

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES:
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee
COUNTY: Davidson
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE AUG 28 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Devon Farm (~~Representative Richard Fulton~~)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
~~Nashville~~ ^{TN} ~~Hicks Road at State Highway 100~~

CITY OR TOWN:
Nashville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Fifth

STATE: **Tennessee** CODE: **47** COUNTY: **Davidson** CODE: **037**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mrs. Edward Dickson Hicks, IV

STREET AND NUMBER:
Hicks Road at Highway 100

CITY OR TOWN:
Nashville

STATE:
Tennessee CODE: **47**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Davidson County Register of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Nashville

STATE:
Tennessee CODE: **47**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

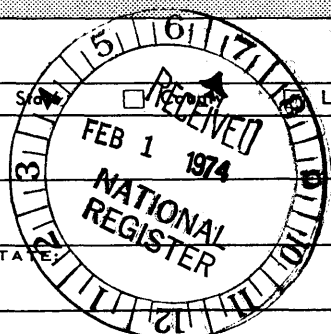
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

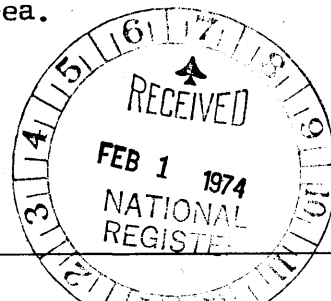
Devon Farm was begun by pioneer surveyor John Davis from North Carolina prior to 1796. The original home was a one and one-half story red brick dwelling, constructed of bricks fired on the farm from clay removed from a long, deep ditch running north-south along Highway 100. The original home consisted of 4 rooms, about 12'x28', 2 rooms downstairs and 2 bedrooms upstairs. To the rear (south) of the home was constructed a double-wall kitchen/weaving room, about 12'x28' in overall size; each room has its own entrance. To the east of the kitchen was constructed a two-story, log smokehouse - about 8'x12'; to the west of the kitchen was constructed a brick cheesehouse/springhouse. The springhouse, about 14'x14', appears to be one-story, but the "basement" - where cheese, butter, and milk were stored, was dug into the rear hillside. There is also an old stone springhouse, two-story, near the small creek at the western border of the farm. It, too, is dug into the hillside, with the spring flowing through the foundation level--here meat, milk, etc., were stored. Its size is approximately 10'x12'. Not far from the smokehouse to the east, is a one-story, approximately 8'x12', frame carriage house, used, according to the present owners, to stable the "privileged" horse that pulled the family carriage.

John Davis' daughter, Fannie, and her husband, Morris Harding, made their home at the farm from 1816 to 1865. Fannie Davis Harding enlarged the original structure, adding a parlor (12'x18') with overhead bedroom, an entrance hall (6'x10') with a staircase leading to second floor where an upstairs landing led to the new bedroom and the old upstairs bedrooms. She also added wooden porches and columns, with wooden roofs and shingles, to both front and rear exteriors of the home.

Following Fannie D. Harding's death in 1865, the farm was inherited by her nephew, Edward Dickson Hicks, II, and has been in the Hicks family ever since. It is said by the family that E. D. Hicks, II, named the place "Devon Farm" for the Devon cattle imported from England and bred on the farm.

Final additions made to the home were by E. D. Hicks, IV, who inherited the farm in 1946. A large (12'x28') kitchen was added to the rear of the original rooms, with an adjacent double-garage off the kitchen. The wooden flooring of the two porches was replaced with stone, and the wooden columns and railings were rebuilt. Devon Farm remains "untouched by time," nestled in rolling meadows--only a small part of the original land grants to John Davis of more than 6,955 acres in the Big Harpeth River area.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

John Davis, a native of Pasquotank County, North Carolina, and constructor of the original portions of present-day Devon Farm, traveled to Tennessee in 1788. A pioneer surveyor, he "marked the way in advance of permanent settlement" in Davidson, Williamson and Hickman counties from 1790 to 1820. The son of a Revolutionary War soldier, Davis served with the State Militia until 1795; he had served as a member of Capt. John Gordon's company of scouts in many expeditions against the Southern Indians. The ten children of John Davis and his wife, Dorcas, married into some of the most prominent and respected families of Middle Tennessee; one daughter married a son of General James Robertson, founder of Nashville and Father of Middle Tennessee, while a second Davis daughter later married another son of the famous frontiersman. The fourth daughter of Davis married Edward Dickson Hicks; his mother's kinsman, William Dickson, was a Nashville physician and statesman for whom Dickson County was named by the legislature in 1803.

