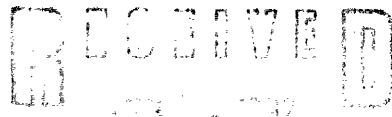


United States Department of the Interior National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Moorman House
other names/site number DA-OB-42

2. Location

street & number 2731 West Second Street
city, town Owensboro
state Kentucky code KY county Daviess code 059 zip code 42043

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private (checked)
Category of Property: building(s) (checked)
Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 1, Noncontributing 2, Total 3

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 1

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets the National Register criteria.
Signature of certifying official: David L. Morgan
Date: 2-4-92
State Historic Preservation Officer, Kentucky Heritage Council

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official
Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
entered in the National Register. (checked)
determined eligible for the National Register.
determined not eligible for the National Register.
removed from the National Register.
other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper: Patrick Andrews
Date of Action: 3/27/92

Signature of the Keeper: [Handwritten Signature]
Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic - Single Dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic - Hotel  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th Century - Greek Revival  
Late Victorian - Italianate  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone  
walls Wood - hand-hewn timbers  
weatherboard  
roof Asphalt  
other Iron  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
Architecture

Period of Significance  
ca. 1877 - 1910

Significant Dates  
ca. 1877  
ca. 1910

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Significant Person  
N/A

Architect/Builder  
Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

**Specify repository:**

Kentucky Heritage Council

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Seven acres

**UTM References**

A 

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

B 

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Zone      Easting      Northing

C 

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D 

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Owensboro West Quad

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Map 46, Parcel 18D, Daviess County Property Valuation Assessor's map

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated area includes the house and sufficient acreage surrounding which defines the architectural and rural nature of the residence. This area includes two structures which date to a period later than the house's significance. These structures do not contribute to the significance as defined by the Statement of Significance, but are compatible to its character.  See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Donna M. Neary, Historic Preservation Consultant  
 organization \_\_\_\_\_ date April 1, 1991  
 street & number 1923 Richmond Drive telephone 502/456-2239  
 city or town Louisville state KY zip code 40205

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Moorman House (Site #DA-OB-42)  
Owensboro, Daviess County, Kentucky

Section number 7 Page 2

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The Moorman House (DA-OB-42) is located at 2731 West Second Street in Owensboro, Daviess County, Kentucky, near the town's western boundary. The property is situated approximately two miles due west of the center of downtown Owensboro. The Ohio River is located approximately one mile northeast of the rear of the house. There has been commercial development to the south, east and west of the house. A city park is located to the northwest of the property. Architect for the house is unknown. The nominated area consists of the house and its seven-acre setting, which includes two outbuildings constructed after the period of significance.

The Moorman House is located near the western boundary of the City of Owensboro, Kentucky. A curving driveway from West Second Street leads to the Moorman House. The building is set back approximately 100 yards from the road. Large, mature deciduous trees and evergreens in the front yard shield the house from public view. The tree-filled yard forms an oasis to the farmland surrounding the house. A magnificent sugar maple tree which shades the main facade was planted when the house was built.<sup>1</sup> The tree is included within the nomination area.

The Moorman House, built circa 1840, is constructed of poplar frame with hand-hewn beams.<sup>2</sup> The main block is a two-story, double-pile, central passage plan house resting on a brick foundation. The building is clad with clapboard siding. Two separate additions, discussed later, are found on the rear of the house.

The house is a combination of Greek Revival form, Italianate decorative features, and porch with neoclassical order posts. No records remain to explain when the Italianate features were placed on the house. It is believed that some time between 1850 and 1880 the Italianate detailing was added. Perhaps this occurred after the house was sold to the Berry family in 1877.

The truncated hipped-roof is clad with composition asphalt shingles. A balustrade is situated on the flat of the roof and a chimney pierces the roofline from within. The balustrade was damaged by a tornado or high winds in the 1950s but was repaired.<sup>3</sup> The house was originally fitted with four interior chimneys, with two chimneys being evenly spaced on the east and west facades. Two chimneys were removed by the Berry family when the fireplaces were closed, circa 1950. A bracketed cornice accentuates the roofline of the building.

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<sup>1</sup>Interview with Eudora Payne, Moorman House, Owensboro, Kentucky.  
Interview 3 November 1990.

