

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received DEC 14 1982
data entered

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

1. Name

historic Davis House

and/or common Davis House, El Recuerdo

2. Location S of Manning on SR 63

street & number Clarendon County Road #63 N/A not for publication

city, town Manning vicinity N/A vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state South Carolina code 045 county Clarendon code 027

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A In process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Herman E. Smith

street & number Route 4, Box 333

city, town Manning N/A vicinity of state South Carolina 29102

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clarendon County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Manning state South Carolina 29102

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records South Carolina Department of Archives and History

city, town Columbia state South Carolina 29211

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 Davis House, located on County Road 63 one-quarter mile south of the intersection of County Roads 63 and 62 in Clarendon County, is a two-story frame plantation house built according to tradition, ca. 1843 for Edward B. Davis. The portico, entrance, and main hall of the house show the influence of Greek Revival design. The house has seen few alterations since the mid-nineteenth century, and expresses well the character and feeling of a modest plantation house of the antebellum era.

Exterior: The Davis House is a two-story, frame house with a heavy timber braced frame weatherboard sheathing, and a gabled roof. The foundations are brick piers. The facade (west elevation) features a central, two-tiered portico with four pillars on each level, a plain balustrade, and a pedimented gable roof. The facade has seven regular bays with the central three bays grouped under the portico. Entrances with single doors, sidelights, and traceried transoms are centered on the first and second stories. The windows are six-over-six, double-hung sash with louvered shutters. The boxed cornice is carried around the entire house and is raked in the gable ends.

The north and south elevations are two bays each with pedimented gable ends. Enclosed brick chimneys are located at the north and south ends of the house. These chimneys have recessed stuccoed panels on all faces.

The east elevation of the Davis House has one-story, gable-roofed ells at either side. These ells are connected to the main block of the house by shed-roofed connectors. The ells and the connectors have nine-over-nine sash windows. The foundations of the east ells are separate from the foundations of the main house, and it is possible that the east ells were built prior to the construction of the ca. 1843 main house. Each of the ells has a single brick chimney. A one-story, hip-roofed block with two brick chimneys is located between the two ells. This block opens onto an eastern porch.

Interior: The Davis House has a single-pile, central-hall plan. The east section of the house consists of the central room and two rooms in each of the ells. In the main block, the broad entrance hall features a double staircase which rises at each side of the hall and merges at the back; from this landing a single flight rises to the second floor. A doorway with sidelights and a traceried transom is located beneath the landing and leads to the east section of the house. The floors of the main block are wide boards, and the walls and twelve foot ceilings are plastered. The door and window surrounds feature Greek-Revival crossets. The south room on the first floor features a mantelpiece with fluted pilasters, and the north room has a mantelpiece with plain pilasters. The rooms of the second story have plain mantelpieces. The ceilings of the second story have plaster medallions. The sole alterations in this block are the new insulation and electric wiring.

The east rooms of the Davis House have wooden floors lower than the floors of the main block. Many of the walls of the east ells are of wooden planks; some have been plastered. The dining room, which is located between the two ells, has wooden wainscoting and a chairrail.

Surroundings: One original outbuilding on the property is intact. This is a small, frame, weatherboarded building with a gable roof and a gabled porch, which is located to the north of the house. The original use of this building is uncertain.

The Davis House is located on a large farm in rural Clarendon County with extensive fields, pastures, and woods around. The long, tree-lined drive leads from the road to the house.

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 ca. 1843

Builder/Architect unknown

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The Davis House, located on County Road #62 near the town of Manning in Clarendon County, South Carolina, is believed to have been built ca. 1843, for Edward Bertrand Davis. The house is a good example of a vernacular plantation house characterized by Greek Revival elements and is also associated with Davis, a locally known planter and militia officer.

