



VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

File no. 76-225
Negative no(s). 4926

SURVEY FORM

Historic name	Common name William Davis House
County/Town/City Prince William County	
Street address or route number 10403 Moore Drive, Manassas, Va. 22110	
USGS Quad Independent Hill	Date or period Early to mid-19th century with later additions.
Original owner Unknown	Architect/builder/craftsmen
Original use Residence	
Present owner John P. Stewart	Source of name Previous & longtime owner.
Present owner address 10403 Moore Drive Manassas, Va. 22110	Source of date Architectural evidence; local concensus. Stories 2 stories
Present use Residence	Foundation and wall const'n Stone foundation ; frame wall construction.
Acreage .725 acres	Roof type Metal-covered gable roof.

State condition of structure and environs House and surroundings are in good condition.

State potential threats to structure
Note any archaeological interest

Should be investigated for possible register potential? yes no

Architectural description (Note significant features of plan, structural system and interior and exterior decoration, taking care to point out aspects not visible or clear from photographs. Explain nature and period of all alterations and additions. List any outbuildings and their approximate ages, cemeteries, etc.)

This is a two-story, el-shaped, frame house clad with asbestos shingles. Exterior decoration consists of scroll brackets, a box cornice with gable returns, and a scalloped frieze. A one-story porch across the front is supported by turned posts. A recently-built, brick chimney on the south end contains a fireplace and is constructed of variously-colored bricks. The exterior trim is plain; and the 6/6 sliding sash windows with storm sash are probably replacements. There is a 1½ story gable-roofed addition on the rear, and filling in the el on the north side is a one-story shed roofed addition. Beneath the asbestos shingles are plain, wide weatherboards. According to the present owner, the house once had nine exterior doors. There is a crawl space beneath the house but no basement.

The irregular placement of doors and windows on the main house's front suggests that: (1) a window and/or door in the center of this five-bay house have been sealed; (2) the staircase, which now rises along the rear wall opposite the front door, may have earlier been to the left of the front door; or (3) possibly the builder could not afford to install windows in the center bay, -or preferred not to.

The interior of this house has been remodeled. Windows and doors were replaced; moulding was removed, and in its place is wood-finish reproduction architrave trim. Floors are carpeted or tiled. Roughly-shaped, probably pine, posts are thought to have been used as studs and other structural members. These posts can be seen as supports for the straight run single-landin stair. The roof is constructed of butt-joined, roughly-shaped poles; and poles can also be seen as attic floor joists and as studs in the second story walls.

Interior inspected? Yes.

Historical significance (Chain of title; individuals, families, events, etc., associated with the property.)

In the 1930s, William Davis purchased this house and began operating a general store across the street in Buckhall. In 1971, Mrs. Hallie Cornwell Kemper, Davis' daughter, sold the house to Tommy Ray Cantrell. Mrs. Kemper had lived in the house and was married there to Charles Cornwell, her first husband. In 1975, Cantrell sold the house to Kenneth H. Strouth, and the present owners purchased the house from Strouth in 1977.

Present owner claims that, according to tradition associated with the house, the house was burned during the Civil War and was later rebuilt. Allegedly, this is the second house on the site. Roughly-shaped, locally-quarried red sandstone blocks lie scattered around the yard. A search with a metal detector produced an 1850s penny.

The house was remodeled in 1958. The shed-roofed, one-story addition was made in the late 1970s.

This house may be one of the oldest existing dwellings in Buckhall. It was traditionally the residence of the Buckhall Storekeeper. Further research into the County land records may reveal more about the house's historical significance. It is located at the intersection of two old roads, the Old Davis Ford Road and the former Spriggs Ford Road, now known as Moore Drive.

Sources and bibliography

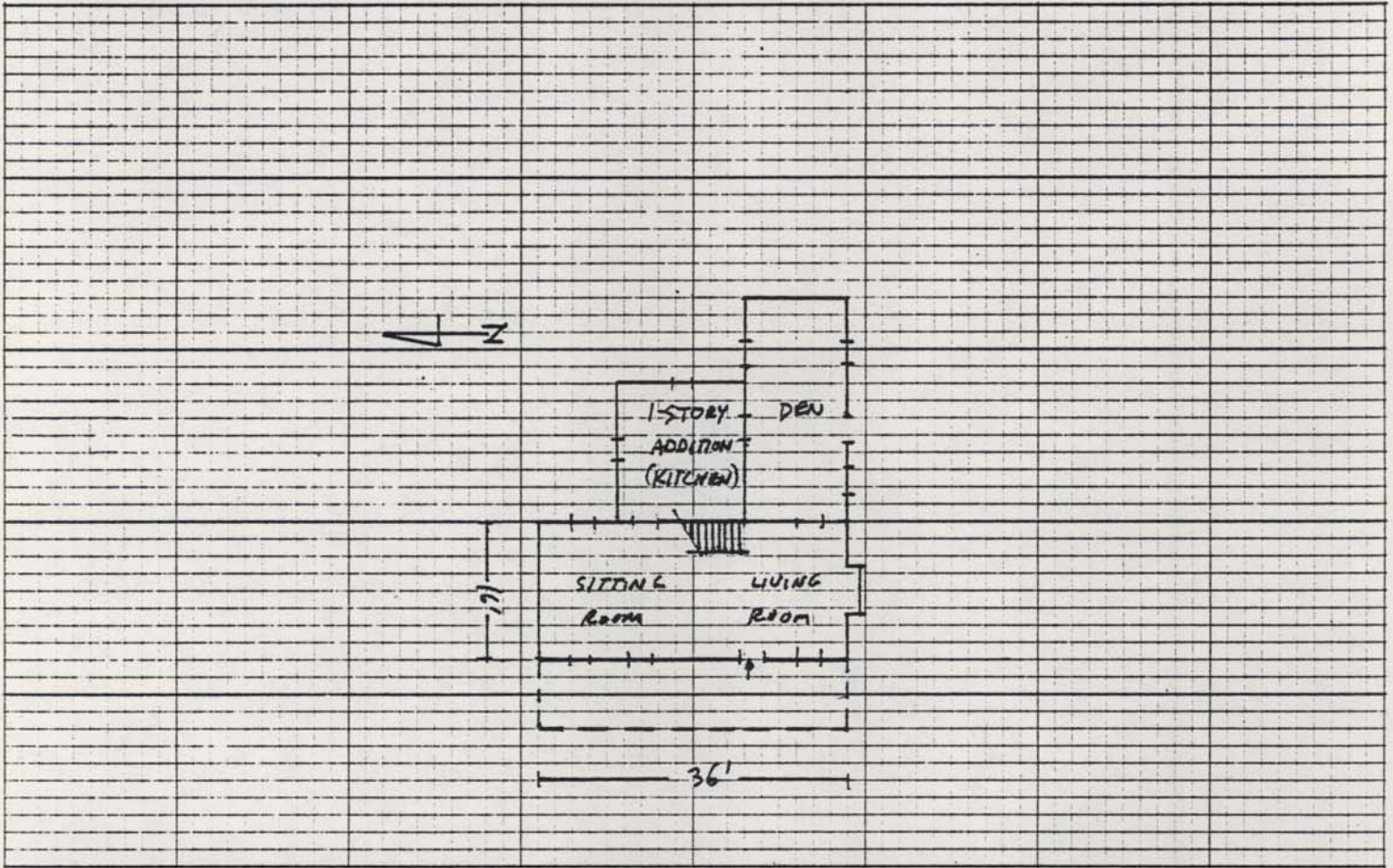
Published sources (Books, articles, etc., with bibliographic data.)

Primary sources (Manuscript documentary or graphic materials; give location.)

