

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: West Virginia	
COUNTY: Randolph	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME			
COMMON: Graceland			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Mansion of Senator Henry Gassaway Davis			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Davis & Elkins College			
CITY OR TOWN: Elkins			
STATE West Virginia	CODE 47	COUNTY: Randolph	CODE 083

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) College dormitory but will be unoccupied pending restoration.

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: Davis and Elkins College board of Trustees			
STREET AND NUMBER: Davis and Elkins College			
CITY OR TOWN: Elkins	STATE: West Virginia	CODE: 26241	CODE: 47

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Randolph County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER: Randolph Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Elkins	STATE: West Virginia	CODE: 47	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY:			
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

Graceland Hall is constructed of West Virginia granite, in Norman French style, with many of West Virginia's native timbers used throughout the inside.

Stonework, used even in the towering chimneys, gives the building an appearance of great strength and solidity. Windows were made by a workman from Tiffany's.

A dominant feature on the first floor is a tiled fireplace surmounted by a wooden mantle held up by wooden Corinthian columns. The staircase harmonizes in style with the fireplace. A feature in the library is a Biblical scene depicted in Dutch tiles.

The interior is basically unchanged except for modern lighting and heating facilities and the furniture and interior decor. The building is essentially the same as it was when occupied by Senator Davis.

A few of the original pieces of furniture are retained, with the possibility of many more being returned to Graceland by Mrs. Bruce Lee Kennedy, contingent upon certain plans for the future use of the building.

A stone gatehouse with simple, attractive style complemented the house, but it was recently dismantled to widen a road.

Graceland and Halliehurst are further described in a recent issue of the Preservation News, organ of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. 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)

1892

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal

☒ Education

☐ Political

☐ Urban Planning

☐ Prehistoric

☐ Engineering

☐ Religion/Philosophy

☐ Other (Specify)

☐ Historic

☒ Industry

☐ Science

☐ Agriculture

☐ Invention

☐ Sculpture

☒ Architecture

☐ Landscape

☐ Social/Humanitarian

☐ Art

☐ Literature

☐ Theater

☐ Commerce

☐ Military

☐ Transportation

☐ Communications

☐ Music

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Graceland Hall was built at Elkins, West Virginia, around the beginning of the present century by U. S. Senator Henry Gassaway Davis (1823-1916). It was first occupied by the Senator in 1892.

On the national scene, Davis is best known as the Democratic candidate for Vice-President of the United States in 1904, at the age of 80, when he and Parker were defeated by Roosevelt and Fairbanks.

Davis' second claim to fame was his status as United States Senator from 1871 to 1883. In this undertaking he was doubtless motivated by the example of his cousin, Senator Arthur P. Gorman, long a dominant figure in Maryland Democratic politics.

Born in Baltimore, 1823, he began life as a working man and served as brakeman, conductor, and station agent on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, an association which doubtless led to his life-long interest in railroads. With capital accumulated during Civil War days, he began construction of a network of railroads in northern, central, and eastern West Virginia, thus being more than anyone else responsible for the coal and lumber industries of this part of the State. With his son-in-law, Stephen B. Elkins, he started the development of western Maryland and eastern West Virginia by the extension of the West Virginia Central and Pittsburgh Railway to Elkins which it reached in 1889. In 1902 this became the Western Maryland Railroad when they sold it to the Gould interests. Davis' success as a railroad builder was recognized by his appointment in 1890 to membership on the Intercontinental Railway Commission and soon thereafter to the chairmanship of the Pan-American Railway Committee.

Davis is considered to be co-founder with Elkins of the City of Elkins and Davis and Elkins College, being on the original board of trustees.

Graceland Hall enjoyed the visits of many prominent national figures in the days when this type of entertainment was popular. It now serves as a residence hall for 40 students, but this occupancy will be terminated with completion of residence halls now under construction.

Davis' daughter Hallie is perhaps the only woman who was the mother, wife, and daughter of a United States Senator. She married Senator Elkins, who served as Secretary of War, while her son Davis served a brief term in the Senate also. She donated her home, Halliehurst, next door to Graceland, to form the nucleus of a new campus for Davis and Elkins College.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Pepper, Charles M. The Life and Times of Henry Gassaway Davis. Century Company, 1920.

Lawrence, Ruth, ed. Colonial Families of America. National Americana Society, .

Dictionary of American Biography, vol. 5, pp. 117-118, New York, 1930.

Callahan, J. M. History of West Virginia Old and New...and West Virginia Biography. 3 vol. Chicago, 1923.

Atkinson, George W. and Gibbens, Alvaro F. Prominent Men of West Virginia. Wheeling, 1890.

