



Davies Manor Plantation Historic Structure Report

Prepared by the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation



Submitted to the Davies Manor Association, Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee

October 1, 2021

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Figure 1: William Little Davies at Davies Manor in 1875. Davies Manor Association (DMA) Archives.

Introduction

In June 2020, Andrew Ross, executive director of the Davies Manor Association (DMA), applied to the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation for a Professional Services Partnership to create a historic structure and preservation needs report for the site. This request for assistance took place in the aftermath of a multi-year strategic planning process by the DMA that resulted in the current mission statement: *“The Davies Manor Association preserves and interprets the Davies Manor log-house museum and historic site. We aim to provide an inclusive, multi-faceted space for the educational study of the Davies family, regional history, early Shelby County farm life and the natural environment; by doing so, we create opportunities for the public to make meaningful connections between the past and present.”* The thirty-seven-acre historic site includes the manor house, an early twentieth-century commissary, the cabin where former sharecropper/jack-of-all-trades Mose Frazier lived, the Gotten Cabin, and the Liberty Cabin.

The Center put together a project team consisting of Dr. Antoinette van Zelm, assistant director; Dr. Lydia Simpson, programs manager; and Robby Kurtz, a Ph.D. graduate research assistant. Working under Covid-19 protocols, the team corresponded frequently with Ross via e-mail, and he provided the team with access to a large amount of scanned archival material via Dropbox, as well as books and other published materials about the site. On November 4-5, 2020, van Zelm and Simpson did a two-day field visit to the site, with Kurtz participating via video conferencing. During the site visit, we toured the grounds and buildings with Ross, former executive director and current assistant director Nancy McDonough, education director Katrina Hansen, and grounds manager Chris Mock. We are extremely grateful to them for their assistance and willingness to answer any and all questions.

This partnership project is the latest collaboration in the Center’s long history of working with Davies Manor. The last member of the Davies family to own the property, Ellen Davies Rodgers, applied for Tennessee Century Farm certification in 1976, just a year after the program first began under the Tennessee Department of Agriculture. In 1986, Dr. Carroll Van West, then project coordinator and assistant professor at the Center and now its director, included Davies Manor in *Tennessee Agriculture: A Century Farms Perspective*, and he later wrote the historic site’s entry in the *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Biography*. In 2009, the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, which is administered by the Center, worked with the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development to create a Civil War Trails marker for Davies Manor. Finally, from March to May 2013, the Heritage Area provided its *Free at Last: Emancipation and Reconstruction in Tennessee* traveling exhibit for the site to display.

Historical Background and Context: Early Ownership History

The first Shelby County land acquired by the Davies brothers was a 200-acre tract previously surveyed for George Hunter in 1838. This land was awarded to Logan E. Davies on August 17, 1849, as indicated by entry number 572 in a locator's survey book.¹ This transaction took place in response to a recent law passed by the State of Tennessee in an effort to correct some fraudulent claims and confusion over occupancy claims.² The law allowed occupants to lay claim to lands which they had been living on or improving, suggesting that Logan Davies (and possibly his younger brother James, as well as enslaved people) had been working on the property while still members of their father's household in Fayette County.³

Further insight into this land comes from a mortgage indenture made by George E. Hunter in 1833, which describes the "land on which he now lives" along with a bed and bedstead, a press, a clock, and livestock as securities for a loan to be paid by January 1, 1834. If he failed to pay the loan on time, trustee William A. Bryan was to sell the property at public auction.⁴ The description indicates Hunter likely had a house on the property, which the Davies brothers later may have been living in while improving the land in the 1840s.

Little is known about Hunter. A "G.E. Hunter" appears on the 1850 census in Tishomingo County, Mississippi, which had been opened to Euro-American settlement in 1838 with the final removal of Chickasaws from northern Mississippi. Few newspapers exist from the 1830s in West Tennessee, so whether or not trustee Bryan ultimately had to sell the property at public auction remains obscure, but the language in Logan E. Davies's 1849 deed describes him as an "assignee of George Hunter," which could be an indication that Hunter had held onto legal title to the tract up until that time.⁵

The next parcel of land purchased by the Davies brothers in Shelby County was originally granted to land speculator Thomas Henderson. Born in Rockingham County, North Carolina, Thomas Henderson came from a family of land speculators and government officials who had been in the New World for at least two generations. His father, Thomas Henderson, Sr., and paternal uncle, Richard Henderson, were founders of the Transylvania Company, a major land speculation venture in Virginia and North Carolina, and also founders of French Lick, later known as Nashville, after the Transylvania venture failed.⁶ Thomas Henderson's maternal uncle, Alexander Martin,

¹ Shelby County Survey Book B, pp. 77, 207, Shelby County Register of Deeds.

² *Acts of the State of Tennessee Passed at the First Session of the Twenty-Seventh General Assembly* (Jackson, TN: Gates and Parker, 1848), p. 50.

³ Ancestry.com, "Wm. E. Davies," Fayette County, 1850 United States Federal Census [database on-line], Provo, UT, Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009.

⁴ Shelby County Deed Book D, p. 281, Shelby County Register of Deeds.

⁵ Shelby County Survey Book B, p. 207.

⁶ Charles D. Rodenborough, "Thomas Henderson, Sr.," in *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1988), re-published on NCPedia.com.

<https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/henderson-thomas>, and Mark F. Miller, "Richard Henderson," in *ibid.*, <https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/henderson-richard> (accessed January 19, 2021).

was a two-time governor of North Carolina (1781-1782; 1789-1792) who also served as the first president of the Board of Trustees for the University of North Carolina.⁷

In 1821, Thomas Henderson travelled to Murfreesboro, Tennessee, state capital at the time, to represent the university's landholdings, which totaled more than 147,000 acres. The UNC trustees ultimately hired him to serve as their land agent, for which he was awarded one-half of their Tennessee holdings. In 1823, Henderson shut down his newspaper, the *Raleigh Star*, and moved from Raleigh to West Tennessee permanently, settling in Madison County.⁸

According to Ellen Davies Rodgers's application to register the Davies Manor property as a Tennessee Century Farm, Henderson sold the eastern half of land grant number 22999, one of the properties he acquired by virtue of his service to the University of North Carolina, to Emmanuel Young in 1830 (Figure 2).⁹ Not long after selling the property to Young, Henderson left West Tennessee for Gainesville, Alabama, where he died in 1835.¹⁰ Based on the vastness of Henderson's holdings, and his association with Mount Pinson in Madison County as his homeplace, it is unlikely that he ever made any improvements to his Shelby County holdings, which included several other properties in addition to that which ultimately came into the hands of Logan E. and James B. Davies in 1851.¹¹

⁷ Rodenborough, "Alexander Martin," in *ibid.*, <https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/martin-alexander> (accessed January 19, 2021).

⁸ Thomas A. Bowers, "Thomas Henderson, Jr.," in *ibid.*, <https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/henderson-thomas-jr> (accessed January 19, 2021).

⁹ Davies Plantation, Tennessee Century Farms Application, April 30, 1976, MTSU Center for Historic Preservation Files, Albert Gore Research Center at MTSU, p. 9. See also Warranty Deed, Record Book C, p. 69, Shelby County Register of Deeds.

¹⁰ Bowers, "Thomas Henderson, Jr."

¹¹ *Ibid.*

This Indenture made this fourteenth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty Between Thomas Henderson of Madison County and State of Tennessee of the one part and Emanuel Young of the County of Shelby and State aforesaid of the other part witnesses that the said Thomas Henderson for and in consideration of the sum of six hundred and forty dollars to him in hand paid by the said Emanuel Young the receipt whereof is truly fully acknowledged hath given granted bargained sold conveyed and confirmed unto the said Emanuel Young his heirs and assigns forever a certain tract or parcel of land situated in and being in the county of Shelby a Range five section three running at a Post Oak the north east corner of six hundred & forty acres of land granted to said Thomas Henderson by great number 22999 issued by the State of Tennessee bearing date the 21st day of January 1825 thence north twenty chains to a Post Oak marked 1921 thence west one hundred & eighty two 1/2th Poles to a red Oak 16th thence south three south divided chains to a red Oak another of the same quantity corner thence east to the beginning containing three hundred & twenty acres more or less it being the east half of said grant #22999. To have and to hold the aforesaid land with all and singular the rights profits and appurtenances thereto belonging or in any wise appertaining to the only proper use benefit and behoof of him the said Emanuel Young his heirs and assigns forever and the said Thomas Henderson for or himself his heirs Executors and Administrators doth Covenant to and agree with the said Emanuel Young his heirs and assigns that the before recited land and bargain promising he will warrant and forever defend against the Lawful right title interest or claim of all and every person whatsoever.

In Witness whereof the said Thomas Henderson hath hereunto set his hand and affixed his seal the day and year above written Signed Sealed and Delivered in presence of

James H. Sheppard
 H. H. Young
 J. H. Young

Thomas Henderson

Figure 2: Thomas Henderson to Emanuel Young, Shelby County Deed Book D, p. 290, August 13, 1830.

Dutch immigrant Emanuel Young (originally Junge), an early Memphis merchant and steamboat captain, was known for having built the first brick warehouse in Memphis

with a four-story freight elevator in 1829.¹² According to one local history source, his steamer, the *United States*, carried double the tonnage of any other vessel on the Mississippi River in its day.¹³ In January 1831, Young sold the Shelby County property to tax collector Joel W. Royster.¹⁴ On November 30, 1831, Young died aboard the steamer *New York* as it descended from Louisville to Memphis (Figure 3).¹⁵ His remains were laid to rest in the New Winchester Burying Ground, now Winchester Park in Memphis.¹⁶ Marcus B. Winchester, first mayor of Memphis, witnessed Young's will.¹⁷

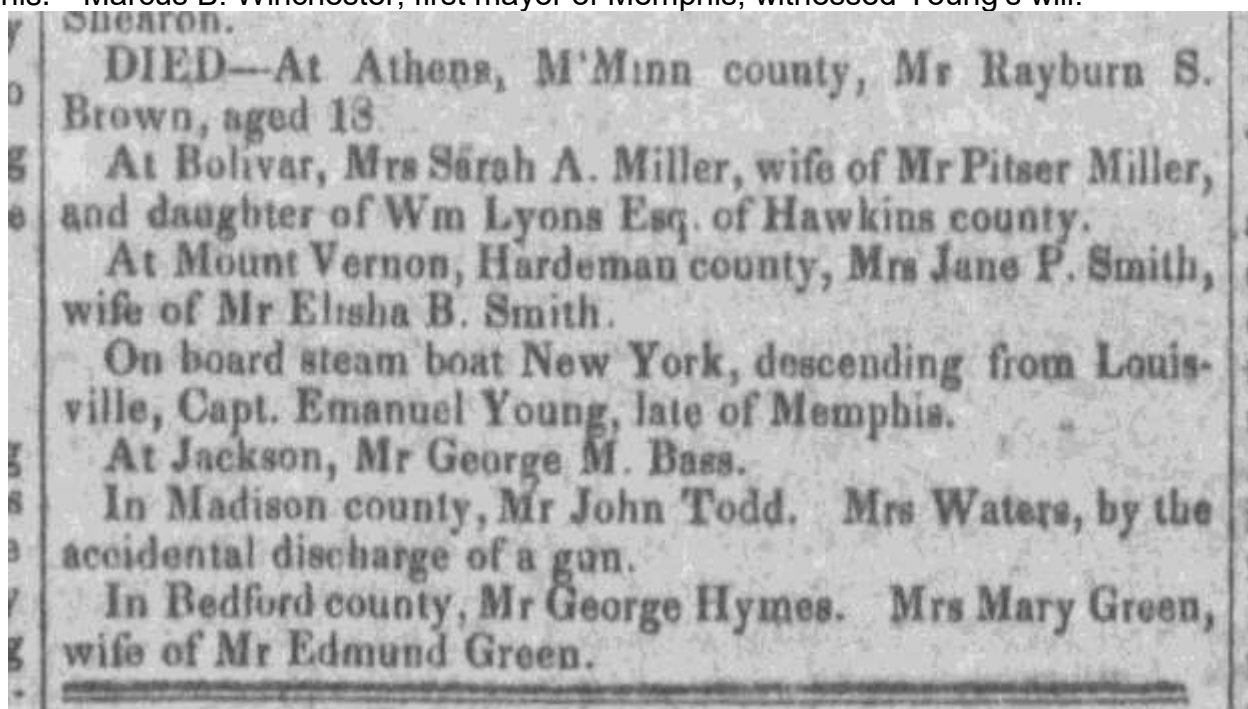


Figure 3: *Nashville Banner and Nashville Whig*, December 14, 1831

Joel W. Royster, third known owner of the portion of the Davies Manor Plantation originally granted to Thomas Henderson, moved to Shelby County sometime before 1830.¹⁸ Royster ran a post office and served as tax collector, bridge commissioner, road

¹² Deed Book C, p. 290, Shelby County Register of Deeds; "First Memphis Waterfront," historic marker, available at <https://readtheplaque.com/plaque/first-memphis-waterfront> (accessed June 30, 2021).

¹³ James A. Davis, *History of Memphis* (Memphis: Rite, Crumpton, and Kelly Printers, 1873), 178.

¹⁴ Deed Book C, p. 69. Some sources claim Young owed taxes but no corroborating documents were found in the process of researching this report.

¹⁵ *National Banner and Nashville Whig*, December 14, 1831.

¹⁶ "Winchester Cemetery," www.findagrave.com (accessed December 18, 2020).

¹⁷ "E. Young's Last Will and Testament," *Tennessee, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1779-2008*, www.ancestry.com (accessed December 18, 2020).

¹⁸ Shelby County Deed Book C, p. 290 (Henderson to Young); Shelby County Deed Book C, p. 69 (Young to Royster). The household of J.W. Royster in 1830 included a male in his 30s (Royster) with a female in her twenties and a female child under five years old. J.W. Royster, Shelby County, 1830 United States Federal Census.

overseer, constable, and deputy sheriff during his years in Shelby County.¹⁹ By the time he purchased the Davies Manor property in 1831, Royster enslaved fourteen people.²⁰ By 1840, Royster's father, David, had also moved to Shelby County from Goochland County, Virginia, and appears to have been in the household with Joel, possibly along with other members of the Royster family.²¹ The 1840 census entry also included almost fifty enslaved people, many of whom were likely force-migrated from Virginia with the elder Royster, whose 1830 holdings included 24 enslaved people.²²

In addition to the Davies Manor land, Joel Royster also registered an occupant claim to land in the "11th district, Range 4, Section 3," at least part of which he sold to his father, David, in 1841.²³ Upon David's death in 1843, the property reverted to his estate for division among his children.²⁴ Although there is no known documentation to confirm which property the Royster family lived on at any given time, by 1850, the Royster family had removed to "Sunny Side," further east down the Old Stage-Coach Road, and sold the Henderson property to the Davies brothers shortly thereafter (Figures 4-6).²⁵

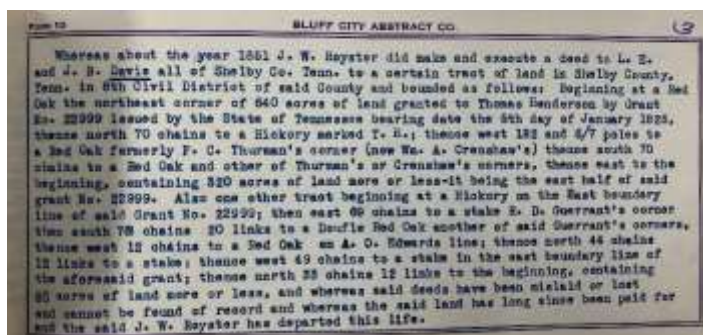


Figure 4: The original deed conveying Royster's property to the Davies brothers was lost. This substitute deed is in the archives at Davies Manor.

¹⁹ Quarterly loose papers index, Shelby County Register of Deeds and Archives.

²⁰ J.W. Royster, 1830 United States Federal Census.

²¹ The 1840 U.S. Federal Census shows a male in his 70s in addition to a male in his 40s, a male in his 20s (possibly a brother), a male child 5-10 years old, an adult female in her 30s, two adult females in their 20s, and three females under 20. Ellen Davies Rodgers claimed that David arrived in the "spring of 1838," but did not clarify that his wife was no longer living nor that his son, Joel, had preceded him to Shelby County by a decade. *Along the Old Stage-Coach Road*, p. 72.

²² David Royster's will, probated in Shelby County, TN, in 1843, named 9 of his enslaved people in the division of his estate: Kitty, Eliza, Preston, and Jim to Jane Donelson; Delpha (aged 14 years) to Ann C. Thurman; Mary (16) to Mary E. Nelson; Edney (12) to Sarah C. Donelson; Nancy (10-12) to Mary Beth Royster; Laura (9) to Stephen S. Royster. Shelby County Archives.

²³ Shelby County Occupant Book B, p. 81, entry no. 731, Shelby County Register of Deeds; Deed Book L, p. 125, Shelby County Register of Deeds.

²⁴ Tennessee Division of Archives, Land Office, and Museum, Early Tennessee/North Carolina Land Records, 1783–1927, Record Group 50, Roll 165, Book 2, pp. 188-189, Tennessee State Library and Archives, Nashville, TN.

²⁵ Analysis of the 1850 U.S. Federal Census shows that Royster and family were living further east from Davies Manor.

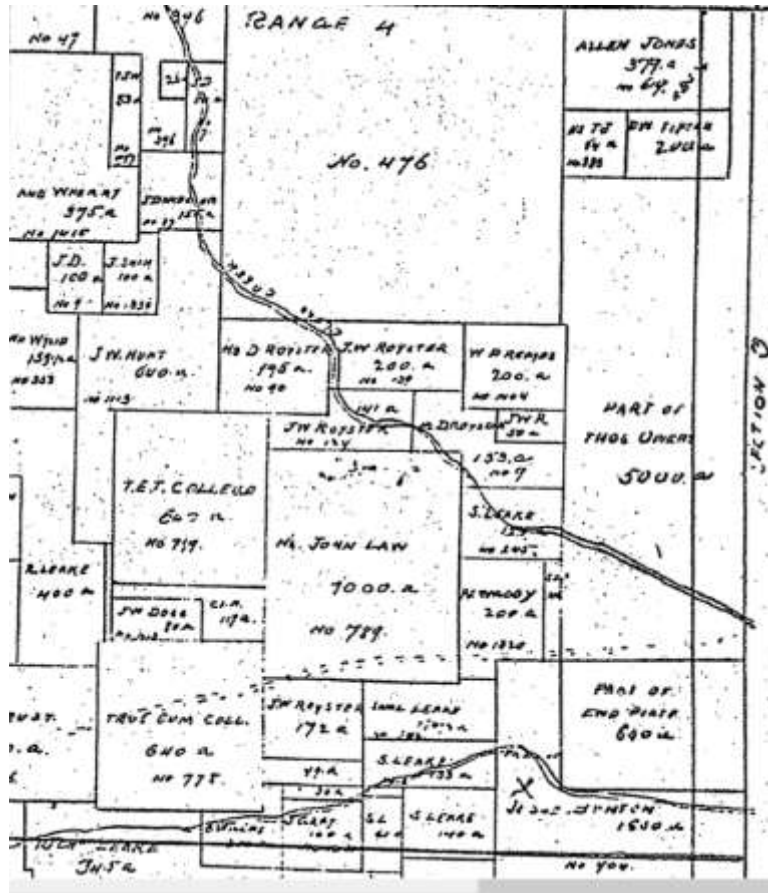


Figure 5: 1851 map of property owners showing Royster's new land holdings.

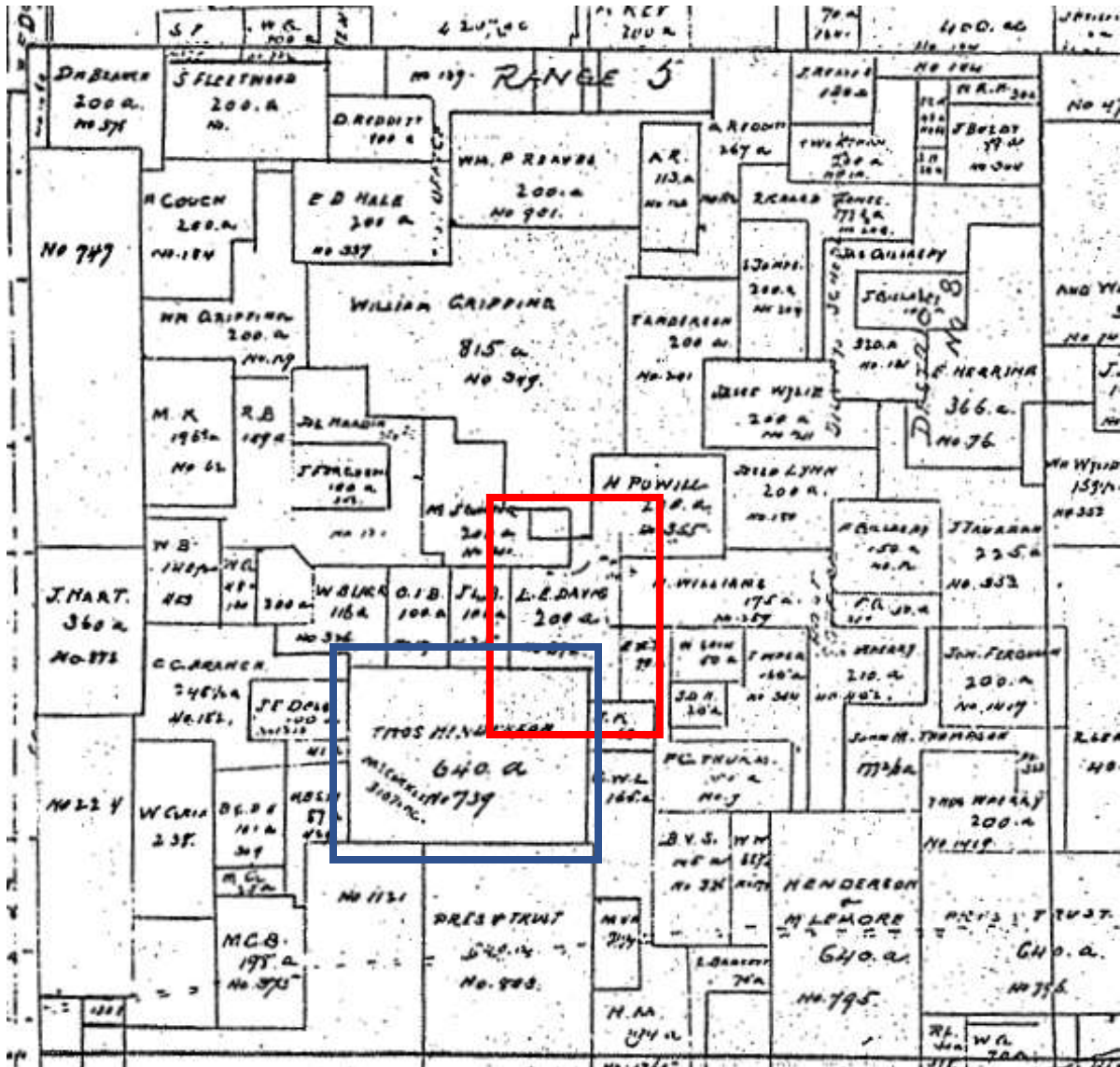


Figure 6: This 1851 map of property owners shows Logan E. Davies's first locator's survey tract (red) and the Thomas Henderson grant #22999 (blue), the eastern half of which was sold to Young, then Royster, and then to the Davies brothers. It is unclear why Henderson's name was still associated with the property on the 1851 map, but many of the tracts appear to be drawn to represent early land grants rather than contemporary ownership at the time. The map's purpose may have been to map land grants and occupancies, rather than to represent ownership.

Once established in Shelby County, the Davies brothers continued to build on their land holdings. By the time of Logan E. Davies's death in 1894, their holdings totaled almost 1200 acres, which was then distributed between James B. Davies and Logan's heirs, with 596 acres, including the Davies Manor log house, remaining in

James B. Davies's possession.²⁶ His sons, Drs. Julius Augustus "Gus" Davies and William Little Davies, inherited the property in 1904, which became concentrated in William's hands after Gus passed away in 1924. Leaving no direct heirs, William left the estate to his niece, Ellen Davies Rogers, in 1931.²⁷

Historical Background and Context: Davies Family History

The history of the Davies family is a quintessential American story of ambition tied to westward migration: From south-central Virginia in the 1760s to Middle Tennessee in the 1810s, and then on to West Tennessee in the 1840s and northern Mississippi in the 1880s (with some extended family members settling in Texas). Keenly interested in her family's origins and her ancestors' activities during the Colonial and Revolutionary War era, Ellen Davies Rodgers researched her family history for several decades, with particular attention to her great-great grandfather Zachariah Davies, who may have served in the Revolutionary War.²⁸ Two books that she self-published late in life, *Along the Old Stage-Coach Road* (1990) and *Turns Again Home* (1992), situate the family within the community of Brunswick, Tennessee, provide biographical details, and share numerous anecdotes.²⁹ The family history in this report will focus on the owners and inhabitants of Davies Manor beginning in the year 1851, when Logan Early Davies (1824-1894) and his younger brother James Baxter Davies (1826-1904) moved into the log house in Shelby County and established their new cotton plantation.³⁰

In addition to being migrants, the Davies were slaveholders, and the brothers' capacity to begin a new cotton plantation in Shelby County rested on the wealth that the family had accumulated as slaveowners. On their newly acquired land, Logan and

²⁶ Summarized from Ellen Davies Rodgers's "Lineage of the Land" in her Tennessee Century Farms Application.

²⁷ Ibid and Shelby County Deed Book 1357, p. 51, Shelby County Register of Deeds.

²⁸ Recent research by Andrew Ross, executive director of Davies Manor, challenges much of Ellen Davies Rodgers's claims about Zachariah Davies's origins and Revolutionary War service. He is not listed in the muster rolls and payrolls from Lunenburg County, Virginia, although this could be because some records have been lost. In addition, his wife gave birth to multiple children during the war, and he made a number of land purchases at the time as well. A "Zachary Davis" paid for wartime service may or may not have been Zachariah. Ross, "MTSU Report Edits," 9/10/2021.

²⁹ Davies Rodgers did a prodigious amount of research but did not footnote her sources in her books. Ellen Davies Rodgers, *Along the Old Stage-Coach Road: Morning Sun and Brunswick, Shelby County, Tennessee* (Brunswick, Tenn.: The Plantation Press, 1990); Ellen Davies Rodgers, *Turns Again Home: Life on an Old Tennessee Plantation Trespassed by Progress* (Brunswick, Tenn.: The Plantation Press, 1992).

³⁰ Records in the Davies Manor Association (DMA) Archives do not indicate that James and Logan gave their plantation a formal name. A 1957 *Tennessee Conservationist* article quoted by Ellen Davies Rodgers stated that Davies Manor had been known as "Hickory House" and "The Doctor's House" until she and her father, Gillie M. Davies, began to call it "Davies Manor" in honor of Zachariah Davies, who had referred to his Lunenburg County home as the "manor house." When she applied for Tennessee Century Farm status, Davies Rodgers called the property "Davies Plantation," although "plantation" was outdated as a description of the property by the 1970s. Davies Rodgers, *Turns Again Home*, p. 41; E-mail from Andrew Ross, Davies Manor, to Antoinette van Zelm, MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, June 8, 2021.

James reaped the benefits of the 1850s boom in cotton picked by enslaved men and women. Although slavery would be abolished in 1865, African Americans worked for the family until the death of Ellen Davies Rodgers in 1994 and helped make the transformation of Davies Manor into a historic site possible. Over the years, the work of low-paid agricultural and domestic workers gave family members the time to pursue higher education and professional success in the fields of agriculture, medicine, teaching, archaeology, and historic preservation.