<sup>2</sup>Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer. No date.

<sup>3</sup>Interview with Henry Payne, Moorman House, Owensboro, Kentucky.  
Interview 3 November 1990.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Moorman House (Site #DA-OB-42)  
Owensboro, Daviess County, Kentucky

Section number 7 Page 3

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The five-bay symmetrical main facade faces south. At the center of the first story of the main facade is a central door with sidelights and a transom. The door is flanked by paired, four-over-four, double-hung sash windows. The upper story of the main facade is composed of a central four-over-four double-hung sash window flanked by paired, four-over-four double-hung windows. All windows are fitted with wooden louvered shutters.

An L-shaped, one-story porch covers the main and east facades. The porch was added to the house circa 1910-20 by Mrs. Henry S. Berry. She modeled the porch after one she had seen in the town of Owensboro.<sup>4</sup> Fluted metal (possibly iron), ionic order columns support the hipped-roofed porch. This porch replaced a Queen Anne style porch added to the house by Sallie Berry circa 1880-1900.<sup>5</sup> The existence of an original porch is unknown.

The first story of the east facade is composed of a central door flanked by a four-over-four double-hung sash window, fitted with wooden louvered shutters. A one-story portico which sheltered the door was removed at an unknown date.<sup>6</sup> The upper story also contains shuttered four-over-four double-hung sash windows, directly above the wall openings on the first floor.

The rear (north) facade contains two separate additions to the main block of the house. The earlier addition was added circa 1900-10 to the west half of the north facade of the main block. The hipped-roofed addition was used as a servant's room. Mrs. Elizabeth Payne had the enclosed servant's room removed circa 1950 and created the screened-in porch that exists today. It was at this time that the front-gabled, one-story addition to the east portion of the north facade was added to the building to enlarge the kitchen. The east facade of this one-story addition is composed of two irregularly spaced double-hung sash windows fitted with wooden louvered shutters.

The first story of the four-bay west facade is composed of two paired four-over-four double-hung sash windows, flanked by four-over-four double-hung sash windows. The upper story repeats an identical window arrangement. All windows are fitted with wooden louvered shutters.

The interior of the Moorman House maintains a high level of integrity to the period of its 1877-1885 remodeling, and possibly earlier. The house retains some original woodwork and mantles. The wide baseboards and door trim are simple in design. Two original frieze relief ceiling centerpieces, ornate in design, adorn the central hallway.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>4</sup>Ibid.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid.

<sup>6</sup>Kentucky Heritage Council Historic Resources Inventory Form.

<sup>7</sup>Eudora Payne interview.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Moorman House (Site #DA-OB-42)  
Owensboro, Daviess County, Kentucky

Section number 7 Page 4

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Beautiful colored glass lamps from the late nineteenth century hang from the frieze centerpieces. The interior floors are poplar, beautifully finished, and left exposed in several rooms of the house. The parlors on the west side of the house are separated by large pocket doors, which are rendered unusable by a carpet on the floor. The house is decorated with many exquisite antiques and family heirlooms. Some remodeling has taken place in the house.

A bathroom was added to the upstairs, and the kitchen and downstairs bathroom were remodeled circa 1950. A servant's staircase leading from a rear hallway to the master bedroom was removed at the same time.<sup>a</sup>

Finally, two outbuildings, a stable and a tobacco barn, both built after 1930, are on the site. They are wood-frame structures, and have been part of the farmhouse sites since after the Civil War. While they do not contribute due to their age, they are compatible with the significant character of the site.

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<sup>a</sup>Ibid.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Moorman House (Site #DA-OB-42)  
Owensboro, Daviess County, Kentucky

The Moorman House (DA-OB-42), built circa 1840 and remodelled 1877-1885 and again around 1910, meets National Register Criterion C. It has been evaluated within the historic context **Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Rural Residential Architecture in Daviess County, Kentucky**. The farm house is important for illustrating the evolution of house styles that owners in the area employed in new construction and in remodelling projects. Originally designed in the Greek Revival style, the house combines features of Italianate and Neoclassical styles into a successful design. The growth of Owensboro has extended to the farm, changing its rural setting without compromising the architectural value of the house.

