

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Tennessee</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Davidson</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	<b>FEB 23 1972</b>

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Two Rivers**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**David H. McGavock House**

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**31 30 McGavock Lane**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Donelson**

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

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
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 type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>In process of being converted into an educational center</u>

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Metropolitan Government of Nashville & Davidson County, Board of Parks and Recreation**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Centennial Park**

CITY OR TOWN: **Nashville**      STATE: **Tennessee**      CODE: **47**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Register's Office for Davidson County, Tennessee**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Metro Courthouse, Public Square**

CITY OR TOWN: **Nashville**      STATE: **Tennessee**      CODE: **47**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Historic American Buildings Survey**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1970**       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Library of Congress**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Washington**

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington**      STATE: **D. C.**      CODE: **11**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Tennessee**

COUNTY: **Davidson**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: **171**

DATE: **2-23-72**

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Two Rivers house is a two-story brick-and-stone structure, completed in 1859. The house is "L"-shaped in plan, and a two-story balcony is situated on the inside of the "L", to the rear of the house. The walls of the house -- brick set on stone base-ment walls -- are eighteen inches thick and all the ceilings rise eighteen feet. The front of the house is accentuated by an elabo-rately ornamented veranda whose roof is balustraded and forms a second-story veranda, the central third of which is sheltered by a portico.

One enters Two Rivers at the front through handsomely carved wooden double doors sixteen feet tall into a huge entrance hall, from which access is gained into other rooms and into the beautiful double parlor on the left. In each room of the double parlor is an identical crystal chandelier and an imported Italian marble fireplace, once surmounted by huge gold-framed mirrors that came from New Orleans. The living room, located to the rear of the entrance hall, is closed off by large wooden sliding doors.

Apparently, all the brick were made and the stone quarried on the estate by McGavock's slaves. Almost every brick is stamped "David H. McGavock." Several bricks in the back porch wall are stamped: "David, Willie, [and] Frank." Two are marked with a child's foot-print, and the name Lena is also incised in them. The timber used for beams, the cedar porches and the interior surfaces were cut from trees growing on the farm. The intricate filigree work on the front veranda are also thought to have been carved out by hand by McGavock's slaves.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**6. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Two Rivers mansion is the second and principal house to be erected on the Two Rivers Farm, so named because of its position at the junction of the Stone's and Cumberland rivers. It was erected in 1859 by David H. McGavock on land inherited by his wife, Willie, from her father, William Harding. The mansion is one of the earliest, most significant, and best preserved of the early Italianate houses in Middle Tennessee.

The small whitewashed brick house to the left, built in 1802 by William Harding, was the first to be erected on the farm. In 1816, Dr. James Priestly opened the first school for girls in Middle Tennessee in his home one mile to the rear of the mansion on the Cumberland River bluff.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Leona T. Aiken, Donelson, Tennessee. Its History and Landmarks (Nashville: Kingsport Press, 1968), 231-241.  
 Roberta S. Brandau, ed., History of Homes and Gardens of Tennessee. Nashville: Parthenon Press, 1936.  
 May W. Caldwell, Historical and Beautiful Country Homes Near Nashville, Tennessee. Nashville: Brandon Printing Co., 1911.  
 Federal Writers' Project, Tennessee. A Guide to the State (New York: Viking Press, 1939), 452.  
 Hugh F. Walker, "The Two-Rivers Mansion: Its History and a Plan for its Role in the Community." Report submitted to Metro Park Board, June 1, 1968.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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	° ' "	° ' "		86° 40' 38"W	36° 11' 22"N	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Anatole Senkevitch, Jr., Architectural Historian & Architect**

ORGANIZATION: **HABS-Nashville Project in Summer, 1970**      DATE: **7-8-71**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Instructor, Department of Architecture, Cornell University**

CITY OR TOWN: **Ithaca**      STATE: **New York, 14850**      CODE: **36**

**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. Harper  
 Herbert L. Harper  
 Title Acting Executive Director  
Tennessee Historical Commission  
 Date July 14, 1971

