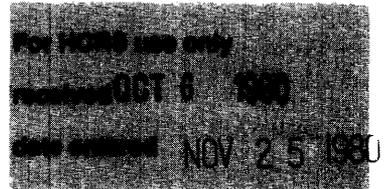


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic David Houser House

and/or common same

2. Location W of St. Matthews on U.S. 176

street & number On U.S. Hwy. 176 at the intersection with S.C. Hwy. 6
(approximately 2½ miles from the St. Matthews town limit) not for publication

city, town St. Matthews vic. vicinity of congressional district Second

state South Carolina code 045 county Calhoun code 017

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple ownership (see continuation sheet)

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calhoun County Courthouse

street & number Railroad Avenue

city, town St. Matthews state South Carolina 29135

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of Historic Places
in South Carolina

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1973 (update) federal state county local

depository for survey records South Carolina Department of Archives and History

city, town Columbia state South Carolina 29211

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The David Houser House, located in rural Calhoun County approximately 2.5 miles west of St. Matthews, is a two-story wood frame residence, rectangular in plan, with one-story front porch and rear addition. On March 17, 1829, David Houser moved into his newly built house, which is basically a Carolina upcountry farmhouse. A vernacular building, its design and construction are characterized by simplicity and skilled craftsmanship.

Exterior: The two-story beaded weatherboarded core of the house has a gable roof, with a stuccoed brick exterior chimney with corbeled cap centered at each gable end. Five bays wide, the facade (northeast elevation) features an entrance, with single six-panel door and four-pane transom, set slightly to the left of center; this doorway is flanked on both sides by two windows. On the second floor the placement of the five second-floor windows is symmetrical. On the northwest elevation, on either side of the chimney, is a window at each floor and the attic. The southeast side is identical, except that the left first floor window has been replaced with a door. Windows are double-hung sash with batten shutters, nine-over-nine lights on the first floor and nine-over-six lights on the second.

Unlike the two-story core of the house, the attached rear portion has been remodeled and replaced throughout the history of the residence. According to family tradition, as the David Houser family grew (David Houser had at least thirteen children) rooms were added to the rear of the house. Later, when no longer needed, they were moved away and used for other purposes. Tradition also indicates that during the 1880's, after David Houser's death, his wife Ellen Vermelle Houser removed the dining room on the north side of the house, added a large bedroom on the south corner, and extended the front porch around the southeast side. The present one-story weatherboarded rear wing was built ca. 1937-38 by R. Waldo Banks, grandson of David Houser. Fenestration in this rear wing is varied, but windows are predominantly double-hung sash with nine-over-nine lights. On the west corner is a screened porch. The southeast side of the wing is punctuated by an exterior chimney, and the low-pitched roof is pierced near its center by an interior chimney.

The one-story front porch, reconstructed ca. 1937-38, rests on a brick foundation. This porch with square pillars and plain balustrade spans the facade and wraps around the east corner of the house. On the southeast side, it is screened. On the north corner the porch roof extends out from the main body of the building to form a porte-cochere. The configuration of this porch duplicates the nineteenth-century porch.

Interior: The original two-story portion of the house is one room deep with two rooms on the first floor, both with plaster walls and high plaster ceilings. The front entrance opens directly into the southeast room, the largest room in the house, which features paneled wainscoting and a fireplace with a Federal inspired mantel with pilasters and a reeded architrave under the mantel shelf. The northwest room is characterized by plain board wainscoting, a mantel of similar but less complex design than in the larger room, and a cupboard along its interior wall.

Continued

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

Specific dates 1829 **Builder/Architect** David Houser

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

David Houser built his house in 1829 on his plantation, which he called Oak Grove, near the present town of St. Matthews. The land had been bequeathed to him by his father Andrew Houser, Jr., who was a soldier in the American Revolution. An example of an early nineteenth century Carolina farmhouse, the David Houser Plantation House is regarded by residents of Calhoun County as a local landmark significant not only for its architecture, but also for its association with David Houser, a prominent citizen of the St. Matthews Parish, Orangeburg District (now part of Calhoun County).

An enterprising individual, David Houser (1798–1876) was a planter who also operated a saw and grist mill. By 1860, his plantation had grown from the original approximately 500 acre tract to around 4,800 acres; he had 54 slaves. Among the diverse products of the farm reported in 1860 were 2,000 bushels of corn, 500 pounds of rice, 25,600 pounds of cotton, 1,200 bushels of sweet potatoes, 200 pounds of butter, 14 tons of hay, and numerous livestock. The plantation, which was located on the principal nineteenth-century route from Charleston to Columbia, is reputed to have been used as a stagecoach stop for persons traveling north and south.

In addition to his business interests, David Houser was active in public service and religious affairs. He was a captain in the militia, served as clerk and treasurer of the board of commissioners for St. Matthews Parish, and represented the St. Matthews Parish in the South Carolina Senate from 1862–65. A member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, he was appointed to serve on a board of trustees.

Architecture: Similar in form and construction methods to many vernacular farmhouses built during the early nineteenth century, the David Houser House also demonstrates the upcountry interpretation of the Federal style, as adapted to traditional architectural forms. The two-story portion of the house is of simple, straightforward design. Significant architectural features include the hall and parlor plan, the Federal mantels and wainscoting; the wide board floors, walls, and ceilings of the second floor rooms; and the beaded weatherboard. The dovetail joints on the smokehouse are also noteworthy.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property 7 acres
Quadrangle name St. Matthews, South Carolina

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References Latitude 33°40'37" Longitude 80°50'8"

A

Zone	Easting		Northing				

B

Zone	Easting		Northing				

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F

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G

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification The boundary of the David Houser House nomination is shown as the red line on the accompanying tax map of Calhoun County entitled "Map No. 093" and drawn at a scale of 400' to the inch. The nominated property includes all significant buildings and structures.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Margaret Marion Historic Preservation Planner Jeanne Ulmer, Director Calhoun County Museum

organization Lower Savannah Council of Governments date July 23, 1980

street & number Post Office Box 850 telephone (803) 649-7981

city or town Aiken state South Carolina 29801

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Charles E. Lee State Historic Preservation Officer date 9/25/80

For HCERS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
Keeper of the National Register
Attest:
GPO 938 835

**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation sheet

Item number 4

Page 1

David Houser Banks, Sr.
Amaker Street
St. Matthews, S.C. 29135

Trustees for the Houser and
Banks Cemetery
c/o Mr. C. R. Banks
Post Office Box 82
St. Matthews, S.C. 29135

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On axis with the front door is a doorway leading from the southeast room to a hallway (running northwest to southeast), which connects the rooms of the single story rear addition to the main body of the house. A plain vertical board door in this hall conceals a single flight of stairs leading to the second floor of the house. The walls, floors, and ceilings of the stairway and two upstairs rooms on either side of the landing are wide pine boards. The mantels in the two rooms are identical and are of simple design, with three panels under the mantel shelf.

Surroundings: The David Houser House is located on the Old State Road (now U.S. 176), the main nineteenth-century route from Charleston to Columbia, in a rural, agricultural setting. Near the house and within the nominated acreage are the original smoke-house constructed of hewn logs with dovetail joints, a part of the nineteenth-century Dutch oven, a weatherboarded frame building believed to have once been bedrooms attached to the rear of the house, and the family cemetery where David Houser is buried. Also located within the nominated property are a weatherboarded barn, servant's house, and a garage/workshop with shiplap siding.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 3

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