over the door to the stone wing at the south corner of the west gable end (see photo 4). Each corner post is constructed of a 12" x 12" section hollowed to form an L shape, thereby preventing the inner corner of the post from protruding into any of the rooms.

The wing to the west is constructed of coursed rubble (see photos 5 & 6). It contains a single room with a chimney at the west end. There is no excavation below or garret above this section. The room is lit by single windows with splayed reveals in the north and south walls, and by an original narrow sash window (to judge by the interior trim) to the side of the chimney.

The stone section is characterized by an extremely low-pitched roof, apparently built thus to avoid blocking the adjacent garret windows. The frame and stone sections have box cornices on the north and south facades, with nearly identical crown molds composed of a cyma recta above a cyma reversa. The cornices on the frame section have in addition a bed mold incorporating convex and concave cavetto moldings.

The porch along the north wall, which is ceiled with beaded boards and retains two chamfered posts, apparently originally continued from the eastern end of the frame section to the far side of the western doorway. It is not structurally integral with the house

(see continuation sheets)

#### 8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799X 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agricultureX architecture art commerce communications		landscape architectur law literature military music philosophy politics/government	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1st quarter 19th c.	Builder/Architect		<u> </u>

#### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Threlkeld/Weakley House incorporates significant early features in a largely unaltered form. Unusual features such as mud wall infill, horizontally sliding sash, an early porch and the juxtaposition of framed timber, stone and log construction make the house unique in the region. Although evidence increasingly indicates a widespread use of mud as an infill medium, there are few known examples within the state. The house was chosen by the Kentucky Heritage Commission for its 1981 Historic American Buildings Survey project because it clearly exhibited many important features of the federal-period vernacular house in Kentucky.

Deed research indicates that Thomas Threlkeld purchased eighty-five acres on Tick Creek in Shelby County Kentucky on February 9, 1812. In that same month, he married Ann Foster of Shelby County, and it would appear that construction of the Threlkeld house took place within several years.

Thomas Threlkeld was born in Shelby County in 1786 on his father's farm, also on Tick Creek. His father, Thomas Threlkeld, had moved to Shelby County from Virginia in the latter portion of the eighteenth century. The senior Threlkeld was killed in 1790 while participating in an attack on the Ohio Indians.

Thomas and Ann Threlkeld had ten children, four sons and six daughters. Threlkeld was a wealthy farmer as revealed by the inventory of his estate made in September of 1849, two months after his death. His property, including approximately 300 acres, was valued at \$17,000. Threlkeld's will made ample provision for his wife Ann. She inherited land, horses, and slaves.

Ann Threlkeld died in 1877. No Threlkelds are shown as owning property in the vicinity of Tick or Guist Creeks on the 1882 atlas of Shelby County. The land came into the possession of the Weakley family and is operated as a farm by descendants of that family today.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Atlas of Shelby County, Kentucky, 1882.

eet)

Kerr, Charles, ed. <u>Histor</u>	ry of Kentucky.	5 vols. Chi	see continuation s) cago & New York: American Historica.
10. Geographic	cal Data		
Acreage of nominated property _a Quadrangle name _Shelbyvil UMT References		<u> </u>	Quadrangle scale 1:24000
	2   3   0   7   6   0   thing	$\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{B} \\ \boxed{1  I  G} \\ \mathbf{Zone} \end{array}$	
c 1,6 66 3 4,2 0 4,2	2   3   0   5   0   0	ם [1 6]	6 6 3 3 3 3 0 4 2 3 0 6 8 0
E		F <u>                                    </u>	
Verbal boundary description a	nd justification		
Beginning northeast of th	e house at A, tet to D, thence ency foundation	e east 656 fe ns.	656 feet to B, thence west 656 feet eet to the beginning, containing the county boundaries
state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code
11. Form Prepa			
name/title Gibson Worsh organization	nam, Architect		date November 1983
street & number 14 Holyoke St	reet		telephone
city or town Boston			state Massachusetts
	ric Prese	rvation	Officer Certification
The evaluated significance of this p	property within the st	tate is:	
national	state	local	
As the designated State Historic Pr	eservation Officer fo	e National Registe	storic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89– er and certify that it has been evaluated
according to the criteria and procedure	dures set forth by the	e National Park S	Service.
according to the criteria and process  State Historic Preservation Officer	dures set forth by the	e National Park S	service.
according to the criteria and proce	dures set forth by the	e National Park S	date Flynse 8, 1984
State Historic Preservation Officer	signature Management of the signature signatur	y Jemu ki	date Flynna 8, 1984

### **United States Department of the Interior**National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received: 3/8/8/

Shelby County, Kentucky

Continuation sheet Threlkeld/Weakley House

Item number

Page 2

frame and in fact blocks the north vent of the basement room, but it would appear from its detailing to have been an early addition, perhaps built very soon after the original construction date.

