

PH0692522

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED NOV 29 1978  
DATE ENTERED DEC 28 1978

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  
Champion-Shepherdson Building

AND/OR COMMON  
The Guild House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
115 East Main Street

CITY, TOWN  
Princeton

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
1

STATE VICINITY OF COUNTY CODE  
Kentucky 021 Caldwell 033

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: (Vacant)

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
Lively Arts Council-Art Guild, c/o Mrs. Don Pinska, President

STREET & NUMBER  
700 West Locust Street

CITY, TOWN STATE  
Princeton Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Caldwell County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER  
Court Square

CITY, TOWN STATE  
Princeton Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
Survey of Historic Sites In Kentucky (Supplement)

DATE  
1971

FEDERAL  STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN STATE  
Frankfort Kentucky

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The ca. 1817 Champion-Shepherdson Building is located on the northwest corner of East Main Street and a narrow alley in Princeton, Kentucky (1970 pop., 6,292). The Caldwell County Courthouse is one block west, and there are commercial buildings of later dates flanking and facing the Champion-Shepherdson Building. East Main Street serves as the commercial axis of Princeton, a rapidly expanding community in Kentucky's Pennyroyal region.

This two-story building is constructed of brick and the walls rest on a regular stone foundation. It presents a symmetrical five-bay facade to East Main. The three inner bays of the first level are entrances--the entrance in the center opening onto a straight flight of steps that leads to the second floor. Each entrance is approached by two stone steps from the sidewalk. The windows have stone lintels below the sills and jack arches above, the bricks of the facade are laid in Flemish bond, and corbelled cornices are on the front and rear.

A parapet rises above the roof on either side, and each gabled end contains a centered chimney built flush with the wall. At the northeast is a one-and-one-half-story stem with a parapet, corbelled cornices, and openings like those same elements of the main block. A chimney at the stem's end is partially built outside the wall.

On the main block's west side is a shed-roofed appendage that appears to have been added in the mid-19th century. The appendage is a narrow section with entrances centered on front and rear, and windows that have segmental relieving arches above. The brick corbelling and parapets of the original building are absent on this addition.

Although the exterior of the Champion-Shepherdson Building is relatively unaltered, very little of the interior's fabric remains. The stem is thought to have been used as a kitchen at first, but the retention of a fine Federal mantel that serves an opening much too small for cooking purposes makes this supposition unlikely. A turn-of-the-century dado encircles the single room of this section.

The main block's first floor contains two equal-sized spaces that are separated by an enclosed staircase in the center. Original flooring and woodwork were removed at an undetermined time. The second level contains several rooms that initially were used as a family residence. Minor subdivision of rooms has occurred, but like the level below, flooring has been replaced and most woodwork has been removed.

The nominated property includes the building and its lot--originally the western half of lot #4 as identified when Princeton was established.

# 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 checked="" 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

1817-1899

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Champion-Shepherdson Building is significant as being the singular remnant that reflects the earliest commerce in Princeton, Kentucky, a thriving small town in the western section of the Commonwealth. The relatively unaltered state of the exterior renders this early 19th-century building architectural importance and the Champion-Shepherdson Buildings is considered a fine example of the Federal style as locally employed in a combination commercial/residential structure.

This building, the oldest existing in Princeton, is assumed to have been constructed in 1817, the same year that Princeton was established by an act of the Kentucky Legislature. It was built for Thomas Champion who operated the town's first dry goods store in the lower level (one half of this level's space was apparently used for retail purposes while the other half was storage space), and who resided with his family in the upper level (The Princeton Leader, no. 52, p. 1). In 1819 Princeton had eight business establishments; "Four were stores very poorly stocked, and the other four were saloons" (Baker, First History of Caldwell County, p. 40). Upon Champion's death in 1821, the building was sold to Elijah Shepherdson, who continued its use as a combination store/dwelling. Towards the end of the 19th century, Princeton's first city hall was housed in the first floor, and the second floor was eventually divided into apartments.

Princeton is the seat of Caldwell County which was established in 1809. Caldwell was settled in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, and many of its first residents had come from South Carolina and Georgia -- these settlers being attracted by "the fertility of the creek and river lands, the heavy growth of timber and the abundance of good springs" (Baker, p. 11). Princeton was situated on a major road used heavily by emigrants heading west in the early 1800s. This route, called the "Varmitrace," was part of the 1200-mile "Trail of Tears" over which the Cherokee Indians were forced to cross in the 1830s: "The enforced trek began in the Great Smoky Mountains and led westward to Indian Territory, costing the Cherokees nearly one-third of their population" (Guide to Kentucky Historical Highway Markers, p. 23).

(continued)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baker, Blauscine R. First History of Cladwell County. Madisonville, Ky.: Commercial Printers, 1936.  
The Princeton Leader. "The Town's Oldest House Sought by Art Guild," Princeton, May 25, 1978, p. 1.  
 Additional information supplied by Mrs. Olive Eldred, West Locust Street, Princeton, Ky.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1/2 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 6	4 2 1 7 0 0	4 1 0 7 0 7 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The rectangular lot containing the building at 115 East Main Street, Princeton, Kentucky-- originally the western half of lot #4.

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

Daniel Kidd, Sr. Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

September 1978

STREET & NUMBER

104 Bridge Street

TELEPHONE

502-564-3741

CITY OR TOWN

Frankfort

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

*Eldred W. Melton*

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

10-26-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *John H. Gilmore*

DATE

12-28-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12/13/78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED NOV 29 1978
DATE ENTERED DEC 28 1978

Champion-Shepherdson Building  
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

There are no other buildings in Princeton of the antiquity of the Champion-Shepherdson Building. Neighboring structures mostly date from the turn-of-the-century, and many of these have suffered from mutations. However, the exterior of the Champion-Shepherdson Building, despite an early construction date and differing uses, appears much as it did when constructed. Fenestration is unaltered and the only addition was made in the mid-19th century. In its position on East Main Street, the building is visually distinctive and is easily identifiable as being much earlier than its neighbors. Its architectural quality is much enhanced by the clean fenestration, the parapets on the gabled sides, the corbelled cornices, and the pleasing proportions.

In early 1978, the Lively Arts Council-Art Guild of Princeton purchased the Champion-Shepherdson Building with the intention of eventually converting it into an arts center. The building will be equipped with studio space, storage facilities and a gallery.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	NOV 29 1978
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	NOV 29 1978

Champion-Shepherdson Building  
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

---

Guide to Kentucky Historical Highway Markers. Frankfort: Kentucky Historical Society, 1973.

THE CHAMPION-SHEPHERDSON BUILDING, 1817-1818

PRINCETON, CALDWELL COUNTY, KENTUCKY

ROOF PLAN

NO SCALE