### **Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Rural Residential Architecture in Daviess County, Kentucky**

Farm residences served as symbols to the community of their owners' prosperity. These houses can be analyzed according to many characteristics. This historic context discusses houses according to the evolution of stylistic design. The most significant properties within this context are those with integrity and quality of original design. Also significant are some of those houses with layers of historic styles, because they document the evolving popularity of national building styles. Because such alterations change the original designs, this type of significance requires that subsequent alterations exhibit quality design and that the entire composition be judged to be compatible.

#### Greek Revival styling

Nationally, Greek Revival styling became popular in the 1820s; in Kentucky it became the pervasive signal of financial success for urban and rural dwellers in the 1830s. In the Bluegrass state, it was used to decorate houses with a central passage plan, which was a common house type predating the popularity of the decorative style.

As originally designed around 1840, the Moorman House was typical of rural residences in western Kentucky. A comparison was made of rural residences constructed between 1825 and 1850 in Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, and McLean Counties. Files in the Kentucky Heritage Council contained 33 rural residences from the period in those counties. Greek Revival was the most commonly recorded architectural style in the four-county study area.

Most of the houses researched share similarities with the Moorman House. All of the 33 houses compared were built on a large scale, most being one-and-a-half to two stories in height. The two most common floor plans seen are the central passage plan and the hall and parlor plan. Most of the buildings were also of double-pile construction. The Greek Revival style had overwhelmingly been accepted by the farmers of the comparison counties. These similarities are most likely attributed to the wide availability of carpenter's guides and pattern books, from which homebuilders could pick and choose the elements to incorporate into their houses. The level of ornament and detail could depend on the construction budget or an owner's tastes. Moreover, the style had gained such popularity by this period that extant examples stood as models for future buildings.



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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Moorman House (Site #DA-OB-42)  
Owensboro, Daviess County, Kentucky

Each house in the Kentucky Heritage Council inventory displayed a slightly different interpretation of the style, and the level of ornament varied on each building. The vernacular adaptations of the Greek Revival mode knew few limitations. For example, an unnamed two-story brick house in Henderson County (HE-3) is extravagantly detailed. It exhibits an elliptical fanlight over the main entrance, which is covered by a full-height entry porch with a curved central section. On the other end of the decorative spectrum is the Keach House (HE-12) also in Henderson County. The two-story house is a double-pile, dog-trot log structure. Although a more modest design, the imposing structure shows the prosperity of the farmer, able to add to his smaller beginnings.

The main block of the Moorman House retains some features of the Greek Revival style: central passage plan and some woodwork. Its symmetrical facade and exterior detailing has been obscured by the front porch and Italianate touches, especially the cornice brackets. A number of local examples can be found with good integrity of Greek Revival design and feeling. The Moorman House has lost its original frontal symmetry and classical cornice, and so cannot be said to have good integrity of its original design. By comparison, the Hampton-Smith House (DA-OB-40) in Owensboro stands as one of the best examples locally of unaltered Greek Revival styling.

The interior of two other buildings in the comparison counties closely resembled the Moorman House. The woodwork trim and moldings were found to be similar to those of the Thomas C. McCreary House (DA-141), built circa 1840, and to the Newton House (DA-128) built 1847. Both residences are located in Daviess County. In these buildings, and the Moorman House, the most ornate woodwork was reserved for the lower public level of the house. The upper stories, where the families lived on a daily basis, were less ornate. Like the exterior of the house, the interior space that visitors had access to symbolized agrarian success and prosperity, while emphasizing hard work and sound financial decisions. By reserving the most extravagant details for the public part of the house, the homeowners showed that they wanted to display their success to others, but did not feel the same was needed in the house's private spaces.

Few antebellum buildings remain in the city of Owensboro.<sup>1</sup> Arguably, the Moorman House has survived at all in part because of its rural setting. In the study area many of the other surviving houses are located outside of urban areas. The pressure to rebuild an entire house was higher in urban areas; in farm areas such development pressures did not exist.

### Styles after Greek Revival

Nationally, new aesthetic concepts began to gain ground in the 1850s which emphasized asymmetry and which borrowed details and massing from Italian villas. The Italianate style displaced Greek Revival nationally after the Civil War. Designers in the mode embraced the richness and variety of eclectic design. The Moorman House was remodelled around 1877-1885; its owners selected features of then-fashionable Italianate ornament to attach

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<sup>1</sup>Glenda Thacker. Owensboro's Main Street. (Owensboro, Kentucky: Downtown Owensboro, Inc. 1982).