Descendants of E D. Hicks maintained the Davis tradition of "love of land and country," contributing notably to the State of Tennessee. E. D. Hicks, II, was an active and respected businessman in both insurance and the Nashville & Northwestern Railroad. It was he who inherited the farm near Bellevue from his aunt, Mrs. Fannie Davis Harding, and developed and christened the place as "Devon Farm." He imported Devon cattle from England (the breed of cattle praised in Hicks's writings as "known in Great Britain since the conquest of the country by Julius Caesar") and devoted his manhood to promoting the breed. In 1884, Hicks was a founder, and elected president, of the American Devon Cattle Club; an often reprinted address on Devon cattle was made by Hicks before the Dairymen's Convention in Nashville in 1884.

E. D. Hicks, III, continued the operation of Devon Farm after his marriage to Harriett Cockrill, whose father, Mark S. Cockrill, operated Richland Farm, nationally known for its prize-winning (in the U. S., Canada and Great Britain) short-horn cattle. Miss Cockrill's grandfather, Mark R. Cockrill, earned the title of "Wool King of the World" and his portrait hangs in the Tennessee Agriculture Hall of Fame. Mr. Hicks bred livestock, as well as planting fields of alfalfa, corn and wheat.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

A Sketch of the Life and Generations of Frederick and Fanny Davis, by W. F. Watkins, revised by E. D. Hicks, 1899.
A History of Hickman County, Tennessee, by W. J. D. Spence and D. L. Spence, 1900.
 "Narrative of John Davis, Esq.", THE SOUTH-WESTERN MONTHLY, a journal published by Wales and Roberts, 1852.
The Family Chronicle and Kinship Book, by O. Zollicoffer Bond, 1928.
 "Lines to A Trustee," by A. L. Crabb, PEABODY REFLECTOR AND ALUMNI NEWS, 1934.
 Miscellany of records in Tennessee State Library & Archives, Nashville.

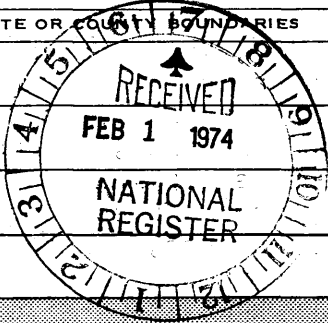
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	36 ° 03 ' 29 "	86 ° 55 ' 19 "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	36 ° 03 ' 35 "	86 ° 55 ' 05 "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	36 ° 03 ' 22 "	86 ° 55 ' 05 "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	36 ° 03 ' 22 "	86 ° 55 ' 19 "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 30

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mrs. Ilene J. Cornwell

ORGANIZATION: Bellevue Historical and Literary Society DATE: January 30, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
1004 Harpeth Valley Court

CITY OR TOWN: Nashville (Bellevue) STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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 Herbert L. Hays

Title Acting Executive Director
Tennessee Historical Commission

Date 1/25/74

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

Arthur M. ...
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 2/28/74

ATTEST:

Charles ...
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 8-27-74

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

H13 / 507400 / 507390 / 507000 / 398990 / 398900 / 399010 / 399010

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Tennessee
COUNTY	Davidson
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	AUG 28 1974

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

E. D. Hicks, IV, carried on and improved upon his father's and grandfather's work in agriculture and livestock. He was a founder, and for 33 years the manager, of the Dobson-Hicks Seed Co., wholesale seed merchants in Nashville. In the 1920's, he developed and distributed the Hicks Yellow Dent corn (used before hybrid varieties) and entered a peck of wheat which won the blue ribbon in the St. Louis Exposition. He enlarged his farm to 800 acres by the early 1950's; he cultivated fields of tobacco, corn and wheat and raised bronze turkeys, peafowl, sheep, Black Angus cattle, swan geese, Canadian geese, ducks, bantams, ring-neck pheasants and guineas.

Mr. Hicks was one of the founders, and served as president, of the Chamber of Commerce Farmers Club; he actively worked with Future Farmers of America, and took the lead in sponsoring a program which made the District 4-H Club camp at Columbia, Tennessee a reality. During World War II, he served on the Advisory Committee on Agriculture for the U. S. Government in Washington, and, in 1957, was one of five appointed for locating, building and operating a "Farmers Market" in Nashville. Mr. Hicks was a member of the Davidson County Agriculture committee and a long-time member of the Farmers Club. In 1959, he was presented a plaque for outstanding service to 4-H by the Tennessee 4-H Club Congress, one of nine such plaques ever presented in Tennessee. During his lifetime, Mr. Hicks gained the reputation of "carrying the torch for the advancement of agriculture and rural people"; a Nashville BANNER editorial noted the passing, in 1961, of the famed agriculturist, conservationist and civic leader.

