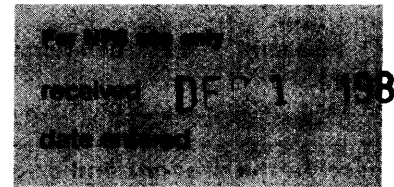


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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 Captain Calvin N. Davis House

and/or common Davis-Hull House (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 1004 N. Main Street N/A — not for publication

city, town Carthage N/A — vicinity of

state Tennessee code 047 county Smith code 159

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A 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 Mr. and Mrs. Bill H. Moore

street & number 275 N. Riverside Drive

city, town Carthage N/A — vicinity of state Tennessee 37030

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Smith County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Carthage state Tennessee

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A N/A — federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

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 2½-story brick Davis-Hull House, built by Calvin N. Davis in 1889, is a large eclectic Victorian period house located on the west side of Main Street in the rural county seat town of Carthage (pop. 2,491). The house, its original carriage house, and several frame barns sit on a 1.6 acre tract of land at the outskirts of Carthage where the elevated land area of the town begins to gently descend on the north side and Main Street forks with Highway 85. Having been altered very little and containing virtually all of its original features, the Davis-Hull House retains a remarkable degree of architectural integrity.

The Davis-Hull House rises 2½ stories and has a hip and gable roof, irregular shape, one-story ell, and a stone foundation. Exterior architectural details are varied, giving the house an eclectic appearance. These include a one-story Eastlake porch on the facade with turned posts, decorative cornice apron and arched balustrade; narrow 1/1 light rectangular facade windows with flat stone lintels; an ornately carved single-leaf door with a stained glass transom; brackets trimming the roof eaves; a patterned slate roof with elaborate metal finials and corbeled brick chimney stacks.

Windows on elevations other than the facade have 4/4 lights and segmental-arched surrounds. The one-story brick ell has a gabled dormer on the north side of the gabled roof. A dormer is also found on the rear of the house where the hip roof slopes down from the two story part of the house over a one-story brick room at the southeast corner of the house. A porch across the south elevation of the ell has been enclosed with weatherboarding, ca. 1920s.

The ornate Eastlake interior of the Davis-Hull House contains almost all of its original detailing. A prominent half turn with landings staircase has a heavy ornate newel post and a grained finish and is located in the central hall of the house. Paneled wainscoting with rosettes is used on the hall walls and along the staircase as well as in several other rooms of the house. Eastlake metal mantels, with embossed tile hearths and fireplace facings and some with slate shelves, built-in floor length cabinets, several original light fixtures, floors, doors, moldings, window and door surrounds, and bathrooms all remain intact.

Outbuildings to the Davis-Hull House include a two-story brick carriage house and two frame barns. The original carriage house is rectangular shaped and has a metal gable roof. The entrance doors on the east three-bay facade have segmental arched surrounds and brick radiating voussoirs; the carriage door on this elevation has a heavy, wide wood lintel. Servants quarters are located on the second story. Presently the carriage house is used for storage and is in a state of disrepair. The frame barns are covered with vertical wood boards and have gable roofs. Their dates of construction are unknown and they do not have any particularly distinguishing features. An original low stone wall extends across the front yard of the house next to Main Street's sidewalk, and a herringbone-patterned brick sidewalk leads from the central gate of the stone wall to the central entrance of the house.

The house faces east on a relatively flat site which gently slopes off to the north. The property is basically open land except for a few mature trees and shrubs located close 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 checked="" 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 1889 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The 1889 Davis-Hull House is nominated under National Register criteria B and C for its local significance to Carthage and Smith County in commerce and architecture. The house derives significance from association with its builder, Captain Calvin N. Davis, an important figure in the commercial development of Carthage and Smith County from the 1880s to the early 1900s. Davis was an influential and leading businessman in Carthage who helped form the Rewoda Milling Company, operated a successful Shorthorn cattle breeding company, helped establish the Carthage Tobacco Works and assisted in the establishment and donation of land for a school in Carthage. The house he built is the finest example of residential Victorian period architecture on a relatively grand scale in Carthage and is the county seat town's best example of Victorian eclectic architecture. Reflecting the prominence in the town of Davis and its subsequent owners, the Davis-Hull House is one of the largest in Carthage and exhibits unusually fine craftsmanship in its eclectic exterior and ornate interior.

Calvin N. Davis, locally referred to as "Captain Davis" for his service as a captain during the Civil War, came to Carthage in 1889 from Nashville. He had been a successful wholesale merchant in Nashville and reportedly moved to Carthage so that he and his wife, Mary F. Meadows, would have a rural setting for the rearing of their eight children.

Davis built the Davis-Hull House in 1889 and soon established himself in a Shorthorn cattle breeding operation with E.L. Gardenhire, the man who sold Davis the 266 acres of land on which he built his house. By the 1890s and coming of the railroad to Carthage, Davis had entered into several business partnerships and was instrumental in their organization and development. The two most important businesses in contributing to the economic vitality of the rural town and county were the Rewoda Milling Company and the Carthage Tobacco Works. These businesses were located directly across the Cumberland River from the town core of Carthage in the area which became known as South Carthage. Davis is credited in local tradition as being a founder of South Carthage. (All buildings associated with these businesses are no longer extant.)

