

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED **JAN 29 1980**
DATE ENTERED **SEP 15 1980**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Short, George, House

AND/OR COMMON

Lewis House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

121 N. Main Street

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Greenville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Kentucky

__ VICINITY OF

1

CODE

021

COUNTY

Muhlenberg

CODE

177

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Hugh Lewis

STREET & NUMBER

121 N. Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Greenville

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

42345

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Muhlenberg County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Greenville

STATE

Kentucky

42345

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

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 George Short House is situated on the fringe of the commercial district of Greenville, county seat of Muhlenberg County, in western Kentucky. The courthouse and commercial core of the town were constructed at the crest of a hill, with many of the older residences originally found along the main artery leading into town (Main Street). The Short House, with the business district to the immediate south, is the last of these early houses along North Main.

This two-story, five-bay frame house is distinguished on the facade by a two-story porch supported by four slender columns at each level. A balustrade encloses the second floor porch. The central entrance contains a transom with sidelights, with a door centered above at the second level. Exterior brick chimneys characterize the side walls.

The interior contains much original wood trim typical of the period, such as doorframes with rosettes in corner blocks, and mantles in each of the front parlors.

The boundaries of the nomination encompass the house and land running the full width of the city lot (350'), extending westward from Main St. approximately 350' to incorporate the entire front, side and back yards, important to the visual setting of the residence.

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 1840-45

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The George Short House, located on the fringe of the commercial district in Greenville Kentucky, is the oldest surviving house in the city and one of less than ten antebellum houses remaining in Greenville. It was intended as a showcase when it was built during the decade of the 1840's and remains virtually unaltered.

Muhlenberg County was the 34th county formed in Kentucky and was established in 1798. Its county seat, Greenville, was established in 1812 and was named after General Nathaniel Greene, of Revolutionary War fame. It is a small town (population 3,875) but the largest in this rural western Kentucky county.

The historical importance of this house is found in its association with George Washington Short, a wealthy Greenville businessman who was engaged in the tobacco industry of the area. He was the eldest son of David Short (1779-1845), one of the earliest settlers in Muhlenberg County. The elder Short was of German origin, and was one of the county's more wealthy and influential citizens. He served in the lower house of the Kentucky General Assembly in 1828, 1829 and 1832. George, his son, was also elected to the Legislature in 1849.

The reason for the construction of the Short house is intertwined with George Short's romantic involvement with Miss Tabitha Brank, the second daughter of Ephriam McLean Brank (1791-1875), who also lived in Greenville.¹ The wealthy Mr. Short asked Miss Brank to marry him but was rejected. In an effort to change her mind, Short had an impressive two-story house built. At considerable expense he had the component parts floated down the Ohio River by flatboat. Unfortunately, this did not impress the young lady sufficiently and she continued to refuse his marriage proposal. Short never lived in the house and remained a bachelor.

The house eventually came into the possession of the Lewis family in 1902. F.H. Lewis, the father-in-law of the current owner, served as county court clerk of Muhlenberg Co. from 1903 to 1906.

¹ Brank was a local lawyer and surveyor who had come to Muhlenberg County in 1808 from North Carolina as another of the earlier settlers. He had established a national reputation as a crack rifle shot at the Battle of New Orleans in 1815.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hillard, Carolyn. "Greenville Home being considered for place on National Registry of Historic Places." Greenville, Kentucky: Leader-News April 21, 1979.

Rothert, Otto A. A History of Muhlenberg County. Louisville: John P. Morton Co., Inc., 1913. (Reprint by Standard Publishing Company, Louisville, Ky., 1964).

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 2 1/4 acres. *See letter dated 1-23-80*

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

QUADRANGLE NAME Greenville, Kentucky

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 484090 4117215
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION *See map*

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Calvin P. Jones, Historian; Gloria Mills, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

STREET & NUMBER

104 Bridge Street

CITY OR TOWN

Frankfort

DATE

August 1979

TELEPHONE

502/564-3741

STATE

Kentucky 40601

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

Edward W. Shelton

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 1-10-80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

John W. Ray
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 9/15/80

ATTEST: *Kristin J. O'Connell*
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 8/8/80

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Muhlenberg County, Kentucky

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The house has significance for the town in being one of few remaining antebellum houses. Many of these older buildings are frame and similar to the Short House in construction. The Short House is particularly distinctive, however, in having retained to such a large degree its original character. Much of the interior wood trim exists intact, such as the Greek Revival molding and mantles. Its prominent location on Main Street near the courthouse and commercial center of town is a ready reminder of the city's past as well as architectural styles prevalent in that section of western Kentucky.

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ADDENDUM

The nominated area includes the city lot (71' x 152').

Acreage--apprxoimately 1/4 acre.

