

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation 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 (Norvell-Caldwell House)

and/or common Longview (preferred)

**2. Location**

street & number 811 Caldwell Lane N/A not for publication

city, town Nashville N/A vicinity of congressional district Fifth

state Tennessee code 047 county Davidson code 037

**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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<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"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input 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 Mrs. Johnny Thompson

street & number 811 Caldwell Lane

city, town Nashville N/A vicinity of state Tennessee

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Metro Courthouse

street & number Court Square

city, town Nashville state Tennessee

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Historical and Architectural Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date October 1977  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Tennessee Historical Commission

city, town Nashville state Tennessee

## 7. Description

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

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

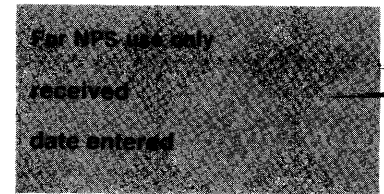
Longview is located at the corner of Caldwell Lane and Franklin Road in a well established residential area south of downtown Nashville. The imposing house can be seen on the hillside located several hundred yards back from Franklin Road. Longview is a turn-of-the-century suburban mansion of the Beaux-Arts style that has evolved from a modest four-room, one-story cottage that was constructed prior to the Civil War into a white-columned, three-story mansion covered with stucco. The metamorphoses of the house were begun by the James E. Caldwell family who purchased the one-story cottage in 1878 when the first renovation occurred. During the first renovation the house was remodeled into an Italianate style house and expanded to two stories. Longview has since grown (in three or four stages) into a grandiose building, finished in 1906, of twenty-two rooms, eleven fireplaces, fifteen floor length casement windows, fourteen crystal chandeliers and light fixtures and an extravagant glass solarium. Elements of the 1878 house can still somewhat be seen, especially in the irregular shape of the house (although the parapeted third or attic story has been added, altering the 1878 house's gable roof form). The pre-Civil War cottage seems to have been engulfed in the later major remodelings of the house for no clear evidence of its shape and detailing remain visible. The property, however, retains several pre-Civil War elements including two fireplaces within the house, a small Gothic Revival period brick office outbuilding, a Gothic Revival stone springhouse, and several stone walls. The house, as remodeled and completed in 1906, remains in good condition and has been little altered, thus retaining architectural integrity from its turn-of-the-century Beaux-Arts Classical character.

Longview was originally owned by Henry Norvell and Laura Sevier, granddaughter of John Sevier. It consisted of a four-room, one-story farmhouse with a kitchen and pantry, the single room brick office to the rear, and the elegant stone springhouse of Gothic Revival styling, designed by Mrs. Sevier. The Caldwells purchased the property in 1878 and immediately expanded it to a two-story house with a gable roof, one-story encircling porch, Italianate period detailing with paired brackets at the roof eaves and segmental arched surround heads on several windows. The house was then altered with minor changes several times until the turn of the century major remodeling. By 1906 the house was completely renovated, including the addition of the huge living room with winding staircase, a conservatory, a formal Beaux Arts facade with two-story central portico, and the flat-roofed attic story.

The 1906 house has a seven bay facade, facing east. The central three bays of the facade project from the remainder of the wall and are covered by a three-bay wide flat portico that is ~~two~~ stories in height and supported by large Ionic columns. The cornice and frieze of the portico and front section of the house is decorated simply by dentils and divides the second story from the attic story of the house. The portico is further decorated by a parapet of cross rails. In the central bay of the facade is a double-leaf door with a large fan light and side lights. It is encased by a one story classical surround with Ionic columns and a plain cornice topped with an iron balustrade in front of the second-story wide double-leaf glazed door. At each side of the central door on the first story are double-leaf glazed doors with round-arched fan lights and heavy molded round-arched surrounds. Above these windows are decorative swags and oval windows surmounted by garlands. The remainder of the facade has floor length casement windows matching the double-leaf glazed doors of the central bay section of the facade on the first story, floor length casement windows on the second story and shorter casement windows on the attic story. A one story side verandah that remains from the 1878 remodeling of the house is located at the two southernmost bays of the facade. The verandah continues around the southeast corner of the front part of the house, along the south side elevation and on around the southwest corner of this section of the house. The verandah has square, paneled Doric supporting posts and a denticulated cornice.

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National Park Service**

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Continuation sheet

Longview

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The remaining elevations of the large irregularly-shaped house have a mix of casement windows, rectangular 9/9 light windows, and 4/4 light rectangular windows with segmental-arched surround heads. A mix of door types are used, ranging from double-leaf glazed doors, to single-leaf doors with round-arched transoms. A porte cochere is located at the central section of the west side of the house and a one-story porch, enclosed with lattice, is located at the north side of a one-story, one-room wing on the north side of the house.

The interior of Longview contains its 1906 floors, cherry woodwork and crystal light fixtures which include an extravagant two-tiered chandelier in the formal dining room imported from Italy. Two larger rooms of the first floor have cove molding ceilings, wainscoting, and buzzer buttons on the floor strategically placed so that the servants could be summoned when needed. It has its basic 1906 wiring and plumbing, with scattered repairs throughout.

Upon entering, Longview offers an enormous ballroom-like entrance with engaged Ionic columns (one free-standing), the solarium straight ahead of the entrance doors, a parlor to the left and a huge formal dining room to the right. A dramatic winding staircase is visible from the living room. The solarium is bordered on one side by a library (containing one of the pre-war fireplaces), and on the other side by an informal family dining room. The first floor also contains the kitchen, den, back porch, back entrance hall and a central hallway on a perpendicular axis to the front door. The second floor repeats the central hallway branching into bedrooms and bathrooms (one with a marble sink and floor tiles). The third floor, lined with twenty windows, is an unfinished attic of exposed wood and brick. It has two separate rooms, one with a metal fireplace of 1890s style.