Born in Maury County, Tennessee, in 1824 and 1826, respectively, Logan and James Davies were the sons of William Early Davies (1779-1861) and his second wife, Sarah Hadley Davies (1794-1855). William was a circuit-riding Methodist minister, farmer, flour-mill owner, and slaveholder who had been born in Lunenburg County, Virginia, where his father had raised tobacco, wheat, and livestock. William had followed two older brothers west to Middle Tennessee in 1817. A native of Halifax, North Carolina, Sarah had moved with her father to Maury County by 1819, the year she married William, a widower with four children. In addition to Logan and James, Sarah and William had four other children. In 1843, after a violent dispute with a neighbor in Maury County, the family moved west to Fayette County, Tennessee, where they lived southwest of the county seat of Macon and close to the Shelby County line. The connections and obligations tied up with membership in a large, extended family played a significant role in the lives of James and Logan during their residence at Davies Manor.³¹



Figure 7: William Early Davies's plantation desk contained valuable family documents and became a featured item at the historic house museum (undated). DMA Archives.

³¹ Davies Family Tree, Box 9, Genealogy and DAR Folder, DMA Archives; Davies Rodgers, *Turns Again Home*, 14; "Davies Plantation Time Line," Davies Manor Office Files; William L. Davies, Letter to the Editor, *Richmond Times Dispatch*, May 6, 1917, Davies Manor Association Archives (DMA Archives); "1792-1860" Panel and "1838/1851" Panel, *Omitted in Mass: Rediscovering Lost Narratives of Enslavement, Migration, and Memory through the Davies Family Papers* Exhibition, Davies Manor (2020); Sarah Hadley Davies Page, Ancestry.com (accessed 11/24/20); E-mail from Andrew Ross, Davies Manor, to Antoinette van Zelm, MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, Mar. 18, 2021.

The 1850 United States population census for District 9 in Fayette County provides a glimpse of Logan and James's lives just before they moved permanently to Shelby County. William headed the household, and his real estate was valued at \$2,500. Although still living with his parents, Logan was already established as a farmer in his own right. James, along with younger sister Elizabeth and younger brother Henry (who was still in school) also lived under William's roof. Filling out the household were three young children of Sarah J. Davies Walker (b. 1822), an older sister of Logan and James.³²

In Fayette County, William Davies ran a diversified farming operation based on enslaved labor, a model that sons Logan and James would replicate after their move to Shelby County. The 1850 agricultural census shows William with 207 improved acres (300 unimproved) on a farm with a cash value of \$2,800. The labor of thirty enslaved workers centered around the production of cotton, corn, wheat, hogs, and sheep. Cotton was by far the dominant crop, with William reporting 56 ginned bales of 400 pounds each, or 22,400 pounds in total.³³ Fayette and neighboring Haywood County were rich in cotton and enslaved people; by 1860, the two counties would include thirteen planters who owned 100 or more slaves. While William would not reach that elite category, he would be among the twenty percent of slaveholders in those two counties who owned at least twenty slaves in 1860, his improved acreage of 200 by that decade would exceed the average of 166, and his combined real and personal estate of \$27,650 would exceed the average of \$17,090.³⁴

When Logan and James moved to Shelby County in 1851, they brought with them the knowledge in agriculture and business that they had gained from working under their father.³⁵ William no doubt assisted his sons in getting started on their own and may have provided them with enslaved people and livestock for their Shelby County plantation. Documentation in the family's archives indicates an overlap in business dealings among William, Logan, and James, including transactions with cotton

³² Ancestry.com, "Wm. E. Davies," Fayette County, *1850 United States Federal Census*; Davies Family Tree.

³³ Ancestry.com, "Wm. E. Davis [sic]," Fayette County, *1850 U.S. Federal Census—Slave Schedules* [database on-line], Provo, UT, Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2004; Ancestry.com., "Wm. E. Davis [sic]," Fayette County, U.S., *Selected Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850-1880* [database on-line], Provo, UT, Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010.

³⁴ Stephen V. Ash, *Middle Tennessee Society Transformed: War and Peace in the Upper South* (Knoxville: Univ. of Tennessee Press, 2006), pp.10-11; Ancestry.com., "W.E. Davis [sic]," Fayette County, *1860 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]; Ancestry.com., "W.E. Davis [sic]," Fayette County, U.S., *Selected Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850-1880* [database on-line]; Ancestry.com., "W.E. Davis [sic]," Fayette County, *1860 U.S. Federal Census--Slave Schedules* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2010;

³⁵ The brothers no doubt had received some formal education while growing up in Maury County, although the Davies family archives do not provide any details on this. E-mail from Andrew Ross, Davies Manor, to Antoinette van Zelm, MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, Feb. 26, 2021.

factors in Memphis.³⁶ During the 1850s, Logan and James's younger brother Henry Newton Davies also moved to Shelby County and established his own farm near to his brothers. The arrival of the Memphis & Ohio Railroad through Shelby Depot (later known as Brunswick) in 1856 provided better access to markets for the Davies brothers' agricultural products.³⁷

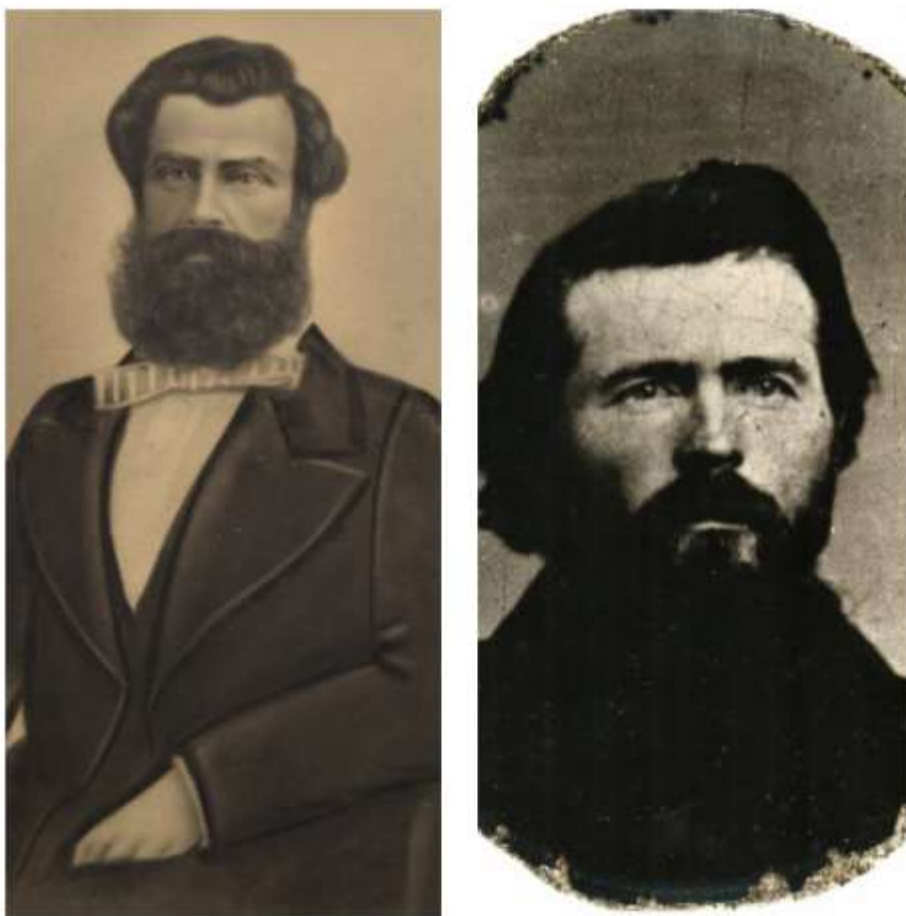


Figure 8: Logan, left, and James Davies, right (undated images). DMA Archives.

³⁶ William's slave ownership dropped from 30 to 20 between 1850 and 1860, and his hogs fell from 100 to 40. Ancestry.com, "Wm. E. Davis [sic]," Fayette County, 1850 U.S. Federal Census—Slave Schedules [database on-line]; Ancestry.com., "Wm. E. Davis [sic]" (1850), Fayette County, "W.E. Davis [sic]" (1860), Fayette County, U.S., Selected Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850-1880 [database on-line]; Ancestry.com., "W.E. Davis [sic]," Fayette County, 1860 U.S. Federal Census--Slave Schedules [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2010; E-mail from Andrew Ross, Davies Manor, to Antoinette van Zelm, MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, Dec. 23, 2020.

³⁷ Henry married Mary A. Webber in May 1857. By 1860, he was farming 200 acres and owned 10 enslaved people. Ancestry.com, "Henry N. Davis [sic] and Mary A. Webber," Tennessee Compiled Marriages, 1851-1900 [database on-line], Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2000; Davies Manor Association, "Summary of New Research Findings," undated, p. 3; Davies-Rodgers, *Along the Old Stage-Coach Road*, pp. 8, 123.

Just three years after the brothers began their new lives in Shelby County, James married Penelope Almeda Little, the sixteen-year-old daughter of William and Sallie Jones Little, both of whom had recently died.³⁸ James and Almeda married on December 18, 1854, with Logan as their witness. A North Carolina native, Almeda's father had prospered in Tennessee as a land- and mill-owner, slaveholder, and local official with real estate worth \$3,000 in 1850. The Littles lived in Shelby County's Fisherville community on the Fayette County line to the southeast of the Davies brothers' plantation, as did the Williams family, which had taken in Almeda and her sister Pauline (Polly) after their father's death. The Davies, Little, and Williams families intermarried and conducted business with each other, including the selling of enslaved people through M.L. Williams, a slave trader.³⁹

³⁸ Almeda's birthdate is sometimes given as 1833, but the 1850 census, both of her gravestones, and a genealogical notebook kept by James B. Davies (JBD) and added to by William L. Davies (WLD) indicate an 1838 birthdate. Also, a family history of the Littles indicates that William Little may have been married twice. Ancestry.com, "Penelope Sittle [sic]," *1850 United States Federal Census* [database on-line], Provo, UT, Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009; Ancestry.com., "Penelope A. Little," *Tennessee, U.S., Marriage Records, 1780-2002* [database on-line], Lehi, UT, Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2008; Mary Mount Dunbar Family Tree, Ancestry.com (accessed 1/15/21); Almeda Little Davies Gravestone, Morning Sun Cemetery, Brunswick, Tennessee; Almeda P. Davies Gravestone, Priddy Cemetery, Eads, Tennessee, Find-A-Grave, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/23855859/penelope-almada-davies> (accessed 2/25/21); William L. Davies, "Family History" notes (undated), DMA Archives; "William Little Family in Shelby County, Tennessee," pp. 18, 22, photocopies in DMA Archives; JBD notebook with WLD additions (undated), DMA Archives.

³⁹ "Penelope A. Little," *Tennessee, U.S., Marriage Records, 1780-2002* [database on-line]; Mary Mount Dunbar Family Tree, Ancestry.com (accessed 1/15/21); William L. Davies, "Family History" notes (undated), DMA Archives; "William Little Family in Shelby County, Tennessee," pp. 17-24, photocopies in DMA Archives; E-mail from Andrew Ross, Davies Manor, to Antoinette van Zelm, MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, Jan. 20, 2021.



Figure 9: Almeda Little Davies (undated). DMA Archives.

Almeda had attended the Macon Female Institute in Fayette County, and she enjoyed playing the piano. As a student in 1853-54, she composed or transcribed essays on a variety of topics, including industriousness, love of country, elocution, nature's beauty, and education, even quoting British poet Alexander Pope, "Tis Education forms the common mind, Just as the twig is bent the trees incline." As James's wife, Almeda had to make a rapid transition from orphaned school girl to the mistress of a newly created plantation—and soon to young motherhood. Almeda and James had two boys, Julius Augustus Davies, born in 1855 and named after one of Almeda's brothers who had recently died, and William Little Davies, born in 1857 and named after her deceased father. Almeda died just two years later, on September 13, 1859, as the death that had stalked the Little family for a decade took her and one of her brothers the same year.

"Rest sweet spirit Rest," wrote James after his young wife's death.⁴⁰

After nine years in Shelby County, Logan and James had established a plantation worth \$15,840, according to the 1860 census. The federal census taker listed \$27,800 in personal estate for the household, which reflected the brothers' ownership of twenty-two enslaved workers. Most of these men, women, and children lived in five "slave houses" on the plantation. The slave cabins may have been located along a road, eventually called "Smokey Road," that linked the manor house with the stage road. With two young, motherless children in the house by 1860, it is highly likely that at least one enslaved woman or girl served as a "nurse" and lived in Davies Manor itself. An enslaved female cook probably resided in the detached kitchen.⁴¹

⁴⁰The Little family lost both parents and five of eight children during the decade between 1849 and 1859, and cholera or yellow fever are suspected as possible causes. Almeda was initially buried with her family members but her remains were moved in 1905 to be re-interred with her husband's remains, as she had requested, in Morning Sun Cemetery near Davies Manor. Mary Mount Dunbar Family Tree; E-mails from Andrew Ross, Davies Manor, to Antoinette van Zelm, MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, Sept. 3, 2020, Jan. 20, 2021; various essays by Almeda Little, DMA Archives; "William Little Family in Shelby County, Tennessee," p. 19, photocopies in DMA Archives; JBD notebook with WLD additions (undated), DMA Archives.

⁴¹ Ancestry.com, "Logan E. Davis [sic]," Shelby County, *1860 United States Federal Census* [database on-line], Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009; Ancestry.com, "L. Davis [sic]," Shelby County, *1860 U.S. Census—Slave Schedules* [database on-line], Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010; Davies Manor Association, "Guidebook for Log House Museum Tours," undated, p. 14.

Martha, was born
February 14th 1852.

Jacob was born Sept
17th 1855.

Emily was born
March 10th 1856

Harry was born
July 18th 1857

Archa, was born
March 27 1858

Figure 10: List of Births of Enslaved Children at Davies Manor (1852-1858). DMA Archives.

The ages of the enslaved people owned by Logan and James clearly demonstrate that the plantation was a young one. None of the enslaved people was older than 33, so there were no elderly or even middle-aged workers on the plantation. In addition, Logan and James owned six women of childbearing age in 1860. Based on a list of births kept by James, nine children were born on the plantation between 1852 and 1860: Martha (b. 1852), Arominta (1852-1859), Jacob (b. 1855), Emily (b. 1856), Harry (1856-1857) Archa (b. 1858), Amos (b. 1858), Elias (b. 1859), and Young (b. 1860). These children added to the vitality of the enslaved community at the same time that they exposed the immorality of slavery as an inherited condition.⁴²

On the eve of the Civil War, then, this was a new plantation with multiple enslaved people who, from the perspective of their owners, were in the prime of their lives as far as their working ability and their childbearing potential. Ominously, from the perspective of the enslaved, one of the closest neighbors to the Davies brothers was Washington Bolton, part-owner of Bolton and Dickens and Co., one of Memphis's largest slave-trading partnerships.⁴³

Logan and James themselves helped maintain the institution of slavery from Davies Manor by paying men to hunt down escaped slaves or by participating in such searches themselves. In August 1858, for example, Logan hired Burrel Keynes for \$10.00 to catch an enslaved man named Orange "with Dogs." The debt was paid, so presumably Keynes tracked down Orange. A few years later, Logan himself received \$5.00 from neighbor T.B. Crenshaw "for hunting Simon" in January 1862.⁴⁴

The enslaved workers on the Davies plantation were highly productive, according to the 1860 agricultural census. On 220 improved acres, they raised a variety of livestock (including 60 sheep and 60 hogs) worth \$2,645, produced 83 bales of ginned cotton, and sheared 120 pounds of wool. They also grew 200 bushels of "Indian corn,"

⁴² The 1860 slave census listed six children age 10 or under on the plantation, so at least one of the children listed here had died or left through a parent's hire, sale, or escape. Ancestry.com, "L. Davis [sic]," Shelby County, 1860 U.S. Census—Slave Schedules [database on-line], Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010; JBD notebook with WLD additions (undated), DMA Archives.

⁴³ Ibid; E-mail from Andrew Davies, Davies Manor, to Antoinette van Zelm, MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, Jan. 5, 2021.

⁴⁴ Logan E. Davies (LED) account and genealogical notebook (1850s-1860s), DMA Archives.

the common name for American-grown corn in the 1800s.⁴⁵ Unlike their father, did not grow any wheat in 1860 and went “all in” for cotton during its boom years.⁴⁶



Figure 11: This is believed to be Frances Anna "Fannie" Vaughn (undated). DMA Archives.

The household at Davies Manor expanded when Logan married eighteen-year-old Frances Anna “Fannie” Vaughn in November 1860. Born in Williamson County, Fannie was the daughter of Rebecca Coleman Vaughn and Daniel Vaughn. Daniel died sometime before 1850, and by 1860 Rebecca had moved to Shelby County with four of her children. The family lived just a few households away from the Davies brothers. Rebecca farmed and had a personal estate worth \$350, while her son John worked as a stonecutter. While the extent of Fannie’s education is not known, she had attended school in Williamson County as early as age 8.⁴⁷

The Civil War would change life on the Davies brothers’ plantation forever, with the eventual emancipation of the brothers’ enslaved people being the most significant outcome. Over the course of the war, James joined the Confederate army, as did his brother Henry, while Logan and Fannie remained on the Shelby County homestead. The family patriarch, William E. Davies, died in Fayette County sometime in the fall of 1861 after being bedridden by illness or old age. His three grandchildren who had been living with

⁴⁵ Andrew Ross is in the preliminary stages of an in-depth comparison of the Davies brothers’ agricultural production in 1860 with all other cotton planters in Shelby County’s Civil Districts 8 & 9. With respect to the 83 bales of cotton reported by Logan and James, Ross has found only 6 other planters (out of a total of 269 planters in these two districts) who reported more cotton that year. Ancestry.com, “L. & Jas. Davis [sic],” Shelby County, U.S., *Selected Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850-1880* [database on-line], Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010; E-mail from Andrew Ross, Davies Manor, to Antoinette van Zelm, MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, Mar. 2, 2021; Wayne C. Moore, “Corn,” *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Biography*, <https://tennesseeencyclopedia.net/entries/corn/>, (accessed June 11, 2021).

⁴⁶ With 20 slaves and 200 improved acres, William ran a similar operation focused on livestock and cotton, but his workers produced just 40 bales of ginned cotton, grew 150 bushels of wheat, and cultivated \$200 worth of orchard produce. Ancestry.com, “W.E. Davis [sic],” Fayette County, U.S., *Selected Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850-1880*; Ancestry.com, “W.E. Davis [sic],” Fayette County, 1860 U.S. Census—Slave Schedules.

⁴⁷ Ancestry.com, “L.E. Davies and Fannie E. Vaughan [sic],” *Tennessee Compiled Marriages, 1851-1900* [database on-line], Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2000; Ancestry.com, “Daniel Vaughn [sic],” Williamson County, 1840 United States Federal Census [database on-line], Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010; Ancestry.com, “Francis [sic] Vaughn,” Williamson County, 1850 United States Federal Census [database on-line], Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009; Ancestry.com, “Francis [sic] Vaughn,” Shelby County, 1860 United States Federal Census [database on-line], Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009;

him—Elizabeth (age 18 in 1860), Mary (age 16), and James Walker (age 12)—appear to have relocated to Davies Manor, along with the enslaved people they had inherited.⁴⁸

Initially, James served in the home guard for Shelby County's Eighth District. Then, on March 5, 1862, he enlisted as a private in Company I, 38th Tennessee Infantry (Henry joined the same unit initially but later rode with a cavalry company.). James signed up in the community of Morning Sun under Capt. T.B. Crenshaw for a year of service in the regiment, which had been organized at Camp Abington in Fayette County the previous September. Like other slaveowners who left for the battlefield, James brought with him one of his enslaved men, Richmond Bennett (1833-1915), whom James had inherited from Almeda.⁴⁹

(CONFEDERATE.)

Al | 28 | Tenn

James B. Davis

Co. I 38 Regt. Tenn.

Appears on a Register of

St. Mary's Hospital,
Dalton, Georgia.

Complaint Rheumatism

Admitted Dec 28, 1862

Returned to duty Jan 6, 1863

Figure 12: A section of one of James B. Davies's service records describes his hospitalization in 1862-63. Courtesy of Fold 3.

Like thousands of other enlistees, James became sick soon after joining up and was noted as ill on the muster rolls for May and June 1862. Then, in the winter of 1862-1863, he was diagnosed with rheumatism and hospitalized in Dalton, Georgia. During his three years of military service, he had at least two other stints in the hospital, July-August 1863 and November-December 1863. During the latter hospitalization, James worked as a cook and got paid for this extra duty.⁵⁰

Despite his bouts of illness, James fought in a number of battles in the Western theater, according to

⁴⁸ Ellen Davies Rodgers always listed 1857 as the date of her great-grandfather's death, but primary sources in the DMA Archives point to 1861. James served as administrator of his father's estate after the war. Ancestry.com., "W.E. Davis [sic]," Fayette County, 1860 United States Federal Census [database on-line]; E-mails from Andrew Davies, Davies Manor, to Antoinette van Zelm, MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, Feb. 26 and Mar. 17, 2021; Davies Manor Association, "Summary of New Research Findings," undated, p. 4; JBD notebook (undated), DMA Archives.

⁴⁹ James's son William wrote that his father later transferred to the 13th-154th Tennessee Infantry consolidated regiment (these consolidated in March 1863), but his official military records do not reflect this. The 38th was reorganized into the 3rd Consolidated Regiment in April 1865. James B. Davies's Civil War Service Records, Box 2, DMA Archives; List of Names, Home Guard, Shelby County Archives, copies on file at DMA Archives; Fold3, "H.N. Davies," *Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Tennessee*, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Washington, D.C. (accessed 3/10/2021); "38th Regiment, Tennessee Infantry (Looney's) (8th Infantry)," National Park Service Civil War Soldiers and Sailors Web site (accessed 3/20/2020); "James Baxter Davies," Obituary, *Memphis Morning News*, June 1904; "1904" Panel, *Omitted in Mass Exhibition*; William L. Davies, "Family History" notes (undated), DMA Archives; "38th Tennessee Infantry Regiment," *Tennesseans in the Civil War, Vol 1* (1964), transcribed on <https://tngenweb.org/civilwar/38th-tennessee-infantry-regiment/> (accessed 3/21/2021); "13th Tennessee Infantry Regiment," *Tennesseans in the Civil War, Vol 1* (1964), transcribed on <https://tngenweb.org/civilwar/13th-tennessee-infantry-regiment/> (accessed 3/11/2021); Little Family Probate Records, Shelby County Archives, copies on file at DMA Archives.

⁵⁰ James B. Davies's Civil War Service Records, Box 2, DMA Archives.

his youngest son, William. After the war, William kept a record of his father's battles, which were published in James's 1904 obituary in the *Memphis Morning News*. They included Perryville, Lookout Mountain, Resaca, New Hope Church, Pine Mountain, Lost Mountain, Peach Tree Creek, Second Atlanta, Jonesborough, and Nashville.⁵¹

In the midst of the war, Logan and Fannie started their family. A son, Gillie Mertis Davies, was born on Christmas Day in 1861, and a daughter, Linnie Lee Davies, was born in the spring of 1863 or 1864. With four children under age ten in the household, Fannie and the enslaved women who worked under her had their hands full. Family lore includes the story of a dramatic wartime confrontation between Fannie and a Union officer who attempted to take her horse after a skirmish with Confederates in Morning Sun on June 30, 1862. Fannie is said to have retained her horse by cutting his reins with a butcher knife and then threatening to use the weapon on the officer if he did not leave the premises.⁵²

Postwar correspondence between James and Logan, as well as secondary sources, suggest that Union forces did take property, including livestock, from the plantation and that an enslaved woman named Nice witnessed at least one incident of this.⁵³ At the same time, might the Union troops have impressed some of the Davies brothers' enslaved people? Or, might some of them have chosen to leave? The arrival of Union forces in West Tennessee in the spring of 1862 served as the catalyst for the slow but sure demise of slavery throughout the region. Enslaved people left the plantations for Union lines, and contraband camps sprang up not far from the Davies brothers' plantation, in Memphis, Grand Junction, La Grange, and Bolivar.⁵⁴

In the face of the crumbling of slavery, Logan and James (presumably while on furlough) continued the hiring and renting of enslaved people throughout the war. In addition, Madison (b. 1861), Mat (b. 1861), and Polly (b. 1862) were born on the plantation (in October 1861, James listed 26 slaves living on the plantation, 4 more than were listed on the slave schedule a year earlier)—it is significant that not one of the

⁵¹ Ibid; William L. Davies, "Family History" notes (undated), DMA Archives; "James Baxter Davies," Obituary, *Memphis Morning News*, June 1904.

⁵² Linnie Davies's birthdate is variously recorded as 1863 and 1864, though her gravestone reads 1864. Davies-Rodgers, *Along the Old Stage-Coach Road*, pp. 40-44, 47 (p. 47 places the confrontation in 1863); "Linnie Lee Davies Beaty," Find-a-Grave, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/9127673/linnie-lee-beaty> (accessed June 4, 2021).

⁵³ James and Logan traveled to Memphis to make a "claim against the Government for property taken by the Federals" in September 1865. The brothers did not submit a formal claim to the Southern Claims Commission in the 1870s. JBD to Brother, Sept. 5, 1865, James Baxter Davies (JBD) Correspondence, DMA Archives; "Davis," Southern Claims Commission Index, Tennessee State Library and Archives Web site, https://tslaindexes.tn.gov/database-tn-research/southern-claims-commission?search_api_views_fulltext=&search_api_views_fulltext_1=Davis (accessed 3/9/21); Davies-Rodgers, *Turns Again Home*, 49.

⁵⁴ To date, no evidence has been found related to enslaved people leaving the Davies brothers' plantation, but research continues. E-mail from Andrew Ross, Davies Manor, to Antoinette van Zelm, MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, Mar. 4, 2021.

African American children born at Davies Manor plantation would become an enslaved adult. Taking a closer look at one of the hiring documents demonstrates how enslaved people could exert influence over these transactions. Through the man who hired her from Logan, an enslaved woman named Celia requested that her parents be rented with her for the year 1864. As Thomas W. Coulter, overseer to T.B. Crenshaw, wrote to Logan on Christmas Day in 1863, “she wants me to hire her dady [sic] & mother too which I have agreed to do if you have not hired them out yet.” Perhaps, like other enslaved people who used the war’s upheaval to negotiate with their owners, Celia felt emboldened by the changing circumstances of Union-occupied West Tennessee to create a new situation for herself and her parents.⁵⁵

Logan also faced the reality of doing business in Union-occupied Memphis. He continued to sell cotton and had to receive permission from Federal authorities to do so; presumably, they required him to take the oath of allegiance to the U.S. government. By September of 1864, he was promising to pay his debts with greenbacks, so he obviously had access to U.S. currency.⁵⁶

During the last year of the war, the Davies family received news that Henry Davies had died. A private in Company K of the 14th Tennessee Cavalry (Neely’s), Henry was captured either just before or just after the Battle of Nashville in December 1864. After his capture, he was sent to a U.S. military prison in Louisville and then to Camp Chase in Ohio, where he was admitted to the hospital with pneumonia in February 1865. He died the next month and was buried in a graveyard south of the prison camp.⁵⁷ Henry left behind his wife, Mary Webber Davies, who later received a Confederate widow’s pension, and a baby daughter, Mattie Davies.⁵⁸

⁵⁵ By October 1861, the brothers owned 26 enslaved people. “1863” Panels, *Omitted in Mass Exhibition*; Promissory Note, W.L. Daly and James B. Davis [sic], Jan. 1, 1864, and Jan. 1, 1865, DMA Archives; JBD notebook with WLD additions (undated) and JBD notebook (undated), DMA Archives; Davies Manor Association, “Summary of New Research Findings,” undated, p. 4; E-mail from Andrew Ross, Davies Manor, to Antoinette van Zelm, MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, June 8, 2021.

⁵⁶ L.E. Davies Receipts, 1863-1864, DMA Archives.

