

# DATA SHEET

PH 0695793

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
JAN 29 1979
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED MAR 9 1979

## 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 William Parker Caldwell House  
 AND/OR COMMON  
 Same

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

*off TN 22*

CITY, TOWN  
Gardner

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Seventh

STATE  
Tennessee

— VICINITY OF  
CODE  
47

COUNTY  
Weakley  
CODE  
183

### 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> 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  
James B. and Dorlas R. Metheny  
 STREET & NUMBER  
Route 4  
 CITY, TOWN  
Martin

— VICINITY OF

STATE  
Tennessee 38237

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Weakley County Courthouse  
 STREET & NUMBER  
Court Square  
 CITY, TOWN  
Dresden

STATE  
Tennessee 38225

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
Historical and Architectural Survey  
 DATE  
November 1978  
 DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS  
Tennessee Historical Commission, 170 Second Avenue, North  
 CITY, TOWN  
Nashville

— FEDERAL  STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

STATE  
Tennessee 37201

# 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		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Caldwell House is located in the small community of Gardner in the north-western part of Weakley County. Originally a village which, along with some commercial buildings, included several farm houses, Gardner now is a small collection of scattered farm houses of which the Caldwell House is the most important.

Constructed ca. 1860 the Caldwell House is a two-story frame house cased with weatherboards and covered with composition shingles which replace the original wooden shingles. The eaves are decorated with paired brackets, and the corners of the house are accented with paneled pilasters. The heavy cornice and returns form a broken-bed pediment which is the major architectural feature of the east and west elevations.

The center bay of the three-bay facade is enhanced by a double-leaf entrance door surmounted by a fanlight divided to form two lancet arches. Paired, round-headed windows compose the fenestration pattern.

In plan the house is U-shaped with the principal entrance and reception rooms in one branch of the U. The other branch, which also features paired, round-headed windows on the east elevation, originally housed the dining room. This branch also is ornamented with a broken-bed pediment at the gable and paneled pilasters on the corners of the east elevation.

In the interior of the principal branch of the house, a center hallway is flanked by one room on each side. An interior brick chimney is located at each gable of this section of the building, and the principal stairway rises from the passage. Much of the interior woodwork of this section is original, including the stairway and door and window architraves.

The original one-story front porch has been replaced recently by a portico with four two-story pillars. Most of the original round-headed louvered shutters have been lost. Porches line the inner parts of the U formed by the house; the one on the north side of the principal branch is original.

A small frame building is located to the southwest of the house. It is presently used as a shed for storage.

The property nominated, the tract on which the Caldwell House and outbuilding stand, is owned in its entirety by James B. and Dorlas R. Metheny. This tract contains approximately 1.2 acres.

# 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1860

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Congressman William Parker Caldwell was born in Christmasville, Carroll County, Tennessee, on November 8, 1832. He attended schools in his native state and in Kentucky and studied law at Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tennessee. Admitted to the bar in 1853, he practiced law in Dresden (Weakley County) and Union City (Obion County); he resided in the town of Gardner, which was located midway between the county seats of Weakley and Obion counties, and there he built a house, the subject of this nomination, ca. 1860. Caldwell was elected mayor of Gardner when the town was incorporated in 1869. From 1879 until his death on June 7, 1903, he located his law office in this house.

Caldwell's political career spanned forty years. He served three terms in the Tennessee General Assembly, two in the House (1857-59 and 1869-71) and one in the Senate (1895-97). He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1874 and re-elected two years later. Caldwell was also a Democratic presidential elector in 1860, 1868, and 1884.

The Caldwell House is an example of the application of Italianate decorative details to a basic vernacular form used throughout the nineteenth century in Tennessee. This form, two-stories, one-room deep, with balancing gable-end chimneys, was modified periodically during the last century, by the application of current decorative elements. In this way the house could conform to the then popular architectural styles without significantly changing its appearance or abandoning this favorite house form. The Caldwell House shows that this response to architectural trends was favored by socially prominent and politically powerful members of the community. The major architectural innovation in this house is the use of the U-shaped plan; this more than doubled the floor space in the house and gave the owner the area of a large house while retaining the single-pile form.

The present owners reside in the house and carefully maintain it. They also operate a small antique sales business there.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Jim Corbitt. "Gardner Community History Laced With Adventure, Excitement." Weakley County Press [Martin, Tenn.], Tennessee Centennial Edition, June 28, 1978.
- Robert M. McBride and Dan M. Robison (eds.). Biographical Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly, Volume I, 1796-1861. Nashville: The Tennessee State Library and Archives and the Tennessee Historical Commission, 1975.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.2

QUADRANGLE NAME Gardner

QUADRANGLE SCALE \_\_\_\_\_

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 330110 4025930  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B \_\_\_\_\_  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C \_\_\_\_\_

D \_\_\_\_\_

E \_\_\_\_\_

F \_\_\_\_\_

G \_\_\_\_\_

H \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property nominated is a quadrilateral tract which measures 253'9" x 411'6" x 156' x 502' 2" and is bounded as follows:

Beginning at a stake on the west right of way margin of the Turnpike and Gardner Road  
 LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Barbara Hume Church, Architectural Historian  
Robert E. Dalton, Director of Field Services

ORGANIZATION <u>Tennessee Historical Commission</u>	DATE <u>January 1979</u>
STREET & NUMBER <u>170 Second Avenue North</u>	TELEPHONE <u>(615) 741-2371</u>
CITY OR TOWN <u>Nashville</u>	STATE <u>Tennessee</u>

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ LOCAL X

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 Herbert L. Hayen DATE 1/26/79  
 TITLE Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<u>Charles Adams</u> KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE <u>3-9-79</u>
ATTEST: <u>Herbert L. Hayen</u> CHIEF OF REGISTRATION	DATE <u>3/9/79</u>

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

History of Tennessee From Earliest Times to the Present; Together with an Historical  
and a Biographical Sketch of Gibson, Obion, Dyer, Weakley and Lake Counties....  
Nashville: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1887.

Obituary, newspaper unknown, ca. June 1903.

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ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

at a telephone pole at Wesley Venable's northeast corner and runs thence north 253 feet 9 inches with the west right of way margin of said road to a stake; thence west 411½ feet making a new line through the lands of Wayne L. Hicks to a stake at his southwest corner on Marvin Thompson's east boundary line; thence south 21° 30' west with Marvin Thompson's east line 156 feet to a stake; thence south 61° 30' east 502 feet 2 inches with Wesley Venable's north line to the beginning corner.