

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic name: Davis, George R., House

Other name/site number: 937

2. LOCATION

Street & number: 718 Victoria

not for publication: N/A

City/town: Abilene

State: TX *County:* Taylor

code: 441 *zip code:* 79603

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

<i>Number of Resources within Property:</i>	<i>Contributing</i>	<i>Noncontributing</i>
	<u> 2 </u>	<u> </u> buildings
	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
	<u> 2 </u>	<u> 0 </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural Resources in Abilene, Texas

4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

 See continuation sheet.

Curtis J. Powell

2-12-92
Date

Signature of certifying official
State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

 See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.

Arlene Byrum

3/23/92

 determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.

 determined not eligible for the National Register

 removed from the National Register

 other (explain):

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: Domestic

Sub: Single dwelling

Current: Domestic

Sub: Single dwelling

7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification: Prairie School

<i>Materials: foundation</i>	brick
<i>walls</i>	brick
<i>roof</i>	asphalt
<i>other</i>	cast stone

Describe present and historic physical appearance. See continuation sheet.

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: locally

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Area(s) of Significance: Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1919-1920

Significant Dates: 1919-1920

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Castle, David S.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. See continuation sheet.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7/8 Page 5Historic and Architectural Resources
of Abilene, Taylor County, Texas

Description:

The George R. Davis House is a 2-story brick Prairie School dwelling with a center passage plan and a low pitched hipped roof. The exterior walls are brick veneer and the roof is covered with composition shingles. Facing east onto Victoria, the house is in a residential neighborhood. The house retains its integrity.

A 4-bay porch, supported by brick piers, spans the front (east) elevation and offsets the south elevation. The centered entrance has a single door with transom and sidelights. A variety of window styles and light patterns were utilized in the house's design. They range from solitary wood 6/1 configurations to ribboned wood sash, single light, casement windows. The low pitched hipped dormer reinforces the strong horizontal lines of this imposing building. A single interior brick chimney rises from the roof.

A 2-story brick veneer garage stands southwest of the house and has similar architectural features and detailing, such as a low pitched roof with extended eaves. It is Contributing because of its noteworthy detailing and because it retains much of its integrity.

Statement of Significance:

The George R. Davis House, built in 1919-1920, is nominated under Criterion C in the area of Architecture, as an outstanding example of Prairie School-influenced architecture in Abilene. Local architect David S. Castle designed the house. The building has a low pitched hipped roof, wide eaves and an elongated front porch, all of which reinforce the building's overall horizontal emphasis. The building is associated with the historic context "The Railroad and Abilene's Development into a Wholesale and Distribution Center in West Texas, 1881-1939." The George R. Davis House is virtually unaltered and retains its integrity to a remarkable degree.

Ever since its founding in 1881, Abilene has been the home of many prominent West Texas cattlemen and ranchers. Clabe Merchant and James H. Parramore were among those who moved to Abilene in the 1880s but they were joined by others, including Davis, in subsequent years. They were attracted to the city because of its railroad connections and its development into a cultural, business and social center in the region. These cattlemen often built majestic residences to symbolize their success and wealth, and this house is representative of that trend.

Davis was a rancher from Breckenridge, in Stephens County, Texas, who decided to move to Abilene in 1919 just as oil was discovered in his hometown. Davis commissioned local architect, David S. Castle, to design a residence. Castle borrowed heavily from the Prairie School architecture and designed what became one of Abilene's best examples of this style. Although many were similarly styled dwellings were built about the same time, few, if any, matched its grand scale and craftsmanship. Contractor R.C. Lewis of Abilene constructed the house for \$50,000 (Abilene Reporter-News October 26, 1919).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

x See bibliography for associated historic context.

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 #*
- _ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #*

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- x State historic preservation office (Texas Historical Commission)*
- _ Other state agency*
- _ Federal agency*
- x Local government (City of Abilene Planning Department)*
- _ University*
- x Other -- Specify Repository: Abilene Preservation League*

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: Less than one acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

<i>A</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>429940</i>	<i>3591180</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>__</i>	<i>_____</i>	<i>_____</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>__</i>	<i>_____</i>	<i>_____</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>__</i>	<i>_____</i>	<i>_____</i>

Verbal Boundary Description:

Henry Sayles Addition (of Harris), Block D, Lots 1-3

Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes the area that has been historically associated with the property and that retains its historic and architectural integrity.