Additional Information: Edward Bertrand Davis, the son of John Gamble Davis and Martha McDonald, was born in 1822. He attended the University of Virginia 1838–1839 and married his first cousin Martha Keels on 21 April 1841.¹

In 1843, Davis purchased a 650 acre tract of land in Ox Swamp. A plat recorded in 1848 shows the property with a residence on the approximate site of the present house.² This would indicate that Davis constructed the house between 1843 and 1848, a fact further suggested by the birth of his son in 1843, structural evidence, that the house was probably built after 1840, and local tradition that he was the builder.³

In 1850, Davis was a prosperous planter with seventy-eight slaves, \$15,000 in real estate, 3,800 acres of land with 800 acres improved, livestock worth \$3500 and successful crops of cotton, peas and beans, and sweet potatoes. Davis' plantation also produced large quantities of wool and butter. In 1853 Davis raised the Black River Troop of the 5th Regiment of the South Carolina Militia and served as its captain until 1858 when he was elevated to the command of the Fifth Regiment. He headed this Regiment until his death in 1860.⁴ The Davis House passed into the hands of Edward's son, James E. Davis.⁶ In 1950 it was purchased by the present owners and restored.

Architecture: The Davis House is a significant example of an antebellum plantation house with Greek Revival stylistic elements. The heavy timber braced frame, the central-hall plan, and the symmetrical fenestration are typical of South Carolina farmhouses of the period. The double staircase of the entrance hall, the portico, and the details of the door and window surrounds are features common to the smaller and simpler Greek Revival houses of the period. Their inclusion in the Davis House reflects Edward B. Davis's social prominence in the county.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 30

Quadrangle name Manning, S.C.

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

See continuation sheet

A

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 The nominated property is shown bounded by the heavy red line on the accompanying Clarendon County Tax Map #16 drawn at a scale of 1 inch = 400 feet. This boundary includes the house and its outbuildings, the tree-lined drive approaching the house, and the landscaped property immediately adjacent to the house.

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff Chris Kolbe
Santee-Lynches Council of Governments

organization South Carolina Department of Archives and History date October 13, 1982

street & number Box 11,669 1430 Senate St. telephone (803) 758-5816

city or town Columbia state South Carolina 29211

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 [Signature]

title SC SHPO date 11/23/82

For NPS use only	I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	Entered in the National Register	date <u>1/13/83</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	Keeper of the National Register		
Attest:			date
	Chief of Registration		

**United States Department of the Interior
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date entered

Continuation sheet 1

Item number 9

Page 1

Bibliography

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Population Schedules of the Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: South Carolina. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Service, 1964. microcopy 432, roll 859, p. 362.

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Sumter, South Carolina. Sumter Historical Society. Davis Family File. Miss Mary C.R. Davis to "Mimi." 8 December 1971

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The Sumter Watchman. 24 January 1860, 15 February 1860.

United States Census: Agriculture, Industry, Social Statistics, and Mortality Schedules for South Carolina, 1850-1880. South Carolina Archives microcopy 2, roll 2. Seventh Census, 1850. Laurens-York, p. 693.

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Continuation sheet 2

Item number 10

Page 1

The Davis House, Clarendon County
Longitude/Latitude

- A. W80⁰13'20" N33⁰39'10"
- B. W80⁰13'41" N33⁰39'
- C. W80⁰13'46" N33⁰39'8"
- D. W80⁰13'25" N33⁰39'19"

¹Population Schedules of the Seventh Census of the United States 1850: South Carolina (Washington: National Archives and Records Service, 1964), microcopy 432, roll 859, p. 362; Miss Mary C.R. Davis to "Mimi," 8 December 1971, and Michael E. Plunkett to Miss Mary C.R. Davis, 9 July 1971, Davis Family File, Sumter Historical Society, Sumter, South Carolina.

²Sumter County Deed Book O, p. 529, microfilm, South Carolina Department of Archives of History, Columbia, South Carolina.

³Miss Mary C.R. Davis to "Mimi"

⁴Population Schedules of the Seventh Census of the United States 1850: South Carolina [Slave Schedules] (Washington: National Archives and Records Service, 1964, microcopy 432, roll 867 [Sumter District]), pp. 93-94; United States Census: Agriculture, Industry, Social Statistics, and Mortality Schedules for South Carolina, 1850-1880 (Columbia, S.C.: Department of Archives and History, 1971), microcopy no. 2, roll 2, Seventh Census, 1850, Laurens-York, p. 693; Seventh Census.

⁵The Sumter Watchman, 24 January 1860, 15 February 1860.

⁶Clarendon County Deed Book K-3, p. 48, Clarendon County Plat Book 3, p. 171, Clarendon County Courthouse, Manning, South Carolina.