⁵⁷ Henry’s service records indicate he was captured on Dec. 16, 1864, the second day of the Battle of Nashville. The Camp Chase hospital records, however, say he was captured on Dec. 10, 1864. Fold3, “Henry N. [also “M.”] Davies,” *Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Tennessee*, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Washington, D.C. (accessed 11/13/2020); Henry N. Davies Entries, Camp Chase Records and Camp Chase Hospital Records, DMA Archives.

⁵⁸ Ellen Davies Rodgers did not include Henry in either of her books on family history, suggesting that perhaps she did not want to publicize his capture, although there is also the possibility that the family did not know how or where Henry had died. James Davies’s obituary stated that Henry died on the battlefield in Nashville. “James Baxter Davies,” Obituary, *Memphis Morning News*, June 1904; Davies Manor Association, “Guidebook for Log House Museum Tours,” undated, p. 14.

James Davies survived and surrendered in North Carolina at war's end.⁵⁹ Great-niece Ellen Davies Rodgers later shared a family story of his and Richmond Bennett's homecoming as they made their way through the plantation's former slave cabins: "As they trudged along the narrow dirt road—quite foot-sore and weary—they were met by Uncle Jim's dog who had come to welcome his master home!" Returning from the war as a free man, Bennett would marry and raise a large family in the vicinity of the Davies plantation. His wife, Sarah Jane Tucker Bennett, was the daughter of Wilcher Tucker, once enslaved by William E. Davies in Maury and Fayette counties.⁶⁰

In January 1865 (again, presumably while on leave), James had married Almeda's widowed sister Pauline Louisa Little Leake (also referred to as Paulina, Polly, or Mary). Polly was the widow of Edward Curd Leake, a wealthy local land- and slaveholder who had witnessed Henry and Mary Davies's wedding, served with James in the home guard, and then died in 1863. Polly and Edward had two daughters, Julia Leake (b. 1858 and apparently died in childhood) and Eddie Lelia Leake (b. 1862). Polly took the oath of allegiance to the U.S. government in May 1865, indicating that she had retained some of her own property from her inheritance and/or her first marriage.⁶¹ Evidence from the Davies Manor archives and the census suggests that James and his new wife lived in the Fisherville community where Polly was from and not at Davies Manor with Logan and Fannie.⁶²

The brothers' domestic lives underwent considerable upheaval over the next few years. Early in 1866, Fannie Davies died at just 23 years old, leaving behind Logan and two young children. Over the next several years, Logan saved \$75 to acquire a headstone of Italian marble for Fannie, who was buried in Morning Sun Cemetery.⁶³ At the same time, James and Polly's marriage disintegrated as he turned violent, possibly as an aftereffect of wartime combat. In James's obituary, the Reverend Lawrence E.

⁵⁹ There are no official records related to James's discharge, and so the information about his surrender comes from his son William's notes (which refer to both Charlotte and Greensboro as his place of surrender) and his obituary. William L. Davies, "Family History" notes (undated), DMA Archives; "James Baxter Davies," Obituary, *Memphis Morning News*, June 1904.

⁶⁰ Davies-Rodgers, *Turns Again Home*, 197; "1904" Panel, *Omitted in Mass Exhibition*; Davies Manor Association, "Summary of New Research Findings," undated, p. 4.

⁶¹ The Leakes came to Shelby County from Goochland County, Virginia, with the Roysters. Ancestry.com, "Edw. C. Leake," Shelby County, *1860 United States Federal Census* [database on-line], Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009; Ancestry.com, "Henry N. Davis [sic] and Mary A. Webber," *Tennessee Compiled Marriages, 1851-1900*; List of Names, Home Guard, Shelby County Archives, copies on file at DMA Archives; Mary Mount Dunbar Family Tree; "Mrs. Pauline L. Davis [sic]," Affidavit, # 66, May 17, 1865, DMA Archives; "William Little Family in Shelby County, Tennessee," p. 19, photocopies in DMA Archives; E-mail from Andrew Ross, Davies Manor, to Antoinette van Zelm, MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, Mar. 15, 2021; Interview with Andrew Ross, Davies Manor, Nov. 4, 2020.

⁶² Pollie Davies to Mrs. Logan Davies, May [15?] 1865, and JBD to Brother, Sept. 5, 1865, JBD Correspondence, DMA Archives; E-mails from Andrew Ross, Davies Manor, to Antoinette van Zelm, MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, Mar. 10 and June 2, 2021.

⁶³ Receipt, Logan Davies and L.H. and J.B. Fuller, June 27, 1873, DMA Archives; Davies-Rodgers, *Along the Old Stage-Coach Road*, 140.

Foster wrote, “With him the war was over and he did not love to dwell upon its scenes.” While it is common for former soldiers to be reticent to talk about their service, James’s postwar behavior strongly suggests the possibility that he suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder.⁶⁴

James and Polly divorced in 1868, and their chancery court divorce papers reveal the depth of the breach between them as he became increasingly unstable. Members of the Williams family, including Polly’s sister Mary O. Little Williams, and other relatives and neighbors testified to James’s abusive conduct toward Polly, which ranged from seething jealousy to outright threats of violence against her, others, and himself. He resented her visits to her sisters and threatened to kill all of his horses so that Polly could not leave the house. He spoke to her in a “rough and brutal” manner “that no one that had any respect for themselves would have stood.” He humiliated her in front of visitors so disrespectfully that it was “painful” for others to witness. Polly’s niece Hallie Falwell testified, “His conduct was tyrannical, and such that was not due from any man to a woman, least his wife.” Neighbor M.L. Williams once found James in such a frenzied state that it was “dangerous for any female to be near him.”⁶⁵

Polly herself testified in September 1867 that she feared for her life, spent sleepless days and nights, and felt her existence become “intolerable and miserable.” Interestingly, James had not only offended her in private and semi-private settings but, according to her testimony, had subjected her to public humiliation by taking out an advertisement in the local paper that no credit should be extended to her. She found this to be “degrading and lowering her in the estimation of her friends and the community generally.”⁶⁶

James’s destructive behavior came to a head in 1867 when he confronted Polly on the porch of their home with a loaded gun, which she and one of his sons managed to get away from him. He then got a pistol, turned it on himself, and, when it didn’t go off, slashed his throat with a razor in an unsuccessful suicide attempt. After this incident, Polly withdrew from “his control and protection,” believing it was both “unsafe and improper” for her to live with him. She requested that the court restore her “to all the rights and privileges of a feme sole; and that she be restored to her former name, Pauline L. Leake.” Polly listed her property for the court and asked that she be granted

⁶⁴ A local minister, Foster supplied the pulpit at Brunswick and Morning Sun Cumberland Presbyterian churches in 1898. “James Baxter Davies,” Obituary, *Memphis Morning News*, June 1904; “William Little Family in Shelby County, Tennessee,” p. 19, photocopies in DMA Archives; Brunswick Cumberland Presbyterian Church, West Tennessee Presbytery, cumberland.org/hfcpc/churches/BrunswTN.htm (accessed 11/23.20); Davies-Rodgers, *Along the Old Stage-Coach Road*, 50.

⁶⁵ Depositions (transcriptions) of M.L. Williams, W.M. Williams, Mrs. Mary O. Williams, and Mrs. Hallie Falwell in case of Pauline L. Davis [sic] vs. James B. Davis [sic] in Chancery Court, Memphis, Feb. 20, 1868, photocopies in DMA Archives.

⁶⁶ Divorce Bill, Pauline L. Davis [sic] v. James B. Davis [sic], Chancery Court, Memphis, Sept. 25, 1867, Lawsuits Folder, DMA Archives.

enough of the current cotton crop to support her and her daughter for the following year. She subsequently married one of the neighbors who testified in her favor in the case.⁶⁷

How the trauma of James's attempted suicide affected his children and other members of the family is not known. James is said to have worn a fur collar regularly to cover the scars on his neck. Rev. Foster claimed that Logan and James raised their four children "as children of one man," and by 1870, James and his sons were again living at Davies Manor, with the cousins attending a school in Morning Sun together. Neither Logan nor James ever married again, and James's sons never married either.⁶⁸ From letters between James and his sons, they appear to have had a close relationship, at least to the degree that this can be gleaned from their somewhat formulaic correspondence.⁶⁹ Both Will and Gus became medical doctors, and it is reasonable to speculate that James's wartime experiences and subsequent mental health issues might have influenced their choice of career.

Will and Gus began their study of medicine under local doctor Snowden Craven Maddux.⁷⁰ Both went on to study at the joint medical college run by Vanderbilt University and the University of Nashville. Will graduated in 1878 and Gus in 1879.⁷¹

⁶⁷ Polly places this confrontation in August 1867, while neighbor Redford Hall described it as taking place in May 1867. The divorce bill was issued on September 25, 1867, apparently leading to subsequent testimony from additional witnesses the following year. Redford Hall later married Polly, and they had six children. *Ibid*; Deposition of Redford Hall in case of Pauline L. Davis [sic] vs. James B. Davis [sic] in Chancery Court, Memphis, Feb. 23, 1868, photocopies from DMA Archives; "William Little Family in Shelby County, Tennessee," p. 19, photocopies in DMA Archives.

⁶⁸ Davies Manor Association, "Guidebook for Log House Museum Tours," undated, p. 7; "L.E. Davis [sic]," Shelby County, 1870 U.S. Federal Census [database on-line], Provo, UT, Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009; "James Baxter Davies," Obituary, *Memphis Morning News*, June 1904; Davies-Rodgers, *Turns Again Home*, 15.

⁶⁹ See, for example, JAD to JBD, Dec. 20, 1877, Nov. 3, 1878, and Jan. 6, 1879, JBD Correspondence, DMA Archives.

⁷⁰ Maddux was one of four local landowners who wrote to the superintendent of the Memphis Freedmen's Bureau in November 1865 asking for protection from potentially rebellious freedmen, relaying the typical complaints of white landowners at the time about armed African Americans and rumors of a Christmas uprising. He later served in the Tennessee General Assembly. Steven Hahn, et.al., eds., *Freedom: A Documentary History of Emancipation, 1861-1867, Series 3, Vol. 1: Land and Labor, 1865* (Chapel Hill: Univ. of North Carolina Press, 2008), pp. 849-850; Davies-Rodgers, *Along the Old Stage-Coach Road*, 11, 65, 127.

⁷¹ Davies-Rodgers, *Along the Old Stage-Coach Road*, 11; Ancestry.com, University of Nashville Catalogue, 1877-78 Session, pp. 23-24, U.S., *School Catalogs, 1765-1935* [database on-line], Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012.



Figure 13: Gus (left) and Will (right) stand behind Dr. Snowden Craven Maddux in this undated photo of Dr. Maddux with his former students. DMA Archives.

Even as they studied in Nashville, Will and Gus remained engaged with the family's Shelby County plantation. In October 1878, for example, Gus asked his father, "How are you progressing with Planting Wheat and Gathering Cotton, &c.?" They also took an interest in their younger cousins' schooling and activities.⁷² Will and Gus both did postgraduate work at New York University (Gus studied surgery and bandaging), and Gus later returned to Nashville for additional schooling.⁷³

Gus and Will Davies's advanced education was funded by the farming operation run by their father and uncle. By 1880, Logan and James oversaw 328 improved acres (up from 220 in 1860) on a farm valued at \$12,305 (including land, farm buildings, machinery, and livestock). While labor costs had naturally risen since emancipation, they were nonetheless low. African American laborers did 100 weeks of work on the farm in 1879, and the Davies paid out \$220 in wages for the year. Since 1860, the Davies and their workers had substantially increased the farm's sheep operation from 60 animals to 175, with wool production rising from 120 pounds to 225 pounds (Ellen Davies Rodgers later described her father Gillie Davies as a skilled shearer.). The number of hogs, on the other hand, had decreased by half, from 60 to 30 animals. In addition to taking care of the livestock, the farm hands grew Indian corn, oats, wheat, cow peas, and cotton and tended peach and apple trees. Female workers made 175 pounds of butter and gathered 75 dozen eggs. The 45 bales of cotton picked by the hired hands was just over half of what enslaved people had generated on the plantation in 1860. The workers' cotton production per acre (.53 bale) slightly exceeded the average for the county (.50).⁷⁴

⁷² JAD to JBD, Nashville, Oct. 29, 1878, Dec. 2, 1878 (reference to "Miss Wood's," presumably a school), JBD Correspondence, DMA Archives.

⁷³ Davies-Rodgers, *Along the Old Stage-Coach Road*, 70; JAD to WLD, New York, NY, Nov. 6, 1881, William Little Davies (WLD) Correspondence, DMA Archives; JAD Certificate, University of the City of New York, 1881, Degrees, DMA Archives.

⁷⁴ Ancestry.com, "J.B. & L.E. Davies" (1880), Shelby County, U.S., *Selected Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850-1880* [database on-line], Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010; Ancestry.com, "L. & Jas. Davis [sic]" (1860), Shelby County, U.S., *Selected Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850-1880* [database on-line]; Davies-Rodgers, *Turns Again Home*, 17; James M. Safford, *Report on the Cotton Production of the State of Tennessee* (U.S. Census Bureau, 1883), 53, <https://www2.census.gov/library/publications/decennial/1880/vol-05-06-cotton/1880v5-05.pdf> (accessed June 11, 2021). The 1870 agricultural census for Shelby County is not legible. Individual farm schedules for the decades after 1880 are not widely available. Some are thought to have been destroyed by fire (1890), others were destroyed because they were not viewed as significant historically (1900, 1910, 1920, and 1925), and the location of others is unknown (1930). Kimberly Powell, "Agricultural Schedules of the United States Census: Researching Farms and Farmers in the U.S. Census," ThoughtCo., May 30, 2019,

To supplement the income brought in by the farm's agricultural output, Logan and James provided agricultural services to their neighbors. According to Ellen Davies



Figure 14: Ad for Mammoth (1883).
DMA Archives.

Rodgers, the brothers owned a cotton gin and grist mill. Logan and James also advertised mules for stud, including Mammoth, “the renowned jack.”⁷⁵ In addition, by 1881, Logan and Alfred Young had opened a dry goods store in Brunswick that sold clothing and shoes, groceries, hardware, and kitchen ware. An advertisement for the business promised, “Good Times are Coming.” Even as they diversified within their professional lives, the brothers remained at Davies Manor. A friend of Will’s wrote in 1882, “Remember me to your pa & your Uncle Logan in very great kindness—Could spend a few hours around their fireside in great mirth and pleasure.” The brothers hosted political barbeques for Democratic candidates during the post-war period, including one to generate support for the defeat of Ed Shaw, a Black Republican from Memphis. Logan also served as a judge for county elections during the 1870s and 1880s, and both brothers were active in the Morning Sun Masonic Lodge.⁷⁶

As the next generation came of age during the 1880s and 1890s, many changes took place at the plantation. Will established himself as a local doctor (though he found collecting fees for his services a struggle) and farmer, living with his father and uncle at Davies Manor, visiting patients in and around the Brunswick community, and performing surgeries at Dr. Maddux’s Brunswick office; of all the Davies family members, he would live the longest in the Manor House.⁷⁷ After completing his education, Gus relocated to DeSoto County in northern Mississippi, where, like his brother, he worked as a physician and cotton farmer; in addition to a general practitioner, he served as an optician and dentist. Gus also became a noted amateur archaeologist, assisted by Mose Frazier, an African American man who would later live and work on the Shelby County plantation.⁷⁸ Gillie Davies, who first attended Christian Brothers College in

<https://www.thoughtco.com/agricultural-schedules-united-states-census-1422758> (accessed Dec. 11, 2020).

⁷⁵ Davies-Rodgers, *Along the Old Stage-Coach Road*, 123; Davies Plantation, Tennessee Century Farms Application; “Mammoth” advertisement, June 10, 1883, DMA Archives.

⁷⁶ Davies-Rodgers, *Along the Old Stage-Coach Road*, 119, 130; B.F. O’Daniel, Hickman, Ky., to WLD, Dec. 6, 1882, WLD Correspondence, 1865-1890, DMA Archives; E-mails from Andrew Ross, Davies Manor, to Antoinette van Zelm, MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, Dec. 3, 2020, and Feb. 26, 2021.

⁷⁷ WLD Obituary (untitled newspaper clipping), May 5, 1931, DMA Archives; Davies Manor Association, “Guidebook for Log House Museum Tours,” undated, p. 12.

⁷⁸ Before his death, Gus Davies donated his highly regarded collection to the University of Mississippi. Ellen Davies Rodgers claimed that he became interested in archaeology after finding artifacts in a Native

Memphis and then Bethel College in McKenzie, took on more and more responsibilities for the family's agricultural operations. In 1891, he married a local woman, Frances Ina Stewart, and they lived at Davies Manor for the first four years of their life together. The youngest of the cousins, Linnie Davies, married William Bond Beaty, a local farmer, at Davies Manor in 1886.⁷⁹



Figure 15: Gillie Davies, left, and Linnie Davies Beaty with husband William Bond Beaty, right (undated images). DMA Archives.

American Indian mound at Davies Manor that was excavated in 1890. A 1999 study by an Anthropology M.A. student at the University of Memphis of a mound of dirt close to the manor house found no evidence that it was an Indian mound but concluded the dirt had been moved there from elsewhere on the property. The Tennessee Division of Archaeology has no evidence of an Indian mound at the site. A 1923 map of archaeological sites in Tennessee does not indicate any archaeological sites in the area surrounding Davies Manor. Timothy Pugh and Charles H. McNutt, "Julius Augustus Davies, M.D., An Early Contributor to Mississippi Archaeology," *Mississippi Archaeology* 26, no. 2 (January 1991): 1-6; Diane Bundy, "Davies Manor's Indian Mound," University of Memphis, [August 1999], 1-2, DMA Archives; E-mail correspondence between Benjamin Nance, Tennessee Division of Archaeology, and Antoinette van Zelm, MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, Aug. 26, 2020-Sept. 8, 2020; "Archaeological Map of the State of Tennessee," 1923, Tennessee State Library and Archives, <https://teva.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p15138coll23/id/170/rec/9> (accessed 8/25/21); Davies Manor Association, "Guidebook for Log House Museum Tours," undated, p. 12; Davies-Rodgers, *Along the Old Stage-Coach Road*, 47, 68, 70.

⁷⁹ Davies-Rodgers, *Turns Again Home*, 15, 83; Ancestry.com, Abie Earle Beaty, Application for Membership, March 28, 1960, *U.S., Sons of the American Revolution Membership Applications, 1889-1970* [database on-line], Provo, UT, Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011; Ancestry.com, "Bond Beatty [sic]," Shelby County, *1900 United States Federal Census* [database on-line], Provo, UT, Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2004.

Ties of affection and economics bound the family together even as some moved away from the plantation. Gus corresponded frequently with his father and brother, and the three men shared news about crops, labor conditions, financial matters, illnesses, family connections, the family land in Fayette County, and the brothers' medical practices. As late as 1888, when he was close to 33 years old, Gus asked his father for a horse that he could ride to visit his patients in Mississippi because the two horses that he already owned were not up to the job. With deep affection for "the old neighborhood," Gus literally sought to transplant some of Davies Manor to Mississippi: After he had purchased about sixty acres and was establishing his farm near Alpika (later known as Walls), he asked Will to send him ten or so twigs from an almost-dead tree at the back of the garden and stable lot on the family plantation, requesting that the twigs be carefully packed in moss.⁸⁰



Figure 16: Logan Davies was buried at Morning Sun Cemetery, as were Fannie, James, and Almeda Davies (November 2020 image).

When Logan Davies died of cancer in 1894, the more than forty-year farming partnership between he and James came to an end. In 1895, their approximately 1200 acres were divided for the first time, with Logan's children Gillie and Linnie receiving about 300 acres each and James retaining about 600 acres. That same year, Gillie and Frances (who found keeping house at Davies Manor challenging) had the plantation's circa-1855, two-room commissary moved a half mile away to create a new home for

themselves, which they named "The Oaks." James and son Will, thirty years apart in age, continued to live together at Davies Manor.⁸¹

As the nineteenth century drew to a close, James, Gillie, Will, and their hired hands grew cotton and raised sheep and cattle on the plantation. The Davies also sold timber off the land. In 1898, Gillie purchased a pure-bred American Berkshire boar, Donoho 2d, and by 1905 was advertising himself as a "Breeder of Pure-Bred Berkshires." According to his daughter Ellen, Gillie also installed a race track around a

⁸⁰ JAD to JBD, Alpika, MS, June 13, 1888, JBD Correspondence, DMA Archives; JAD to WLD Dogwood Ridge, MS, Aug. 7, 1881, WLD Correspondence, DMA Archives; JAD to WLD, Alpika, MS, Feb. 18, 1889, Feb. 21, 1891, WLD Correspondence.

⁸¹ Davies-Rodgers, *Turns Again Home*, 28-29, 61, 83; Davies-Rodgers, *Along the Old Stage-Coach Road*, 79; E-mail from Andrew Ross, Davies Manor, to Antoinette van Zelm, MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, Apr. 30, 2021; Ancestry.com, "William Davies," Shelby County, 1900 United States Federal Census [database on-line], Provo, UT, Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2004.

grove near Davies Manor. Frances Ina Davies contributed to the farm income: she was listed on the 1910 census as running a poultry farm, and Ellen later referred to “Mother’s dairy” on the farm.⁸²

Three events in 1903-1904 transformed the complexion and future of the Davies family and Davies Manor. After bearing six children between 1887 and 1902, Linnie Davies Beaty died on the cusp of middle age on November 4, 1903. Nine days later, Gillie and Frances Davies welcomed Frances Ellen Davies into the world. The following year, on June 17, 1904, James Baxter Davies passed away after years of poor health (including thirty years of a chronic cough and eight of a nervous disorder), spending his last sixteen months confined to his bed. His health had deteriorated so much in his final year that Will had virtually abandoned his medical practice to care for his father; Rev. L.E. Foster praised Will for his “loving devotion” to James during this period.⁸³

After his father’s death, Will resumed his medical practice and resided at Davies Manor for the next three decades. In the 1910 census, he described himself as a farmer and physician. He lived alone, but employed a cook and no doubt other servants to assist him around the house. A letter from his cousin Sallie in 1917 creates a picture of domestic life at Davies Manor: “I think that you have the prettiest home that I ever saw—you have cook[,] kind old gentleman[,] to stay with you, Good Cousins near you, mail at your door, plenty of good books to read. So much of life[’s] good things[,] surely you are blessed.” By 1920, while in his early sixties, Will no longer worked as a doctor but continued to farm. A seventy-year-old cousin, Newt Scantlin, lived with him at Davies Manor, as did a boarder named William Hayson, a widower who worked as a carpenter.⁸⁴

⁸² Davies-Rodgers, *Turns Again Home*, 84-85; “Davies Plantation,” Tennessee Century Farms Application, pp. 4-5; Ancestry.com, “Gillie M. Davies,” Shelby County, *1910 United States Federal Census* [database on-line], Provo, UT, Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2006; Ellen Davies Rodgers, Jan. 14, 1943, Daily Journal (1943), DMA Archives.

⁸³ Gillie and Frances Davies had lost an infant son in 1897. Ancestry.com, Abie Earle Beaty, Application for Membership, March 28, 1960, *U.S., Sons of the American Revolution Membership Applications, 1889-1970*; “William Bond Beaty,” Find-A-Grave, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/9127670/william-bond-beaty> (accessed 9/21/20); Davies-Rodgers, *Along the Old Stage-Coach Road*, 172; “James Baxter Davies,” Obituary, *Memphis Morning News*, June 1904; JBD notebook with WLD additions (undated), DMA Archives.

⁸⁴ Theophilus Newton Scantlin, who died sometime after 1925, was the son of Mary Davies Scantlin and J.D. Scantlin; Mary was a sister of James and Logan. The Scantlins lived in Texas for many years. “Wm. Davies,” Shelby County, *1910 United States Federal Census* [database on-line], Provo, UT, Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2006; Sallie L. Anthony, Collierville, to WLD, Aug. 13, 1917, WLD Correspondence, 1908-1931, DMA Archives; “William L. Davies,” Shelby County, *1920 United States Federal Census* [database on-line], Provo, UT, Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010; Elizabeth Torrence, Bosque County Historical Commission, to Jeanne Crawford, Davies Manor Association, Jan. 12, 1998, DMA Archives; Davies Family Tree, DMA Archives.



Figure 17: Copy of image of Davies Manor, with Gillie Davies on left, possibly William Little Davies in center, and Newt Scantlin on right. Notations by Gillie and Ellen Davies Rodgers. DMA Archives.

Gus died of bronchial asthma in 1924. Will remembered his brother as “a naturalist and botanist, fond of flowers[,] a nature lover[, and] ‘a Connoisseur’ of Indian pottery.” Gus died intestate, so Will inherited his Shelby County landholdings. Will remained actively engaged in farming into his seventies, writing to Ellen Davies in August 1930 about “the worst crops both corn and cotton that I have seen here and in Miss. for years” during the hottest summer he ever remembered. The pear crop was also poor, and he predicted that even the fruit produced would be too expensive for local African American consumers battered by the dismal farm economy. In addition to farming, Will was serving as a judge for the upcoming state and local primary election.⁸⁵

As an older man, Will expressed keen interest in his family’s history and expressed gratitude for the significant roles played by women and enslaved people in the family’s past. In 1930, he created a memorial to the enslaved people buried on the plantation that would purposely include the names of his grandmothers as well as his grandfathers. He acknowledged that the names of the enslaved would be “omitted in

⁸⁵ Undated note regarding JAD, DMA Archives; “William L. Davies,” Shelby County, *1930 United States Federal Census* [database on-line], Provo, UT, Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2002; WLD to ED, Aug. 2, 1930, Family History Papers, DMA Archives; WLD Obituary (unidentified newspaper clipping), DMA Archives; JBD notebook with WLD additions (undated), DMA Archives; Copy of deed (typescript), WLD to EDR, March 15, 1930, Shelby County Register of Deeds, DMA Archives.

Will took obvious pride in the accomplishments of Ellen, who was his first cousin once removed but referred to herself as his “little ‘cousin’” and addressed him somewhat formally as “Doctor.” In 1923, for example, Will wrote to Gus relaying how Ellen had been selected by a professor at George Peabody College to read one of her papers out loud to the class. In 1927, he gave her a knife (which she used to sharpen pencils while studying in New York) and a Jersey cow. When she traveled to the Holy Land in 1930, he sent letters to her in Jerusalem and Paris, filling her in on news about local crops, weather, and people.⁸⁸

When Will died of heart failure while in Walls in May 1931, he named Gillie as his executor and left his entire real and personal estate, save \$1000 for two of his Virginia cousins, to Ellen. He designated that the estate, which included Davies Manor, “be hers absolutely and in fee simple.” Further, he exhibited his faith in her, and his desire that the land stay in the Davies family, by stating that the bequest “be free from all marital rights of any husband she may hereafter have.”⁸⁹

When she inherited Davies Manor at age twenty-seven, Ellen Davies was a well-educated woman with a strong personality. She had grown up next door to the family home as a precocious, intelligent, only child who loved school, a girl who at age six felt at ease writing letters to her teacher when she had to miss a day. In preparation for a career as a teacher herself, Ellen completed high school at West Tennessee Normal School (now the University of Memphis) in 1923, graduated from Peabody in 1924, and received her M.A. degree from the Teachers College at Columbia University, where she studied early elementary education, in 1927. While studying in New York, she took advantage of the opportunity to attend performances at the Metropolitan Opera House and the Globe Theater and to take a tour of the warship *Texas* while it was docked in the harbor. Her postgraduate studies at Columbia were funded by Newt Scantlin, her first cousin once removed, who, like Will Davies, recognized her ability, willingness to work hard, and ambition.⁹⁰

⁸⁸ WLD to B. [Brother], Dec. 24, 1923, WLD Correspondence, DMA Archives; ED to Doctor [WLD], New York City, NY, 1927, WLD Correspondence, DMA Archives; WLD to ED, Aug. 2, 1930, Family History Papers, DMA Archives; WLD Letter Fragment (transcription), Oct. 27, 1930, DMA Archives.

