

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

For NPS use only

received

JUN 13 1983

date entered

1. Name

historic John Davis House

and/or common Ashman Manor

2. Location

street & number M E Route #9 N/A not for publication

city, town Chelsea, N/A vicinity of congressional district

state Maine code 23 county Kennebec code 011

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
X building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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 H. Scott Perry

street & number R.F.D. #2, Box 380

city, town Augusta, X vicinity of Chelsea state Maine 04330

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kennebec County Courthouse

street & number State Street

city, town Augusta, state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? N/A yes no

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Condition	<input type="checkbox"/>	deteriorated	Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/>	unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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 Davis Homestead is a two-and-one-half story, brick Federal-style farmhouse. The facade is five-bayed and the gable ends three, with two full-sized windows to each gable. The remaining gable-end fenestration is slightly irregular.

The front door is flanked by sidelights and capped with a louvred fan. A plain elliptical molding with keystone unites all elements, and is in turn enclosed in an elliptical recessed panel in the brick wall. The brick arch was fashioned with small, square pieces.

All windows are 6/6 with granite lintels and sills.

The house has four chimnies: two at one gable end, one at the other, and a fourth flush with the center of the rear wall.

The facade brick is laid in common bond, the rear and gable ends in English bond.

A twentieth-century (Colonial Revival) porch adjoins the south gable end and leads to a centrally-located door. The side door is, uniquely, the focus of the interior plan. A stairway stands just behind the door, flanked by a narrow hall which runs through the center of the house to a second staircase, sited in the same lateral position as the former. The front hall adjoins the side-hall and second stairway at cross-angles.

Interior decoration is typically Federal, with planed mouldings, wood mantelpieces, and some plain wainscotting. The fireplace sills are massive pieces of granite. Christian-cross doors adjoin all rooms and halls.

There is no evidence of an ell, the kitchen being located in the rear north corner.

The present owner of the house has re-christened it "Ashman Manor" in honor of his late grandparents, who until recently ran a tree farm there.

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 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 c. 1815-1820 **Builder/Architect** Attributed to John Davis

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Davis House is a fine and well-preserved Federal farmhouse, and the only large house of its type and period extant in the town of Chelsea or environs. Legend has it as the home of a major local builder who erected most of the brick houses in the immediate vicinity.

The brick Federal-style farmhouse, usually a Cape but occasionally a full two-and-one-half stories, is a common vernacular type in the Kennebec Valley. The Davis House and a few others of almost identical configuration (examples exist in Vassalboro and Litchfield) represent the finest type, and compare well to, if not surpass, the better houses in the larger Kennebec Valley towns.

The early history of the house and its owner have so far proved elusive. The house is not pictured on an 1815 surveyor's map of Chelsea, and the parcel of land it sits upon had not yet been purchased. Davis undoubtedly bought the property and erected the house shortly after the land was surveyed.

Deed research shows Davis to have been not only a farmer, but one of the greatest land speculators in the county, the apparent source of his prosperity. The property can be linked to him directly only through an 1864 deed which mentions the house as "formally the John Davis farm". His legendary reputation as a housewright is so far undocumented.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Kennebec County Deeds of John Davis
Plan of Chelsea, 1815, Kennebec County Registry of Deeds

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

Quadrangle name Augusta

UMT References

A	1 9	4 3 8	3 4 0	4 9 0 2 5 2 0
Zone	Easting		Northing	
C				
E				
G				

B				
Zone	Easting		Northing	
D				
F				
H				

Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map 8, Lot 24

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gregory K. Clancey, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Comm. date April, 1983

street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone 207/289-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine 04333

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 Lee S. Feldman

title J.H.P.O. date 5/27/83

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

7/14/83

J. Aelous Byers Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration