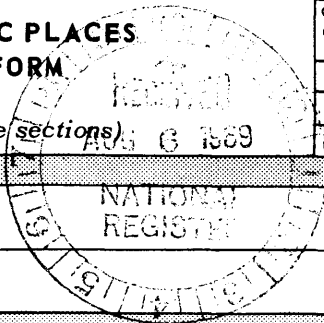


NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| STATE: TENNESSEE | |
| COUNTY: RUTHERFORD. | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER 69-12-41-8005 | DATE 12/23/69 |

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)



1. NAME

COMMON:
Sam Davis Home

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
State Highway #102

CITY OR TOWN:
Smyrna

STATE: **Tennessee** CODE: **41** COUNTY: **Rutherford** CODE: **149**

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Public Acquisition: | Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes: |
| Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> | Private <input type="checkbox"/> | In Process <input type="checkbox"/> | Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Object <input type="checkbox"/> | Both <input type="checkbox"/> | Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> | Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> | Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | | | | No: <input type="checkbox"/> |

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> | Government <input type="checkbox"/> | Park <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> | Comments <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> | Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> | Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Educational <input type="checkbox"/> | Military <input type="checkbox"/> | Religious <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> | Museum <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Scientific <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
State of Tennessee

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Register's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
Public Square

CITY OR TOWN: **Murfreesboro** STATE: **Tennessee** CODE: **41**

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **TENNESSEE**
COUNTY: **RUTHERFORD**
ENTRY NUMBER: DATE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One) | | | | | |
| | Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Good <input type="checkbox"/> | Fair <input type="checkbox"/> | Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> | Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> | Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/> |
| INTEGRITY | (Check One) | | | (Check One) | | |
| | Altered <input type="checkbox"/> | Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | Moved <input type="checkbox"/> | Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The home of Sam Davis in itself has no architectural significance except that it represents a typical middle-class house on an average sized farm of the pre-Civil War period. The entire complex with its dependencies and land is very representative of its kind.

The house stands high commanding a view of the surrounding. Today the house is a two-story white clapboard with Greek Revival detail. The portico with its four square columns and balcony reflect the Greek Revival architecture. The front part of the house was constructed, however, around 1810 and was a log structure. When Charles Davis bought the house in 1847 he covered the logs with poplar siding and at the same time he added the rear wing with its family room, dining room, and sleeping quarters. The present house contains eight large rooms, each with a fireplace. Two stairways lead to separate sections of the second floor, one side for the boys, the other, the girls.

A large ell shaped porch joins the original portion of the house with the north wing. With exception of the sunny southwest corner rooms, all rooms of the house feature at least two windows and all downstairs rooms, except the sedate parlor, can be entered from two directions. The kitchen and smokehouse to the left rear are original buildings as is the overseer's office. Log slave cabins have been rebuilt on the sites of the original quarters, and some are refurnished.

A walkway back of the house leads through a garden to the family burial ground. Here Sam Davis, boy hero of the Confederacy, is buried.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

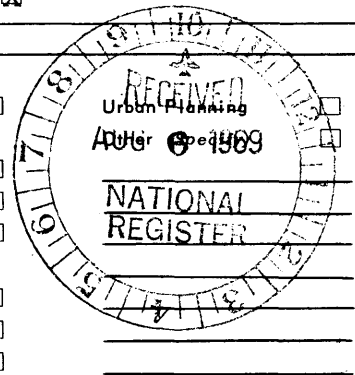
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Pre-Columbian <input type="checkbox"/> | 16th Century <input type="checkbox"/> | 18th Century <input type="checkbox"/> | 20th Century <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 15th Century <input type="checkbox"/> | 17th Century <input type="checkbox"/> | 19th Century <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> | Education <input type="checkbox"/> | Political <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/> | Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> | Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Historic <input type="checkbox"/> | Industry <input type="checkbox"/> | Science <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Agriculture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Invention <input type="checkbox"/> | Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Art <input type="checkbox"/> | Landscape <input type="checkbox"/> | Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> | Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> | Theater <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Communications <input type="checkbox"/> | Literature <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Conservation <input type="checkbox"/> | Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| | Music <input type="checkbox"/> | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

This ante-bellum middle-class farm of 168 acres is important because it represents a typical farm of the period. Many other ante-bellum homes of finer architectural features exist now but few of the middle-class group remain in fact as does this farm. It is also significant because Sam Davis had lived there before he went away to military school and then to the war which led to his hanging as a spy in 1863.

Sam Davis, a member of Coleman's Scouts, was captured by Union troops in November, 1863. Under his saddle and in his boot were papers containing information on the fortifications, numbers, and movements of federal troop units. He was convicted as a spy by a military court and was hanged at Pulaski, Tennessee, after refusing a pardon which had been promised if he would betray his informer. After his execution the young private was carried back to Smyrna to be buried on December 24, 1863, in his family burial ground.

The home of Sam Davis was bought by the State of Tennessee from Davis descendants in 1927 to preserve as a shrine to the "Boy Hero." In 1930 the Sam Davis Memorial Association was organized to restore the house as a shrine. Many of the original furnishings and belongings are preserved today in the house. A bronze statue stands on the grounds of the State house in Nashville to honor his heroic deeds.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Baird, Mary R., The Home of Sam Davis, (Nashville, 1956).
2. Meredith, Owen N., "The Sam Davis Home," in Tennessee Historical Quarterly, XXIV (1965), 303-320.
3. Whitley, Edyth Rucker, Sam Davis, (Nashville, 1947).

16/01/1910/2078220
115 220

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | O R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|--|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | |
| | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | |
| NW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | 35 ° 59 ' 28 " | 86 ° 30 ' 06 " | |
| NE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
|--------|------|---------|------|
| | | | |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| | | | |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| | | | |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| | | | |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
May Dean Coop

ORGANIZATION: **Tennessee Historical Commission** DATE: **July 31, 1969**

STREET AND NUMBER:
State Library & Archives Bldg.

CITY OR TOWN: **Nashville** STATE: **Tennessee** CODE: **41**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: *Sam B. Smith*
Sam B. Smith

Title: Chairman, Tenn. Historical Com.

Date: _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Arrest Allen Connally
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: **Dec. 23 1969**

ATTEST:

William H. Murphree
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: **DEC 11 1969**

SMYRNA QUADRANGLE
TENNESSEE
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

(BLADEVILLE)



32°30" NASHVILLE 19 MI.

185000 FEET

86°30' 26°00'

HALES CAMP 1 MI.
WALTERHILL 9.1 MI.

MURFRESBORO 11 MI.
MANCHESTER 4.2 MI.

CLINE 4.8 MI.
MURFRESBORO 6.1 MI.

33°30'00"

57°30"