

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received SEP 27 1982  
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Davidson, G. W., House and Bank

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number Main Street (Highway 68) not for publication

city, town Auburn vicinity of ~~Congressional District~~

state Kentucky code 021 county Logan code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 Sallie Ruth Linton

street & number Route 5

city, town Russellville vicinity of state Kentucky

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Logan County Courthouse

street & number Hwy. 68

city, town Russellville state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Ky. Historic Resources Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date Summer 1980 federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town Frankfort state Kentucky

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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

In 1878 G.W. Davidson erected the two-story brick bank building which now stands on the south side of Main Street in Auburn, Kentucky. Designed to house the newly-organized G.W. Davidson Banking Company, this structure was soon followed by the two-story, double-pile residence now situated behind the bank. These two buildings share a one-acre tract and remain linked by the stepping stones which, according to local tradition, Davidson once used to travel to and from work each day.

Modest in size and detail, the G.W. Davidson Bank Building measures 20 feet deep by 77 feet long. It stands at right angles to a row of store buildings which Davidson apparently built ca. 1882<sup>1</sup>, and the bank's main (east) facade faces a small square. Little ornamentation adorns the bank building. Indeed, decoration of the east facade is confined to the fluted pilasters which flank the double doors and transom, and the corner pilaster which emphasizes the slight setback of the structure's north end. The stylized rosettes which highlight the otherwise plain entry remain intact; however, it appears that the recessed doorway was at one time altered to provide for the addition of small storm doors. These have since been removed, and the shed roof--also a later addition--may soon be eliminated as well.

Additional architectural elements worthy of note include the dentils which embellish the cornice line of the north facade, and the jack arches which crest the tall, narrow windows facing Main Street. On the opposite (south) facade, rounded arches highlight the second story windows, reflecting an Italianate influence.

Although the exterior of the bank building retains much of its original integrity and design, the interior has been altered a good deal over the past century. Originally the two first floor rooms housed tellers cages and the bank vault--elements which have since been removed to provide office space. The second floor, once used for meeting rooms, now serves as an apartment. The major exterior change seems to have been the setback portion of the building's northern end. This section probably reflects an effort to enlarge the bldg.

Like the bank building, the G.W. Davidson residence was originally of somewhat simple design. It was erected ca. 1878-80, and is of solid brick laid in common bond. Measuring 40 feet by 40 feet, this two-story, five-bay house has interior end chimneys and jack arches above each window. The Colonial Revival portico, with its Ionic columns and dentilled pediment, represents a later addition. It was probably erected shortly before Davidson's death in 1919 and reflects his prominent position in the Auburn community. The small one-story portico along the west facade most likely dates from the same period.

(continued)

1

Edward Coffman, The Story of Logan County (Nashville: The Parthenon Press, 1962), p. 266.

# 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 checked="" 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** 1878-80 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

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

The G.W. Davidson Bank building and residence represent an important focal point in the farming community of Auburn, Kentucky. Situated ten miles east of Russellville, Auburn was incorporated in 1865, the same year in which G.W. Davidson emigrated to Auburn from his native Warren County.<sup>1</sup> As late as 1877, Davidson is described in the Logan County Atlas as a "Dealer in Dry Goods, Clothing, Boots and Shoes, Hats and Caps, Millinery Goods, Books, and Stationery."<sup>2</sup> However, around 1878 Davidson embarked upon a new enterprise, organizing the G.W. Davidson Banking Company. This bank, the first to be established in this rural community of some 610 inhabitants,<sup>3</sup> was long known as "the one-man bank."<sup>4</sup> It remained a vital element in the area until 1929, ten years after Davidson's death, when it merged with the Bank of Auburn.<sup>5</sup> Architecturally, the old bank building remains extremely modest in both design and detail; and yet, the close proximity of this structure to the Davidson home creates a rather unique commercial-residential complex in the heart of Auburn. These complementary structures reflect the community spirit, commercial enterprise, and practicality of their early owner. Moreover, despite the minor alterations and additions which occurred since construction, the bank building and residence have remained an integral part of the Auburn streetscape. A key figure in the early economic development of this farming community, G.W. Davidson provided visual evidence of his personal success through the addition of the elaborate Colonial Revival portico which now dominates his home. Aside from this significant change, this somewhat utilitarian complex has retained much of its original integrity and simplicity.