⁸⁹ William Little Davies, Death Certificate, State of Mississippi, DMA Archives; WLD Obituary (untitled newspaper clipping), May 5, 1931, DMA Archives; “Last Will and Testament of William Little Davies, Deceased, Filed May 12, 1931,” WLD Correspondence, DMA Archives.

⁹⁰ Davies-Rodgers, *Turns Again Home*, p. 148; Tommy T. Thornton, Brunswick, TN, to ED, Dec. 2, 1909, Tommie T. Thornton, Collierville, TN, to ED, Jun. 14, 1912, T.N. Scantlin, Clifton, TX, to ED, Sept. 5, 1922, J.M. Jenson, Clifton, TX, to ED, Oct. 15, 1926, ED, New York City, NY, to WLD, May 11, 1927, Family History Papers, DMA Archives; ED to WLD, New York City, NY, 1927, WLD Correspondence, DMA Archives; “Davies Plantation Time Line,” Davies Manor Office Files.



Figure 19: The 1933 West Tennessee State Teachers College Yearbook was dedicated to Ellen Davies Rodgers. Courtesy of Ancestry.com.

While Ellen Davies clearly exhibited the desire to better herself and to learn about the world beyond rural Shelby County, she maintained a strong attachment to the family land and returned to the county to teach after completing her studies in 1927. She served as principal of Arlington High School, became a professor of early elementary education at West Tennessee State Normal College, and then served as the first state supervisor of elementary education for West Tennessee. Although she left the field of education in 1940 (returning for a brief stint as a principal in 1954), she later served on the Shelby County Board of Education and the Tennessee School Boards Association. The recipient of two honorary doctorates, Davies eventually expressed her life-long dedication to education by establishing scholarships at numerous Tennessee colleges and universities.⁹¹

While establishing herself as a well-respected professional in the field of education during the early 1930s, Ellen Davies's personal life underwent significant changes (in addition to her inheritance of Davies Manor and Will Davies's other landholdings). In December 1932, she married Hillman Philip Rodgers, a Mississippi native with two years of college under his belt. He worked in sales for a wholesale paper manufacturer. Ellen and Hillman made their home at The Oaks with her parents. The next year, Gillie Davies died, leaving his widow, Ina, who would outlive him by twenty-five years, as the head of the household.⁹² Beginning in the early 1940s, Ina, Ellen, and

⁹¹ "Miss Ellen': Ellen Davies-Rodgers," National Society Daughters of the American Revolution *Women in American History* Project, www.tndar.org/~zachariahdavies/missellen.htm (accessed March 19, 2020). This succinct, accessible, laudatory biography thoroughly documents Davies Rodgers's many achievements.

⁹²Ibid.; Ancestry.com, "Ellen D Rodgers," 1940 United States Federal Census [database on-line], Provo, UT, Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012.

Hillman (the Rodgers did not have children of their own) provided care and support for four young women, Sarah, Frances, Elba, and Mary Gandy. The sisters, who were young adults and teenagers when their mother died in 1941, had grown up next door to Gillie and Ina Davies and had lost their father in 1929. Ellen Davies Rodgers later referred to them as the family's "cherished foster daughters."⁹³

Although she never lived at Davies Manor, Davies Rodgers treasured the family home and initiated restoration work on it during the Depression (see also "Manor House" section of this report's "Architectural Description, Construction History, and Preservation Needs Assessment with Recommendations" section). She explored family heirlooms inside the house and discovered documents and photographs related to her family's history in the plantation desk that had once belonged to her great-grandfather, William E. Davies. From 1933 to 1942, she rented the house to farmer Dhalma Ellis and his wife, Pearl Ellis, for \$12 per month. Every Christmas Eve for eight years, Ellen and Hillman had dinner at Davies Manor with the Ellises. Although former employee Rannie Langston later recalled the Gandy sisters living at Davies Manor after the Ellises moved out, the house eventually became a historic showpiece rather than a home during the second half of the twentieth century.⁹⁴

As she transitioned from paid employment to volunteer leadership work at the state and local levels during the 1940s, Davies Rodgers began to incorporate the historic home into her emerging role as a local historian and a regional mover and shaker. On January 5, 1943, she noted in her daily journal that she had received a guest book from a friend to use at the home. An exhibit of the art work of Laura Yates Burnett in 1944 was one of the first public events held at Davies Manor. The guests multiplied over the ensuing decades as the indefatigable Davies Rodgers hosted events

⁹³ Ellen Davies Rodgers stated that her parents took in William Saxton Gandy as a foster son in about 1900; in the 1910 census, he is listed as a cotton and stock farmer boarding with them. In the 1930 census, Corrine Gandy is listed as a widow living next door to William Davies. She worked as a bus driver for the public school and had four children ranging in age from four to fifteen. By 1940, she was working as a cafeteria supervisor, a position funded by the federal government, and her oldest daughter, Sarah, was working as a public school teacher. Davies-Rodgers, *Turns Again Home*, 18-19; Ancestry.com, "Gillie M. Davies," Shelby County, *1910 United States Federal Census* [database on-line], Provo, UT, Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2006. Ancestry.com, "Corinne [sic] Gandy," Shelby County, *1930 United States Federal Census* [database on-line], Provo, UT, Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2002; "Corinne [sic] Gandy, Shelby County, *1940 United States Federal Census* [database on-line], Provo, UT, Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012.

⁹⁴Age 73 and 67 in 1940, respectively, Dhalma and Pearl Ellis had both attended school through the eighth grade. He described himself as a farmer and an employer. "Dhalma Ellis," Shelby County, *1940 United States Federal Census* [database on-line], Provo, UT, Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012; EDR, Memphis, to Cousin Haddie, Richmond, Jan. 16, 1941, DMA Archives; Handwritten note by EDR, with photographs of the Ellises at Davies Manor (undated), DMA Archives; "Conversation between Rannie Langston, Jeanne Crawford and Frances and Bea Gandy in Gueydan, LA, regarding questions sent them last week" (transcription), Dec. 19 1997, Davies Manor Office Files; Davies Plantation, Tennessee Century Farms Application, p. 22.

and tours at Davies Manor, which ultimately motivated her to replace the kerosene lamps with electricity and add running water to the home during the 1950s.⁹⁵



Figure 20: Ellen Davies Rodgers with unidentified guests at a meeting at Davies Manor (undated). DMA Archives.

Activities at Davies Manor included meetings of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), for Ellen had inherited Will's interest in history along with the historic house. In 1945, she organized the local Zachariah Davies Chapter and in 1956 became state regent of the DAR.⁹⁶ Davies Manor eventually also served as the headquarters of the Old Stage Road Chapter of the Children of the American Revolution and the Shelby Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. Davies Rodgers hosted meetings of local and state garden club organizations at the site, and the Memphis Cotton Carnival pilgrimages also took place there at midcentury. Members of Parent Teacher Associations, the Phi Mu Fraternity (a women's group), and other civic organizations also met at the site. In 1957, Davies Rodgers told the *Memphis Press-Scimitar* that 1200-1850 people, including travelers from abroad, visited Davies Manor each year. The house's role as a historic site and tourist draw prompted Davies Rodgers to use her influence within the county to ensure its accessibility by having county work crews occasionally work on the private road leading to the site. And, it eventually led her to

⁹⁵ Ellen Davies Rodgers, Daily Journal (1943), DMA Archives; "Davies Manor," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, March 19, 1975; updated Dec. 1, 2005 (Washington D.C., U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service), Section 8, p. 1; "Conversation between Rannie Langston, Jeanne Crawford and Frances and Bea Gandy in Gueydan, LA, regarding questions sent them last week" (transcription); Davies Plantation, Tennessee Century Farms Application, copy of article by Jessica Mozo, "A Pioneer's Life for Me: Davies Manor Plantation Gives Visitors a Glimpse at the Olden Days," *Home & Farm Magazine* (Fall 2009): 18.

⁹⁶ See Footnote 28 regarding recent research conducted at Davies Manor that raises questions about Zachariah Davies's Revolutionary War service.

take on federal and state officials to change their initial plans for Interstate 40 to keep it from running too close to the historic home.⁹⁷

Perhaps most significantly, Davies Rodgers gave delegates to the 1953 Tennessee Constitutional Convention a tour of Davies Manor following a reception at “The Oaks.” Davies Rodgers was proud to have become the first woman from Shelby County elected as a delegate to a state constitutional convention, and the only woman to serve as a delegate twice when she was elected again in 1959. She also made sure to note that in 1953, Davies Manor was the first home other than the Governor’s Mansion to be visited by delegates to a Tennessee Constitutional Convention.⁹⁸

Davies Rodgers’s mother, Frances Ina Stewart Davies, also had a “lively interest in American history” and was an organizing member of the Zachariah Davies DAR Chapter. When she died of pneumonia at age 95 in 1958, she left 305 acres of the family’s plantation landholdings, plus another 616 acres, to her daughter.⁹⁹

In addition to her DAR activity, Davies Rodgers organized a historical commission for Shelby County and served as its first president (today the commission gives its service award in honor of her). In 1965, she was appointed the first-ever Shelby County historian, a position that she held steadfastly until her death, despite failing health in her later years. According to the DAR’s biography of Davies Rodgers, “one of her favorite sayings was ‘Each of us is History’ and she treated each individual as a significant part of that history.” Without a doubt, Davies Rodgers contributed to local history and genealogy through her organizational work, research, and writing, as well as through the power of her charismatic personality.¹⁰⁰

As she incorporated the historic house into her leadership work, Davies Rodgers sought to establish the significance of Davies Manor within both Shelby County and Tennessee as a whole, and to ensure its preservation. She celebrated the unveiling of a state historic marker at the site in December 1953 with considerable fanfare, and she took pride in the home’s placement on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975 (holding a ceremony to mark the occasion that also commemorated the thirtieth anniversary of the Zachariah Davies DAR Chapter). While pursuing these goals, and in accordance with her DAR affinity, she clearly sought to identify Davies Manor with the

⁹⁷ “‘Miss Ellen’: Ellen Davies-Rodgers”; *The Memphis Commercial Appeal*, Nov. 1, 1968; “Identification of the Name ‘Davies’ in Shelby, County, Tennessee” (undated typescript, ca. 1983), DMA Archives; “Free County Work on Private Road,” *Memphis Press-Scimitar*, June 17, 1957; Andy Meek, “The Belle of the (Wrecking) Ball,” *Memphis Daily News*, Jul. 27, 2006; Davies-Rodgers, *Along the Old Stage-Coach Road*, 272; Davies-Rodgers, *Turns Again Home*, 42.

⁹⁸ “‘Miss Ellen’: Ellen Davies-Rodgers”; “Identification of the Name ‘Davies’ in Shelby, County, Tennessee”; Davies-Rodgers, *Along the Old Stage-Coach Road*, 129; Davies Plantation, Tennessee Century Farms Application, p. 4; Davies-Rodgers, *Turns Again Home*, 304.

⁹⁹ Davies Plantation, Tennessee Century Farms Application, pp. 11, 52 (“Mrs. G.M. Davies Dies at Age of 95,” *Commercial Appeal*, Nov. 28, 1958).

¹⁰⁰ “‘Miss Ellen’: Ellen Davies-Rodgers,” Davies-Rodgers, *Along the Old Stage-Coach Road*, 80.

early history of the United States. The undocumented claim, based on family lore, that the house began as a one-room Native American dwelling in 1807 is perhaps the best example of this. Davies Rodgers even sought to push that date back: She chaired Brunswick's community steering committee for the state's 1986 Homecoming program, and the calendar of events referred to Davies Manor as "the two-story log colonial house built before 1807." A contemporary of Davies Rodgers, Ida Cooper, who served as the historian of Morning Sun Church, chafed at the way that Ellen "tried too hard to claim that the old Joel Royster log country home is oldest in Shelby Co." in her efforts to make the home into "a shrine." The National Park Service's Historic American Building Survey also dismissed the 1807 date as "unfounded."¹⁰¹

With respect to the history of Davies Manor, Davies Rodgers favored an interpretation of African American history that ignored the horrors of slavery. Whereas Will Davies had been comfortable identifying local African Americans as the family's former slaves, albeit while emphasizing their loyalty, Ellen Davies Rodgers usually sought to avoid using the terms "slave" and "slavery" in relation to Davies Manor, preferring the use of "servants" and even "employees." In her 1992 book *Turns Again*



Figure 21: Valerie Moss working at an event at Davies Manor (June 26, 1981). DMA Archives.

Home, she claimed that she and her ancestors had always treated the African Americans who worked for them as members of the family, certainly not a surprising viewpoint for a wealthy white woman born at the turn of the twentieth century. The book includes a chapter on the "Back Porch Court" that acknowledges the contributions of African Americans at Davies Manor and The Oaks. The book chapter sketches several workers' personalities, but also includes a heavy dose of paternalism, including patronizing language and statements of opposition to miscegenation. In her 1990 book *Along the Old Stage-Coach Road*, Davies Rodgers captioned a photograph of

¹⁰¹ As recently as the mid-1990s, a posthumous Shelby County Historical Commission marker commemorating Davies Rodgers gave the date of Davies Manor as ca. 1807. "Miss Ellen": Ellen Davies-Rodgers;" Program, Davies Manor Marker Unveiling and Dedication, Dec. 5, 1953, DMA Archives; Davies-Rodgers, *Along the Old Stage-Coach Road*, pp. 47, 226, 229; Davies Plantation, Tennessee Century Farms Application, p. 68; Mrs. H.W. Cooper, typescript (undated); E-mail from Andrew Ross, Davies Manor, to Antoinette van Zelm, MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, Jan. 5, 2021; Historic American Buildings Survey, "Davies Manor: Photographs, Written Historical and Descriptive Data," HABS No. TN-183 (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1972; edited 1985), 2; "Read the Plaque—Ellen Davies-Rodgers, 1903-1994," <https://read-the-plaque.appspot.com/plaque/ellen-davies-rodgers-1903-1994> (accessed March 19, 2020).

Laurence Herron and Mose Frazier as “two loyal and faithful members of the Davies Plantation family.”¹⁰²

Frazier’s former cabin is currently interpreted at the site. A 2017 interview by Davies Manor Association staff with his daughter and granddaughter, however, revealed another side of Davies Rodgers. Daughter Annie Mae Frazier Blackwell Myles, who had sharecropped on the land with her husband until they had a falling-out with the Rodgerses, stated that her father had been afraid of both Ellen and Hillman and had lived in squalid conditions on the property. She also described Davies Rodgers as a controlling person who demanded deference and was accustomed to getting her own way. “You can’t tell all the good parts unless you bring in some of that bad part,” concluded Myles.¹⁰³

With respect to the African American landscape at Davies Manor, Ellen Davies Rodgers and her cousin Will may have diverged most significantly in their treatment of the plantation cemetery. While Will had marked and protected the graveyard, Ellen had a house (“El Hill”) and barn built on part of the land shortly after she inherited it from Will. Tellingly, the 1987 wooden marker that she erected on the remaining portion of the cemetery referred to the enslaved and freedpeople buried there as “family members—workers employed by Logan Early Davies and James Baxter Davies.” After her death, El Hill was torn down and the land developed for suburban homes; no marker remains to indicate the presence of the former cemetery.¹⁰⁴

Even as it increasingly served as a historic showplace, Davies Manor remained part of a working farm dependent on African American labor. Davies Rodgers had developed a lifelong love of horseback riding at an early age. When not yet 7, she had ridden “around the country at a great rate” on a boy’s saddle. As an adult she rode through the property frequently to check on things and distribute stores from the commissary to the African American sharecroppers. During World War II, she organized a canning project among the tenants who lived and worked on the farm.¹⁰⁵ Owners and workers raised cattle, hay, cotton, soybeans, corn, and wheat. Laurence Herron, who lived behind The Oaks, managed the planting and harvesting. The land was also used for pasture and timber. According to Davies Rodgers, by 1965, they owned more than 2,000 acres (which they would soon begin downsizing, selling off some land for

¹⁰² E-mail from Andrew Ross, Davies Manor, to Antoinette van Zelm, MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, Nov. 20, 2020; Davies-Rodgers, *Turns Again Home*, pp. 178-199; *Along the Old Stage-Coach Road*, p. 68.

¹⁰³ Davies-Rodgers, *Turns Again Home*, 180-81; “Interview with Annie Mae (transcription),” Aug. 25, 2017, DMA Archives.

¹⁰⁴ “1987” Panel, *Omitted in Mass Exhibition*, Davies Manor (2020); Davies-Rodgers, *Along the Old Stage-Coach Road*, 47, 94.

¹⁰⁵ Cousin Cecile Henrietta Wright, Richmond, VA, to ED, Sept. 10, 1910, Davies Family Papers, DMA Archives; Davies Rodgers, Daily Journal (1943); Davies Plantation, Tennessee Century Farms Application, p. 47.

residential developments within a created community called “Davieshire” and donating another parcel for the construction of St. Philip’s Episcopal Church). Hillman Rodgers, who won awards for the farm’s Black Angus cattle and its pastures, built a cattle barn on the land in 1974-75.¹⁰⁶



Figure 22: Top image is a postcard received by Gillie Davies in 1912; bottom image is cattle on the land when Hillman Rodgers was running the farm (undated). DMA Archives.

¹⁰⁶ Davies Plantation, Tennessee Century Farms Application, pp. 6, 9, 56 (ad for Davieshire, 1965), 57 (clipping--“300-Acre Davies Tract Is Sold,” from *Memphis Press-Scimitar*, Dec. 11, 1967), 60 (“Cousin Ellen,” *Memphis Press-Scimitar*, Oct. 10, 1973), 70; “Miss Ellen: Ellen Davies-Rodgers,” Davies-Rodgers, *Along the Old Stage-Coach Road*, p. 282; “Rannie [Langston] Interview (R),” transcript, Jan. 6, 2010, Davies Manor Office Files.

When she applied to have Davies Plantation certified as a Tennessee Century Farm in April 1976, Davies Rodgers was mourning Hillman, who had died of a sudden heart attack just three months earlier. On the application, Davies Rodgers stated that she owned about 1,410 acres, approximately 450 of which had been part of the original acreage owned by her grandfather and great-uncle, Logan and James Davies. As a widow, she intended to oversee the farming operation with the assistance of the Gandy sisters. Her determination to maintain a working farm was later emphasized by Rannie Langston, who recalled, "She told me one time you know that there were cows on this place when she was born and there would be cows here when she died and there were."¹⁰⁷

In 1976, Ellen Davies Rodgers created the Davies Manor Association as the owner and administrator of the house and grounds. The site officially opened to the public in May 1982. By 1986, the association had a board and a junior board and was open from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday afternoons. One of the Gandy sisters, Sarah, supervised the docents who led tours of the house. Over the years, the docents have included volunteers from the Zachariah Davies Chapter of the DAR.¹⁰⁸

During the 1980s, Davies Rodgers began to sell off more of her land, working with local developer Clair Vander Schaaf to create the Davies Plantation Estates development of luxury homes. She stated that she recognized that development was inevitable and wanted to shape it: "I didn't have to sell one foot of this land," she told a reporter in 1987. She named roads within the development pay tribute to Davies family members, African Americans who had worked for them, other community members, and her former teachers. The cattle barn, originally called "Hills Barn," was changed into an event venue/community center, which the Davies Manor Board later renamed "Hillwood." The proceeds of the land sales also provided funds for the preservation of Davies Manor as a historic site. In addition, Davies Rodgers also unsuccessfully spearheaded an effort to have Brunswick incorporated so as to keep it from becoming part of Memphis or Bartlett.¹⁰⁹

¹⁰⁷ EDR, Memphis, to Mrs. J.A. Hull, Indianola, MS, March 9, 1976, DMA Archives; Davies Plantation, Tennessee Century Farms Application, p. 6; "Rannie [Langston] Interview (R)."

¹⁰⁸ "Davies Manor," printed piece, Sept. 1, 1986, DMA Archives; Davies-Rodgers, *Along the Old Stage-Coach Road*, 74; "1987" Panel, *Omitted in Mass Exhibition*, Davies Manor (2020); Perre Magness, *Past Times: Stories of Early Memphis* (Memphis: Parkway Press, LLC, 1994), p.133; "Davies Manor," Zachariah Davies Chapter DAR Web page, <http://www.tndar.org/~zachariahdavies/manor.html>, (accessed Jan. 26, 2009).

¹⁰⁹ Among the roads in the new development are "Independent Road" and "Society Road," both named for an African American benevolent organization, the Independent Pole Bearers Society. Ellen Davies Rodgers Obituary, *The Commercial Appeal*, Mar. 18, 1994, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/9257652/frances-ellen-rodgers> (accessed Mar. 19, 2020); Davies-Rodgers, *Along the Old Stage-Coach Road*, 18-39, 62, 272 (quoting a Feb. 23, 1987, *Commercial Appeal* article), 282.

Ellen Davies Rodgers died of kidney failure on March 17, 1994, at age 90. Shelby County flags were flown at half-staff, and County Mayor Bill Morris acknowledged Davies Rodgers's significance as a trailblazing woman: "Long before women had assumed their rightful place in decision-making, Mrs. Rodgers was making her voice heard, and she was equally adept at talking to either a farm worker or a U.S. senator." As the *Commercial Appeal* wryly noted, "She could serve charm with fried chicken and chocolate cake, and if that didn't work, she relied on her lawyers." Davies Rodgers was buried in Pleasant Hill Cemetery with her husband and parents. Her legacies are manifold, with Davies Manor among the most significant. Ultimately, Davies Manor played a crucial part in Davies Rodgers's emergence as a powerful force in Tennessee society.¹¹⁰

Historic Site History in the Years After Ellen Davies Rodgers's Death

The Davies Manor Association continued the preservation and interpretation efforts of Ellen Davies Rodgers. The Tennessee Historical Commission awarded the association a Certificate of Merit in 1998. The association created a Friends group to raise funds and cultivate volunteers.¹¹¹

By 2006, annual visitation to Davies Manor was about 5,000. As the association sought to keep up with annual maintenance costs of about \$60,000, it sold land that Davies Rodgers had left to the organization. This included her home, "The Oaks," which was torn down, and its surrounding 36 acres. They were sold in 2006 for a development of about 45 upscale homes and a park. Association board members justified the land sales and the demolition of Davies Rodgers's former home by citing the significance of Davies Manor and the need to have the necessary funds to preserve it. "We don't have too many places like this left in West Tennessee," board member Henry Boyd stated. He also made clear that Davies Rodgers had left the association more in valuable land than in cash.¹¹²

The next year, the association worked with Libertyland Amusement Park in Memphis to relocate two log cabins from that site's Pioneer Village to Davies Manor. Now known as the Liberty Cabin and the Gotten Cabin, the structures are used for field trips and other programs. The association is developing specific interpretive plans for each cabin. (For more on the history of these structures, see the "Architectural Description, Construction History, and Preservation Needs Assessment with Recommendations" section of this report.)¹¹³

¹¹⁰ Ellen Davies Rodgers Obituary, *The Commercial Appeal*.

¹¹¹ "Davies Manor Plantation" Brochure, undated.

¹¹² *The Commercial Appeal*, Mar. 16, 2006 (quote); Meek, "The Belle of the (Wrecking) Ball."

¹¹³ Davies Manor Association Application for Professional Services from the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, June 1, 2020.

Today, about 2,500 visitors tour Davies Manor yearly. The site is open April through mid-December, Tuesday through Saturday afternoons and by appointment, and a small admission fee is charged. In addition to the manor house, outbuildings, and historic markers, interpretive areas on the grounds include a kitchen garden, which is located approximately where a cook house/wash house once stood. A multi-year partnership with the Memphis Area Master Gardeners has resulted in raised-bed vegetable gardens on the grounds. Recently, the association received county funds to create an outdoor classroom at the site, which is part of the Backyard Wildlife Habitat program of the National Wildlife Foundation and has received the Anona Stoner Award from Memphis Heritage for its work to preserve the natural environment. Certification of the site as an arboretum is also in the works. Boy Scouts have completed bridge and deck projects along the arboretum's trails.¹¹⁴



Figure 23: The grounds at Davies Manor (November 2020).

In addition to welcoming tourists and locals for tours, the association provides field trip and group tour opportunities, including tours in conjunction with lunch in the Davies Manor dining room. Special events open to

the public include an annual quilt and fiber show, a holiday open house, a Master Gardeners' tour, and the Shelby County History Festival. Traveling trunks are available for teachers to rent, and an online activity book can be downloaded for children to use on tours. The Hillwood facility, which houses staff offices, is rented for weddings and other private events, and the income generated by these special events funds most of the association's operations.¹¹⁵

¹¹⁴ Davies Manor Association Application for Professional Services; "Davies Manor Plantation: Your FIRST Stop for Tennessee History" Brochure, undated; "Davies Manor Plantation" Brochure, undated; E-mail from Andrew Ross, Davies Manor, to Antoinette van Zelm, MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, Oct. 2, 2020; Interview with Andrew Ross, Davies Manor, Nov. 4, 2020.

¹¹⁵ Davies Manor Association Application for Professional Services; "Get Involved at Davies Manor Plantation" Brochure, undated; "Davies Manor Association Contact and General Information" Sheet, undated.

Over the past thirteen years, the association has researched the African American history of the site and created related interpretive programming. This effort began in 2008 when a subcommittee of the association's board of directors partnered with outside volunteers to review pertinent archival materials and to conduct oral history interviews with twenty-nine descendants of enslaved workers, sharecroppers, and tenant farmers. In a related initiative, the association collaborated with Christian Brothers University, Rhodes College, and Facing History and Ourselves in 2014 on a National Endowment for the Humanities "Created Equal" grant to address issues of freedom and equality. Douglas Blackmon, author of *Slavery by Another Name*, lectured at Christian Brothers in conjunction with a screening of the documentary by the same name.¹¹⁶

In 2016, the association reached out to additional volunteers and scholars to conduct further research on Davies Manor's African American history and develop the text and images for a permanent exhibit. *Omitted in Mass: Rediscovering Lost Narratives of Enslavement, Migration, and Memory Through the Davies Family's Papers* was installed in the porch wing of the manor house in 2019. The twelve exhibit panels use primary sources to recreate both the contributions and the suffering of the men, women, and children who were once owned by the Davies family. The exhibit won the prestigious Past Presidents Award from the Tennessee Association of Museums in 2020. Also in 2020, the association received a \$5,000 CARES Act grant through Humanities Tennessee to expand its African American oral history initiative.¹¹⁷

¹¹⁶ Davies Manor Association Application for Professional Services.

¹¹⁷ Davies Manor Association Application for Professional Services.

Architectural Description, Construction History, and Preservation Needs Assessment with Recommendations

MANOR HOUSE



Figure 1: Davies Manor in 2020. Photo by Andrew Ross.

Introduction

Over the years, Davies Manor has gone through several upgrades, renovations, and repairs (Figure 1). Preserved by the final member of the Davies family to own the home, Ellen Davies Rodgers, Davies Manor is believed to be the oldest extant building in Shelby County. This section of the report will consider the methods and materials used in the building's construction, set forth a probable chronological construction timeline, and provide preservation recommendations.

Description

First built as a single-pen log cabin, Davies Manor has evolved over the years into a Federal-style, vernacular, two-story, three-bay, center-hall structure with a rear ell and rear shed additions. It has an asphalt-shingle gabled roof and exterior, masonry chimneys at the gable ends of the log structure. The interior of the gable ends of the log structure are covered in clapboard. Rear additions are of frame construction. The oldest section of the house is believed to be the first-story room on the west end of the main

structure.¹¹⁸ An east wing was added circa 1831-37 connected by a dogtrot. Around the same time, the 5.5-foot, half-story on the original cabin was expanded into a full second story.¹¹⁹ The logs of the east addition are more precisely squared, indicating a more advanced construction technique. The east and west pens are made of poplar logs with square notching, sitting on non-native sandstone foundations. The outer dimensions of each pen are 19x19 feet.

