

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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received
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Gordon, David House and "Pop" Collins Log Cabin (variously known as Cedar View and Fairmount)  
and/or common Gordon Manor

2. Location

street & number 2100 East Broadway (County Road WW at Old Highway 63) \_\_\_ not for publication  
city, town Columbia \_\_\_ vicinity of  
state Missouri code 29 county Boone code 019

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Stephens College  
street & number East Broadway  
city, town Columbia \_\_\_ vicinity of state Missouri 65215

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds, Boone County  
street & number City-County Building, 701 East Broadway  
city, town Columbia state Missouri 65201

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Missouri State Historical Survey has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes  no  
date 1983 \_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local  
depository for survey records Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176  
city, town Jefferson City state Missouri 65102

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The David Gordon house is situated on property presently used by Stephens College as a recreational area. The property lies at the east edge of Columbia, and one-half mile from the main Stephens College campus. Immediately to the East of the house is the "Pop" Collins log cabin. On the east, north, and west, the structures are surrounded by the College's 9-hole golf course and nine acre Stephens Lake. To the south, down a picturesque slope shaded with mature trees, including a bicentennial oak, county highway WW runs east and west. This road follows the path of the 19th century Boonslick Trail which connected St. Louis and St. Charles with Missouri's western settlements.

The present thirteen-room structure incorporates original construction from the 1820's and several additions, from the 1830's, 1890's and 1930's. As originally built, the building was a five bay central-passage I house with a two story rear ell. Apparently in the 1890's the house underwent a remodelling. At this time (or perhaps earlier) the neo-Classical boxed cornice was installed either over or replacing an original molded brick cornice; the wall was carried up to create the pedimented central bay above the Palladian window which is original; the lights in the entrance door were replaced with beveled glass; a bay window was added on the west elevation; the staircase balustrade in the central hall was replaced with a victorian one; the mantel in the east parlor was replaced with a Victorian one; most original sash was replaced. The lower primary facade windows may have been elongated at this time. Principal original features still intact are the keystones over the exterior primary facade windows; the primary facade door opening with interior surround; the door openings from the hall into either parlor with reeded casing intact; the hall staircase; and the Adam style woodwork of the west parlor, a mantel in the west upstairs bedroom and several six panel, or "christian", doors.

A two-story structure, the house's basic "I" floor plan is one room deep (north-south) and two rooms and a passage wide (east-west). The rooms on each floor open into central hallways, and the upper and lower halls are connected by a U-shaped staircase. The staircase is original but its balustrade dates from the Victorian period (ca. late 1890's). The exterior construction is of red brick now painted white. The bricks were made on the site by the Gordon family slaves.

The basement is directly below the front portion of the house. Its walls are made of stone apparently quarried from the nearby Hinkson Creek. The timbers in the basement are pit sawn and are roughly finished on the bottom with an ax. The basement is whitewashed and divided into three rooms, following the main divisions of the house.

The brick work on the exterior walls displays bonding commonly used in early Missouri: flemish bond on the primary facade (except for the Victorian alteration) and common bond on the remaining elevations. The whitewashing was done by Stephens College apparently to cover fine damage in the late 1920's or during the 1930's. The original roof was of wooden shingles, some of which are still evident in the attic. The rafters in the attic are butt-jointed with wooden pegs.

The chimneys on the east and west walls of the original structure serve fireplaces in each of the four rooms. The fireplaces are interior, or built into the supporting walls. They extend into the rooms, leaving space for bookcases on either side. The decorative,

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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

GORDON MANOR

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

incised work in the fireplace mantel includes an elliptical sunburst motif and has pilasters with reeding. Fireplaces of similar design are found in other Federal style houses in the central Missouri area.

At the front is a porch probably added in the late 1890's. It has a flat roof and two Corinthian columns. The front door is flanked by narrow, vertical windows, and above the door is a fanlight window. This feature was found in other area houses built in the Federal style.

Keystones are set into flat arches which are found above the windows on the front and west sides of the house. Segmental arched brick voussoirs are found above the basement window on the front and some windows on the sides. The original, three course molded, brick cornice is covered by the present wooden boxed cornice visible in the photographs, but it can be viewed in one portion of the attic.

The first-floor, back portion of the rear "L" of the house is thought to be a brick house which was built in the early 1820's, and later incorporated into the house and used as a kitchen. One door and three windows in this room have been closed with brick. Evidence that this section of the house was built at an early date includes the exposed fireplace at the back, the stone foundation, and the fanned brick design over the back windows.

