

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received **SEP 7 1983**
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic William A. Catherine Davern Farm House

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 1173 S. Davern Street N/A not for publication

city, town St. Paul N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota code 22 county Ramsey code 123

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. & Mrs. Michael A. O'Brien

street & number 1173 S. Davern Street

city, town St. Paul N/A vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Ramsey County Courthouse

street & number 15 W. Kellogg Boulevard

city, town St. Paul state MN. 55102

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Sites Survey of St. Paul & Ramsey County has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980-1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records Ramsey County Historical Society, 75 W. 5th St., Room 323

city, town St. Paul state MN. 55102

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent		<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	932	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> fair			
<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated			
<input type="checkbox"/> ruins			
<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Davern farm house is an Italianate style, woodframe house built ca. 1862. It is located on a large lot along the bluffs in the Highland Park neighborhood of St. Paul and is surrounded by many large middle class houses which date from ca. 1950. The main facade now is five bays wide, the northern two of which were added in 1929. The house features a basic box-like form. It has an ornate cornice with dentils and large brackets and has fairly tall, narrow rectangular windows with 2/2 and 4/4 sash and louvered shutters. A historical photograph of the house taken before the northern two bays were added reveals that the house originally had double leaf doors, rather than the present wide, panelled door which has thin sidelights and a transom. Other alterations made since that time have included removing and replacing the original chimneys, installing a rear addition and numerous interior alterations. The interior of the house does retain many of its original hardwood doors which have heavy raised panelling. The original floor plan can still be detected and the original staircase with its wide, polygonal newel post has survived though now it is roughly at the center of the 1st floor due to the addition of the northernmost two bays (originally the staircase was along the northern side wall). The dining room has a delicately carved marble mantelpiece which was installed in 1929 when the house was owned by Clinton C. Dailey, the secretary of the Drake Marble Company. Despite the aforementioned alterations, the house retains much of its original integrity and it is in excellent condition. None of the original farm outbuildings have survived.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates ca. 1862

Builder/Architect unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The William and Catherine Davern Farm House is historically and architecturally significant as a rare, surviving farm house in an area of post-World War II homes, as the home of one of the first farm families to settle in the area of St. Paul which was originally known as Reserve Township, and as one of the oldest and most intact, Italian-ate style farm houses still standing in Ramsey County.

William Davern received a government grant of 160 acres in the old Reserve Township and built his farm house on this site ca. 1862. Davern was an Irish immigrant who came to the United States in 1848. After settling in St. Paul he became active in organizing some of the first schools in Reserve Township and was one of the original members of the Minnesota Territorial Legislature in 1849. Davern married his second wife, Catherine Ryan, in about 1860, and he was the father of thirteen children. One of Davern's main crops was barley which he sold to the local breweries. The Davern family lived in this house until 1919 when he sold it to H.B. Fuller, Jr. who was then the president of the H.B. Fuller Company. By 1929 the house was owned by Clinton C. Dailey, the secretary of the Drake Marble Company. In that year he spent \$7,000 to add two bays to the north side of the house, bringing the house to its present appearance.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Empson, Donald. "Highland, Groveland, Macalester Park: The Old Reserve Township." Ramsey County History, vol. 10, no. 2, 1973.
- St. Paul City Directories, 1919-1929. St. Paul: R.L. Polk & Company.
- Ramsey County Historical Society Photo Collection, photo of Davern House.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one
 Quadrangle name St. Paul West Quad, Minnesota Quadrangle scale 7.5

UTM References

A	115	486360	4972300	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Unplatted lands subject to Davern Street and easements, and except west 65 feet of the south 417 48/100ths feet south to 417 29/100ths feet of east 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 16, Twp 28, Range 23.

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 Patricia Murphy, Survey Director
 organization Historic Sites Survey of St. Paul & Ramsey County date Dec., 1982
 street & number Ramsey County Historical Society, 75 W. 5th St., Room 323 telephone (612) 222-0701
 city or town St. Paul state MN. 55102

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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Russell W. Fridley
 title Russell W. Fridley date 9/2/83
State Historic Preservation Officer

For NPS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
 date 10/6/83
 Entered in the National Register
 Keeper of the National Register
 Attest: _____ date _____
 Chief of Registration