Little has been done to the house in the way of alterations since 1906. Three of the frontal columns were restored (actually replaced) in fiberglass by the late husband of the previous owner, Dr. Nicholas De Palma. The building is heated by hot water pipes from a gas furnace and occasionally fireplaces. The cellar is small, stone-lined and cement-floored. It has a washing area with turn-of-the-century three-section sinks, an antique non-functioning toilet and a separate wine cellar room. The remaining areas under the house are narrow crawl space.

Dependencies to Longview include the Gothic Revival period office building in the west side yard of the house and the Gothic Revival period stone springhouse below the house on the southeast side. The small office building is rectangular in shape, constructed of bricks and covered with pale grey stucco that matches the house, and has a gable roof. A single-leaf door with flat surround head is located on the east facade of the building. Windows, closed with wood louvered shutters are located one on the south side elevation and one on the north side elevation. At the west elevation is a brick gable end chimney. Decorative vergeboard with a cut-out pendant pattern trims the roof eaves. The springhouse is a small, rough cut stone building of one room constructed into the hillside below Longview. This structure is situated on adjacent land owned by the Franklin Road Church of Christ and is therefore not included in the nomination.

Longview is located at the crest of a small hill. The grounds are casually landscaped with a few mature trees and foundation plantings.

## 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 checked="" 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** Mid 1800s, c.1878, 1906 **Builder/Architect** unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Longview is nominated under National Register criteria B and C for its association with James E. Caldwell, founder of the Bell Telephone System in the South and prominent Nashville businessman, and for its architectural significance as an outstanding example of Beaux Arts Classicism in a Nashville residential building. Longview evolved in three stages from a modest pre-Civil War one-story farmhouse to an Italianate two-story brick house as the result of a remodeling by James A. Caldwell around 1878, and finally into the present grand three-story stuccoed Beaux Arts mansion following extensive alterations and additions by Caldwell in 1906.

The house was originally built prior to the Civil War by Henry Norvell after marrying Laura Sevier, granddaughter of John Sevier, the first governor of Tennessee. The house they built, a four-room, one-story cottage, was incorporated into the 1878 remodeling by the Caldwells and little evidence of its appearance remains visible. Two mantles and pantry cabinets of the original house have been incorporated into the present house, and two outbuildings built by the Norvells remain, a Gothic Revival stone springhouse and a small Gothic Revival, stuccoed brick office. (The springhouse is not included in the nomination.)

During the Civil War Longview was in the center of the battlefield during the Battle of Nashville. Two weeks prior to the battle of December 15, 1864, the house served as the headquarters for General John Bell Hood and his officers. The creek running through the front yard and the springhouse was used as their water supply and most of the timber on the property was burned for heat. The property was so devastated by the war that it was later known as "Hood's Waste."

The house and fifty acres were purchased in 1878 by James E. Caldwell; he renamed the estate Longview. Caldwell remodeled and expanded the Norvell house into an Italianate, two story house shortly after the purchase, and then again remodeled and expanded the house in 1906. The house remains little-altered from its 1906 remodeling into a suburban mansion of 22 rooms and 11 fireplaces with elaborate interior detailing. Caldwell also expanded his land holdings to 1,500 acres. He did such an outstanding reclamation of the estate that it was included in Your Garden and Mine in 1914, as well as other notable architectural books. Longview today is one of the best, and few, examples of Beaux Art Style in residential buildings of Nashville with its characteristic grandiose scale, projecting facade with colossal columned and parapeted portico, flat attic story, and enriched detailing with swags, oval windows, with garlands, and pronounced cornice.

Caldwell was a pioneer and founder of the Bell Telephone System in the South. According to family traditions, Alexander Graham Bell stayed at Longview for a period of time. Caldwell was a successful insurance man and founder and president of the Fourth and First National Banks. He was affiliated with the trolley system, was a landowner, and in 1923 published Recollections of a Lifetime. At Longview he and his wife Mary Winston Caldwell reared a family of ten children. His son, Rogers, owned an investment company and built the house now known as Ellington Agricultural Center. His other children moved into the fields of publication writers, gardening specialists and local historians.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Recollections of a Lifetime, by James E. Caldwell  
 Nashville, A Short History and Selected Buildings, Metro Historical Commission.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 1.3 acres

Quadrangle name Oak Hill, TN

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

1	6	5	2	0	5	3	0	3	9	9	5	1	8	5
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 property assessment map and were drawn to include the house, office, and parcel of land on which they sit.

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 Dennison, Architectural Historian  
Judy De Palma  
 organization Tennessee Historical Commission date September, 1982.  
N/A date October, 1977  
 street & number 701 Broadway  
811 Caldwell Lane telephone (615) 298-4036  
 city or town Nashville state Tennessee  
Nashville state Tennessee

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

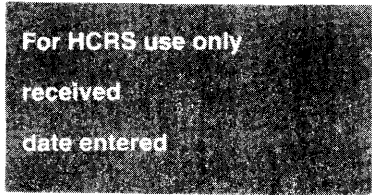
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

Deputy  
 State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert E. Huger  
 title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 11/19/82

For HCRS use only  
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
Judy De Palma date 1-12-83  
 Keeper of the National Register  
 Attest: Patrick Andrews date 1/10/83  
 Chief of Registration

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Longview was sold by the Caldwell heirs to the Franklin Road Church of Christ and used as a church for about eight years before Nicholas and Ruth DePalma purchased the property in 1960. The DePalma's sold Longview to the current owners in 1977.



118-14-142  
 811 Caldwell Lane  
 Map 2747  
 Parcel 381

Longview  
 811 Caldwell Lane  
 Nashville, Davidson County, TN

877 +