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
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	38 °	56 '	37.94 "
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	80 °	51 '	54.08 "
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Clifford M. Lewis, S.J., acting for State Liaison Officer	
ORGANIZATION West Virginia Antiquities Commission	DATE July 8, 1970
STREET AND NUMBER: Old Mountainair, Room 39, WVU, Morgantown, W. Va.	
CITY OR TOWN: Morgantown	STATE West Virginia
	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 Clifford M. Lewis, S.J.Title Acting for State Liaison OfficerDate July 8, 1970

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

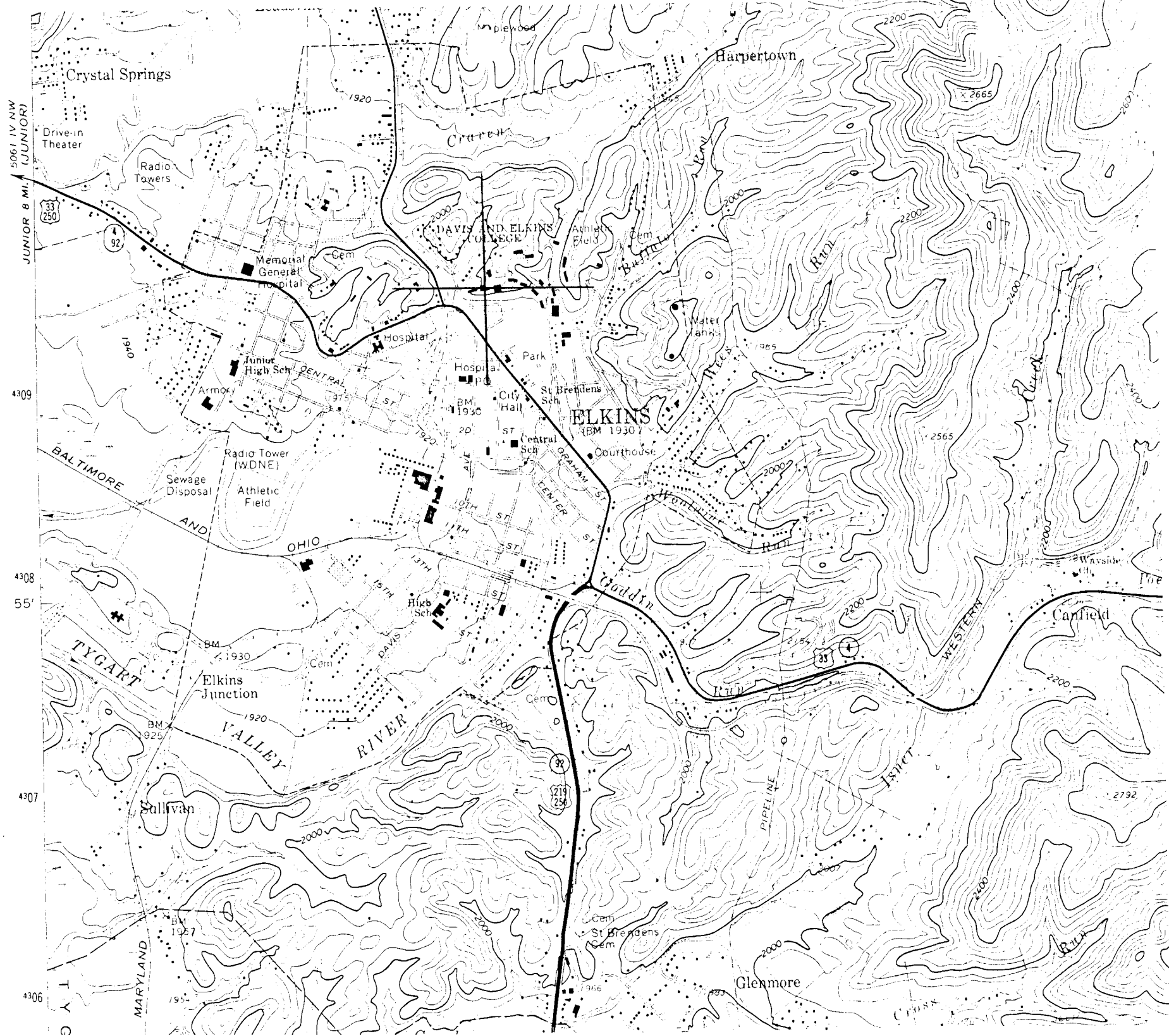
Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



"GRACELAND"

Field checks
7/29/76 JEH

ELKINS
7.5' QUAD



"Graceland" 1896.