<sup>1</sup> Logan County Atlas (Dayton: Wight & Son, 1877), p. 11.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. at 5.

<sup>3</sup> Edward Coffman, The Story of Logan County (Nashville: The Parthenon Press, 1962), pp. 266-267.

<sup>4</sup> Interview with Mrs. Ruth M. Pottinger, 1982.

<sup>5</sup> Coffman, p. 267.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Coffman, Edward. The Story of Logan County. Nashville: The Parthenon Press, 1962.  
Deed Books. Logan County, Kentucky.  
Logan County Atlas. Dayton: Wight & Son, 1877.  
Personal Interviews. Ruth M. Pottinger, S.R. Linton. 1982.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than an acre

Quadrangle name Auburn

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	6	5	2	5	8	4	0	4	0	7	9	5	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

**Verbal boundary description and justification** In order to include the bank, house & outbuildings, the boundaries for the Davidson complex are as follows: Beginning @ the NW cor. of the Town Square and running West 183'7" along Main St.; then S. 265' to Mill St.; following Mill St. E. 143'10"; turning N. for a distance of 134', then E. 39'9" and N. 131' to the beginning.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state not applicable code county code

state not applicable code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kit Garrett, Executive Director-Main Street Project Manager

organization Hopkinsville-Christian County Pride Inc. date 8-24-82

street & number 608 South Main telephone 502-837-4026  
P. O. Box 4096

city or town Hopkinsville 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 Mary Corum Spivey

title State Historic Preservation Officer date Sept. 29, 1982

For NPS use only

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

National Register

date 10/29/82

for Delores Byers  
Keeper of the National Register

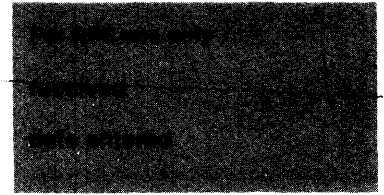
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
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Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

The interior of the Davidson residence reflects a modified center hall plan (see plan 1), with a dogleg stair located at the rear of the central passage. Although this double-pile structure has been slightly altered to provide indoor plumbing and closet space, the majority remains unchanged. The moldings are still quite simple, with plain baseboards, no cornices, and austere door and window architraves. Two mantels, both located on the first floor, provide the major decorative elements. The mantel shelf located in the west front room rests upon fluted pilasters embellished with egg-and-dart molding. Its counterpart uses not only half columns and egg-and-dart molding, but delicate dentils as well--a feature also found on the square newel posts of the dogleg stair. The openings of both fireplaces are now blocked, but the mantels remain intact.

