

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only
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date entered

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 E.C. Davis House

and/or common Keith Romberg House

2. Location

street & number 406 Grant Street N/A not for publication

city, town Crookston N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota code 22 county Polk code 119

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"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input 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 Keith and Donna Ramberg

street & number 406 Grant St.

city, town Crookston N/A vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Polk County Courthouse - Registrar of Deeds

street & number 600 N. Broadway Ave.

city, town Crookston state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of Historic Resources has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records Minn. Historical Society - Ft. Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<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 <u>N/A</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The E.C. Davis House occupies two city lots on the corner of a block at 406 Grant Street. The Italianate style house was built of yellow brick produced on the site. The plan of the house has a nearly square, two-story section with a 1½-story rectangular wing to the rear.

A two-story semi-octagonal bay window extends off the east side of the main section of the house. Double-sash rectangular windows are set between decorative wood panels. Other windows in the house are rectangular and set into segmental arched openings. Sills and hood molds with corbel stops are constructed of brick.

A low hipped roof covers the main section of the house; the rear wing has a gabled roof. Wide eaves are supported by large scroll brackets, often occurring in pairs. The roofline at the front facade is broken by an exaggerated round arch that encloses a porthole window. Another porthole window is found on the east facade of the rear wing. Two chimneys project from the hipped roof.

The front entrance, a single panelled door with two narrow arched windows and transom, is set to the left of two windows. All are enclosed under a frame porch that extends the width of the front facade. A frame porch on the east side of the rear wing and a single-story frame addition to the rear have been altered recently to form an enclosed porch that wraps around the northeast corner of the house.

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 1879–80 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The E.C. Davis House is significant for its architecture - it is a fine, early example of Italianate architecture in Crookston - and for its original owner. E.C. Davis came to Crookston as a contractor handling the building of a section of the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba Railroad from Crookston north in 1871. He made Crookston his headquarters, operating out of a tent until he built the first frame building in town - a structure built of lumber from dismantled boats that had hauled railroad materials on the Red River. He operated a railroad supply store and general merchandise business from the building. Davis homesteaded a quarter-section of land and in 1879 carved sixty acres of that into lots and blocks. He was chosen to head the first Polk County board of commissioners in 1872, served as Crookston's first mayor from 1879 to 1881, and was again elected mayor in 1886. His house at 406 Grant Street, the first brick residence in the city, was constructed in 1879-80 of brick manufactured on the Davis' homestead. The distinctive yellow brick from Crookston became an important building material along the rail lines that led out of the city. The Italianate style house is unusual in the city. It retains its essential integrity.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Valley of the Red River of the North and Park Regions: Album of Biography, Alden, Ogle & Co., Chicago, 1889. pp. 213-215.

"Footprints of Yesteryear: Crookston Centennial, 1879-1979." Crookston, 1979. pp. 13-14, 22.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Crookston, Minn.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

14	679410	52947100
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

Zone	Easting	Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 11 & 12, Block 9, Davis Addition to Crookston.

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 Thomas Harvey, Contract Historian

organization N/A

date 11 December 1983

street & number 1916 Drew Ave. S.

telephone (612) 920-6917

city or town Minneapolis

state Minnesota

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
Russell W. Fridley

date

4/6/84

title State Historic Preservation Officer

For NPS use only

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

for [Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date

5/10/84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration