

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAR 5 1987

date entered MAY 5 1987

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

1. Name

historic THOMPSON HOUSE

and or common

2. Location

street & number Highway 22 and Old Giltner Road not for publication

city, town _____ vicinity of Eminence

state Kentucky code 021 county Henry code 103

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input 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"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> na being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" 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 Albert Wallace Lyons and Margaret Catlin Brandt

street & number Post Office Box 102

city, town Eminence vicinity of _____ state Kentucky

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Henry County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town New Castle state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Resources Inventory of Kentucky has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date September 1986 federal state county local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town Frankfort state Kentucky

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 Thompson House is a two-story, weatherboarded, framed house which combines Greek Revival and Italianate detail and design concepts in an unusual way. It is located in a rural setting where it served as the farmhouse for a highly productive Outer Bluegrass farm. A few of the minor outbuildings associated with the house survive. Unfortunately, significant historic landscape features do not survive on the balance of the farm acreage.

The Thompson House is located in southwestern Henry County, two miles west of the county's largest city--Eminence--and six miles southwest of the county seat of New Castle. Louisville, Kentucky's largest city, is thirty miles to the southwest. Henry County's economy is based on a productive agriculture. Most of its citizens are engaged in agriculture today as they were in the 19th century. A survey of historic properties carried out by the Kentucky Heritage Council staff in 1981 documented 316 significant properties including over 175 farmhouses in Henry County. Numerous examples of vernacular Greek Revival, Italianate and turn of the century farmhouses were recorded in the survey. Five of these farmhouses plus the courthouse in New Castle and the Eminence Historic District are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Over one hundred other individual properties will eventually be nominated to the National Register.

The original Thompson House is a two-story frame house with an unusual asymmetrical plan. The Outer Bluegrass area contains numerous central passage, single and double pile, hipped-roof farmhouses from this period of growth and prosperity associated with the development of new markets after the arrival of railroad transportation in the mid-nineteenth century. Many of these houses feature traditional central-passage plan and Italianate roof forms and exterior details. The Thompson House is different from most of these reflecting, perhaps, the idiosyncrasies of its builder. The house has a low, hipped roof which is a characteristic of vernacular Italianate houses.

A single, square room centered in front of two equal-sized rooms is the basic plan of the house. To the left of the advanced main room is a three-story, cupola-topped tower. Two chimneys are found in the house, one centered to the rear of the formal parlor and one between the two rooms in the second block. Access to the house is provided through two inauspicious entrances. One is in the base of the tower and the second is in to the room on the right of the second pile (see plan). Both are narrow, nine foot openings without decorative features. The one on the east apparently was once covered with a small stoop while there is no evidence of a porch or stoop associated with the main entrance. All windows in the house are simple four over four which are centered in the exterior wall they are located in.

The exterior features wide-fluted pilasters at the corners including the angled surfaces of the stair tower. The pilasters have simple bases and five, small-curved brackets in their capitals. The fluting found in the pilasters is also used to trim the windows (see photo #4). A feature of equal impact as the pilasters is the wide entablature. Large brackets are found at the corners and are paired above the windows while smaller consoles complete the decoration of the entablature. The frieze has a narrow band of dentils (see photo #5). All of the window corners in the Thompson House utilize three pairs of small brackets to support the crowns. An octagonal cupola rises above the tower. The tower features four 4 over 4 windows in every other side. The single consoles located at the corners are the only decorative features in the tower.

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/
<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 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 type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c. 1855-1870 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Thompson House is significant under Criterion C as a distinctive vernacular example of the integration of Italianate and Greek Revival qualities in a residential building. The Outer Bluegrass region encompassing Henry, Shelby, Nelson, Spencer and Washington Counties experienced general prosperity in the 1850s and 1860s. Of the many farmhouses from the period, which incorporate Italianate and Greek Revival features, the Thompson House is one of the most unique in its meshing of plan and ornament from the two popular architectural styles.

The Thompson House was probably built by Lemuel Thompson. Lemuel inherited the farm from his father William in 1816 and operated it until his death in 1865. The farm remained in the Thompson family until 1900. The original farmhouse on this farm apparently faced north, oriented to the Old Giltner Road which parallels the Little Kentucky River. In the late 1840s, the builders of the Louisville and Frankfort Railroad, the first east-west railroad built from Louisville to the central Kentucky area, acquired right of way through the southern portion of the property. Within a few years of the building of the railroad, Thompson built this house which is oriented to the railroad. He chose a site on a hill approximately forty-feet higher in elevation and one quarter mile distant from the railroad thereby giving his new house a commanding view of the new transportation corridor.