The portions of the house described above were built in the early 1820's. Local historian, John Crighton, Professor Emeritus at Stephens College, is the authority on Columbia and Boone County history. Basing his conclusion on extensive research, Professor Crighton believes that the front section of the Gordon House was constructed in 1823. There is no evidence to contradict this date, and the family's history (below under 8) supports it. Thus, 1823 is the construction date accepted by the undersigned.

The second story over the kitchen was probably constructed in the 1830's or possibly after the elder David Gordon's death in 1849 by his son and heir David, Jr. Sometime after 1896 the west side bay area was added to the house, and at the same time other remodeling was done: the front porch was changed, the staircase was changed, and the stained glass windows and lead glass windows were added. Stephens College, in the late 1920's or early 1930's, added some first and second floor bedrooms to the north of the original house and east of the kitchen, together with bathrooms, closets, hallways, and doorways.

Pop Collins Cabin is a single pen log house of the story and a loft design, with V-notching and an exterior chimney with a brick stack resting on a stone base -- a common chimney design in Mid-Missouri. Inside is a boxed in staircase in the northwest corner leading to the loft. The present mantel seems to have been borrowed from a Romanesque Revival dwelling.

The cabin was once located in front of the house, but was moved several years ago to its present location on the east side of the house.

# 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/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Promi	
	ca. 1818 (Collins log cabin)			nent local family	
<b>Specific dates</b>	ca. 1823 (Gordon Manor)	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	Unknown		

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Gordon home although modified is the oldest house extant in Boone County, Missouri. Constructed in 1823, the original, front portion of the house is only two years younger than the State of Missouri and the City of Columbia. It was built and owned for over a century, by one of central Missouri's leading families, one prominent in local and state government, in the professions -- particularly the law -- and in agriculture.

David Gordon, Sr. was born on January 9, 1770, in North Carolina. As a child he moved to Madison County, Kentucky with his family. Gordon resided in Kentucky for approximately forty years, and became a prosperous farmer. In approximately 1795 he married Mary Jane Boyle, the sister of Kentucky Chief Justice John Boyle. The couple had fifteen children.

David Gordon was one of the thirty-four land speculators who formed the Smithton Company and, in November, 1818, purchased 2720 acres of land at the government land office in Franklin, Howard County, Missouri. This land includes the present site of Columbia, Missouri. Gordon himself was apparently present in the territory in 1818, though other eastern members of the Smithton Company were not, and some accounts say that he occupied the present site of the Gordon home in that year and built the cabin ("Pop" Collins' Cabin") which still stands next to the house. Other sources mention 1820 as the date of the cabin's construction. Returning to Kentucky in 1819 or 1820, David Gordon left behind his son James Madison Gordon to look after his interests.

Before moving his household to Missouri, Gordon awaited the outcome of the congressional debates of 1820-1821 on the status of slavery in the new state. When, in 1821, slavery was allowed, Gordon was assured that his property would be secure, and in that year or in 1822 he brought his wife and children, twenty-six slaves, and considerable livestock and personal property to Missouri. Crossing the Ohio, Mississippi, and Missouri Rivers during their trip, the Gordon family was part of the migration from Kentucky which gave early Columbia and Boone County the majority of its population.

The Gordon residence and grounds was the site of the state militia's muster days on several occasions. Boone County historian North Todd Gentry, who knew and interviewed several of David Gordon's descendants, wrote that the first muster was held in September, 1821. The community also met on the Gordon property, near Hinkson Creek, for July 4th celebrations. Historian Gentry mentions the gathering of 1831 as an especially notable one. The first camp meeting in Boone County, sponsored by the Presbyterians, was held north of the Gordon house in August, 1834. In 1830, David Gordon was appointed commissioner to erect a bridge across Hinkson Creek, the first bridge across that stream and the third in the county.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**GORDON MANOR

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

Several of the Gordon children were prominent in local and state public affairs. James Madison Gordon, an attorney, served as presiding judge of the Boone County Court, circuit attorney, and state senator. John Boyle Gordon, also a lawyer, represented Boone County in the Missouri General Assembly for ten years, helped to promote Columbia as the site of the University of Missouri, and donated his home in south Columbia to the new university in 1839. In the following year, the main building of the institution was constructed on that site; the property is now the quadrangle area of the University. George Washington Gordon operated the first wagon and carriage factory in central Missouri. Charles Wilkins Gordon also became a lawyer, while brothers Thomas Jefferson Gordon and William M. Gordon were doctors. In all, thirteen Gordons eventually practiced law in Boone County.

David Gordon, Jr., (1819-1875) inherited the family home in 1849 on the death of his father. David, Jr. devoted most of his time and effort to farming, although he served as a judge of the county court for some years. He named the estate "Cedar View Farm" after the trees which he and his father had planted.

