

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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DEC 07 1993

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Davidson School

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number State Highway 85 N/A not for publication

city or town Davidson/Wilder N/A vicinity

state Tennessee code TN county Fentress code 049 zip code 38589

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Herbert L. Amper 11/30/93  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

**Entered in the  
National Register.**

Date of Action

Robert Byers

1/7/93

Davidson School

Fentress Co., TN

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
	1	structures
		objects
1	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Hist. & Arc. Resources of Fentress Co.

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: school

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: vernacular school

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE, CONCRETE

walls weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

other WOOD

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is: N/A

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY  
ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

ca. 1910-1934

**Significant Dates**

ca. 1910

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Davidson School  
Name of Property

Fentress Co., TN  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** less than one acre

Wilder, TN 334SE

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 6	6 7 0 2 5 0	4 0 1 6 3 0 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Elizabeth A. Straw, Historic Preservation Specialist

organization Tennessee Historical Commission date September 1992

street & number 701 Broadway telephone (615) 742-6722

city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37243-0442

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name J. C. Lane

street & number General Delivery c/o Jamestown telephone (615) 445-3580

city or town Wilder state TN zip code 38589

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1Davidson School  
Fentress County, TN

## NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Davidson School, built circa 1910, is located in the remains of the community of Davidson. The one story, frame, weatherboarded school sits in close proximity to two of the approximate six houses that remain. The H-plan building sits on an sloping lot with little foundation exposed on the northwest end and a raised foundation on the southeast end.

The main, or southwest, facade is composed of two legs of the H-plan with a shed roof porch constructed between them. The legs of the school both have a gable end roof with returns. The northern end of the main facade contains three windows, while the southern end has four. The windows are boarded shut with hinged, flush board shutters. The integral porch sits on a dry laid stone foundation and the porch roof is supported by four square posts with two plain boards placed between the posts forming a railing. A small brick chimney is located at the valley between the shed roof of the porch and the northern gable. The main entrance of the school is a single leaf, wood panel door located at the center of the building. The entry is flanked by two windows on each side. Secondary, single leaf entrances are located on the interior side of the legs. The northwest door appears to be original, while the southeast door is a replacement.

The southeastern elevation of the school is composed primarily of a plain weatherboarded wall. Single windows, boarded shut, are located at the far northeastern and southwestern ends. Two single stack chimneys are located at the gable edge at the interior side of the windows. Two small crawl space entrances are located in the raised foundation along with a window opening on the northeastern end.

The northwestern elevation is composed of three windows located on the southwestern end and a single leaf, paneled door flanked by two windows on the northwestern end. The door appears to be a later addition, and may be located at the site of a former window. A detached round drum water tank on a raised metal platform, a non-contributing structure, is located near the center of this elevation.

The rear, or northeastern, elevation of the schoolhouse is similar to the front facade with four windows in the southeastern leg of the H and three windows in the northeastern leg. The rear porch area of the school has been enclosed at an undetermined date, but may have been added when the school was sold. The shed roof has exposed rafter ends and a chimney located at the intersection of the northeastern gable and the shed roof. Four unmatched window openings have been cut into the wall.

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Fentress County, TN

A photograph taken by the State Board of Education in 1937 shows that the school has had only minor alterations. Originally the school had a square cupola located on the center gable, only two square posts supporting the porch, and a stone foundation on the northern end of the building and vertical boards on the southern end. All windows were six-over-six double hung sash. These windows are intact behind the current shutters.

The interior of the school has remained relatively unchanged over the years. Upon entering the center door of the school's front entrance, there is a large common room that retains its original floor, walls, and ceilings. This room is located in the cross bar of the H-plan school. The original walls, and ceilings of this room and the majority of the school building are narrow tongue and groove siding. The walls run horizontally and have a wainscot of vertical flush boards located below a chair rail. On the southwest wall of the room is the center entrance door flanked by two shuttered windows on each side. On northwest wall there is a single door, an open entrance as wide as two single leaf doors and a two other single leaf doors. The latter two doors are sealed shut. All doors and windows throughout the school are surrounded by simple mouldings. On the northeast wall of this common room, there were originally three windows. There are now two windows boarded over and the third window, on the easterly end, has been converted to a door. On the southeast side of the common room is a single leaf entrance that gives admittance to the rear of the stage on the northerly end and a single entrance to the auditorium on the southerly end. The 1983-84 Tennessee Survey Form indicates that the center portion of the school served as a gym.