The three bays of the south elevation façade include two double-hung, nine-over-nine sash windows between sash sidelights on each story, straddling doorways leading out onto a two-story gabled porch with square post supports with Greek Revival influence.¹²⁰ The second-story central hall section may have been enclosed when additions were completed in the 1850s, as shown in an 1875 photograph of the house (Figure 2).



Figure 2: 1875 image of manor house, showing upstairs center hall enclosed and downstairs dogtrot open. The small wood framed addition seen to the left of the ell is no longer extant.

Rear additions include a one-story, frame-construction, weatherboard ell added in the 1850s as a dining room and later extended in the early 1900s (probably after 1918) to include a kitchen, with a later extension to the rear to enlarge the kitchen (Figures 3, 4). The west façade of the 1850s/early 1900s ell includes three bays: a 9/9 double-hung sash window with sash sidelights close to the log structure, a 9/9 double-hung sash window without sidelights to the rear of the original section, and a 6/6 double-hung sash window on the kitchen extension. It also contains a ridgeline masonry chimney.

¹¹⁸ Ellen Davies Rodgers, "Davies Manor," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, Section 7. Rodgers places the construction date of the east room at 1807 based on local lore that it was constructed by an "Indian chief;" however, there is no supporting evidence for this.

¹¹⁹ Dates taken from Rodgers, "Davies Manor," Section 7. Practically speaking, the side addition was probably completed first in order to leave the family living space undisturbed until they could remove to the new addition to complete second-story expansion on the west wing.

¹²⁰ According to the National Register nomination, the existing windows were added in 1938, replacing slightly smaller windows from the 1830s. Additionally, according to the NR, the window on the east side of the interior hall is original to the 1830s.



Figure 3: 1850s rear ell addition, which extended to the chimney in this image, created a dining room; the ell was extended sometime in the early twentieth century to add a kitchen.



Figure 4: Rear extension on ell to enlarge kitchen.

A rear shed addition with an exterior masonry chimney on the north façade of the rear ell was added in 1938 of frame construction on a brick pier foundation. It includes a 9/9 double-hung sash window with sidelights similar to those on the south elevation (Figure 5). A “bathroom wing,” consisting of a bathroom and a storage closet, of frame construction with 6/6 double-hung sash windows was added in the 1960s, with a breezeway added to connect it to the main structure. The back porch was enclosed around the same time. (Figures 5, 6).



Figure 5: Rear ell with shed addition and enclosed porch. Bathroom addition to the left.



Figure 6: 1960s bathroom addition.

Methods of Construction/Origins

Log House -- The Manor is an example of first-generation log construction. First-generation construction, associated with early settlers, was crude and involved less shaping of the logs.¹²¹ It is likely that, because the original single-pen log cabin was built in the early-to-mid nineteenth century, using square notching, the remaining additions to the cabin were done in the same fashion to match. It is uncommon, but not unheard of, to find log cabins built using different methods of notching.

¹²¹Terry G. Jordan, *American Log Buildings: An Old World Heritage* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1985), 14-15.

The logs on the Manor were shaped using a method that is uncommon in Midland American log construction. The logs are hewn on all four sides to a thickness of six-to-eight inches, depending on the size of the logs. It is very noticeable in the permanent exhibit room where the wall is exposed (Figure 7). This method is commonly found in the Alps and southwestern Germany, originating in Sweden and Switzerland.¹²² This is what architectural historian Terry G. Jordan describes as *planking*. Logs were scored or chalked, creating a straight line on each side of the log that marked the depth of the cut. A standard ax was first used to cut V-grooves to the depth of the line. Then a foot adze was used to remove the excess material and create a flat surface. The cut marks found on the logs are from the use of the foot adze.



Figure 7: Exposed wall in the permanent exhibit space where log shaping, chinking, and daubing can be identified.

The Manor is built using *Chink Construction*, the method of building walls with logs and leaving a gap between each log (Figure 7). This is also displayed in the permanent exhibit room. It simplifies the build by allowing for discrepancies and adjustments as the walls are erected. Later, the spacing, or chinks, will be filled with board slats and a chinking mixture, or daubing. To achieve chink construction the corner notching must allow for spacing between logs. Corner notching can be accomplished through a variety of ways, with square notching used in the Manor House. Square notching is the crudest form of notching in log construction. It is mostly found as a traditional style of notching along the Gulf Coastal Plain.¹²³ Square notching likely originated in Central Sweden, but is found in Fenno-Scandian regions as well as German-Slavic Borderland regions.¹²⁴

The use of square notching in Midland America is less likely a traditional method and more likely one of adaptability and convenience (Figure 8). Square notching is the easiest form of corner notching and was often used by those with less experience who were building a quick shelter or simply building their first log home. Many of the cabins with square notching come apart at the corners. To combat this, pins were often drilled

¹²²ibid, 88, 147.

¹²³ibid, 20.

¹²⁴ibid, 147.

into the notches to hold them together. The Manor does not show any signs of corners beginning to separate. Even while there is a slight lean to the building, the corners remain in place. This would suggest that the corners are pinned in some way.



Figure 8: Example of square notching on the upper northwest corner of the log house.

A distinguishing feature found on the Manor House is the notching used for the floor joists in the loft (Figure 9). In Michael T. Gavin's Middle Tennessee log building survey, he identifies this method as a German style of notching.¹²⁵ The log that the ceiling joists will rest in is notched out so that the joists will fit and be level when installed. The log that is placed above the floor joists is usually not notched, but it can be to accommodate the log size. This method can be seen across the front of the Manor.

¹²⁵ Michael T. Gavin, "Nineteenth Century Hewn Log Architecture in Southern Middle Tennessee: An Artifactual Study" (Master's thesis, Middle Tennessee State University, 1995), 58-62.



Figure 9:
Second level
floor joists
revealing a
German-style of
notching.

The lower floors would have been constructed in the same manner as the upper floors with the exception of using larger beams to carry the larger loads. The tongue-and-groove flooring is a common way to tie the floor joists together and to brace the entire building.

From the exterior you can see sold planking on the eaves used to sheet the roof and, on the interior, there is also plank material used for the ceilings on the second floor. The roof is most likely stick-framed, but there is no way to tell whether or not a ridgepole was used, or if the gable is log or framed.

The front porch of the Manor was constructed during the early life of the building. In the 1875 photograph with Dr. William E. Davies, the porch is much like it is seen today. In the 1918 photograph (see p. 30 in "Family History" section) the porch looks like it is in disrepair. This is most likely due to the way it was built. The columns consisted of two shorter ones that held up the second-floor deck. Two more columns were added to hold up the porch cover. This created a weak point at the deck level. This is why the porch was removed sometime after 1918 and the columns were replaced with two solid columns that extended from the lower landing to the porch cover. The 1938 photograph of the Manor shows the two longer columns and a smaller deck coming off of the upper door (Figure 10).



Figure 10:
Manor House in
1938 shows
longer columns
and smaller
deck off upper
door.

There is no evidence to confirm that enslaved people helped in the construction of the log section of the Manor House, but it is highly likely that they did. In 1850, Joel Royster owned twenty-two slaves.¹²⁶ If he owned some of these people, or others, in the 1830s, the able-bodied would likely have done the hard labor of hewing and moving the logs, at a minimum. There also may have been an enslaved individual who had experience in building log homes and played a larger role in the construction process.

If the logs were allowed to sit for a season (this was required to dry them out), they would have been hewn a year prior to being built. Drying logs was a common practice among log builders, and considering how well the Davies Manor logs have held up and do not show severe signs of twisting or bowing, it can be assumed that they were dried. The enslaved men would have hewn the logs in the early summer and constructed the cabin the following summer. This would have spread out the laborious work of the build.

Additions to the Rear of Davies Manor

Flooring – The flooring in all of the additions is a six-inch tongue and groove. Much like Mose Frazier’s Cabin and the Commissary, the absence of nails confirms this. The use of tongue and groove is a sign that a subfloor was probably not used, and the flooring rests directly on the floor joists. The floor framing is likely constructed of milled, dimensional lumber throughout all of the additions. A close inspection of the features of the floor joists could give a better idea of the order in which the additions were built.

Walls – The exterior walls of the additions are covered in clapboard, also known as lap-siding. Each piece is approximately 6” wide with a 1” overlap allowing for a 5” reveal. The type of clapboard found on the Manor additions is a later version with a tapered, smoother look than earlier versions that were not tapered. The wood is most likely a type of cedar or southern pine that resists the elements much better than other woods.

¹²⁶ Information about five of these individuals is not legible in the census data. Of the 17 remaining individuals, seven were 7 years old or less and one was 70 years of age. The remaining nine individuals were between the ages of 55 and 18 years of age. Ancestry.com, J.W. Royster, 1850 U.S. Federal Census, Slave Schedules.

Earlier methods of ending the clapboard at the corners consisted of a board covering the siding. The Manor additions represent a later method where the ends of each board butt into a vertically placed corner trim.¹²⁷

Roof – The only roof framing that was available to view was over the kitchen. The roof is stick-framed with no ridge pole and is sheeted with ten-to-twelve-inch planks. It looks like headers and uprights were added about midway up the roof pitch to support the 2” x 4” rafters and were gusseted with ¾”-inch material.¹²⁸ The remaining roofs on the additions were most likely stick-framed as well. If there is any exception, it would be over the bathroom and the storage closet. It all depends on the builder, their experience, and the cost.

The roof of the Manor (log building and additions) is covered in asphalt shingles. The shingles are known as architectural shingles, which became widely available in the late twentieth century. They are much stronger and replaced the three-tab shingles that once dominated the market. The log cabin section of the Manor was likely covered in wood shingles when it was originally constructed. All of the roofs were most likely covered in three-tab shingles at one point.

Construction Chronology

Our analysis of the materials and methods of construction have confirmed everything known to date about the evolution of the Manor. There were no significant findings that would alter the timeline already set forth by the diligent work of the Davies Manor staff. The only questionable area remains when the single-pen was built and whether it was constructed prior to the addition of the dogtrot. I could not identify anything that would determine they were built at different times. The pegs by the upper window and the exterior logs do not show any conclusive evidence of two separate builds. This is further explained below. Most of the information supporting the known timeline is explained in the “Methods of Construction/Origins” section.

Original single-pen w/loft to the dogtrot -- Folklore states that the original single-pen log cabin, with loft, was built in 1807 by a Cherokee chief.¹²⁹ The builder of the original cabin cannot be determined through the materials or methods. What the materials do tell us is that it is most likely that the time between the construction of the original single-pen and the dogtrot are much closer than originally determined. The weathering of the logs on the exterior of the building do not show significant differences in their decay.

- There are no significant differences between the hewn logs on the west end of the building and the east end of the building other than there is more decay on the exposed corner on the west end and on some of the logs themselves. These logs, however, are higher and were probably added to extend the second floor at the same time the dogtrot was added. From what I can see on the east end, the decay is much less significant. This could have nothing to do with age and

¹²⁷Robert A. Young, PE, *Historic Preservation Technology: A Primer* (Wiley, 2008), pp. 177-178.

¹²⁸Kiln-dried stamps can be seen on the uprights, indicating this was done at a much later date.

¹²⁹“Davies Manor,” National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, March 19, 1975.

everything to do with which side of the house gets hit by the most weather. The color of the logs do not vary that much, and the adze marks are generally the same throughout the home. This could be a sign that the entire thing was built by the same person, probably Joel Royster.

- The only real significant difference between the two halves of the Manor House are the pegs on either side of the window in the boys' room. They were most likely used as some sort of shutters, but the only shutter example I could find on a cabin around this era is in the replica of Thomas Lincoln's cabin at Knob Creek. The pegs might have been used to hold the trim that held the shutters. They could have also been used to drape cloth from peg to peg, much like a curtain. In Lincoln's cabin, the pegs were used as a ladder to reach the loft. It would seem that if the pegs were used for shutters on the upper level, there would be some indication of shutters by the windows in the parlor.
- One way to determine any difference in construction dates between the east and west ends of the building would be to look for differences between the framing of the floors and the types of joists used on the bottom floors. Does the floor stop at the dogtrot or do the sill plates run through? Is there a significant difference between the methods of framing or the materials that are used? With the remodeling that has gone on, many of these joists may have already been replaced. However, because the joists are hidden, the workers would not have cared if they looked the same (as they did on the second-floor joists). You should also be able to determine whether or not the floor joists came from the same place or were made the same way.
- Another way to determine the age of the two halves is to have a dendrochronology test done on them. The University of Tennessee (Knoxville) Geography Department might be willing to visit to determine the different ages of the Manor's log pens. Dr. Dorian Burnette at the University of Memphis is another contact who may be considered for such testing.

Roof – The roof has seen several different styles over the years, beginning with wooden shakes and ending with the architectural shingles that are found on the Manor today.

- In the 1875 photo of the Manor House, wooden shakes can be seen on the roof. They were likely the shakes that were on the house since it was originally built.
- In the 1938 photo, the roof consists of new cascading asphalt shingles. This was significant considering that asphalt shingles did not become highly distributed until the mid-twentieth century.
- In the 1947 "Cotton Carnival" photo, the roof has been upgraded to three-tab shingles. The original three-tab shingles went through many trial phases, and it looks like the Davies Manor needed a new roof at this point.
- In the 1951 and 1960 photographs of the Manor, it looks as though the roof has been repaired with updated three-tab shingles.
- Today the roof consists of thicker architectural shingles.

Dining Room and Smokehouse – The attached building shown in the 1875 photograph of the Manor House is the dining room, believed to have been completed

before the Civil War (Figure 11). This formed the backside of the house until the early twentieth century, when a kitchen was added. The smaller addition to the side of the dining room also has what looks like a flue for a wood stove and may have been used as a smokehouse. It can also be seen in the 1918 photograph.



Figure 11: Chimney at end of dining room in 1875 photo.

Chimneys – There is no way to tell why softer brick was used on the east chimney. It could have been because a tree destroyed it when it cracked the rafter on the roof, but most likely they would have just replaced the damaged portion. It could also be because the chimney was built at a later date than the west chimney and bricks were being made softer at that time. In the 1951 photo of the Manor, you can see that there is some damage to the top of the chimney (Figure 12). This may not correlate with the time the tree fell on it, but it may indicate that the chimney was already in poor condition for some reason, and after the tree fell on it, they just rebuilt the entire thing.



Figure 12: 1951 Photo of Log House. Damage on east chimney.

Flooring – In the tongue-and-groove flooring there is evidence of both cut and wire nails. Wire nails became a normal trend by the second half of the nineteenth century,

but cut nails remained in use for years after. They were used to install subfloor and to attach wood to cement.¹³⁰ Both are commonly found in the Manor.

Additions – The extensive remodeling that has been done to the additions makes it almost impossible to date them any earlier than the latest remodel. From the exterior, the additions look as though they were built in the 1960s. The gable-end, low-pitch roof with wood lap siding and skirt board all resemble that era. The aluminum windows could be from the late 1930s or well into the 1970s, while the nine-pane, tall, narrow, windows have been in use for decades. We do know that the back porch was once screened in because you can see the east end of it in the 1938 photograph. In the attic above the kitchen, the uprights are also from the late 1950s/early 1960s, due to the kiln stamps that are on the boards. That is going off of some of the work done by Bernie Langston in the 1960s. Boards still have kiln stamps on them today.

Preservation Recommendations

Foundation – The foundation on the log portion of the Manor House is a priority. The metal adjustable posts used in a previous restoration attempt are sinking and beginning to lean (Figure 13). Metal adjustable posts are only supposed to be used in a permanent setting if they are sitting on a properly placed footing. The brick footings and concrete pads from previous renovations are cracking and are in urgent need of repair (Figure 14). There are a few different methods that can be used to place a modern, proper foundation under the home that should be decided by your budget and a professional contractor familiar with preserving historic log homes. The recommended methods would be to use concrete piers in place of the existing brick piers. To maintain an authentic and original appearance, brick veneer can be installed around the footings, or piers. However you proceed, a proper foundation will last for years, level out the building, and create an accessible workspace for future repairs on the logs and flooring of the Manor.



Figure 13: Settling and leaning metal adjustable posts.

¹³⁰Young, 56.



Figure 14:
Damaged
piers/footings in
need a work.

Floor and Sill Logs – Some of the sill logs are showing signs of decay and should be replaced or repaired if possible (Figure 15). Any of the decayed or termite-infested floor joists should also be replaced or repaired. The floor is already raised (and should remain raised), and the log portion is free of bushes and weeds that might obstruct ventilation. Tennessee has a moderate to high possibility of termite infestation, therefore precautions should be taken.¹³¹ The underside of the cabin and the porches should be sprayed regularly for termites (as recommended by an expert). The insects that are most concerning and can damage a log home are termites, carpenter ants, carpenter bees, and powder post beetles.



Figure 15: Sill logs in
need of repair or
replacement due to
decay.

¹³¹Harrison Goodall and Renee Friedman, *Log Structures: Preservation and Problem-Solving* (Nashville, TN: The American Association for State and Local History, 1980), 32.

Walls – The logs on the Manor are showing signs of decay and some are splitting (Figure 16). Depending on the decay of the split log, the entire log may not have to be replaced. Test the logs with an awl to determine the extent of the decay. If the awl goes in a half inch to an inch, then decay has begun, but it is not to the point of replacement. If you can push the awl in all of the way to the handle the log should be replaced. For logs where decay has begun, there are specific epoxy resins that can be used to fortify the log and make it last longer. There are also preventative preservatives that can be used on logs that will extend their life.¹³² Any nails that have been left in the logs should be removed and the holes should be filled with some type of daubing (Figure 17). Nails that are left in the logs draw water in and the metal can speed the erosion process. Cracks and splits should also be filled with a type of daubing to keep water from settling inside the log. The gaps behind the corner trim should be sprayed to deter bugs from nesting there, or they should be removed and replaced to fit tighter (Figure 18).



Figure 16: Split and decayed logs on the exposed northwest corner.

¹³²Ibid, 66-68.



Figure 17: Remove nails from existing logs on the exterior of the building.



Figure 18: Fill in large gaps to reduce decay on the corners of the house.

Chinking – The chinking should be checked out by a qualified individual experienced in log restoration and preservation (Figure 19). Improper daubing will collect moisture and speed up the decaying process. There are also places that are missing the filler and daubing, which should be repaired as soon as possible. There are several mixtures that can be used, but you should consult a professional experienced in log restoration to determine the right mixture to use. Fill cracks and splits if it is not determined that they are beyond repair.



Figure 19: Check for proper use of daubing and fill areas where daubing is missing with proper materials.

Roof – The exterior of the roof looks like it is in good condition. Without seeing the underside of the roof, it is hard to estimate its preservation needs. Treat the rafters the same way that you would treat any other wood on the building. Test them for decay visually and with an awl and replace where necessary. Make sure that the roof is sealed enough to keep rodents and bats out, but adequate ventilation remains. There are gable-end vents on both ends of the Manor and two roof vents on the back side of the building that will help ventilate the attic. Ventilation is not only important to keep the materials moisture-free, but it is also very important in maintaining the life of the asphalt shingles. If the attic gets too hot, it will shorten the life of the shingles by causing them to curl or by loosening the gravel. If you see colored pebbles from the roof around the base of the house, it most likely means that your attic is too hot. The shingles on the roof look like they are in good shape and should last several more years. Also, make sure that the screens in the vents are not torn or missing. If they are, replace or repair. Fill the gaps in the siding to keep insects from nesting.

Front Porch – The flooring is actually a 6” tongue-and-groove paneling with one side smooth and the other side with a v-groove down the middle. It is designed for walls and is probably similar to the materials used on the kitchen walls. It should be replaced with a hardwood that that will last much longer (Figure 20). Repair and caulk where the column meets the deck and touch up with paint (Figure 21). The siding and the handrail look to be in good condition. Touch up any chipped paint and caulk any gaps where water can get trapped in between the pieces of wood.



Figure 20: Gaps from expansion and contraction due to improper material.



Figure 21: Decay at the base of post due to improper caulking and floor movement.

Additions

Foundation – The foundation under the additions to the rear look to be mostly brick. The bathroom addition has a solid brick foundation along its east and north side. The rest of the addition, including the kitchen extension, has brick piers and is open. The brick piers need some mortar repair and should be checked for integrity (Figure 22). The underside of the additions should be treated in the same manner as the main house. They should be repaired or replaced with concrete piers and footings if you find that they are settling. The underside of the floor should also be checked and sprayed to deter bug infestation.



Figure 22: Broken brick and missing mortar on pier.

Exterior Walls – The exterior walls of the additions consist of a lower skirt board, lap siding, and a shadow board just below the eave. The siding looks to be in pretty good condition, with the exception of a few spots on the skirt board (Figure 23 & 24). The outer shell of the additions should be checked for erosion and the materials should be replaced if they cannot be repaired. All of the butt joints (against the windows and the outside corners) should be checked for dried or missing caulking. Loose caulking should be removed and then the gap should be caulked. Caulking should never be applied over loose or dried old caulking.



Figure 23: Water damage on skirt board on kitchen extension.



Figure 24: Water damage on skirt board on bathroom addition.

Rooves – The rooves on the additions look to be in good shape. The kitchen roof is vented, but in my photographs, I cannot tell if the bathroom addition is vented or not. The only one I am really concerned about is the last addition on the east side where the storage closet and bathroom is. That could use a vent if it does not have one. The rest of the rooves on the additions are small enough and located on the north side so there is little to worry about. Make sure that the vent covers, or boots, are properly tarred to keep out water. The most important area to keep track of is where the rooves contact the logs on the cabin. Make sure that the flashing is tarred and that there are no gaps in that area. If you notice water leaking inside the building, make it a priority to have someone get on the roof to repair the area.

The Main House and Additions

Doors and Windows – The doors and windows seems to be sealed off very well in the building. Check for any missing caulking or gaps that may need to be touched up. Make sure that the doors are operable and keep track of the doors beginning to scrape on the floor (Figure 25). This is either an easily fixed loose hinge or it could be the first sign that

the building is settling. The door in the kitchen is rubbing on the floor and it should be looked at.



Figure 25: Door into the kitchen. Marks on floor could indicate building movement or door sag.

Interior Air Quality and Control -- The most complicated and technical issues related to the proper preservation of Davies Manor and the artifacts within it are controlling the air flow, humidity levels, and temperature. New homes are built like a bubble. The interior is wrapped in a vapor barrier that blocks the penetration of air requiring an air exchanger to circulate outside and inside air. The Manor naturally breathes through its walls, windows, and roof. In historic buildings, “the greater the difference between the interior and exterior temperature and humidity levels, the greater the potential for damage.”¹³³ In a historic building like the Manor House, it is best to keep things as natural as possible. The storm windows are a great choice in the retention of internal temperature, and they can be opened to circulate natural airflow during moderate temperatures.¹³⁴ If the windows are not operable, it would be a good idea to get a couple of them in working order to circulate the natural air. Several of the windows do have air conditioners and could be used to push air through the building. There is nothing to be concerned about if you turn on the air conditioners for tours. It just would not be recommended to keep them on at all times unless you are trying to maintain a temperature of 75 degrees or below.

Humidity Levels -- One of the key elements in lengthening the life of the home and the artifacts is keeping tabs on the humidity levels within the home. For smaller historic buildings with added air systems, it is suggested to use dehumidifiers.¹³⁵ This is still a complicated issue because specific artifacts require different levels of humidity for optimum preservation. It is also suggested that most artifacts do well with colder weather. This contradicts the use of air conditioning in the hot summer months due to the extreme differences in interior and exterior temperatures. Keeping the humidity

¹³³U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, *Preservation Brief 24: Heating, Ventilating, and Cooling Historic Buildings—Problems and Recommended Approaches* <https://www.nps.gov/tps/how-to-preserve/briefs/24-heat-vent-cool.htm#climate> (accessed Oct. 1, 2021).

¹³⁴Ibid.

¹³⁵Ibid.

levels between 45% and 55% relative humidity is a more realistic goal, but if you can get it even lower it would be better. What you really want to watch out for is not to let the humidity exceed 75%. According to Stefan Michalski, Senior Conservation Scientist at the Canadian Conservation Institute, 75% relative humidity is when mold begins to grow.¹³⁶

Gutters – One recommendation that is sometimes not popular with preservationists, but solves a major problem in historic buildings, is the addition of gutters and downspouts on the building. One of the biggest issues is that the lower two feet of a historic building tends to rot out first. This is from backsplash. The exterior walls are designed to shed water that flows downward. Backsplash from the water running off of the roof splashes at an upward angle and gets into the places that materials are not designed or built to protect. Normal rainfall does not create the type of backsplash that is created during a nice, long rain or a downpour of collected water flowing off of the roof. The benefit of the Manor House having white trim is that white 5” gutters could be installed, and the downspouts could follow the corner trim. The water could then be directed away from the building. A gutter would greatly benefit the Manor House and extend the lifespan of the sill logs and skirt boards.

Brickwork – The brickwork on the chimneys and steps needs some repair. The east chimney and the north chimney are showing signs of mildew and should be cleaned with a light detergent and a brush (Figure 26). A few bricks on the west chimney are damaged and there is some minor mortar work to be done as well (Figure 27). It is not recommended to clean brick with a pressure washer. The pressure strips the exterior coating from the brick, allowing it to become more susceptible to the elements.

¹³⁶Stefan Michalski, *Relative Humidity and Temperature Guidelines* <http://www.musecc.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/Relative-Humidity-and-Temperature-Guidelines.pdf> (accessed Nov. 24, 2020).



Figure 26: Mold and stains on north chimney.



Figure 27: Damaged brick that needs to be repaired on the west chimney.

Vegetation – Davies Manor is generally free of any tall grasses, bushes, or trees that may harm the buildings. It is well maintained. The only area of concern is underneath the additions to the back of the Manor. Because of the low clearance under the bathroom addition, keep the grass really short around the foundation. If grasses are growing underneath any of the buildings, cut them down or spray a weed killer to eliminate them (Figure 28). This will allow the best air flow below the building, and it will allow you to see if there are any animals making a home in the floor joists. Make sure that the bush in the center is trimmed and does not get too big, and keep the plants on the west side of the kitchen away from the building to allow the best air flow as well (it is hard to tell from the photos how close they are to the building) (Figure 29). If any plants

are added in the future, just remember to keep them a couple feet away from the buildings.



Figure 28: Keep grasses trimmed around and under additions.



Figure 29: Trim grass/garden away from ell. Keep bush trimmed to allow airflow.

COMMISSARY



Figure 1: West elevation (front) of the Commissary Building.

Introduction

Prior to emancipation, commissaries were most often found on the largest of southern plantations. They were used as a way to account for food, clothing, and equipment needed for the enslaved.¹³⁷ After the Civil War, commissaries spread to smaller plantations and became places for sharecroppers to purchase goods such as food, medical supplies, items needed for crops, and equipment.¹³⁸

In Ellen Davies Rodgers's 1943 diary, she mentions visiting the commissary for the sharecroppers to purchase lard, confirming the use of a commissary at Davies Manor in the first half of the twentieth century. The materials and methods of construction suggest that the current building was being so used at the time Davies Rodgers logged her daily activities.

¹³⁷Joseph R. Razek, "Accounting on the Old Plantation: A Study of the Financial Records of an Antebellum Louisiana Sugar Planter," *The Accounting Historians Journal* 12, no. 1 (Spring 1985), pp. 17-36.

¹³⁸Encyclopedia of Alabama, <http://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/m-6234> (accessed Oct. 1, 2021).

Description

Situated southeast of the Manor House, the Commissary is a traditional vernacular rural commercial structure with a rolled metal roof, rectangular footprint, and side shed addition (Figures 1-6). The front-gabled structure with board and batten siding has a three-bay, one-pen façade with two three-beside-three casement windows flanking an off-set door with a single window covered by a pedimented porch with raw log supports. It is currently situated on a mixture of cinderblock and masonry pier foundation.



Figure 2: Both cinderblocks and masonry, as well as stone, appear on or near the foundation. In some cases, they may be discards from previous foundation repairs.



Figure 3: The north and west elevations lack windows. The east elevation, which is the rear of the structure, contains a small door with a single fixed window.