The square-pen log section was built to the north of the porch, and the open passage thus formed was later enclosed. The room is now sheathed with narrow weatherboards and equipped with a brick stove flue, but evidence remains of a wide fireplace on the north wall. The logs are joined with a square notch, normally associated with the mid- to late-nineteenth century, so the ell would seem to be a kitchen built some decades after the house's construction. Interior and exterior sheathing added in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century obscures most earlier features, except where the exterior of the south wall, facing into the enclosed porch, is plastered. The log section seems to have been pierced by a single window to the west and a door to the east. The later window to the north impinges on the early chimney location, as revealed by a wide opening in the logs.

The interior of the frame section is finished in plaster, applied directly over mud packed between the studs and other framing members. The mud is reinforced by laths stacked between vertical strips of wood nailed to the sides of the framing members (see photo 7). The mud, mixed with straw, was applied to both sides of the laths before the exterior or interior finishes were added. On the interior, finish plaster is carried across the faces of framing members roughened by chopping to give key to the plaster.

The two rooms are separated by a plastered stud partition. Both rooms have beaded baseboards, molded chair rails and pin or peg rails running around all four walls. The larger room has more elaborate moldings and the most elaborate of the house's mantels, incorporating paneled pilasters and a frieze containing an ellipse filled with horizontal reeding. The frieze in turn supports a molded shelf (see photo 8). The enclosed stair to the garret originally opened out of this room next to the south door and ascended along the transverse partition within the space of the adjacent room, but the winders at its foot were reversed and a door added in this century to allow access from both rooms.

The smaller room has simpler moldings on the door frames, window frames, and chair rails, and the mantel consists of an architrave surround surmounted by a frieze and molded shelf. Storage is provided in a closet under the lower portion of the stair run; both closet and stair are enclosed in beaded vertical boards.

The unheated garret was originally finished with horizontal sheathing and divided by a board partition into two chambers corresponding to the two rooms below, but all interior sheathing and the partition are now removed with the exception of the boards on the gable walls. Access to the area behind the knee walls was through a low door in the north and south wall of each chamber; these remain largely intact. The railing around the stair has been removed. The dwelling's only remaining window sash, in the northeast garret window, demonstrates the unusual fenestration in the attic space. The nine-paned

(see continuation sheets)

### **United States Department of the Interior**National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Shelby County, Kentucky

Continuation sheet Threlkeld/Weakley House

Item number

For NPS use only received 2//3/84 date entered

Page 3

sash slides horizontally in rails articulated above and below with beading along their grooved edges, and the distance between the windows is such that the two corresponding sashes, when open, occupy exactly the space between the window openings and behind the chimney. The bead on the underside of the top guide rail was left off in the center of the space between the windows for a distance equal to the width of one sash, so that when the sash is moved to the center it can fall forward and be entirely removed.

The cellar consists of a single space under the east room of the frame section. It is reached by an exterior flight of stone steps at the south corner of the east gable wall. The stone walls are plastered and a barred vent is located in both north and south walls. No cooking or heating fireplace was provided in the basement; the hearth above is carried on a corbelled stone arch vaulting out to the first joist in front of the chimney.

The stone wing, the floor of which is a foot lower than the frame section, contains a mantel very similar to the mantel in the west room (see photo 9). Some of the moldings are identical. The room contains two original built-in cabinets, located on either side of the protruding chimney of the frame section, and is finished with a beaded baseboard, the house's most delicately molded chair rail and splayed window reveals which feature paneled jambs and heads.

The site, consisting of 10 acres, contains a corbelled stone springhouse (see photo 10) and the foundations of an icehouse and several outbuildings of undetermined function. A late nineteenth century barn stands to the west and a concrete cover caps a cistern to the immediate north of the house.

### **United States Department of the Interior**National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received  $2/(3/8^4)$  date entered

Shelby County, Kentucky Continuation sheet Threlkeld/Weakley House

Item number

9

Page

2

Society, 1922. Vol. 3, Connelly, William E., and E.M. Coulter, p. 308.

Shelby County Deed Book L, p. 100.

Shelby County Will Book 19, pp. 216; 219.

BOUNDARY AND LOCATION INFORMATION
Historic Property Name <u>Homas Shrelkeld house</u> Site # <u>Sh.179</u> Multiple Resource/Thematic Nomination Title
U.T.M. Coordinates - List multiple UTMs if property is ten or more acres.  A. 16 663520 4230760 D. 16 663330 4230680
B. 16 663620 4230600 E.
c. 16 663420 4230500 F.
Verbal Boundary Description Acreage La 10 acres
Reginning M.E. of the house at a thence 5 656 ft to B, thence W 656 ft to C, thence M 656 ft to D, thence E 656 ft to the beginning; containing the house, spring, and dependency foundations.
Sketch of Site Plan (Showing outbuildings, structures, landscape features and the site boundary as described above.)
Ky 1719

