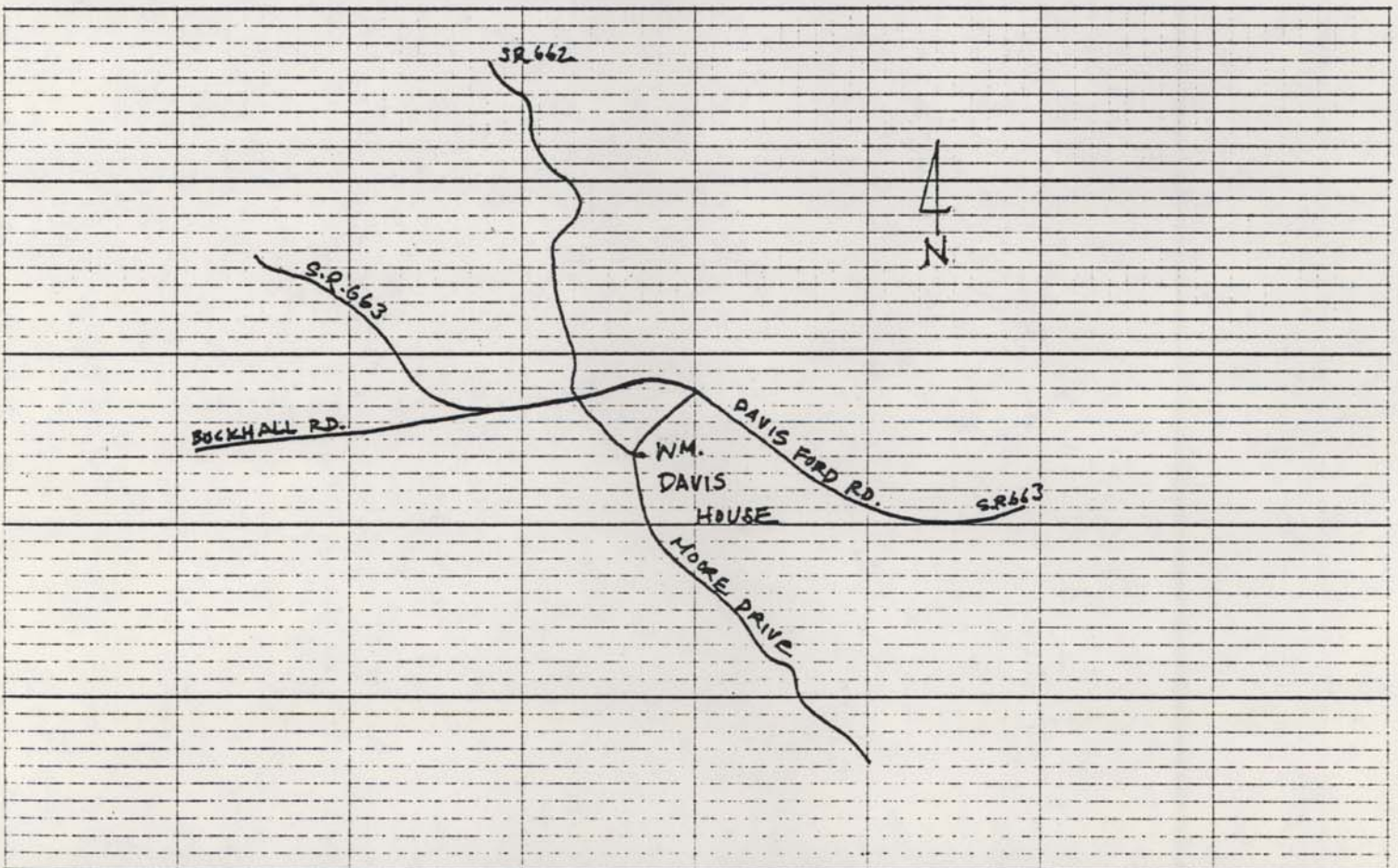
Mrs. Kemper has some earlier photographs of the house.

Names and addresses of persons interviewed Mrs. Hallie Cornwell Kemper, 7517 Old Davis Ford Road,
Manassas, Va.
Mr. & Mrs. Stewart (owners).

Plan (Indicate locations of rooms, doorways, windows, alterations, etc.)



Site plan (Locate and identify outbuildings, dependencies and significant topographical features.)



Name, address and title of recorder

Date

Twin Hills
1950's
1950's

WMKLINE?
EK 812
2131 (MANASSAS)



William
DAVIS HOUSE
76-225

Independent Hill Quad.