Figure 4: The open shed roof on the south elevation has exposed rafters and raw log supports.



Figure 5: The Store Room is located toward the front of the building (one of two rooms in the Commissary).



Figure 6: The Storage Room is located in the rear of the building (one of two rooms in the Commissary).

Methods of Construction/Origins

There are still unanswered questions regarding the Commissary's origin. The current building may have been originally used to house sharecroppers/tenants, or it could have been used as a commissary as far back as the early twentieth century. An undated photograph shows the building in its present location, probably in the 1960s (Figure 7).¹³⁹



Figure 7: Photo of the Commissary (on right), probably in the 1960s.

Looking at the materials and methods of construction, it is likely that the Commissary and Mose Frazier's Cabin were built at about the same time. The methods

¹³⁹Conversation with Andrew Ross, Executive Director of Davies Manor. The building may have been used as a commissary or as both a commissary and the living quarters of the individual who was responsible for running it.

used to build both buildings are the same, and the materials used to construct them are also the same, with the exception of the floors. The Commissary looks like it has dimensional lumber for its floor joists, while Mose Frazier's Cabin has logs. The framing of the exterior walls is the same. In Frazier's Cabin you can see where the corner bracing was removed and in the Commissary it still remains. This is most likely how Frazier's Cabin was originally built.

First, it could be argued that because of the use of dimensional lumber in the flooring of the Commissary, it was built after Mose Frazier's Cabin. However, that is the only difference between the two buildings. Second, this difference could have everything to do with what the building was going to be used for and/or who would be using it. If the Commissary were intended to be a commissary from the beginning, the builder may have spent a little more money on the flooring to make sure it could carry the load of all of the materials that would be resting on it.

However it is looked at, it is safe to say that both buildings were constructed in the mid-twentieth century. All of the materials used to construct them were widely available at the time, and both building trends were very common. Since we were unable to see the framing of the floor in the Commissary, it would be good to keep a note to identify what materials it is made from when the piers and footing are replaced.

Floor/Ceiling – Due to narrow clearance, it is not possible to see below the floor of the commissary without more specialized equipment. One of the exposed outer sills suggests that the floor is constructed of milled, dimensional lumber (Figure 8). There are a few reasons that this might have been done, which are noted in the previous section. The absence of nails on the floor suggest that it is a single layer, tongue-and-groove flooring made from a type of southern pine.



Figure 8: Exposed outer sill showing use of milled, dimensional lumber.

Walls (Interior) - The interior walls of the Commissary are built using milled, dimensional lumber and are constructed using a method called “platform framing.” Platform framing is a type of framing that became popular in the early twentieth century. The wall is framed using top and bottom plates and then rests on the floor (platform).¹⁴⁰ The corners have 4” x 4” posts and the top plates are 4” x 6”. The wall studs (uprights) have been placed around the doors and windows and stand 7 to 8 feet tall. In between the uprights, two horizontal boards connect the upright studs, dividing the cavities into thirds. This allows for easier nailing of the vertical interior and exterior wall coverings. The nails used to join the studs were wire nails that also became easily accessible by the early twentieth century.¹⁴¹ The larger room in the front has a horizontal tongue-and-groove covering as a wainscoting about three feet up the wall (possibly bead board) (Figure 9). The remaining wall is covered in the same material vertically. The ceiling in the front room is also covered in the same material. The back room has exposed studs, and the ceiling is not covered, exposing the roof framing.



Figure 9: Photo showing horizontal wainscoting and vertical application of wall covering.

Walls (Exterior) – The exterior walls are covered using what is called a board-n-batten method. Board-n-batten was a very common and inexpensive way to protect the interior from the elements. It consists of planking of various widths vertically attached to the framed wall (Figure 10). In order to attach the planks vertically, there must be something to nail the planks to that falls between the studs. This why there is a row of boards running horizontally up the walls on the inside (Figure 11). The thinner boards were then placed over the gaps between the larger planks.

¹⁴⁰Young, *Historic Preservation Technology*, 56.

¹⁴¹Ibid.



Figure 10: Beadboard siding.



Figure 11: Horizontal framing used to attach exterior covering.

Roof – The roof is constructed using a stick-frame method that was standard practice prior to the development of manufactured trusses (Figure 12). There are many different categories of stick-framing and even more methods specific to regions and traditions. The Commissary is stick-framed without using a ridge beam. Generally, stick-framing means that the rafter is individually placed by the builder using a single piece of lumber. The roof on the commissary uses milled dimensional Commissary lumber (approximately 2" x 6"). Rough-cut purlins are then added perpendicularly to the roof for strength, bracing, and to attach the covering to. The purlins used on Mose Frazier's Cabin are planks at various widths. The original roof on the Commissary was most likely corrugated steel that came in 18" to 20" widths.



Figure 12: Stick-framing of roof as seen from the storage room.

Doors and Windows – The only windows in the Commissary are on the front of the building, located on either side of the door. The windows are built in, have six panes, and are most likely the same type of windows that would have been used when the Commissary was in operation. The windows have large interior shutters that can be locked (Figure 13). It is unknown whether or not this was an original practice of securing the building after hours. It would have made sense that during its use, the Commissary would have been locked up at night, or even occupied by someone living in the back room or close by. There are three doors in the Commissary: a front door, a door dividing the front and back rooms, and a rear door. All of the doors look to be mostly original. The front and rear doors have a half-lite (half glass) in them and the middle door is solid.

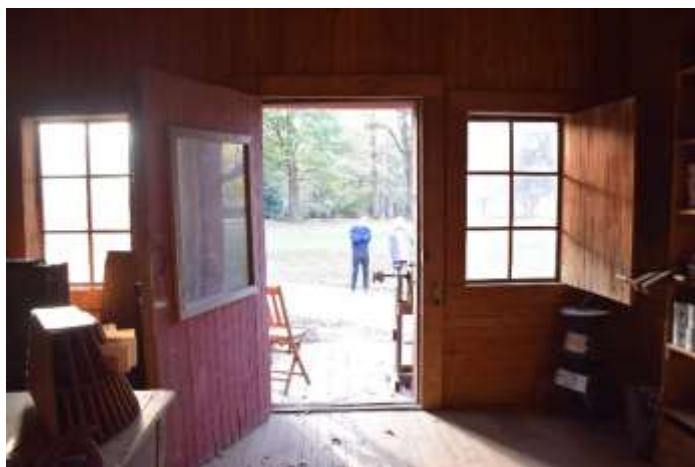


Figure 13: Front windows and lockable shutters. Half-lite, hand-made front door.

Front Porch and Lean-to – The front porch on the Commissary is probably the newest part of the building. It is built using 2" x 4" rafters and 1" x 4" purlins. The purlins on the main building are rough cut and are probably original. The lean-to has also been updated due to the use of modern milled lumber (Figure 14). Joist hangers were also

used to either shore up loose rafters or add strength to new rafters when it was repaired. The front deck looks as though it was placed there as a temporary replacement. It is built with 2" x 6" joists and what looks like modern decking. A way to differentiate between original (or older) dimensional lumber is to measure the boards. Newer lumber will be about a half inch short on both sides (2" x 4" = 1 1/2" x 3 1/2"). Older lumber will measure the actual sizes (2" x 4" = 2" x 4").



Figure 14: Updated porch cover framed with nominal lumber.

Preservation Recommendations

Foundation – The foundation of the building consists of limestone and/or concrete blocks of various sizes and shapes acting as piers. Many of the piers are too short or have settled into the ground because they have been placed on the bare soil (Figure 15). Erosion and the weight of the building have caused the building to settle. Piers should consist of limestone or adequately placed 8" x 16" cinder blocks. Each corner pier should be 16" x 16" squared and sit on a concrete footing placed 12" below the surface (state recommendations for footings/frost line). This repair should be completed prior to any other work on the building. It would be recommended to raise the Commissary a minimum of 12" above the ground (16" would even be better). This would allow for easier inspection and maintenance of the floor joists and underside of the building. It would also provide better air circulation under the building, improve access to remove debris, and slow decay from water backsplash off of the roof (Figure 16).



Figure 15: Insufficiently sized piers that have settled. Rotting of exterior covering due to close distance to the ground and backsplash from roof run-off.

Figure 16: Settling piers, debris under building, and rotted exterior covering.



Exterior Walls – The exterior walls have extensive decay on the lower portions due to rain backsplash and being so close to the ground, and should be repaired (Figures 15 & 16). It would be best to make these repairs after the building has been raised. Because the building was painted and the exterior covering cannot be seen from the inside (in the large room), slightly treated materials could be used to replace the decayed boards. Once the treated materials have fully dried (usually a year), they can be painted, and you will not be able to distinguish the old from the new. Prior to painting, caulking should be placed around the trim on the exterior windows and doors to keep water out. This will also not be noticeable after it is painted. Add batten and replace decayed boards under the porch cover where needed and on the rear of the building (Figures 17 & 18).



Figure 17: Missing batten under front porch and decay from possible leak where porch cover meets the gable-end wall.



Figure 18: Missing batten on rear of building.

Interior – Repair exterior doors so that they close properly and apply sweeps to the interior of the doors to keep out rodents and dust from gathering on exhibits. Check for mold in areas that show signs of water damage and on materials in the building (Figure 19). Moisture and humidity can cause mold to develop anywhere that circulation is poor. Add screen to one window or to a door to allow for venting. It is also recommended that a roof vent be added to allow heat to escape. Roof vents designed for metal roofs look the same as the current roof and are slightly raised with a hidden screen to allow heat to exit.



Figure 19: Moisture damage on ceiling. Check for leaks and confirm that mold is not growing above area showing signs of water damage.

MOSE FRAZIER'S CABIN



Introduction

Mose Frazier, Jr., was a long-time employee of the Davies family. He began working as a sharecropper in Mississippi on land owned by Dr. Julius Augustus “Gus” Davies. Mose also assisted Gus in his archaeological digs and over time became a trusted employee. After Gus’s death in 1924, Mose moved to the Davies Manor plantation, where he lived with members of his family in a tenant house located near to where Hillwood now stands. Mose lost his home to a fire in 1941 and moved into the cabin that now bears his name. Mose resided in this cabin until the mid-1960s when he left to live with his daughter, Annie Mae Frazier Blackwell Myles, in Memphis. Mose passed away in 1969 and is buried at Morning Grove Cemetery.¹⁴²

Description

Mose Frazier’s Cabin is an example of a traditional southern sharecropper or tenant farmer house of the early twentieth century. Situated to the east of the Manor

¹⁴²The information in this brief introduction was taken from the display on the Mose Frazier Cabin that was written by an unknown Davies Manor associate and an interview by Davies staff with Mose Frazier’s daughter and granddaughter in 2017. “Interview with Annie Mae (transcription),” Aug. 25, 2017, DMA Archives.

House along the historic plantation road and oriented to the south, it has a single-pen, asymmetrical, single-bay façade and is built of platform frame construction with board-and-batten siding. The roofline is gabled, covered in rolled metal sheeting, and the cabin has a rear shed addition. On the east façade, there is a narrow exterior chimney made from a combination of cinderblock and masonry situated on the shed addition and a narrow four-square-over-one fixed sash window. On the west façade, there are two four-beside-four fixed sash windows and a larger masonry exterior gable chimney. The rear, or north, elevation has an asymmetrical single-bay façade with a five-panel wooden door, the bottom two panels of which have been replaced with Plexiglas. It is situated on a foundation of cinderblock piers. The interior contains two rooms – a front room in the gabled section of the house with loft above, and a smaller room in the shed-roofed section. The front room includes a solid masonry fireplace, corresponding to the larger chimney on the west elevation, and a stove in the backroom is connected to the smaller external chimney.

Methods of Construction

Floor/Ceiling – The floor joists are made from approximately 6” logs spaced about 24” apart. The logs have only been sawn on one side to accommodate for the flooring. This is known as the puncheon method that is commonly used in building log cabins. Six-inch planking rests on the logs, acting as a subfloor (Figure 1). The floor in Mose Frazier’s Cabin is a double-layered floor. The planking acts as the sub-floor, but may have been the original floor. The second layer is a 3” to 4” tongue-and-groove hardwood flooring. The absence of nails, other than on the ends of some of the boards, confirms this method (Figure 2). The ceiling in the front room has been covered with varying sizes of planking. The rear room does not have a finished ceiling, allowing for the rafters to be exposed.



Figure 1: Puncheon floor and subfloor. Figure 2: Tongue-and-groove flooring.

Walls (Interior) - The interior walls of Mose Frazier’s Cabin are built using milled, dimensional lumber and are constructed using a method called “platform framing.” Platform framing is a type of framing that became popular in the early twentieth century. The wall is framed using top and bottom plates and then rests on the floor or subfloor

(platform).¹⁴³ The wall studs are approximately 24" on center and stand 7 to 8 feet tall. The nails used to join the studs were wire nails that also became easily accessible in the early twentieth century.¹⁴⁴ There is evidence of corner bracing that has been removed in all four corners of the front room. Remnants of newspapers within the cavities between the studs suggests that they might have been used as a form of insulation. The amount of nail holes on the studs and the way the interior corners were framed (to create a place to nail something to) suggests that there may have been an interior coating on the walls (Figure 3).



Figure 3: Platform framing and wall construction.

Walls (Exterior) – The exterior walls are covered using what is called a board-n-batten method. Board-n-batten was a very common and inexpensive way to protect the interior from the elements. It consists of planking of various widths vertically attached to the framed wall. In order to attach the planks vertically, there must be something to nail the planks to that fall between the studs. This is why there is a row of boards running horizontally about mid-way up the walls on the inside. The thinner boards were then placed over the gaps between the larger planks. However, the board-n-batten has not

¹⁴³Young, *Historic Preservation Technology*, 56.

¹⁴⁴Ibid.

always been the exterior covering on Mose's Cabin, as a fairly recent photograph shows (Figure 4).



Figure 4: Asphalt siding on Mose's Cabin, late 1990s.

Asphalt siding came in rolls that were about 24" wide. They were applied from the bottom up and acted like a pliable clapboard siding. Photos from our field visit revealed this siding protruding from behind both of the chimneys. Originally, it was thought that this was some form of fire blocking. The existence of remains of this siding behind the brickwork suggests that it was used prior to the addition of the trim around the windows and the application of the thin strips of batten. Site administrators confirm that alterations were done on the cabin between the late 1990s and 2006 in an effort to give the structure a more historic look (Figure 5).



Figure 5: Asphalt siding behind flue chimney on Mose Frazier's House.

Roof – The roof is constructed using a stick-frame method that was standard practice prior to the development of manufactured trusses. There are many different categories of stick-framing and even more methods specific to regions and traditions. Generally, stick-framing means that the rafter is individually placed by the builder using a single piece of lumber. The roof on Mose Frazier’s Cabin uses milled dimensional lumber (approximately 2” x 6”). Purlins are then added perpendicularly to the roof for strength, bracing, and to attach the covering to. The purlins used on the cabin are planks at various widths. The original roof on the cabin was most likely corrugated steel that came in 18” to 20” widths. The photograph that shows the rolled siding on the exterior walls also shows the corrugated roofing.

Doors and Windows – The front door and the door in the dividing wall look as though they are pre-hung doors. Pre-hung doors did not become common until the mid-twentieth century so it is likely that the original doors were replaced. There is significant damage to the floor below the rear door and it looks like the door slab is screwed directly to the wall as a temporary fix (Figure 6). The windows also look like they were built in place. There are no signs of tracks or wear on the window jambs, which would suggest operable double- or single-hung windows. They were most likely some sort of fixed picture window or a fixed window with panes. There was a screen door on the front door that can be seen in the photograph with the rolled siding.



Figure 6: View of the rear door and the damaged floor.

Porch – The front porch is framed using 6” dimensional lumber for the floor joists and 6” planks for the floor surface (Figure 7). The porch roof is stick-framed in the same manner as the main house.



Figure 7: Milled, dimensional lumber used on the front porch.

Preservation Recommendations

Foundation – The foundation of the building consists of limestone and/or concrete blocks of various sizes and shapes acting as piers. Many of the piers are leaning because they have been placed on the bare soil (Figures 8 and 9). Erosion and the weight of the building have caused the building to shift. Piers should consist of limestone or adequately placed 8" x 16" cinder blocks. Each corner pier should be 16" x 16" squared and sit on a concrete footing placed 12" below the surface (state recommendations for footings/frost line). This repair should be completed prior to any other work on the building.



Figure 8: Leaning corner block.



Figure 9: Ill-purposed smaller blocks.

Floor Joists/Sill – The floor joists are constructed of approximately 6” logs, possibly southern yellow pine, that are grooved out on the ends to rest on the support beams. The support beams rest on the piers discussed in the previous section. The floor joists are constructed in that same fashion as a log cabin. The logs on the outer edge of the floor are known as “sills” in log cabin construction and are the most susceptible to erosion (Figure 10). The sills and the floor joists of Mose’s Cabin have succumbed to extensive erosion and termite infestation over the years. Damaged logs should be replaced with logs of similar size and species (Figure 11).



Figure 10:
Grooved-out end of
the log framing and
signs of decay.



Figure 11: Logs
have become
damaged due
to termite
infestation and
decay and
should be
replaced.

Chimneys/Brickwork – The larger fireplace chimney located on the west side of the house and the smaller one acting as the stove flue need minor repair. Both chimneys have bricks that are weathered and showing signs of erosion, and both need some mortar repair (Figures 12 and 13). The smaller chimney should be checked for stability. The interior brickwork on the fireplace looks very good. As further addressed, it is imperative that someone checks for a footing under both chimneys and replace when able to. A footing will stabilize the heavy brickwork and reduce the cost of future repairs. There is an odd hump on the roof against the chimney of the fireplace. It could be from years of flashing that was not removed prior to replacing the roof or it could be from the house settling. If it is from the house settling, it is good news and it means that there is most likely a footing under that portion of the chimney. One way to tell is to look up in the attic and see if any of the framing is being pulled apart.



Figure 12: Fireplace chimney showing signs of mortar repair.



Figure 13: Flue chimney for stove showing signs of mortar repair and stabilization.

Exterior Walls – The exterior walls are board-n-batten; however, there is evidence of tar paper around the stove flue that would suggest at one time the building was covered in rolled asphalt siding, as discussed earlier. There is extensive damage on the lower portions of the boards and several split boards that need to be repaired (Figure 14). Damaged boards should be replaced with a similar species of wood or a lightly treated wood. Two approaches could be taken in preserving the exterior of the cabin: preserving the current board-n-batten look, or the rolled asphalt siding look. Reapplying the siding would eliminate the need to treat the exterior of the house with paint or some type of protective coating. If you stay with the current look, you will need to address this issue.



Figure 14: Damage to the lower portions of the exterior walls. If rolled roofing is added, the batten should be removed.

Roof – The roof consists of corrugated steel, which, in some form, was most likely the original roofing that was used. Rafters should be checked for any splits, cracks, or deterioration and replaced if needed. Some of the rafters have significant moisture damage and should be checked for rot (purlins should also be replaced if broken or rotting). Extensive moisture damage or rot can be checked using an awl or a moisture gauge (Figure 15). The corrugated roofing is very rough-looking, and there are many other parts and pieces that could be added to make it look better, but it would really take away from the original look of the building. I would suggest that special attention be put into making sure that there are no leaks until you reach a point where the roof becomes a central focus, like making sure items inside do not get wet. The lean of the porch roof should fix itself once the foundation and front deck are repaired and leveled out (Figure 16).



Figure 15: Roof joists and purlins should be replaced if broken or rotted.



Figure 16: Leaning front porch cover should be leveled out once the foundation is fixed and the lower deck is repaired.

Doors and Windows – The key to keeping moisture at bay is having plenty of air circulation in the building. The damage to the floor should be repaired and the back door replaced with a proper working door. Adding screen doors to the front and back doors and opening them on a regular basis will significantly reduce humidity inside the building. The windows will have to be custom-built, inoperable windows. They would have likely had four to six panes of glass. Another way to help with circulation is to add a small vent to the gable ends. Depending on what you decide to do with the exterior, you could make it blend in. This would allow some of the heat to escape when the building is closed up.

From a cost perspective:

- It is likely that a footing exists under the fireplace, but if no footing exists, the chimney will have to be disassembled and reassembled to be stabilized. A professional bricklayer with experience working on historic buildings should be employed to perform the work. The foundation would include a minimum of a 4" wide concrete footing under the brickwork at a minimum of 12" below the surface (frost line), increasing the cost dramatically. Leveling out the main structure without doing this work will lead to future damage, but it can also be done separately from the work on the main structure with limited issues, as funding is available.
- The windows could be made to look as though they are paned. It would save some money in the long run, and it might be something that could be done temporarily while you focus on more important issues.
- A decision to replace rotted materials or preserve them for as long as possible will determine the cost of the restoration project.
- There is a lot of work that needs to be done on Mose Frazier's Cabin. The way the walls are built, you would either have to add blocks to nail to if you were to cut off the decayed board at the bottom (maybe 12" up) and just replace that.

Otherwise, you would have to replace the decayed planks halfway up the wall. By the time you repair/replace the purlins, parts of the floor, the planking on the walls, and the decayed studs you run into along the way, you will have replaced over 1/3 of the building. One thing to think about, especially if you want to keep artifacts in there and create an exhibit, is to build a replica next to it and let the original stand as long as it lasts. You could level it up and do minimal work on it to keep it safe until you had to lock the doors.

GOTTEN CABIN



Figure 1: West-facing façade. Photo by Andrew Ross.

Introduction

The Gotten Cabin embodied the vision of a relaxing summer home for Nicholas and Mary Gotten. In 1946, Dr. Nicholas Gotten returned home to Memphis after serving in the United States Navy. Nicholas and Mary envisioned a log cabin to spend their summers in and set out to find a home to suit their needs. Unable to find their ideal home, they placed ads in surrounding newspapers looking for abandoned cabins so as to collect and repurpose their logs. According to the *Germantown News*, the logs came from two cabins: most came from a log cabin built in the 1830s in Pottscamp, Mississippi, and the rest came from a log cabin in Bells, Tennessee, built in the 1840s. The Gottens hired Drew Williams from Byhalia, Mississippi, who came highly recommended for his experience in log construction. By the summer of 1948, Williams had completed the cabin.¹⁴⁵

¹⁴⁵Beverly Booth, "Log House Goes to Libertyland," *Germantown News*, June 24, 1976.

The Gottens not only repurposed the logs, they also acquired a split-rail fence from Middle Tennessee and fireplace mantels were said to have been taken from a farmhouse that was once owned by Andrew Jackson on Columbia Pike outside of Nashville. After years of summer use, the cabin was rented, but not properly taken care of, and it was vandalized on several occasions. In 1976, the Gottens decided that the house would be better off at the Libertyland amusement park, where it was restored and used as a craft shop and a display place for Mrs. Gotten's antique collection.

Description

The Gotten Cabin is built in a classic 1.5-story, three-bay façade, dogtrot style. Having come from first-generation log construction, the logs are rough-hewn and of varying sizes with square corner notching. The lower level consists of two pens separated by a dogtrot with double barn doors containing four-pane windows. The three bays of the upper level are double casement windows. A wood-railed porch of log construction runs the length of the façade. The original foundation, which was probably stacked limestone or sandstone, has been replaced by modern concrete block. The Gotten Cabin has a low-gabled metal roof with exterior masonry chimneys at either end flanked by six-beside-six double casement windows. The rear, or east, elevation is similar to the front, or west, façade, except that the southernmost bay is a two-paneled wooden door sheltered by an off-set stoop with no steps, and a 1/3 length porch extrudes from the dogtrot opening. The windows on the upper level of the west façade are six-beside-six double casement windows. The northernmost pen of the west façade contains no bay on the upper level and double barn doors on the lower, with no steps for access. The house sits approximately one foot off the ground. The four windows of the north elevation are of the six-beside-six double casement style except for a single fixed sash on the lower west portion.

The upstairs consists of two larger rooms on either end of the building and a smaller room over the dogtrot. A common feature found in the Gotten Cabin is the shorter walls on the second floor. The exterior walls are known as rake walls, having an average height of four to six feet. The dogtrot contains a single, steep, L-shaped staircase located toward the front of the building. It is somewhat unique because in most dogtrots, the stairs will be located in one, or both, of the lower rooms. The location of the staircase in the Gotten Cabin is more commonly seen in Central Hall and I-House buildings.

The windows in the Gotten Cabin would have most likely been screened in, considering that the entire porch was originally screened in as well. The photograph in the *Germantown News* shows that the north end of the porch had full log walls and the south end had a log addition that was used for the kitchen. All of these were most likely removed in order to relocate the cabin to Libertyland.¹⁴⁶ The article also states that there was a living room, dining room, bedroom, kitchen, and bath on the first floor. The full log walls at the north end of the porch could have been the bathroom. The larger,

¹⁴⁶Ibid.

southernmost pen was most likely the bedroom because it had a fireplace. The window in the northwest corner of the building looks like it was reduced in size.

Methods of Construction/Origins

The Gotten Cabin is an example of first-generation log construction. First generation, associated with early settlers, construction was crude and involved less shaping of the logs. Second-generation log structures consisted of more thoroughly shaped logs and wood floors. The builders were more skilled, and it showed through their methods and precise cuts. Jordan states that this is the period in which the log homes constructed in Midland America were first identified as *homes*, and not *cabins*, as the first generation described them. Considering that the Gotten Cabin was constructed in the mid-1940s, using logs from at least two buildings constructed in the 1830s and '40s, Drew Williams had to build the cabin using the notching that already existed. This would then be considered an adaptive first-generation approach to building.

The logs on the Gotten Cabin were shaped using a method that is commonly found in Midland American log construction. Each log is hewn on two sides (inside and outside) to a thickness of six to eight inches, depending on the size of the logs. The top and bottom of the logs were debarked but left in their natural form. This is what Jordan describes as *planking*. Logs were scored or chalked creating a straight line on each side of the log that marked the depth of the cut. A standard ax was first used to cut V-grooves to the depth of the line. Then a foot adze would be used to remove the excess material and create a flat surface. The cut marks on the Gotten Cabin logs are from the use of the foot adze.¹⁴⁷

The Gotten Cabin is built using *Chink Construction*, the method of building walls with logs and leaving a gap between each log. It simplifies the build by allowing for discrepancies and adjustments as the walls are erected. Later, the spacing, or chinks, will be filled with board slats and a chinking mixture, or daubing. To achieve chink construction the corner notching must allow for spacing between logs. Corner notching can be accomplished through a variety of ways. The Gotten Cabin represents square notching. Square notching is the crudest form of notching in log construction. It is mostly found as a traditional style of notching along the Gulf Coastal Plain.¹⁴⁸ Square notching likely originated in Central Sweden, but is found in Fenno-Scandian regions as well as German-Slavic Borderland regions.¹⁴⁹

The use of square notching in Midland America is less likely a traditional method and more likely one of adaptability and convenience. Square notching is the easiest form of corner notching and was often used by those with less experience who were building a quick shelter or simply building their first log home. Many of the cabins with square notching come apart at the corners. To combat this, pins were often drilled into

¹⁴⁷Jordan, *American Log Buildings*, 15-17.

¹⁴⁸*Ibid*, 20.

¹⁴⁹*Ibid*, 147.

the notches to hold them together. This is most likely what Drew Williams did when he constructed the Gotten Cabin. As an experienced builder, Williams had to utilize everything he could in order to keep the logs at full length. This included using the notches. It is very likely that Williams pinned the corners to keep them in place. It is not likely that the Gotten Cabin would have held together through the move and the restorations had the corners not been pinned.