The Rewoda Milling Company was formed by Davis, his son named Joe, his son-in-law, Thomas B. Read, and a close friend named Wooten. The company name was derived from the first two letters of each partner's name, REad, WOoten, and DAVIS. The company's mill operated from 1895 to 1935 in a large frame mill building in South Carthage before it burned in 1935, having served Carthage for 40 years and providing employment for area residents and the means for milling their grain. The mill was the only rolling mill in Smith County at the turn of the century, grinding flour and meal and packaging and selling several brand names of flour. The partners in the Rewoda Mill Company helped establish a school in South Carthage named The Rewoda School in honor of the men who donated the land for the building.

The Carthage Tobacco Works was one of the biggest and most important businesses in Carthage at the turn of the century. Davis served as the company's director in the developing years.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Gold, W.D. Handbook of Smith County, Carthage: Carthage Post, 1905.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.6

Quadrangle name Carthage

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	5	9	4	0	4	0	4	0	1	3	1	6	0
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 boundaries are shown on the accompanying Smith County property assessment map #46M(1"=100'). The boundaries were chosen to include the house, carriage house, and barns on approximately 1.6 acres of land that is enclosed by fences and situated atop the hill. (No other buildings or structures are located on the remainder of the 9.5 acres of the current owner's property.)

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 Shain T. Dennison, Architectural Historian

organization Tennessee Historical Commission date October, 1982

street & number 701 Broadway telephone 615/742-6716

city or town Nashville state Tennessee 37203

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.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Hoyer

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission 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 1/4/83

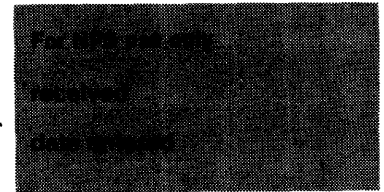
John L. Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Davis-Hull House Item number 8 Page 2

Located in a factory building in South Carthage, the Carthage Tobacco Works processed and twisted chewing tobacco. It provided employment for over 40 persons necessary to operate the factory and was important to area farmers who were dependent on the factory for selling their dark tobacco.

The home of Calvin Davis was sold out of the Davis family in 1900. The house has had a number of owners since, some of whom were considered important or prominent persons locally. T.P. Bridges purchased the house and 257 acres of land from Calvin Davis in 1900 and sold the property only four years later to J.H. Officer. During the two years Officer owned the property, the house boarded pupils and the director of the school located adjacent to the house, Professor W.T. Call of the Joseph W. Allen School (no longer extant).

William Hull purchased the house and acreage from the Officers in 1906. He was a raftsman and is credited with being the man who built the first gas generator, laid the pipes, and installed gas street lighting in Carthage. Moreover, he was the father of Cordell Hull, one of the most important political figures in Tennessee history who served as Secretary of State in the cabinet of Franklin D. Roosevelt from 1933-1944 and received national recognition for his political contributions. While Cordell Hull only lived in his father's house in 1907, he was a frequent visitor at the house and maintained legal residency there while living in Washington, D.C. The Davis-Hull House is known locally as the "Hull House" for its association with Cordell Hull. (The Cordell Hull birthplace in Pickett County was listed on the National Register 5/5/72.)

William Hull sold the Davis-Hull House in 1914 to Arthur H. Hackett. The Hackett heirs sold the house in 1920 to Gladys Hackett Moore. Her son, the present owner, acquired the property in 1976.

The Davis-Hull House remains one of the finest houses in Carthage and Smith County. It serves as an example of the type house chosen by some of the town's most prominent citizens for their residences, and illustrates a vernacular interpretation of the trends in architectural fashion during the Victorian period with its eclectic appearance. The house is built on a larger scale and with unusually fine craftsmanship in comparison to other houses of the period in Carthage. (There are only a few substantial-sized houses in Carthage and few dating to prior to 1930 are brick; the Davis-Hull House and nearby Greek Revival style Cullum Mansion are the largest houses in Carthage.)

Remaining relatively unaltered, the eclectic style and fine craftsmanship of the Davis-Hull House are exhibited on the exterior in its Eastlake porch with turned posts, arched balustrade, and cornice aprons; brackets; pencilled brickwork; ornate wood door and stained-glass transom; and patterned slate roof with elaborate metal finials and corbeled chimneys. Equally fine craftsmanship is demonstrated in the virtually unchanged, ornate Eastlake interior of the house with its grained half turn with landings staircase and ornate newel post; paneled wainscoting with rosettes; Eastlake metal mantels with embossed tile hearths and fireplace facings; and doors, floors, and window and door surrounds. These features are combined to present an unusually fine example of Victorian period eclectic architecture for a small rural town in eastern Middle Tennessee.

Davis-Hull House
1004 N. Main Street
Carthage, Smith County, Tennessee