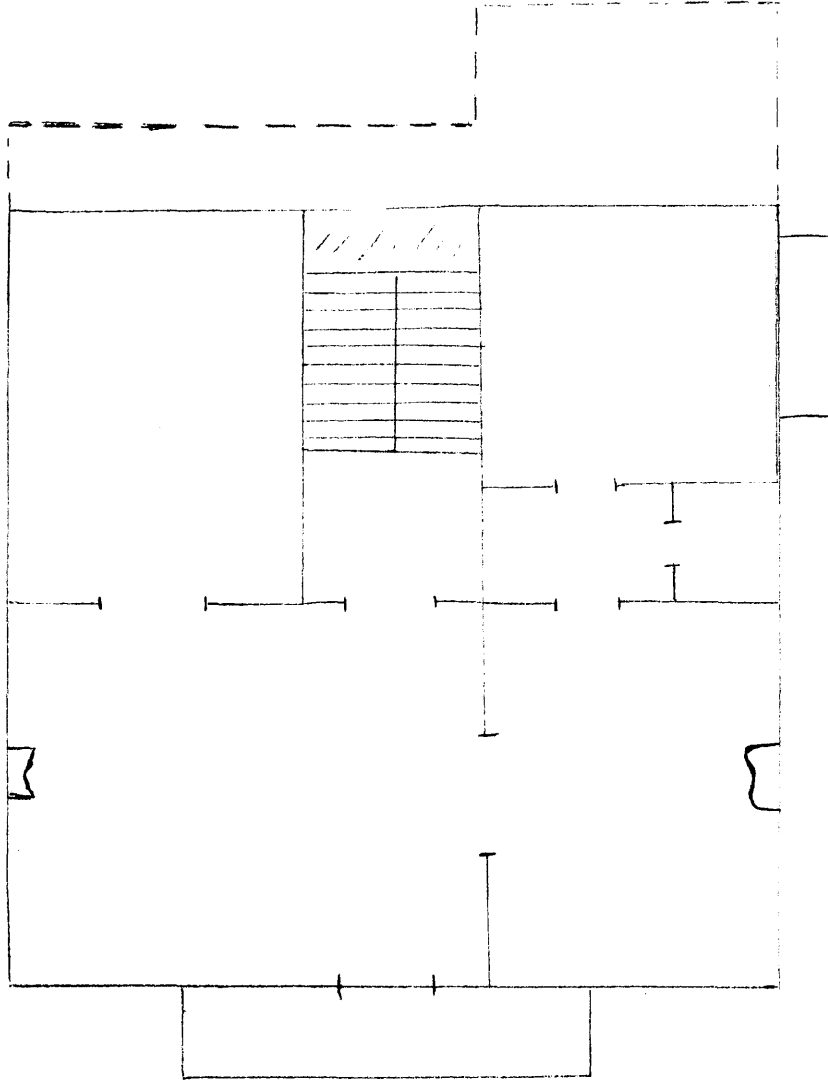
Several outbuildings still remain standing on the Davidson property. These include a small, frame summer kitchen and a frame well-house. The latter is of particular interest, with its hipped roof, ornamental ventilation openings, and unique form. Both structures are situated behind the Davidson residence.

Although a variety of twentieth-century additions have enlarged the Davidson house since its initial construction, these changes have been primarily relegated to the rear of the structure. Only the Colonial Revival portico has significantly altered the original exterior design, and this change must be deemed worthy of preservation as a reflection of the changing architectural tastes of the era.



Kitchen

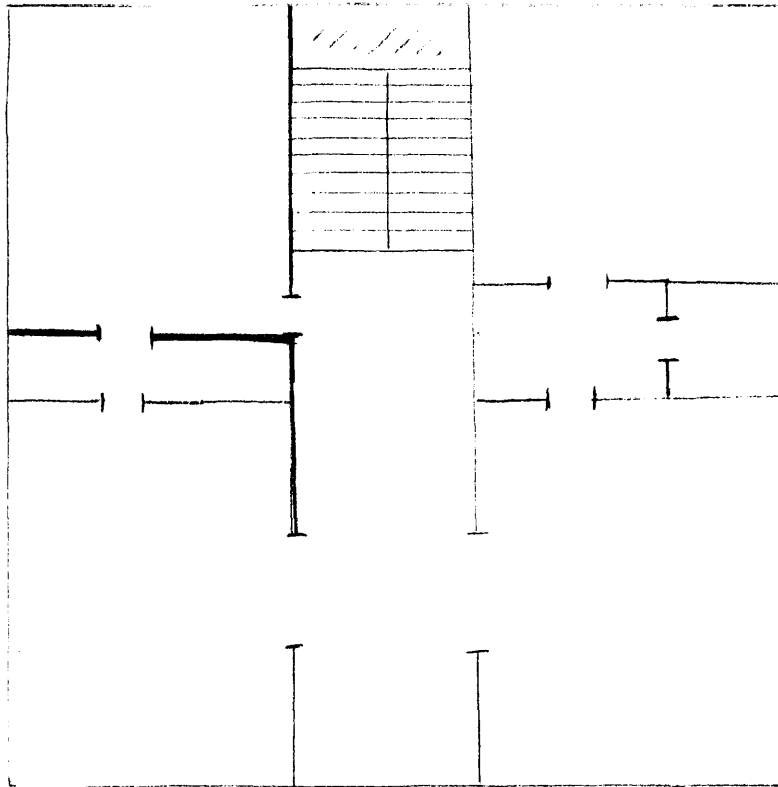
WELL



↖ N

DAVIDSON House

FIRST FLOOR



DAVIDSON HOUSE

SECOND FLOOR