11. FORM PREPARED BY (assisted by Amy E. Dase, Historian, THC staff)

Name/Title: David Moore, Historian
Organization: Hardy Heck Moore
Street & Number: 2112 Rio Grande
City or town: Austin

Date: June 1989; January 1992
Telephone: 512/478-8014
State: TX *Zip:* 78705

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ PHOTOS _____ Page 12 _____

Historic and Architectural Resources
of Abilene, Taylor County, Texas

Nathan J. and Nancy Roberts House
1430 South Sixth
Abilene, Taylor County, Texas
Photographed by David Moore
Winter 1989
Negative with Texas Historical Commission
Southwest oblique, camera facing northeast
Photograph 45 of 48

J.G. Higginbotham House
2102 Swenson
Abilene, Taylor County, Texas
Photographed by David Moore
Winter 1989
Negative with Texas Historical Commission
East facade, camera facing west
Photograph 46 of 48

George R. Davis House
718 Victoria
Abilene, Taylor County, Texas
Photographed by David Moore
Winter 1989
Negative with Texas Historical Commission
Southeast oblique, camera facing northwest
Photograph 47 of 48

Horace O. Wooten Warehouse
101 Walnut
Abilene, Taylor County, Texas
Photographed by David Moore
Winter 1989
Negative with Texas Historical Commission
Southwest oblique, camera facing northeast
Photograph 48 of 48

2/19/92

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Abilene MPS
TEXAS

Date Listed

COVER	Substantive Review	Date Listed
		12/18/91
92000225	1915 Taylor County Courthouse	3/23/92
92000193	Abilene Christian College Administration Building	5/23/92
91001811	Abilene Commercial Historic District	12/18/91
92000200	Abilene Fire Station No. 2	3/23/92
92000205	Abilene Street Railway Company Barn	3/23/92
92000191	Abilene and Northern Railway Company Depot <i>owned by</i>	3/23/92
92000214	Ackers, William and Mary, House	3/23/92
92000234	Blanton, Thomas L., House <u>Substantive Review</u>	3/23/92
92000229	Boyd--Hall House	3/23/92
92000206	Caldwell Hall <u>Substantive Review</u>	3/23/92
92000195	Cash, W. A. V., House <u>Substantive Review</u>	3/23/92
92000218	Castle, David S., House <u>Substantive Review</u>	3/23/92
92000211	Chambers, Samuel A., House	3/23/92
92000237	Davis, George R., House	3/23/92
92000199	Dillingham, O. D. and Ada, House	3/23/92
92000222	Dodd--Harkrider House <u>Substantive Review</u>	3/23/92
92000204	Evans, J. W., House	3/23/92
92000228	Federal Building (<i>Now returned</i>)	Ret.
92000210	Finley, Eugene L., House	3/23/92
92000226	First Presbyterian Church <u>Substantive Review</u>	3/23/92
92000215	Fritz, David C. and Docia, House	3/23/92
92000192	Fulwiler, William J., House <i>owned by</i> <u>Substantive Review</u>	3/23/92
92000232	Goodloe, Albert S. and Ruth, House	3/23/92
92000207	Green, Roland A. D., House	3/23/92
92000236	Higginbotham, J. G., House	3/23/92
92000196	House at 1127 Ash Street	3/23/92
92000224	Hughes, Ed S., Company Warehouse	3/23/92
92000212	Jones, A. T., House	3/23/92
92000221	Lanius, C. A., House <u>Substantive Review</u>	3/23/92
92000194	Luce Hall <u>Substantive Review</u>	3/23/92
92000220	Magee, J. D., House	3/23/92
92000201	McDaniel, George W. and Lavina, House	3/23/92
92000219	McDonald Hall	3/23/92
92000209	McMurry College Administration Building <u>Substantive Review</u>	3/23/92
92000198	Minter, William A., House	3/23/92
92000216	Motz, Charles, House	3/23/92
92000230	Parramore, D. D., House	3/23/92
92000223	Radford, James M., Grocery Company Warehouse	3/23/92
92000231	Reading, Jhules, House	3/23/92
92000235	Roberts, Nathan J. and Nancy, House	3/23/92
92000233	Sacred Heart Catholic Church	3/23/92

Substar

Substan

SCR

*

SCR

SCR

Substanti

SCR

SCR

SCR

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Davis, George R., House
NAME:

MULTIPLE Abilene MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Taylor

DATE RECEIVED: 2/19/92 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/06/92
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/22/92 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/04/92
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 92000237

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 3/23/92 DATE

Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

___count ___resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

___historic ___current

DESCRIPTION

___architectural classification
___materials
___descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

___summary paragraph
___completeness
___clarity
___applicable criteria
___justification of areas checked
___relating significance to the resource
___context
___relationship of integrity to significance
___justification of exception
___other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___acreage ___verbal boundary description
___UTMs ___boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___sketch maps ___USGS maps ___photographs ___presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Phone

Signed

Date



GEORGE R. DAVIS HOUSE
718 VICTORIA
ABILENE, TAYLOR CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 47 of 48

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500625