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Moorman House (Site #DA-OB-42)  
Owensboro, Daviess County, Kentucky

to their house. The prominent brackets and cornice detailing are the most striking aspects of this alteration and consistent with changes on other houses in the study area.

A number of houses locally resemble the Moorman House and were constructed or altered at the same time. The Grimes House (DA-OB-11) was constructed around the years of the Civil War with the central passage form, typical of local Greek Revival examples, but with apparently original cornice brackets and detailing from the Italianate mode. This house is well termed transitional between the two styles. Somewhat later, the Henry O'Brien House (DA-OB-24) was built in the 1870s with a side passage plan, but resembles the Moorman House with hipped roof and cornice brackets. These two prominent styles occurred outside of Daviess County, also. The two-story brick McCormick House (HE-7) was built in the mid-nineteenth century in Henderson County was a rural residence with a hipped roof, bracketed roofline, and floor plan like the Moorman House. Such high profile houses in Owensboro and elsewhere carved out acceptance for combinations of Greek Revival massing with Italianate decoration as found in the Moorman House.

While the survey of Daviess County showed more examples of Queen Anne than Italianate styling, locally there was not hesitation to employ the style completely independent of Greek Revival influences. Gillim House (DA-OB-57) and Dr. Stirman's House (DA-OB-111) are the outstanding local examples of Tuscan villa styling. They both show that asymmetrical massing was compatible with Italianate styling, an aesthetic cue that neither remodelled Greek Revival houses, nor their transitional Greek Revival-Italianate counterparts, would suggest.

Queen Anne styling, locally very popular in the 1890s, opened tastes to extreme fragmentation of the frontal plane of houses. Yet, a few examples were built which showed the persistence of the Central Passage plan. Simple dwellings, the unnamed DA-OB-2 (1883) and DA-24 (ca. 1896), indicated a desire for a symmetrical house form during a time when house plans and facades were becoming very complex. That latter house also has a porch with classical order columns, probably a later porch, as is the case with the Moorman House.

With turn of the twentieth century the simplicity of neoclassical styling returned to vogue, but without the drama of eclectic Victorian era compositions. House designers looked to the porch to intensify the impact of the facade. One Owensboro residence, DA-OB-46 (ca. 1910) has perhaps the boldest two story portico of any house in the county. Owners looking either to update their old house or to leave their mark on an elderly residence tacked a large portico onto antebellum homes (eg. DA-42, DA-54) well into the twentieth century. Homes from later in the nineteenth century (eg. DA-38, DA-98) also added an updated porch in the first decades of the twentieth century. When compared with these, especially DA-98 and the Draper House (DA-60, ca. 1915), the wrapping front porch of the Moorman House is consistent with aesthetic impulses of the early twentieth century. Its classical order columns fit with prevailing stylistic treatments. Its asymmetry was within the limits established during the Victorian period. In fact, the Stirman House received its add-on porch in 1915, with battered posts as on a Bungalow.

In conclusion, the Moorman House documents well many trends which occurred and evolved over time in Daviess County. Its Italianate overlay and asymmetrical-but-neoclassical front porch point out well the design changes and when they occur in local building history. It is interesting

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5 Moorman House (Site #DA-OB-42)  
Owensboro, Daviess County, Kentucky

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to note that a neighboring house built in 1913 (DA-108) in the American Foursquare mode is very similar to the Moorman House: blocky plan, symmetrical facade openings, hipped roof, prominent porch with classical order columns. The Moorman House charts well the changes in the local building vocabulary which results in such creations.

### History of prior Moorman House owners

The Moorman House was built by the grandfather of Henry DeHaven Moorman circa 1840, who may have been R. G. Moorman, a local businessman.<sup>2</sup> Henry DeHaven Moorman was in possession of the house in 1877 when he gave the house to his business associate Edward Chrysostum "E. C." Berry, in the settlement of a debt. E. C. Berry was a distiller who had come to Daviess County from Nelson County, Kentucky, in 1850.<sup>3</sup> Berry had purchased the R. G. Moorman Packing Plant from R. G. Moorman's son James in 1867, and converted it to the E. C. Berry Distillery.<sup>4</sup> The location of the distillery site is unknown.