David Gordon, Jr.'s widow, Hulda, lived at Cedar View from her husband's death in 1875 until 1888. Her children Julia, Clara, Mary and Scott D. Gordon inherited the home upon her death in the latter year, and in 1890 Scott bought the house and property from his sisters. This lawyer/farmer, who never married, called the Gordon home "Fairmont". In 1896, Scott sold the family home to his sister, Mary Gordon Evans, and her husband, Newton D. Evans. This last member of the Gordon family to own the structure -- a granddaughter of David Gordon, Sr., sold it to Stephens College in 1926. For the past half-century the College has used the property primarily for recreational purposes, and the house as the residence for an administrator during the 1930's and as a dormitory for students. In recent years it has seen only occasional use.

Among the guests who have stayed in Gordon Manor are United States Senator Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri, Elder Alexander Campbell, founder of the Christian Church, or "Campbellites" as they were known in their early years, and Roy Tasco David, Ambassador to Panama and Assistant to the president of Stephens College.

Architecturally, the Gordon House, despite its modifications, is an important survival. Very few houses (i.e. less than a dozen) survive from the federal period in Boone County, and of those that do, Gordon Manor is the most pretentious and refined. It seems to belong more to a locus of Adam Style architecture occurring in the Fayette vicinity of Howard County, which adjoins Boone County on the West. Howard and Boone were two of the major counties of the Antebellum Central Missouri region known as the "Boonslick Country". This prosperous agricultural region bordering the Missouri River was an old settlement area that produced the last great flowering of the Federal style in the United States. Lilac Hill (HABS-MO 239), The Hughes House, and the Abiel Leonard House (National Register), all near Fayette, have similarities with the Gordon House. The cut stone lintels and keystones of Gordon Manor resemble those of Lilac Hill and the Abiel Leonard House; its mantel is similar in the design of its patera to those found on mantels in the Hughes House and Lilac Hill, and Lilac Hill has a Palladian window as does the Gordon House. As these houses were built in the Late 1820's and

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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

GORDON MANOR

For NPS use only  
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date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

early 30's, the 1823 date for Gordon Manor may be a few years too early, or else it is one of the earliest pretentious houses to appear in the Boonslick Region. It is certainly one of the first brick Central-passage I houses to be built. The only other surviving Adam Style mantel in Boone County is found in Greenwood, ca. 1840, and this mantel is of a very different, more folk-like, character than that of Gordon Manor. The Palladian window design also was found on the Governor Hardin House, destroyed, Columbia, early 1820's, but with a reeded exterior architrave with Bull's eye blocks. The Royal House, destroyed, Columbia, ca. 1820's or early 30's, had an elliptical fanlight doorway with a cut stone keystone, but also with a reeded architrave having bulls eye blocks.

The only other documented elliptical fanlight entrance way in the Boonslick occurs in the Jackson-Earickson House (HABS-MO 241), 1828, Glasgow vicinity, Howard County.

For these reasons, Gordon Manor is an essential document in the reconstruction, from precious few surviving fragments, of the development of domestic architecture in the Boonslick Country. This fundamental fact though diminished by the loss of important fabric - the staircase balustrade and east parlor woodwork - insures the value of Gordon Manor as an artifact.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

1. John Crighton, "A History of Columbia and Boone County" (a series of articles in the Columbia Daily Tribune, 1972-1973).
2. \_\_\_\_\_, Stephens: A Story of Educational Innovation (Columbia, Missouri: The American Press, 1970), p. 345.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References

A 

1	5	5	9	9	6	0	4	3	1	1	2	5	0
Zone	Easting						Northing						

B 

Zone	Easting						Northing						

C 


D 


E 


F 


G 


H 


Verbal boundary description and justification

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 1. Alan Havig, Instructor

organization Stephens College

date September 30, 1980

street & number East Broadway

telephone 314/442-2211 Ext. 524

city or town Columbia

state Missouri 65215

## 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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Director, Department of Natural Resources and  
title State Historic Preservation Officer

date

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

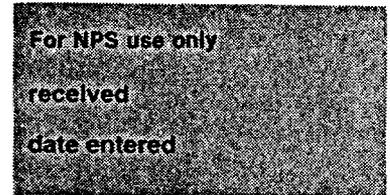
date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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