The Thompson House remained in the family until 1900 when it was sold out of the family to settle Prudence Thompson's estate. Thereafter, the property changed hands seventeen times becoming first a tenant house and then being abandoned prior to its purchase and sensitive restoration by the current owners.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Atlas of Henry & Shelby Counties, Kentucky. D. J. Lake & Co., 1882.
Drane, Maude J., History of Henry County, Kentucky. Privately Printed, 1948.
Henry County Deed Books, Henry County Clerk's Office, New Castle, KY.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 3.5 acres
Quadrangle name Eminence Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>6</u> <u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>3</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated area is a rectangular area measuring 300 feet by 500 feet, beginning at a point 200 feet southeast of the southeast corner of the house. The boundary has been drawn to include most of the domestic space, including mature trees and adjacent outbuildings.

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	Margaret Catlin Brandt (Robert M. Polsgrove)		
organization	Owner (KY Heritage Council)	date	August 1986
street & number	Post Office Box 102	telephone	502/896-6670
city or town	Eminence	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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *David L Meyer*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date February 24, 1987

For NPS use only

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

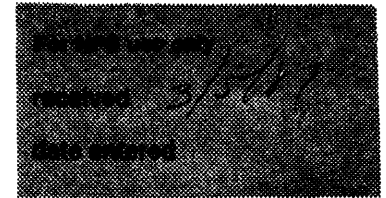
for *Delores Beys* date *5/5/87*
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

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

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



Thompson House

Continuation sheet Henry County, Kentucky

Item number 7

Page 2

The interior of the Thompson House features four paneled, Greek Revival doors and simple shouldered architrave trim around the doors and windows (see photo #6). The ceilings measure 12 feet in height. The simple Greek Revival doors feature box-locks and porcelain knobs. The front parlor has more elaborate trim than the other rooms. The bay window in the parlor and the parlor mantel are framed with fluted pilasters at the sides and a decorative frieze and crown molding at the top. The spiral staircase rises from the front door and curves sharply up to a second floor landing. It then curves again up into the octagonal cupola room. The staircase has its original newels and cherry wood bannister with turned balusters.

A one-story, weatherboarded, shed-roofed addition extends across the back of the house providing a modern kitchen and bathroom facilities. These modern additions replaced an earlier shed porch which was removed in the course of restoration. The addition is inset the width of the corner pilaster on either side thereby protecting the major original feature at the rear of the building. Originally the house was supported by dry-laid stone piers. The piers became unstable allowing settling and sagging in the structure which the current owners have corrected by having a new foundation of uncoursed limestone laid which is appropriate for the house. The original building retains integrity of location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Although the design and foundation materials have experienced some change, these are not extensive enough to compromise the overall integrity of the house.

Several small outbuildings including a bell-shaped, brick cistern, a stone well with cast-iron pump, a brick, beehive-shaped root cellar, an outhouse, and small shed, all in the immediate vicinity of the house survive. A slave cabin which local informants remember has been demolished. A chicken house and shed have also been removed for health reasons by the current owners.

The nomination contains one contributing building and no non-contributing features.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Thompson House
Henry County, Kentucky



Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page

3

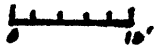
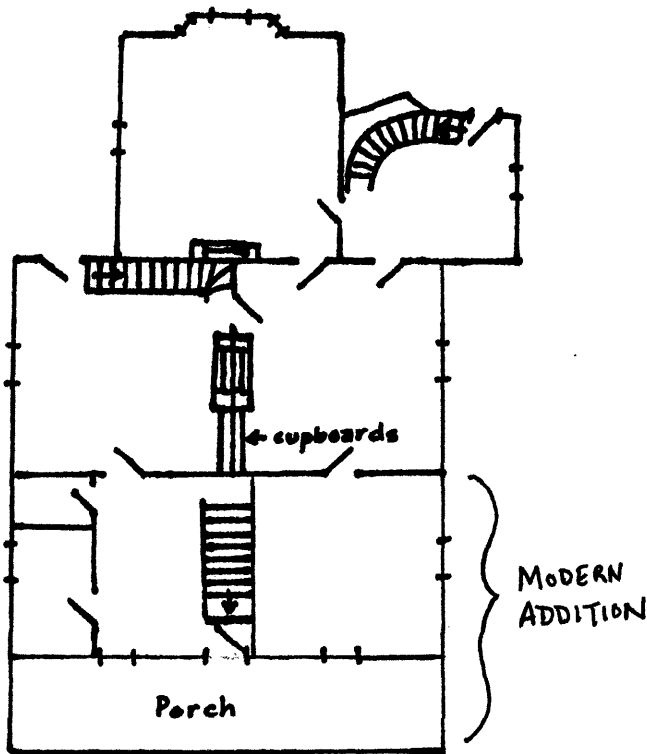


fig. 1 Sketch plan of
First Floor