E. C. Berry only lived in the house from March 1877 to August 1877, when he was stricken ill and died. The E. C. Berry Distillery was sold to Hill and Perkins, who continued to market their whiskey, as the E. C. Berry brand.<sup>5</sup> Mrs. Sallie Berry and the couple's seven children remained in the house, and the Berry family or their descendants have lived in the house ever since. The Berry family raised cattle, grew corn, tobacco, and subsistence crops on the farm.

Henry Scott Berry became the owner of the house and farm after his mother Sallie's death. He and his wife Bessie Ewing Berry lived in the house for many years. Mr. Berry was a farmer. He and Mrs. Berry also operated a weather station at the house for the United States Weather Bureau. The couple kept a twice daily record of the temperature in Owensboro for thirty years.<sup>6</sup>

Both Berrys were involved in community and charitable organizations and Mr. Berry was active in several agricultural organizations for the betterment of farming and farmers. He also helped to finance a Catholic boys school, Columbian College, in Owensboro. Bessie Ewing Berry helped form the Welfare League in Owensboro in 1916. Both Berry's died in the mid-to-late 1940s.

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<sup>2</sup>Kentucky Heritage Council. Survey form DA-OB-42 containing an interview with Mrs. T. E. Payne, April 16, 1970.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

<sup>4</sup>Hugh O. Potter. History of Owensboro and Daviess County. (Montgomery, Alabama: Herff Jones-Paragon Publishing, 1974) p. 119.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid., p. 120.

<sup>6</sup>"Mr. and Mrs. Berry Have Long Record With Weather Bureau." Owensboro Messenger Inquirer, 1936.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Moorman House (Site #DA-OB-42)  
Owensboro, Daviess County, Kentucky

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The Berry's daughter, Mary Elizabeth and her husband Thomas Payne, owner of Home Furniture Company in Owensboro, took possession of the house following her parents' deaths. The Paynes were also active in social and charitable organizations. The house has been the site of many parties and dinners held for the support of charities in Owensboro. According to past owner, Eudora Payne, tables would be placed on the L-shaped porch in the summer for outdoor dinners and entertaining.<sup>7</sup>

Henry Berry Payne and Eudora Payne came into possession of the house approximately six years ago on the death of Mrs. Elizabeth Payne, Mr. Payne's mother. They lived in the house until January 1991, when new owners Dr. William and Mrs. Susan Tyler took possession of the Moorman House. The Tylers plan to rehabilitate the residence and to open a bed and breakfast in the Moorman House.

The farm has decreased in acreage over the last 100 years. Approximately 85 acres remained with the house before its sale to the Tylers. The Tylers have purchased approximately seven acres of land with the house. The Payne family will retain the remaining acreage.

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<sup>7</sup>Interview with Eudora Payne, Moorman House, Owensboro, Kentucky, Interview 3 November 1990.

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Owensboro, Daviess County, Kentucky

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Moorman House (Site #DA-OB-42)  
Owensboro, Daviess County, Kentucky

Section number Photos Page 1

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Historic Name: Moorman House  
Location: 2731 West Second Street  
Owensboro, Daviess County, Kentucky  
Photographer: Donna M. Neary  
Date: November 3, 1990

(The above information is the same for all six photographs submitted with this nomination. Below the photographs are listed in the order of their photographic numbers.)

<u>Photo No.</u>	<u>View</u>
1	Southeast facade (main and side facades) of house; photographer facing northwest.
2	East facade (side facade) of house; photographer facing west.
3	Northeast facade (side and rear facades) of house; photographer facing southwest.
4	Northwest facade (side and rear facades) of house; photographer facing southeast.
5	West facade (side facade) of house; photographer facing east.
6	Detail of balustrade, west facade (side facade) of house; photographer facing east.

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

NRIS Reference Number: 92000140 Date Listed: 3/27/92

Moorman House                      Daviess              KY  
Property Name:                      County:              State:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*Patrick Andrews*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

*4/7/92*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

=====  
**Amended Items in Nomination:**

The SHPO has informed us that through a typographical error Section 3 of the form indicates that there is a previously listed property included with this nomination. This is incorrect. The form is officially amended to delete this information.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file**
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**