GORDON MANOR



Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

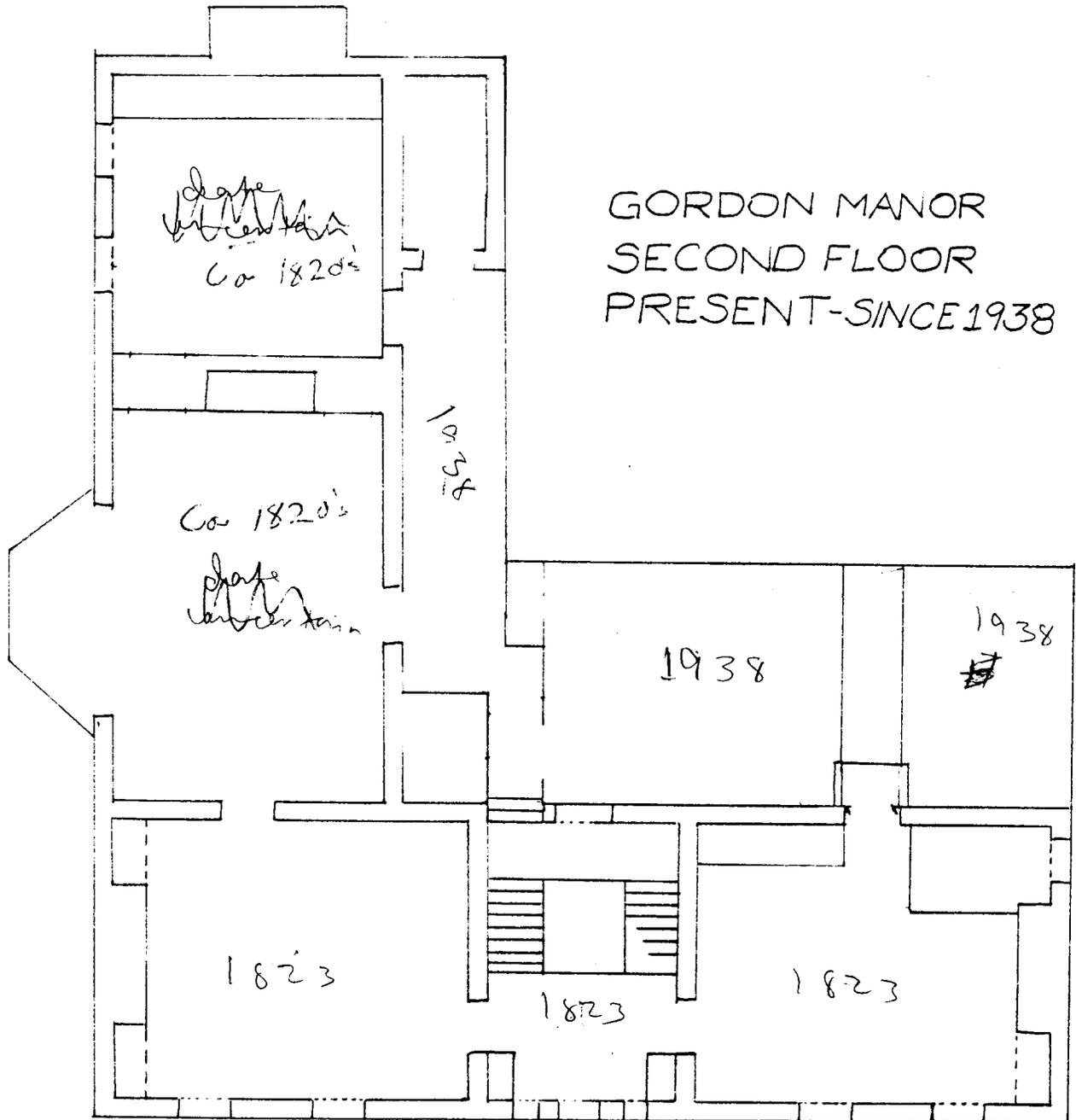
3. North Todd Gentry, "The Gordon Place. Also Known As Cedar View Farm" (Paper dated May 29, 1937, deposited in Missouri State Historical Society, Columbia), 9pp.
4. Missouri Herald Historical Edition (Columbia, Missouri, 1895), pp. 73-75.
5. "History of the Gordon Manor Lake and Golf Course Area" (Office of Information, Stephens College [1953]).
6. Various un-labeled newspaper clippings in the Stephens College Archives.

Item number 11

Page 1

2. James M. Denny, Section Chief, Survey & Registration  
Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Parks & Historic Preservation  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City  
March 25, 1983  
314/751-4096  
Missouri 65102

GORDON MANOR  
SECOND FLOOR  
PRESENT-SINCE 1938



Columbia, Boone Co.

# GORDON MANOR PRESENT FLOORPLAN-SINCE 1938

SCALE - 1/2" = 3 FT.

Drawn by Marty Kearn & Janet ...

