

PH 362891

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 29 1976

SEP 13 1976

DATE ENTERED

**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

Dresbach-Hunt-Boyer Home

AND/OR COMMON

Boyer Home

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

604 Second Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Davis

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

4

VICINITY OF

STATE

California

CODE

06

COUNTY

Yolo

CODE

113

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

John E. Lillard

STREET & NUMBER

3660 West Lincoln Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Sacramento

VICINITY OF

STATE

California

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Yolo County Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER

725 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Woodland

STATE

California

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey (Inventory form)

DATE

1961

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress, Print and Photograph Division

CITY, TOWN

Washington, D.C.

STATE

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 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

The Dresbach-Hunt-Boyer Home is a Stick-Italianate Victorian typical of the 1870's in Northern California. One of the more elaborate homes of early Davisville, the Italianate severity has been modified by an asymmetric floor plan and rounded cornices. Outstanding features include two polygonal bays, a water tower, and spacious surrounding gardens.

The home sits on four city lots on the edge of the Davis business district. Built of redwood on a brick foundation, it is two stories tall with a low roof and prominent cornice. A covered porch, supported by two free-standing columns, is on the left front of the house. A balustrade runs around both the top and bottom of the porch, creating a small balcony on the second floor.

The home is covered with horizontal wood siding in the Stick style. Intricately carved brackets and chamfered woodwork are below the cornice on the roof and the porch. Two polygonal slanted bay windows are arranged at right angles, one on the front of the building facing north, the other to the left of the porch facing east. The tall, narrow Italianate windows are softened by a rounded cornice with a carved ornament in the middle. The front door is topped by a half-circle transom. A door opening onto the balcony has a squarer transom and the same cornice as over the windows. Wooden quoins adorn the home's exterior corners.

In the interior, a central hall is flanked by two parlors with the dining room and kitchen in the rear. Upstairs there are four bedrooms and a bath. The home has four marble fireplaces, two on each floor. Heavy wooden double doors lead into the west parlor.

The surrounding gardens consist of a grove of twenty-seven orange trees to the east of the house, plus a number of lemon, peach, apricot and plum trees. Also planted are ornamental shrubs and flowers. A two story water tower, originally used as a windmill, sits behind the house. Like the home, it has horizontal wood siding and brackets under the cornice. A Gothic motif trefoil decorates each of the four sides.

The home remains essentially unchanged since its construction in the early 1870's. Alterations include a garage added in the 1930's at the very back of the property. Several years ago, the back porch was enclosed and a downstairs bath was added. In 1973, a chain-link fence was erected around the grounds and the home received a fresh coat of paint.

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 checked="" 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 circa 1871-1875 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Dresbach-Hunt-Boyer Home is Davis' only standing example of Northern California Stick-Italianate architecture of the 1870's. Built for William Dresbach, a prominent local merchant, the elegant, twelve-room mansion reflects the life-style of one of early Davisville's wealthiest citizens. As one of the first residences established in the new town, Dresbach's home recalls the character of Davisville's pioneer community.

A native of Germany, William "Solano Bill" Dresbach, like other settlers along Putah Creek, moved north to Davisville with the arrival of the California Pacific Railroad Junction in 1868. Appointed Davisville's first postmaster, he is credited with naming the town after rancher Jerome C. Davis. Through shrewd business deals, Dresbach acquired a general store, a livery stable, a hotel and saloon, and a grain warehouse. In 1877 he left Davisville for San Francisco, where he became a central figure in the Wheat Deal of 1887-88. At his death in 1901, a San Francisco newspaper wrote: Dresbach was "...one of the most interesting and at times most inscrutable characters that ever stirred his fellow men by cornering a market." Twice bankrupt, causing the loss of his Davisville home in 1879, Dresbach's successes and failures influenced the lives of many Sacramento Valley grain farmers.

Dresbach built the home on some of the first residential land purchased in Davisville. Considering Dresbach's relative wealth and importance, the home was probably the finest Victorian in the new community. Though there was most likely no architect, Patricio Vaca and Cirilo Zuniga, two pioneers of Spanish descent, were hired to do most of the intricate woodwork on the exterior and interior of the home. An exact date of construction is unknown, but Dr. Joseph A. Baird of the University of California at Davis has estimated the date at roughly 1874-75, based on the popularity of Stick-Italianate architecture in the mid-1870's. A recent title search reveals that the home could have been built as early as 1871, since this was when Dresbach purchased the front two lots where the home stands.

Between 1880 and 1899, the home was owned first by Sessions M. Enos, the owner of Tule House and Ranch near Davisville, and then by Henry Stelling of Solano County. Since 1899, the home has been owned by members of the John Hunt family. Coming to California in search of gold in 1859, John Hunt quit mining after

1. Joann Leach Larkey, Davisville '68: The History and Heritage of the City of Davis (Davis, California: Davis Historical and Landmarks Commission, 1969), p. 165.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baird, Joseph A. University of California, Davis, California. Interview, 19 May, 1976.

Haig, Phyllis. "Dresbach-Hunt-Boyer Home." Paper prepared for the Historic Resources List, City of Davis, 1972. Filed at City Hall, Davis, California.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .55

UTM REFERENCES

A	110	609	830	4266	640	B					
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
C						D					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Judy Bond, Student Intern

ORGANIZATION

Office of Historic Preservation

DATE

6/7/76

STREET & NUMBER

1416 Ninth Street, Resources Building

TELEPHONE

916/445-8006

CITY OR TOWN

Sacramento

STATE

California

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

Robert Rhoads

TITLE California State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

7/14/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Active

DATE

7/13/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Active

DATE

8/13/76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Representation in Existing Surveys:

California Inventory of Historic Resources
March, 1976
Office of Historic Preservation, California Department of
Parks and Recreation
Sacramento, California

Inventory of Historic Sites in Yolo County
January, 1972
Yolo County Department of Parks and Recreation
Woodland, California

Yolo County's Historical Resources List
Yolo County Historical Society, 500 Main Street
Woodland, California

Historic Resources List, City of Davis
1972 (revised 1974)
City Hall
Davis, California

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only one day and settled down to farming along Putah Creek. In 1902, after returning to the East from California, Hunt brought his family to the Davisville home, purchased by his brother Frank in 1899. John Hunt is credited with planting the garden of shrubs and fruit trees surrounding the home. His daughter, Mary (Hunt) Boyer, owned and resided in the home from 1920 until her death in 1973, when it passed to her nephew, John Lillard.

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Major Bibliographic References:

Larkey, Joann Leach. Davisville '68: The History and Heritage of the City of Davis. Davis, California: Davis Historical and Landmarks Commission, 1969.

Western Title Guaranty Company, Woodland, California. "Title Search on the Dresbach-Hunt-Boyer Home." An informal search of the Book of Deeds, Yolo County Recorder's Office, Woodland, California prepared for John Brinley and Mary Boyer, 1971. Filed with the Davis Historical and Landmarks Commission, Davis, California.