A couple of other distinguishing features found on the Gotten Cabin are the notches used to splice shorter logs together and set the second-level floor joists. The half-notch is almost entirely Midland American and is rarely seen in Europe. This is most likely due to the experience of the builders because the half-notch is mostly used for adjustments. Half-notches were joined by pinning the two logs together. In the case of the Gotten Cabin, Williams used the half-notch to join two shorter logs together. He most likely did this due to his limited supply of logs. Half-notches can be found on the southwest corner, the back wall, and on the interior wall at the top of the stairs. The methods used to set the floor joist on the second floor are distinctive and reveal the use of a Scottish-Irish style where the joists are placed on the flat log and only notched to accommodate for leveling out the floor. The log placed above the joists is then notched to stabilize the joists and create a tight fit.¹⁵⁰

When Williams built the roof, he used a common Midland American ridgepole and purlin technique. The logs are built up to the peak where a ridgepole would rest and span to the second peak. Milled, dimensional lumber was then used as rafters and attached to the ridgepole. The bottom part of the rafter rested on the outer wall using what is called a seat-cut. The seat-cut allows the remaining portion of the rafter to extend beyond the outer wall, creating an eave. In the mid-1940s, when the Gotten Cabin was built, it was most likely that the purlins were much closer together than they are today in order to properly apply the shakes or asphalt shingles. The steel that is currently on the Gotten Cabin does not require purlins to be close together.

Preservation Recommendations

Foundation – The foundation of the Gotten Cabin looks to be in good condition. It is most likely that footings do not exist under the foundation blocks. Eventually, footings should be placed under the blocks consisting of a minimum of 12” deep and 2” to 4” wider than the blocks. There are signs of sagging, or settling piers, that could become a serious problem and should be looked at by a professional. If this is not an optical illusion, it should become a priority (Figure 2).

¹⁵⁰ Gavin, “Nineteenth Century Hewn Log Architecture in Southern Middle Tennessee,” 58-62.



Figure 2: Settling logs on the north wall of the southern room. Possible sign of settling or weakened foundation.

Floor – The underside of the main floor is already raised significantly, and the cabin is free of bushes and weeds that might obstruct ventilation. Remove loose leaves and debris from under the cabin (Figure 3). Leaves and debris can increase moisture in the soil, which will cause the piers to settle at a faster rate, and can create a home for invasive insects. Replace any weakened boards due to decay or damage from insects (Figure 4). Tennessee has a moderate- to-high possibility of termite infestation, therefore precautions should be taken.¹⁵¹ The underside of the cabin and the porches should be sprayed regularly for termites (as recommended by an expert) (Figure 5). The insects that are most concerning and can damage a log home are termites, carpenter ants, carpenter bees, and powder post beetles.



Figure 3: Rotted rim board and loose leaves under front porch.

¹⁵¹Goodall and Friedman, *Log Structures*, 32.



Figure 4: Deteriorated board and loose materials under floor.



Figure 5: Loose leaves and materials under floor should be removed to reduce moisture and decrease the likelihood of invasive species.

Walls – The logs on the Gotten Cabin are showing signs of decay and mold, and some are splitting (Figures 6 & 7). Depending on the decay of a split log, the entire log may not have to be replaced. Test the logs with an awl to determine the extent of the decay. If the awl goes in a half inch to an inch, then decay has begun, but it is not to the point of replacement. If you can push the awl in all of the way to the handle the log should be replaced. For logs where decay has begun, there are specific epoxy resins that can be used to fortify the log and make it last longer. There are also preventative preservatives that can be used on logs that will extend their life.¹⁵² Several logs along the lower part of the wall, as well as the bricks on the chimney, on the north end are covered in mold and should be replaced according to preservation standards (Figure 8).¹⁵³ The milled,

¹⁵²Ibid, 66-68.

¹⁵³National Park Service, "The Preservation and Repair of Historic Log Buildings," *Preservation Briefs* <https://www.nps.gov/tps/how-to-preserve/briefs/26-log-buildings.htm#treatments> (accessed Oct. 1, 2021).

dimensional lumber used to build the porches, and the piers, are also showing signs of mold.



Figure 6: Decaying logs around windows and split logs at corners.



Figure 7: Mold around dimensional lumber on back porch.



Figure 8: Mold on lower portion of north wall and angles of brickwork on chimney.

Chinking – Some of the chinking looks like it might have been done with standard mortar. This should be checked out by a qualified individual experienced in log restoration and preservation. If not mixed and applied properly, daubing will collect moisture and speed up the decaying process. There are also places that are missing daubing and should be filled as soon as possible (Figure 9). There are several mixtures that can be used, but you should consult a professional experienced in log restoration and preservation.



Figure 9: Missing daubing on east side by back double doors.

Roof – The exterior of the roof looks like it is in good condition. Try to keep leaves and debris from piling up on the roof. It can lead to moisture issues and premature deterioration of the roof and the areas where the roof and walls come onto contact with each other. Some of the rafters have already been replaced. Treat the rafters the same way that you would treat any other wood on the building. Test them for decay visually, and with an awl, and replace where necessary. Make sure that the roof is sealed enough to keep rodents and bats out, but there is still adequate ventilation. Other than a few signs of mold that should be taken care of, the rafters and ridgepole look pretty solid. However, they should still be looked at to eliminate anything that might have been missed during our field visit (Figure 10). Check the seal where the porch roof meets the front wall (and any other areas similar to this) for proper sealant. Water can seep down behind that area and sit, which will create decay on the exterior of the log.



Figure 10: Some rafters have been replaced. Mold is minimal, but a better inspection should take place. Look for decaying boards that may have been missed.

Windows and Doors – Repair windows so they fully open and close (Figures 11 & 12). They do not have to work perfectly, just so they will keep driving rain from entering the cabin. Install screens in a few of the windows to allow for heat to escape and air to circulate. This is especially important on the second floor because of the vaulted ceilings and the absence of a ridge vent. Extreme heat, poor circulation, and humidity can cause dry rot. The more air flow, the longer the building will last. Repair inoperable doors and make sure that the doors leading to nowhere (the rear doors) remain locked for safety reasons. Apply wood screen doors on a few of the doors to increase circulation in the lower rooms. If a screen door is added to the single door in the rear, apply 2" x 4" horizontal rails for safety. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations require a rail on the deck, one placed at 21" high and another at 42" high. Make sure that the bracing on the older double doors in the rear is solid, and if they are not going to be replaced, make sure they are sealed well enough to keep water from entering the building (Figure 13).



Figure 11: Inoperable window on the south gable. Repair windows so they will fully close.



Figure 12: Inoperable window on the west side of building. Add screens for ventilation.



Figure 13: If doors will not be in use, make sure they are sealed to keep out rain and that they are properly secured to prevent any injuries.

From a cost perspective:

- Other than the foundation, which really should be looked at, the most inexpensive things that can be done to maintain the Gotten Cabin are keeping the crawlspace free and clear of debris, ventilating the second floor, and removing the mold (especially from the brick and logs).

LIBERTY CABIN



Figure 1: North façade of Liberty Cabin.

Introduction

The Davies Manor historic site is home to a unique example of log construction known as the Liberty Cabin. Its origins are still unknown, but it is believed to have been constructed somewhere in Middle Tennessee. Because of its unique style, the Liberty Cabin has been moved several times in order to keep it from being destroyed. Prior to arriving at Davies Manor, the Liberty Cabin spent several years in Pioneer Village at Libertyland in Memphis. In December 2006, the cabin was moved to its permanent home at Davies Manor, where it is currently being studied and restored.¹⁵⁴

Description

¹⁵⁴Information was collected from conversations and e-mails with Andrew Ross and an article in the Memphis *Commercial Appeal* (unknown author), published January 18, 2017, <https://www.commercialappeal.com/picture-gallery/news/local/2017/01/18/libertyland-1976-2005/96710934/> (accessed Oct. 1, 2021).

The Liberty Cabin is an unusual example of a single-bay, gable-ended, offset double pen with loft and a rolled-metal roof. The north façade has a single entry door with a shed-roofed porch (Figure 1). The porch has square, milled-wood supports and two-by-four railings, approached by three wooden steps. The south façade has a similar bay, but the steps have been removed (Figure 2). The gables are covered in board and batten, with a single floating wooden door on the upper level of the east elevation accessible only by a ladder (Figure 3). The structure lacks any indication of windows, interior walls, or chimneys, but it is difficult to know how much the structure has been altered from its original form because its history has been obscured by its multiple moves.



Figure 2:
Entryway of
south
façade.

The Liberty Cabin has been placed on a modern cinderblock pier foundation (Figure 3). The logs are rough-hewn with half-dovetail notching and what appears to be Portland cement in place of traditional daubing, although there is chinking visible on the interior (Figure 4).



Figure 3: East façade
showing upper-story
and board-and-batten
gable siding. South
entryway to far left in
background.



Figure 4: Interior of Liberty Cabin showing daubing and chinking methods.

There is no ghosting evidence on the exterior of the cabin that would indicate a chimney, and there is also no evidence in the interior of the building that would suggest a hole cut out for a flue. The floor is from the 2006 move from Libertyland, and there has been extensive repair on the loft floor, as can be seen by the color of the planks. All of these adaptations would have removed any evidence of a chimney flue. If there was a wood-burning stove in the cabin, the evidence could have easily been covered up during one of the moves as well. However, floor joist placement suggests there may not have been a flue originally. Further investigation is needed.

The original components that remain in the Liberty Cabin are its shell. The floor, porches, and likely the roof, were added when it was moved to Davies Manor.¹⁵⁵ Without access to the loft, it is undetermined whether or not the roof is original, but considering that the home was taken apart and moved several times, it is likely that at least a portion of the roof framing has been replaced. There still might be evidence of a heat source in the loft that has not been identified.

Methods of Construction/Origins

The Liberty Cabin is what Terry G. Jordan considers to be an example of second-generation log construction.¹⁵⁶ From a builder's perspective, it would have been much easier to build the cabin as a standard single pen. The half-dovetail corner notches suggest that the builder was experienced and by creating the offset, the builder doubled the notching and work required to build a simple single pen. It would have also been less work to run a solid wall between the two halves and add a door. If the cabin was built intentionally as an offset double pen, then there must have been a reason for it.

¹⁵⁵ The Memphis *Commercial Appeal* of January 18, 2017, shows a photograph of a worker breaking out the concrete floor of the cabin prior to it being moved to Davies Manor.

¹⁵⁶Jordan, *American Log Buildings*, 14-15.

The Liberty Cabin could have been built as a sharecropper/tenant house and occupied by two related, but separate, families. It is unlikely that the landlord would have gone out of his way by creating extra work to construct this type of home for a sharecropper/tenant; therefore, it may have been built by the sharecroppers/tenants themselves. The absence of windows is not significant enough to form any suggestions. It was common to eliminate windows due to the cost of glass and the loss of heat during the colder months of the year.

The Liberty Cabin is an example of a common type of shaping that was found in the region. It was hewn on two sides (inside and outside) to a thickness of four-to-eight inches, leaving the top and the bottom of the logs in their natural form. This is what Jordan describes as *planking*. It is built using *Chink Construction*, the method of building walls with logs and leaving a gap between each log (Figure 4). To achieve chink construction the corner notching must allow for spacing between logs. Corner notching can be accomplished through a variety of ways. The Liberty Cabin represents the half-dovetail method. Half-dovetail notching originated in Silesia or Moravia, but is also associated as an American form of notching. It is occasionally found in the German-Slavic Borderland region but is not common in other parts of Europe.¹⁵⁷ Half-dovetail notching is very common in Middle Tennessee, where it is believed that the Liberty Cabin originated.¹⁵⁸

The logs extending from the corners of the building are known as *tongues* or *crown ends*. This method has no definite origin, nor is it a specific style. It is found among houses and barns randomly throughout Europe and the United States. The tongues/crown ends do not serve any purpose, but do increase the likelihood of the logs succumbing to decay. The use of half-dovetail notches suggests that the builder was experienced in log construction, which should be taken into consideration when interpreting the building.

A couple of distinguishing features found on the Liberty Cabin are the notching used for the ceiling joists in the loft and the gable-end construction (Figure 5). Michael Gavin identifies this method of constructing the ceiling joists as a German style of notching.¹⁵⁹ The log that the ceiling joists will rest in is notched out so that the joists will fit and be level when installed. The log that is placed above the floor joists is usually not notched, but it can be to accommodate the log size. The gable ends are constructed using a common board-and-batten method found in Midland American roof construction, where the boards run perpendicular to the horizontal logs. This method, as opposed to the horizontal logs continuing up to the peak of the roof, is derived from a German-Slavic Borderland tradition (Figure 6).¹⁶⁰

¹⁵⁷Ibid, 147.

¹⁵⁸ John B. Rehder, *Tennessee Log Buildings: A Folk Tradition* (Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 2012), 136.

¹⁵⁹ Gavin, "Nineteenth Century Hewn Log Architecture in Southern Middle Tennessee," 58-62.

¹⁶⁰Jordan, 147.



Figure 5: Loft joists seen from the exterior of the building.



Figure 6: Board-and-batten gable end.

Preservation Recommendations

Foundation – The foundation of the Liberty Cabin looks to be in good condition. It is most likely that footings do not exist under the foundation blocks. Eventually, footings should be placed under the blocks consisting of a minimum of 12” deep and 2” to 4” wider than the blocks. This is not something of great concern at the moment, but you should keep an eye on the cabin for movement/settling and place footings when it becomes a problem. Some other things to keep an eye on are doors that will no longer close or open, chinking that needs to be replaced due to cracking, roof sagging, and porches separating from the cabin. Another early warning sign is noticing that the floor is squeaking more.

Floor – The floor is already raised significantly, and the cabin is free of bushes and weeds that might obstruct ventilation. Tennessee has a moderate-to-high possibility of termite infestation, therefore precautions should be taken.¹⁶¹ The underside of the cabin and the porches should be sprayed regularly for termites (as recommended by an

¹⁶¹Goodall and Friedman, *Log Structures*, 32.

expert). The insects that are most concerning and can damage a log home are termites, carpenter ants, carpenter bees, and powder post beetles.

Walls – The logs on the Liberty Cabin are showing signs of decay, and some are splitting. This is causing one of the logs to rotate out of its notch, pulling on the logs above and below it (Figures 7 & 8). The corresponding log that is allowing the other to slide out should be replaced. Depending on the decay of the split log, the entire log may not have to be replaced. Test the logs with an awl to determine the extent of the decay. If the awl goes in a half inch to an inch, then decay has begun, but it is not to the point of replacement. If you can push the awl in all of the way to the handle the log should be replaced. For logs where decay has begun, there are specific epoxy resins that can be used to fortify the log and make it last longer. There are also preventative preservatives that can be used on logs that will extend their life.¹⁶²



Figure 7: Broken notch causing log to twist out of place.



Figure 8: Decayed ends of logs.

Chinking – Some of the chinking looks like it might have been done with standard mortar. This should be checked out by a qualified individual experienced in log restoration and preservation. Mortar will collect moisture and speed up the decaying process. There are also places that are missing daubing and should be filled as soon as

¹⁶²Ibid, 66-68.

possible. There are several mixtures that can be used, but you should consult a professional experienced in log restoration and preservation (Figure 9).



Figure 9:
Missing and
possibly the
wrong type of
daubing.

Roof – The exterior of the roof looks like it is in good condition. The only thing I would have any concern about is how the eave tends to drop on the right side (Figure 10). This could be an optical illusion, or a sign of structural damage and should be examined closely. Without seeing the underside of the roof, it is hard to estimate its preservation needs. Treat the rafters the same way that you would treat any other wood on the building. Test them for decay visually and with an awl and replace where necessary. Make sure that the roof is sealed enough to keep rodents and bats out, but there is still adequate ventilation. Above one of the porches, one of the boards to block between the rafters is falling off (Figure 11). Screens are a good way to keep rodents out while allowing ventilation. There are two vents in the loft floor to allow the heat to rise, but there are no vents in the roof. Some of the heat will escape through the ridge cap and the small gaps. A ridge vent would be beneficial in allowing hot air to escape. Extreme heat, poor circulation, and humidity can cause dry rot. The more air flow, the longer the building will last.



Figure 10: Roof that is dropping on the right side.



Figure 11: Plywood used to fill the spaces between the rafters is falling, creating access to the loft.

From a cost perspective:

- Testing for moisture and decay could be done by Davies Manor staff. This would allow you to prioritize specific needs and base some of your decisions off of the results.
- The Liberty Cabin is probably the one building that needs or requires the least amount of work because a good portion of it is newer. Temporarily plugging up some of the holes in the chinking will buy some time while you consider other options. You will have to keep a close eye on the log that is twisting out.
- It would also save money to place a coat of a recommended wood preservative on the cabin or resin epoxy where/if needed to slow down or stabilize the weak areas of the building.

A Note on Collections

The Davies Manor Association (DMA) has a collection of about 1,000 objects. Most are in the Manor House, which is not climate-controlled. Education director Katrina Hansen has been loading the collection onto PastPerfect. There is also a large archival collection of paper and photographic items, as well as a quilt collection, stored in the office/rental building, which is climate-controlled. Assistant director Nancy McDonough is in charge of the quilt collection.

The DMA is in the process of assessing the object and archival collections and upgrading the care that they receive. With respect to the archives, the association is exploring whether to keep the family papers and images on site or to partner with another institution for housing these materials.

Due to the pandemic, the Center for Historic Preservation staff had limited time to visit the site and assess the objects or archival collections. Based on our use of the archival collections both on site and remotely, we have the following comments and recommendations:

- The Davies Manor Association Archives contain a wealth of documentation about the Davies family, slavery, nineteenth- and twentieth-century Shelby County, agriculture, women's leadership, historic preservation, and historic site administration.
- Whether to place the collection at another institution is a question for serious inquiry and consultation with archival professionals and other historic site managers who have followed a similar path, in order to gain deeper insight and recommendations regarding such a decision. Staff at the Archives Development Program at the Tennessee State Library and Archives (<https://sos.tn.gov/products/tsla/archives-development-program>) and the Tennessee Association of Museums (<https://tnmuseums.org/>) should also be consulted for advice.
- Even if the DMA decides to retain its archival materials on site, it could increase their visibility and accessibility by working with regional or university archival professionals to develop and distribute finding aids for the public.
- The DMA has made significant progress with respect to digitization of its archival materials, and if a plan is not already in place for ongoing digitization, and for providing access to digital materials, then one should be developed.

- With respect to digitized material, the DMA may want to invest in some kind of publicly accessible cloud storage so that the collections could be used by other researchers.
- Some of the archival materials need to be rehoused to prevent damage. The paper materials and photos are stored in archival boxes. However, some boxes are too full (see, for example, the “Day Book/Memoranda Box”), and their contents need to be redistributed.
- Materials housed in the administrative office should be reviewed to determine if they should be rehoused in the archives. A standard rule is that if materials are at least five years old and are inactive, then they should be archived.
- **Going forward, all brochures, guidebooks, booklets, and handouts related to the site should be dated as this will help future staff and researchers to better understand the history of Davies Manor Plantation as a historic site.

Appendix A: West Tennessee Land Transactions: A Brief Overview

In order to grasp the history of the land now occupied by Davies Manor Plantation, it is helpful to have a general understanding of the drama surrounding western lands in Tennessee from early in the nineteenth century to its midpoint. By the time the State of Tennessee secured rights to the lands west of the Tennessee River in a treaty with the Chickasaw in 1818, a complicated system of awarding land to settlers had already created numerous problems. The North Carolina Military Reservation, which contained the Cumberland Settlements of upper Middle Tennessee, had been used to award tracts in what later became West Tennessee to Revolutionary War soldiers as bounty for their service, but many of them never settled on their lands. In the years between 1783 and 1847, the United States Congress and the states passed a series of legislative acts regarding the disposition of land in what is now Tennessee, leading to jurisdictional overlap and title disputes.

Confusion about which entities had the power to award which lands gave rise to opportunists in the form of land speculators, some of whom held powerful positions in the state and federal governments. Moving west was no easy task, and many former soldiers who were owed land were unable or unwilling to make the trek to locate a land warrant, and instead chose to sell their bounty. Speculators, who often hired land agents to make the journey for them, took advantage of the situation, and some accumulated massive acreage in the western territory. Additionally, in an act of 1790 ceding remaining transmontane (over-mountain) North Carolina lands (see Figure 1) to Congress, thereby creating the Southwest Territory, the University of North Carolina had been awarded ownership of all escheat lands awarded in grants to soldiers who died without heirs.¹ Adding to the confusion, despite the fact that no treaty had yet been drawn to provide clear title to the lands of West Tennessee, the government of North Carolina refused to recognize claims to the land by the Chickasaw (who had no known permanent

¹ Thomas B. Jones, "The Public Lands of Tennessee," *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* 27 no. 1 (Spring 1968): 27.

settlements in the area by the early nineteenth century) and continued to issue military grants in the section.²



Figure 1: 1897 map showing boundaries of various land cessions. The gray-shaded area including Nashville was the North Carolina military reservation lands laid off from lands ceded by the Cherokee in the Treaty of Hopewell, 1785. The remainder of Tennessee lands west of the Appalachians comprising the “Southwest Territory” were ceded in the Treaty of Holston (1791), the First and Second Treaties of Tellico (1798 and 1805), the Treaty of Washington (1806), and, finally, the Chickasaw Purchase or Jackson Purchase (1818), shown on the map in orange and labeled with the number 100.

An 1806 compact gave Tennessee power over the lands west of the Tennessee River and along the southern border of the state, outside of lands set aside from the Southwest Territory as a Congressional Reservation, but the land was not yet open to white settlement because the federal government still recognized the hunting rights of the Chickasaw. With the final cession of Chickasaw territory in 1818, West Tennessee officially opened to legal white

² Ibid, 17. See also Andrea L. Smalley, “‘They Steal our Deer and Land:’ Contested Hunting Ground in the Trans-Appalachian West,” *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* 114, no. 3-4 (Summer/Autumn 2016): 303-339, for discussion of the discrepancy between Anglo and Native understanding of property.

settlement, adding urgency to the need to solve the land distribution problem. Congress granted Tennessee the power to perfect titles within the Congressional Reservation and Chickasaw lands, but North Carolina continued to lay claim to Tennessee lands.³

In the years leading up to the cession of 1818, a number of squatters had taken possession of public lands not claimed by holders of military warrants. In order to clarify titles to the land and ease its administration, the state divided the land into new surveyor districts, numbering 7-13, with Shelby County falling into the 11th Surveyors District. The land was further subdivided for description into “ranges” (East-West) and “sections” (North-South). A land office was established at the Fourth Chickasaw Bluff, which soon became Memphis. Squatters were given the opportunity to register 160 acres of land under occupancy acts passed by the Tennessee General Assembly. In 1826, the acreage awarded to occupants was raised to 200. Congress finally passed a legislative act in 1841 recognizing these preemption rights, giving occupants the first option to buy, and making Tennessee the land agent for the federal government, granting it power to dispose of public lands within its bounds. In an act passed in 1845, occupants were given until July 1, 1849, to lay legal claim to their lands for 12½ cents per acre. An act of November 1847 extended the deadline to September 1. An occupant would file an entry with the land office, have the survey verified, and then receive title to the land.⁴ It was under the provisions of the latter act that Logan E. Davies entered his claim for the first 200 acres of land he acquired in Shelby County in 1849 (Figure 2).

³ Jones, 24.

⁴ Ibid, 23-24.

Entry 572 105

State of Tenn being Logan to Davis by Virtue of our Act of the Genl Assembly
 Shelby County of said State passed on 24th 1847. Contain 200 acres of Land
 in range 5 Section 3 of the town with Surveyors extracts. said County. Beginning
 at the S.W. Corner of Spring No. 287 for 640 acres in the name of Thos Henderson
 thence South 40 poles thence East 70 poles thence North 120 poles to the S.E. Corner
 of Entry No. 298 in the name of Wm Griffin for 34 acres thence N 66° W 46 poles to
 S.W. Corner of said 34 acre tract, thence North 130 poles to the N.W. Corner of said
 34 acre Entry thence East 46 poles to John Denton line thence South 48 poles
 to said Denton S.W. Corner thence West 103 poles to the S.W. Corner of Col. Bolton
 100 acre tract, thence South 157 poles to the S.W. Corner of said Bolton's tract, then
 East 119 poles, looks beginning 17 August 1849 Logan to Davis Secutor

Figure 2: Logan Early Davies 1849 occupant entry, Shelby County Entry Book 1, p 105.

The U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Preservation

The Standards will be applied taking into consideration the economic and technical feasibility of each project.

1. A property will be used as it was historically, or be given a new use that maximizes the retention of distinctive materials, features, spaces and spatial relationships. Where a treatment and use have not been identified, a property will be protected and, if necessary, stabilized until additional work may be undertaken.
2. The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The replacement of intact or repairable historic materials or alteration of features, spaces and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.
3. Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place and use. Work needed to stabilize, consolidate and conserve existing historic materials and features will be physically and visually compatible, identifiable upon close inspection and properly documented for future research.
4. Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.
5. Distinctive materials, features, finishes and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.
6. The existing condition of historic features will be evaluated to determine the appropriate level of intervention needed. Where the severity of deterioration requires repair or limited replacement of a distinctive feature, the new material will match the old in composition, design, color and texture.
7. Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.
8. Archeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.

[MTSU Center for Historic Preservation Note:

See <https://www.nps.gov/tps/standards.htm> for additional standards and guidelines related to restoration, rehabilitation, reconstruction, and sustainability.]

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee
COUNTY: Shelby
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE: MAR 19 1975

1. NAME

COMMON: Davies Manor
AND/OR HISTORIC:

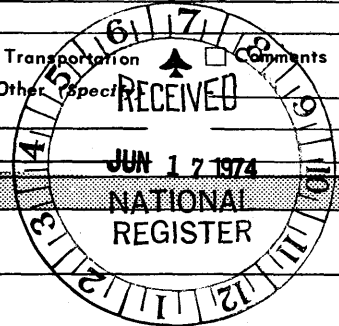
2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 9336 Davies Plantation Road (Brunswick)
CITY OR TOWN: Memphis
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Seventh
STATE: Tennessee
CODE: 47
COUNTY: Shelby
CODE: 157

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One): Building
OWNERSHIP: Private
STATUS: Occupied
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC: Restricted

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate): Agricultural, Private Residence, Museum



4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Ellen Davies (Mrs. Hillman P.) Rodgers
STREET AND NUMBER: 9140 Davies Plantation Road (Brunswick)
CITY OR TOWN: Memphis
STATE: Tennessee
CODE: 47

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Shelby County Register's Office
STREET AND NUMBER: Courthouse
CITY OR TOWN: Memphis
STATE: Tennessee
CODE: 47

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey
DATE OF SURVEY: 1972
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress
CITY OR TOWN: Washington
STATE: D. C.
CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Tennessee
COUNTY: Shelby
FOR NPS USE ONLY:
ENTRY NUMBER: MAR 19 1975
DATE:

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(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

Davies Manor is a two-story house, built of hand hewn white oak logs on a foundation of sandstone. Tradition states that the west portion of the house, consisting of the present parlor with a bedroom above, with 20-foot square dimensions, was built about 1807 by an Indian chief. Nearby is a mound which revealed a collection of Indian artifacts when excavated by Dr. Julius Augustus Davies about 1890. An Indian trail led through the grove of trees in front of the house, much of which remains visible. This trail became an artery of travel for horse-drawn vehicles traveling to and from the Old Stage Road to Sulphur Wells (Brunswick) and to other communities. Parts of the trail later became the present Davies Plantation Road.

Before 1846 Joel W. Royster had acquired the log house and surrounding acreage. He added an identical east wing with a connecting dogtrot, an ell porch, dining room, and kitchen. The winding stairways in the east and west sections of the house are unique features. In 1931 the dogtrot was enclosed as a hallway under the existing upstairs hall. Subsequently, a pediment with two square posts was added. In recent years an addition has been made to the rear of the house.

In the 1850's Logan Early Davies bought the property from Mr. Royster. He and a younger brother, James Baxter Davies, became joint owners and accumulated a total of 1,200 acres, the original Davies Plantation. The property continues to be owned and occupied by their descendants.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Tennessee	
COUNTY Shelby	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 10 1975

(Number all entries)

7.