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

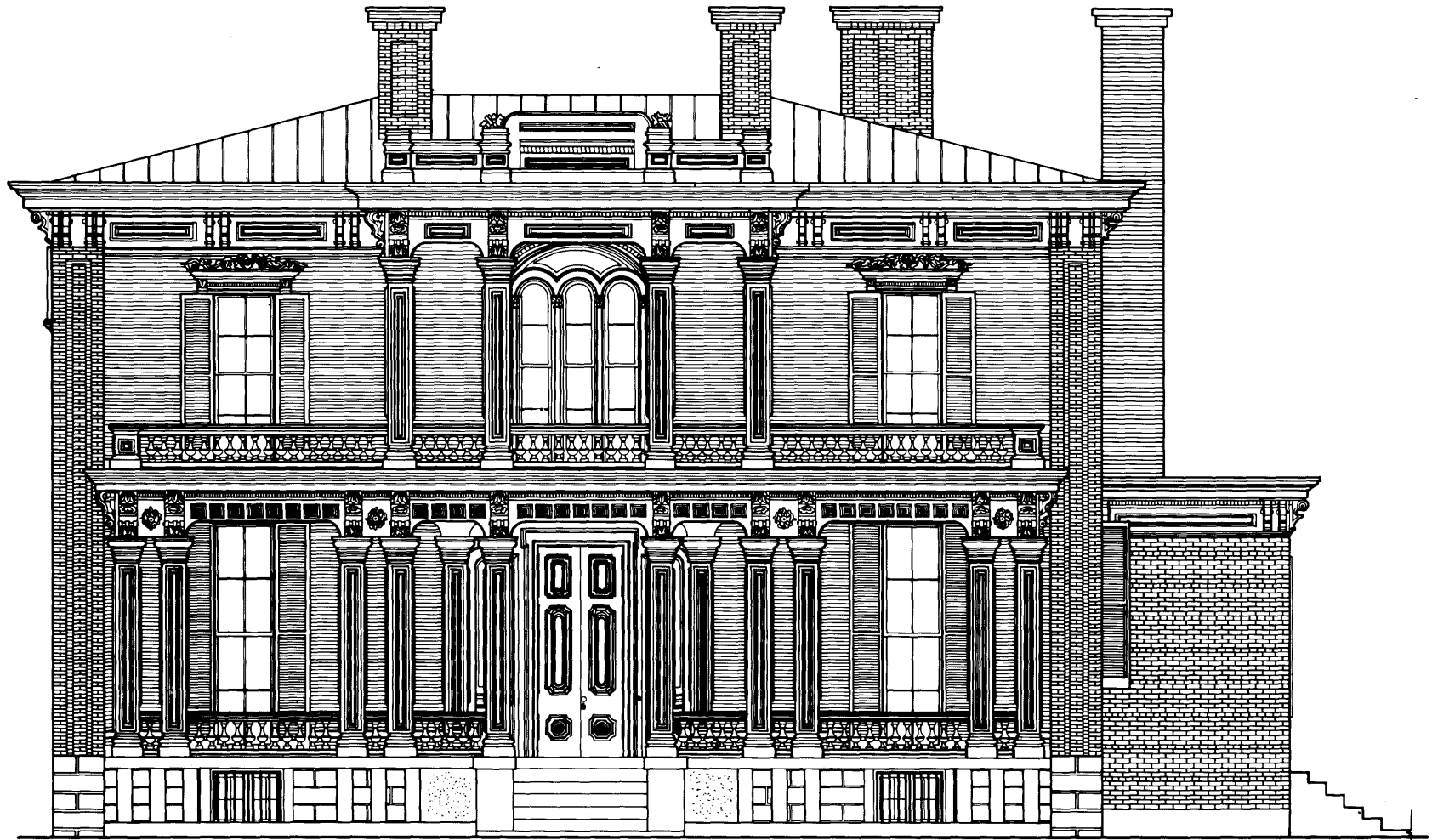
Ernest A. Connally  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date FEB 23 1972

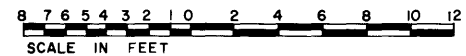
ATTEST:  
for Bradford  
 Keeper of The National Register  
 Date Jan. 17, 1972

16/5228110  
 16/4004840  
 (M)  
 [Signature]

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



EAST ELEVATION



DRAWN BY: RICK DuFLOCC JULY - 1972

NASHVILLE PROJECT  
OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
UNDER DIRECTION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE,  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

3130 MCGAVOCK PIKE

NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE

**MCGAVOCK HOUSE (TWO RIVERS MANSION)**

DONELSON

DAVIDSON COUNTY

TENNESSEE

SURVEY NO.  
TENN.

15

HISTORIC AMERICAN  
BUILDINGS SURVEY  
SHEET 6 OF 10 SHEETS

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS  
INDEX NUMBER