At the time of the enclosing of the dogtrot in 1931, wood siding was applied over the logs of the house, with the exception of the front elevation. At that time also the windows were reworked and the sidelights added. The original chimneys were destroyed by a storm in the 1930's, at which time the existing chimneys were built.

The area was at one time Indian hunting grounds, and a Chickasaw trail crossed the grounds.



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **ca. 1807**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Davies Manor, named for Zachariah Davies, a Revolutionary War soldier from Lunenburg County, Virginia, is considered to be the oldest house in Shelby County. It is significant as a good architectural example of the type of homes built by early settlers in West Tennessee, and is one of very few of that early period to remain.

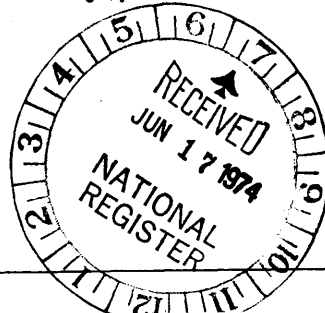
The house has long been a center for various types of public meetings. The first art exhibit ever held in a home in Shelby County outside Memphis was held at Davies Manor in 1944, and featured the paintings of Laura Yates Burnett. It has been featured on many pilgrimages, and is the regular meeting place of the Zachariah Davies Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution and Old Stage Road Society of the Children of the American Revolution.

The owner of Davies Manor is active in literary circles, having written numerous books and articles. She is also active politically, having served as the first woman delegate from Shelby County to the Tennessee State Constitutional Convention.

Davies Manor was the birthplace of two doctors of medicine, Dr. Julius Augustus Davies and Dr. William Little Davies. During the saddlebag days, Dr. W. L. Davies made his home at Davies Manor. There he dispensed medicine and performed minor emergency operations. The house was for a long period of time a veritable hospital to the sick of an area twenty miles from Memphis' medical facilities.

Davies Manor is also important as an aboriginal site, since an Indian Mound nearby yielded numerous artifacts when it was excavated in the 1890's, and since an Indian trail led through the grounds.

Importance in many areas of significance is possessed by Davies Manor, a landmark of the area that has been carefully preserved for over a century and a half.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Folmsbee, Stanley J., Robert E. Corlew, and Enoch L. Mitchell,
History of Tennessee (New York, 1960).
 Memphis Commercial Appeal Magazine, July 25, 1965.
 Memphis Press-Scimitar, October 23, 1953.
The Volunteer Gardner, official Publication, 1950.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

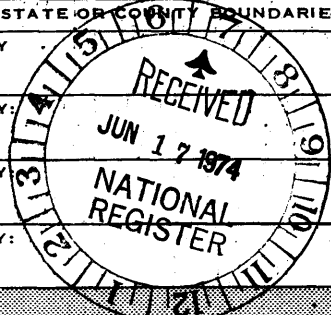
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		35° 13' 14"	89° 45' 05"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

16/249600
 3900760
 CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **7 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Ellen Davies Rodgers**

ORGANIZATION: **Shelby County Historian** DATE: **3/29/74**

STREET AND NUMBER: **9140 Davies Plantation Road**

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

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: Lawrence C. Henry
 Lawrence C. Henry
 Executive Director
 Title: Tennessee Historical Commission

Date: 6/6/74

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

A. R. Winters
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 3/19/75

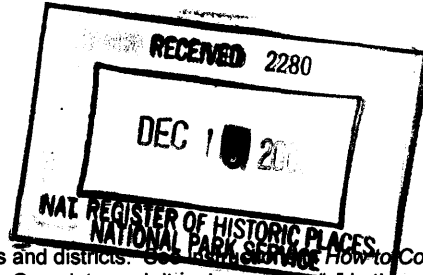
ATTEST:

Charles Henry
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 3-18-75

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Davies Manor

other names/site number Henderson-Royster-Davies Homestead

2. Location

street & number 9336 Davies Plantation Road

NA not for publication

city or town Memphis

NA vicinity

state Tennessee

code TN

county Shelby

code 157

zip code 38134

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Herbert E. Hays

12/7/05

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register.

other,

(explain:)

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
--------------	-----------------	--

3	1	buildings
		sites
1		structures
		objects
4	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: log

Colonial Revival details

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls Log, weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

other Wood, brick

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations N/A

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** moved from its original location.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

Circa 1821-1938

Significant Dates

NA

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # TN-183
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Davies Manor Association

Davies Manor
Name of Property

Shelby County, Tennessee
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 7 acres Ellendale

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>16</u>	<u>249600</u>	<u>3900760</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Judith Johnson
organization Judith Johnson and Associates date March 2005
street & number 176 Windover Cove #1 telephone 910/324-461838111
city or town Memphis state TN zip code

Additional Documentation

submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 Or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Davies Manor Association
street & number 9336 Davies Plantation Road telephone 901/386-0715
city or town Memphis state TN zip code 38134

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Davies Manor (additional documentation)
Shelby County, Tennessee

Description

Davies Manor is a local example of an uncommon two-story log house. Constructed in phases beginning in the early nineteenth century, the house has been a single pen log building, dog trot plan residence, and finally, the current log and frame configuration, dating from the 1930s. It is located in a rapidly developing area of the city that was originally known as Brunswick, Shelby County, Tennessee. It is surrounded by outbuildings of various ages.

The National Register boundary is approximately seven acres, although the current legal boundary is thirty-two acres. A pair of brick piers and a long gravel alley leading up to the house marks the entrance to the property. The house site rises to the east. The landscape is notable for its native hardwoods.

The two-story, rectangular, log, center-hall plan house with rear frame ell and shed additions has an asphalt shingle gable roof and masonry chimneys on the gable ends. The plain projecting eave roof has a box cornice and weatherboard gables. The log house foundation is non-native sandstone and the remainder of the house is set on brick piers. Constructed beginning circa 1821, the log building is yellow poplar pine. It began as a one and one-half-story, single-pen (room) with sleeping loft currently located on the west side of the house. The outer dimensions of both pens are 19 x 19 feet and the interiors measure 18 x 18 feet. To keep out the weather, the square hewn logs were originally chinked with clay and later with soft mix concrete. The structural support is provided by the square notched corners.

The more precisely squared, 6 ½" hewn east section of the log building was added circa 1831-7. The five-foot half-story on the west side was expanded to a full second story in height. The addition changed the configuration to an uncommon two-story dogtrot plan. Probably the exterior end masonry chimneys were constructed at that time and the second story center hall was enclosed. A paneled wood door with hand made wood pegs opened onto a full second story porch.

The three-bay facade fenestration contains two, three-part, double-hung, nine-over-nine light, rectangular windows between single-light sashes on both the first and second stories. These slightly larger windows were installed during the 1938 renovation, replacing similar ones that dated to the 1830s. A nine-light double hung window on the east side of the interior hall (former dog trot) is the only original circa 1830 window that remains. Augered round holes are found by the doorways and the windows of the west side, which were used to install the original doors and windows in the solid log wall.

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Davies Manor (additional documentation)
Shelby County, Tennessee

Rear additions include a one-story, frame construction, weatherboard ell on the west side that served as a dining room and was added between circa, 1854 and circa 1860. The walls are random width weatherboard with a stained wainscoting.

The dogtrot was enclosed as a frame center-hall circa 1931. The original center, two-story portico with gable roof and box columns was retained. The porch stoop was lowered and the bottom of the box columns was extended with brick piers and a brick walk was laid. The original second story porch was removed and replaced with a tiny balcony with a block balustrade. The circa 1931 entrance is a six panel wood entry with partial sidelights.

The gable ends of the structure were covered with weatherboard circa 1938 as was the former exterior walls of the dogtrot. In addition, circa 1938 a window similar to the facade was added to the west side of the dining room ell as was an interior multi-light door with sidelights leading from the parlor to the dining room. The sidelights are constructed of parts of the original handblown glass windows.

A gable addition was added to the north elevation of the dining room after 1950. A rear open, L-shaped back porch was enclosed and a rest room wing was added in the 1960s.

The log interior consists of exposed log walls and random wood floors with square nails. The parlor mantle is wood. The stairwells are wood. On the second floor, the stairs were enclosed for privacy and to conserve heat. The west side room has a door on the north side leading to crawl space above the ell.

There are a few twentieth century outbuildings remaining on the property. There is a board and batten store, board and batten tenant house, brick well house, and weatherboard tool shed. The buildings are all believed to have been constructed in the early part of the twentieth century and are considered contributing. A multi-purpose non-contributing building is located on the east side of the property which serves as a meeting rooms and offices.

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Davies Manor (additional documentation)
Shelby County, Tennessee

Statement of Significance

Davies Manor was listed in the National Register on March 19, 1975. There were numerous areas of significance, including architecture, and the period of significance was the eighteenth century. The additional documentation clarifies the architectural importance of the property and includes information on important twentieth century changes. There is also additional information on the families living on the property.

The Davies Manor house is a fine example of an early log building that evolved over the years, from the 1820s to the 1930s. The Colonial Revival detailing added in the 1930s represent what was considered appropriate historic preservation. Interest in historic buildings expanded in the early twentieth century especially after the restored landscapes of Colonial Williamsburg. Restoration or rehabilitation maintained the basic structure but often added "colonial" elements and details that were considered historically appropriate in general, but may not have been found on the particular building. Davies Manor, a circa 1821 single pen log building was expanded in the 1830s into a dogtrot. Frame additions were added to the house in the 1850s and 1860s. During the 1930s, the dogtrot was enclosed, some weatherboard siding put on, and new windows added. Then, as it does today, the house reflected the early settlement period architecture and the early twentieth century Colonial Revival movement. The house retains its architectural integrity.

Present day Shelby County was the ancestral home of the Chickasaw Indians. The area of land now known as the state of Tennessee was also a western claim of North Carolina until statehood was achieved in 1796. A profit oriented real estate speculator named John Rice, conceived a land promotion scheme in the early 1790s on a 5,000-acre grant of land on the Third Chickasaw Bluff. Rice met his untimely demise at the hands of unidentified Indians in 1791 before ever setting foot on his holdings and his brother sold it to Judge John Overton of Nashville for \$500 in 1794. Self-made millionaire judge John Overton was a close friend and business partner with General Andrew Jackson, whom he teamed up with in land speculations throughout the South. Judge Overton sold General Andrew Jackson half of the Rice Tract in 1796.

The final event leading to the formal founding of Memphis was the negotiation by Jackson and General Isaac Shelby of a sale of the so-called Chickasaw Purchase which sold over six million acres of land west of the Tennessee River to the United States for the outrageously low 4 ½ cents an acre. The Chickasaw Cession of 1819, which finally allowed European settlers legitimately into the area, displaced the aboriginal inhabitants.

Shelby County was also created in 1819 by the Tennessee legislature, at the urging of judge John Overton and General Andrew Jackson and named in honor of the General Shelby. On September

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Davies Manor (additional documentation)
Shelby County, Tennessee

5,1821, Revolutionary War veteran Thomas Henderson received a 640-acre land grant from the University of North Carolina (Military Warrant #767). He settled in Shelby County in the area later known as Brunswick. Henderson constructed a 1-½ story, single pen log house that over time would evolve into a two-story enclosed dogtrot known as Davies Manor.

Davies Manor is the oldest intact local example of the period of American vernacular architecture built by European colonists known as Pre-Railroad folk houses.¹ As settlement expanded to the West, a distinctive tradition of wooden folk building evolved from the blending of the one-room deep houses of the Tidewater South with techniques of construction using horizontal log walls brought to the middle colonies by immigrants from the heavily timbered areas of central and northern Europe. The so-called Midland log house, a tradition that was carried across the Appalachians by frontiersmen, became the dominant Pre-Railroad Folk housing form over much of the heavily wooded eastern half of the country.

In 1830, Henderson sold the eastern 320 acres of his property to a land speculator, Emanuel Young, who also operated a riverfront store in Memphis. However, Young failed to pay his taxes and the local tax collector, Joel W. Royster, bought the property for back taxes in 1831.

Mr. Royster, a wealthy landowner, moved his family onto the property between 1831-1837. To accommodate them, he added a substantial log addition onto the original cabin including enlarging the sleeping loft into a full room, and adding two full stories to the east, which were connected by an open breezeway locally named a dogtrot. One concession to modernity was the insertion of Greek Revival style double-hung windows into the log walls. Greek Revival was the dominant style of American domestic architecture during the interval 1830 to 1850 and even later in some areas of the Gulf Coast. It occurs in all areas settled by 1860 and especially flourished in those regions that were being rapidly settled in the decades of the 1830s, 40s and 50s as it moved with the settlers as they crossed into Tennessee.

The first mention of the Davies family in the Shelby County area is an 1838 locator's deed showing the purchase of land by William E. Davies, a Methodist minister and gristmill operator. His father, Zachariah Davies, was a Virginia militiaman who had fought in the Revolutionary War.

The 1850 census lists William E. Davies as living with his family in Fayette County. Born in Maury County, Tennessee, his sons, Logan Early and James Baxter Davies, probably traveled back and forth on the Stage Road to oversee the Davies farm in Shelby County but lived with their father in Fayette County.

¹ Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984), 74.

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Davies Manor (additional documentation)
Shelby County, Tennessee

In 1851, Logan and James bought the Royster acreage with the log house and moved into bachelor's quarters there. Adjoining acreage was purchased in the following years and the Davies' plantation eventually totaled approximately 2,000 acres.

Now that he could provide for a family, James Davies married Penelope Almeda Little and moved her into the homestead in 1854. Sometime between 1854 and 1860, the first frame addition was added to the west side of the house to accommodate the growing family. In 1855, the couple had their first child, a son named Julius Augustus Davies. A second son, William Little Davies was born in 1857. Then tragedy struck in 1859 when Penelope Davies died at age twenty-seven.

A year later, older brother Logan Davies married Anna Frances Vaughn on November 28, 1860. In December 1861, a son, Gillie Mertis was born to Logan and Anna Frances. The 1860 Shelby County Census shows that the Davies family owned twenty-two slaves – thirteen males and nine females.

Eventually the Civil War touched the family as James Davies left his young children in his brother's care and enlisted as a private in the 38th Tennessee Infantry at Morning Sun in Shelby County. He served honorably in the medical corps and participated in several Civil War battles including Perryville, the Second Battle of Atlanta, Lookout Mountain, New Hope Church, Nashville, Peach Tree Creek, and Jonesboro. During this time, a daughter, Linnie Lee, was born to Logan and Anne Frances Davies.

James Davies returned from active duty in May 1865 and soon married his first wife's sister, Pauline Leake. The joy of that occasion was mitigated by the death of Anna Frances Davies at the age of twenty-four. James Davies second wife filed for divorce in 1866. The two brothers and their families continued to live in Davies Manor.

By June 1891, James' son, Gillie Mertis Davies married Miss Frances Ina Stewart in Brunswick, Tennessee. For the first four years of their marriage, they lived at Davies Manor. Then in 1895 the circa 1855 plantation commissary building was moved to another location on the property and expanded as a home for the newlyweds, named Hillcrest.

On June 17, 1904, James Baxter Davies died, leaving 596 acres including the log house to his bachelor sons, Dr. Julius Augustus Davies of Walls, Mississippi and Dr. William Little Davies who practiced in Brunswick.

Then in November 1903, a daughter (Frances) Ellen Davies was born to Gillie and Frances. In 1924, the same year that Frances Ellen earned a Bachelor of Science degree, her uncle Julius died, leaving one-half undivided interest in Davies Manor to his brother, William. Dr. William

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Davies Manor (additional documentation)
Shelby County, Tennessee

Davies died in 1931 and left his estate including Davies Manor to Ellen Davies. At this time, Miss Davies began a series of renovations to the more than a century old log home, including enclosing the dog-trot and reconfiguring the original appearance with replacement windows, reconfiguring the second story porch, and covering the gable ends of the building and some of the interior walls with weatherboard.

Ellen Davies married Hillman Rodgers in 1932. The next year, her father, Gillie Davies passed away in 1933 and left Hillcrest to his wife, Frances. Mrs. Frances Davies lived until 1958, leaving her entire estate to her daughter, Mrs. Ellen Davies Rodgers. Mrs. Rodgers began selling the surrounding acreage until her death in 1994. Today Davies Manor is still surrounded by thirty-two of the original acres.

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Section number 9 Page 7

Davies Manor (additional documentation)
Shelby County, Tennessee

Bibliography

Davies Manor Association. *History of the Davies Plantation*. Memphis, TN, 2000.

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Section number 10 Page 8

Davies Manor (additional documentation)
Shelby County, Tennessee

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

When originally nominated the property had seven undefined acres included. This is not being changed.

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Section number photos Page 9

Davies Manor (additional documentation)
Shelby County, Tennessee

**Davies Manor
Memphis, Shelby County, TN**

Photographs by: Judith Johnson
Date: March 2004
Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission

View of facade, looking north.
Photo 1 of 30

View of facade and east elevation, looking northwest
Photo 2 of 30

View of east elevation, looking southwest
Photo 3 of 30

View of rear elevation, looking south.
Photo 4 of 30

View of west elevation, looking northeast.
Photo 5 of 30

Detail of the west chimney.
Photo 6 of 30

Detail of typical exterior window.
Photo 7 of 30

Detail of foundation.
Photo 8 of 30

View of the well house, looking southeast.
Photo 9 of 30

View of the store, looking northwest.
Photo 10 of 30

View of the tool shed, looking west.
Photo 11 of 30

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Davies Manor (additional documentation)
Shelby County, Tennessee

View of the tenant house, looking northwest.
Photo 12 of 30

Interior center hall.
Photo 13 of 30

Interior west parlor.
Photo 14 of 30

Detail parlor fireplace
Photo 15 of 30

Detail parlor stairs.
Photo 16 of 30

Interior east ground floor room
Photo 17 of 30

Detail interior window.
Photo 18 of 30

Interior dining room.
Photo 19 of 30

Interior dining room with door.
Photo 20 of 30

Interior kitchen addition.
Photo 21 of 30

Interior rear room.
Photo 22_of 30

Interior enclosed rear porch.
Photo 23 of 30

Interior east rear addition.
Photo 24 of 30

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Davies Manor (additional documentation)
Shelby County, Tennessee

Interior west side second floor bedroom.
Photo 25 of 30

Detail door
Photo 26 of 30

Interior second floor center hall.
Photo 27 of 30

Detail second floor fireplace.
Photo 28 of 30

Detail of interior cement daubing
Photo 29 of 30

Detail of east side stairs.
Photo 30 of 30

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE ANSWERS

The following information is necessary in determining eligibility and in preparing entries for the Family Land Heritage Registry. If additional space is needed, submit material on a separate sheet, giving the Section number and the item number. In Section II, please add the appropriate letter (A or B).

If you have old photographs of the land, buildings or settlers which we could copy, please write your name and address on the back, identify the persons or subject and submit them with your application. Some of these photographs will be printed in the Registry; others may be used in a slide show on the Program. All will be returned. We shall assume the right to publish any photographs submitted to the Tennessee Department of Agriculture. Do not send any original documents to the Department that need to be returned. However, these will be useful in determining eligibility by the county historian or designee of the Department. Information with an asterisk (*) must be completed.

SECTION I: 1975 OWNERSHIP

*For each 1975 owner, give the following information:

1. Full Name ELLEN DAVIES (MRS. HILLMAN P.) RODGERS
(Please write Mr. and/or Mrs., or Miss)

Address DAVIES PLANTATION, BRUNSWICK, MEMPHIS, TENN. 38134
(Route, P.O. Box, or Street) (City) (Zip Code)

County SHELBY Phone No. ~~from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.~~ 901 386-0715
(In which you reside) (Area Code) (Number)

2. Full Name HILLMAN PHILIP RODGERS*
(Please write Mr. and/or Mrs., or Miss)

Address DAVIES PLANTATION, BRUNSWICK, MEMPHIS, TENN. 38134
(Route, P.O. Box, or Street) (City) (Zip Code)

County SHELBY Phone No. ~~from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.~~ 901 386-0715
(In which you reside) (Area Code) (Number)

*Deceased January 30, 1976. (Please list ^{name} in Registry).

3. Full Name _____
(Please write Mr. and/or Mrs., or Miss)

Address _____
(Route, P.O. Box, or Street) (City) (Zip Code)

County _____ Phone No. from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. _____
(In which you reside) (Area Code) (Number)

SECTION II-A: HISTORY OF THE LAND

DAVIES PLANTATION

1. *Land location (Example: "Davidson County, 2 mi. NE of Nashville, Hwy. 41A")
Shelby County, on Davies Plantation Road, 4 mi. South of Brunswick; North of Old Stage Road, Hwy. 64.
2. Holder of original grant, if known Military Grant No. 22999 dated Sept. 1821 for 640 acres to Thomas Henderson (Range 5, Sec. 3.).
3. *Name of first family member to own the land (hereinafter to be referred to as "founder")
LOGAN EARLY DAVIES
4. Where was founder born? Maury Co., Tennessee. ~~Reason for coming to Tennessee~~
William E. Davies, his father had moved to Fayette Co., Tenn., near Macon, owned 507+ acres of land there.
5. Date founder started homestead (if applicable) 1838, December 28. (Survey Bk. B, p. 204)
See - "LINEAGE OF THE LAND" attached.
6. *Date founder acquired title to the land 1849, August 17. (Entry Bk. 1, p. 105)
Logan E. and James B. Davies (his brother) bought additional acreage-land held in joint ownership until 1894. (You must be able to substantiate date.)
7. *Number of acres in founder's original farm or ranch 200 acres
Total acreage in 1894
8. Number of acres added by founder 1,237 Number of acres sold by founder none
9. *Types of crops or livestock grown by founder COTTON, CORN, HOGS, SHEEP, CATTLE,
TREES (WHITE OAK, RED OAK, HICKORY, ETC.) WHEAT.
10. Historical events during founder's lifetime related to the development of the farm or ranch (Did the men have to leave to fight wars? Were there water problems? Was this land the site of events important in history?) James B. Davies enlisted in the Confederate Army in 1862. He was in the battles of RESCA, Perryville, Atlanta and Lookout Mt. A younger brother, Henry Newton Davies was killed in the Battle of Nashville. See - State of Tenn. Roadside Marker inscription. (attached) First home ever visited in Tennessee by the delegates to a Tenn. Constitutional Convention (except Governor's Mansion) 1953.
11. Other activities of the founder and his family which helped to build the community or state, or activities which contributed to the agricultural progress of our state A cotton gin and grist mill were operated on the Plantation. Two country doctors of the saddle bag days were born and lived at Davies Manor. For a number of years Davies Manor was "a country hospital" as Dr. W.L. Davies carried on his medical profession treating all who came. Their diplomas from Vanderbilt and New York University hang in the hall.
12. Interesting events in the life of the family during this period Dr. J.A. Davies began the hobby of collecting Indian relics. He gave to the University of Mississippi his fine collection dug from DeSoto Co., near Walls where he lived and practiced medicine. * Gillie M. Davies had a race tract (1/2 mile) around grove of Davies Manor. Croquet on the lawn was a choice game.
13. Name of founder's wife ~~or husband, if married~~ FRANCES ANNA VAUGHN DAVIES
14. Name or number of children, if any GILLIE MERTIS DAVIES and LINNIE LEE DAVIES
(See OWNERS, attached)

* Calvin S. Brown - "ARCHEOLOGY OF MISSISSIPPI"

Mississippi Geological Survey, University of Mississippi 1926.

SECTION II-B: NEXT OWNER OF THE LAND

Gillie Mertis Davies, son of founder; Linnie Lee Davies, daughter of

1. *Name (s) founder; James B. Davies, brother of founder; Drs. Julius Augustus and William Little Davies, nephews of founder.
2. *Relationship to founder ↑
3. *Year land acquired by this^e owners 1895, Partition Deed. (See "Lineage of the Land" attached.)
4. Number of acres in farm at this time (if known) 1,237+
5. Number of acres added by ^{these} ~~this~~ owner s 500+ - Gillie M. and Frances I. Davies, his wife.
6. Number of acres sold none
7. Types of crops or livestock grown by this owner Cotton, cattle, sheep, hogs, timber.
See - Berkshire Hogs, attached.
8. Historical events related to the development of the farm or ranch See attached
9. Other activities of this owner and his family which helped to build the community or state, or other events which contributed to the agricultural progress of the state See attached
10. Name of this owner's wife ~~or husband, if married~~ FRANCES INA STEWART DAVIES
11. Name or number of children of this couple FRANCES ELLEN DAVIES
(married 12/21/1932, Hillman Philip Rodgers)

(If other relatives owned the land between the years noted in Section II-B and the year you assumed ownership, please submit the same information on them on a separate sheet. We want as much information on each generation as possible for the Registry.)

SECTION III: PRESENT STATUS OF LAND

- 1) By Will and Deed from cousin, Dr. W.L. Davies, 1931.
 Ellen Davies-Rodgers 2) By Will from mother, Frances I.S. Davies, 1958.
 1. *Year ~~you~~ acquired the land ~~3) By Will from husband, Hillman P. Rodgers, 1976.~~
2. *Number of acres farmed ~~or~~ ~~ranch~~ed by you from acreage owned by first family member
 450+- acres
3. *^{Total} ~~Additional~~ farm ~~or~~ ~~ranch~~ acreage owned by you today 1,410+- acres, 1976.
 See "LINEAGE OF THE LAND"
4. *What relation are you to the first family owner? Grand daughter
5. *How many generations live on the land today? One
6. *Please identify relationship of generations living on the land today. (Example: "Owner and son's family, Mr. and Mrs. John Jones and their children, ages 5, 8, and 11")
 Three of four grown foster daughters live with owner on land today.
 (See attached)
7. Are any buildings constructed in 1875 or earlier still standing? YES, DAVIES MANOR;
 part of THE OAKS (old commissary)
 If so, please describe. See attached clippings and pictures.
 Are they still in use? YES
8. Crops ~~and~~ ^{and} livestock produced by you Cattle, hay, soybeans, wheat, corn, pasture, timber.
 (See attached . AWARDS won by Hillman P. Rodgers for cows and pastures!)
9. *Who works the land today? OWNER
 (Name) (If not owner, relationship to Owner)
10. *If you retain a manager, are you actively engaged in the everyday operation of the farm or ranch? No manager retained. (Since the death of my husband, Hillman P. Rodgers on Jan.30,1976, "the Girls" and I have the full responsibility of the operation) E.D.R.

INFORMATION FOR CERTIFICATE

1. *Check one of the following for the designation of your operation: Farm Ranch
2. *Name of Farm ~~or~~ ~~Ranch~~ DAVIES PLANTATION
 (Examples: Mulberry Farm, Smith Ranch, Hillview Acres)
 If no name is given, we will register the land under the last name of the present owner.

CERTIFICATION

I declare that the statements made in this application are accurate and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Ellen Davies Rodgers
(Mrs. William P. Rodgers) Signature of the 1975 Owner

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 30th day of April, 1976.

James H. Hughes
Notary Public

My Commission expires on the 4th day of December, 1978.

I declare that Ellen Davies Rodgers
Name of Owner

~~appeared before me on~~ has certified with substantiating evidence that the land now in ~~his~~ possession has met the qualifications of the Family Land Heritage Century Farm Program of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture.

Ellen Davies Rodgers
Shelby County Historian
Designee of Tennessee Department of Agriculture

Upon completion mail application to:

TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FAMILY LAND HERITAGE PROGRAM
P. O. Box 40627 - Melrose Station
Lou Wallace Library
Nashville, TN. 37204

3570 Davieshire Drive

Hillwood

Alternate Exit

Main Entrance

Covered eating area

Parking

Gravel Drive

To Museum

Gazebo

Barn Maintenance

Maintenance Only

Mose's Cabin

Bottle Tree



Private Drive

Garden

Well House

Commisary

To Logan's Pond

Farm Tools

Davies Manor

Davies Manor Plantation

Grist Mill

You are here

Southern Magnolia

Gotten Cabin Textiles

Parking

To Nature Trail

Liberty Cabin

Closed for restoration

9336 Davies Plantation Dr.