On the northwest end of the school are two classrooms. The front classroom, the larger of the two rooms, remains relatively unaltered. The walls, ceiling and trim along with bulletin boards all remain as they were originally, however the floor is now a modern tile floor. On the northeastern wall of the classroom are two single leaf doors, one at each end. The space between the two doors shows evidence of something being removed. This is probably where the original blackboards were located.

The rear classroom has undergone some alterations with a lowered ceiling covered with wallboard panels covering the original ceiling. The original ceiling is visible under portions of the lowered ceiling that has failed. The walls, for the most part, remain as they were originally with the exception of two by fours that have been added to form room partitions. On the southwest wall at the northwest end the door between the two classrooms

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Davidson School  
Fentress County, TN

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has been boarded over. This room appears to have served as a residence at one time.

The original back porch of the school has been enclosed and forms a hallway between the small classroom and the auditorium. The original rear doors and windows remain of the school remain on the southwestern wall. However the windows have been closed with old chalkboards (wood panels painted with black paint), possibly those missing from the large classroom. As stated earlier, the window on the southeast end has been converted to a door for entrance to the common room. The ceiling has been lowered and it, along with most of the walls, has been covered with wallboard.

The room on the southeastern part of the school is an auditorium. A stage with a semi-circular arched opening dominates the northwest wall. Entrance to the room is through single leaf doors that are located on the southeastern wall, providing entry from both the front and rear porches. A third entrance is located at the rear of the stage at the northeastern end of the common room. This auditorium retains its original features of floor, wall treatment and ceiling. As with the other rooms in the school the auditorium is missing its original light fixtures. The majority of the school interior retains a green and white paint scheme. Visible from the interior of the school are the original six over six windows.

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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 4Davidson School  
Fentress County, TN

The Davidson School is significant under criterion A and C for its historical and architectural significance to the coal mining community of Davidson and Fentress County. The school meets the registration requirements as set forth in the Multiple Property Documentation Form for Historic and Architectural Resources of Fentress County.

Built circa 1910 to serve the children of the Highland Coal and Lumber Company workers, the school was probably constructed by the company for the county. The school, the only extant public use building in the community of Davidson, is an important resource reflecting the industrial history of the community. Davidson, which now consists of only a few scattered houses and the school, was established in 1900 and incorporated in 1934. In 1930 the population of the community was 250 and by 1934 was down to 140.

Photographic evidence in the History of Education shows that the school was in excellent condition in 1949 and may have still been in use. The school is an excellent example of the type of pattern book school built in Tennessee during the early part of the twentieth century although no plan has been found at this time. The Davidson School is the only building to retain integrity in the community and is an important resource illustrating the industrial and architectural history of the once vital coal camp of Davidson.



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Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Photos \_\_\_\_\_ Page 5

Davidson School  
Fentress County, TN

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Davidson School  
Davidson, Fentress County, Tennessee  
Photo by: Claudette Stager  
Date: February 1991  
Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission

Southwest Facade, facing northwest  
#1 of 5

Northwest elevation, facing northeast  
#2 of 5

Southeast elevation, facing west  
#3 of 5

Northeast elevation, facing northwest  
#4 of 5

Historic View, November 1937  
#5 of 5

Second Set of Photographs (Interior of Building)  
Photo by: Elizabeth A. Straw  
Date: March 1992  
Neg: Tennessee Historical Commission

Common Room  
#1 of 12

Common Room  
#2 of 12

Common Room  
#3 of 12

Large Classroom  
#4 of 12

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Photos \_\_\_\_\_ Page 6

Davidson School  
Fentress County, TN

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Photo by: Tennessee State Board of Education  
Date: November 1937  
Neg: Tennessee State Library and Archives  
Large Classroom  
#5 of 12

Large Classroom  
#6 of 12

Small Classroom  
#7 of 12

Rear Hall (enclosed porch)  
#8 of 12

Rear Hall (enclosed porch)  
#9 of 12

Auditorium  
#10 of 12

Auditorium  
#11 of 12

Auditorium  
#12 of 12

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Davidson School  
Fentress County, TN

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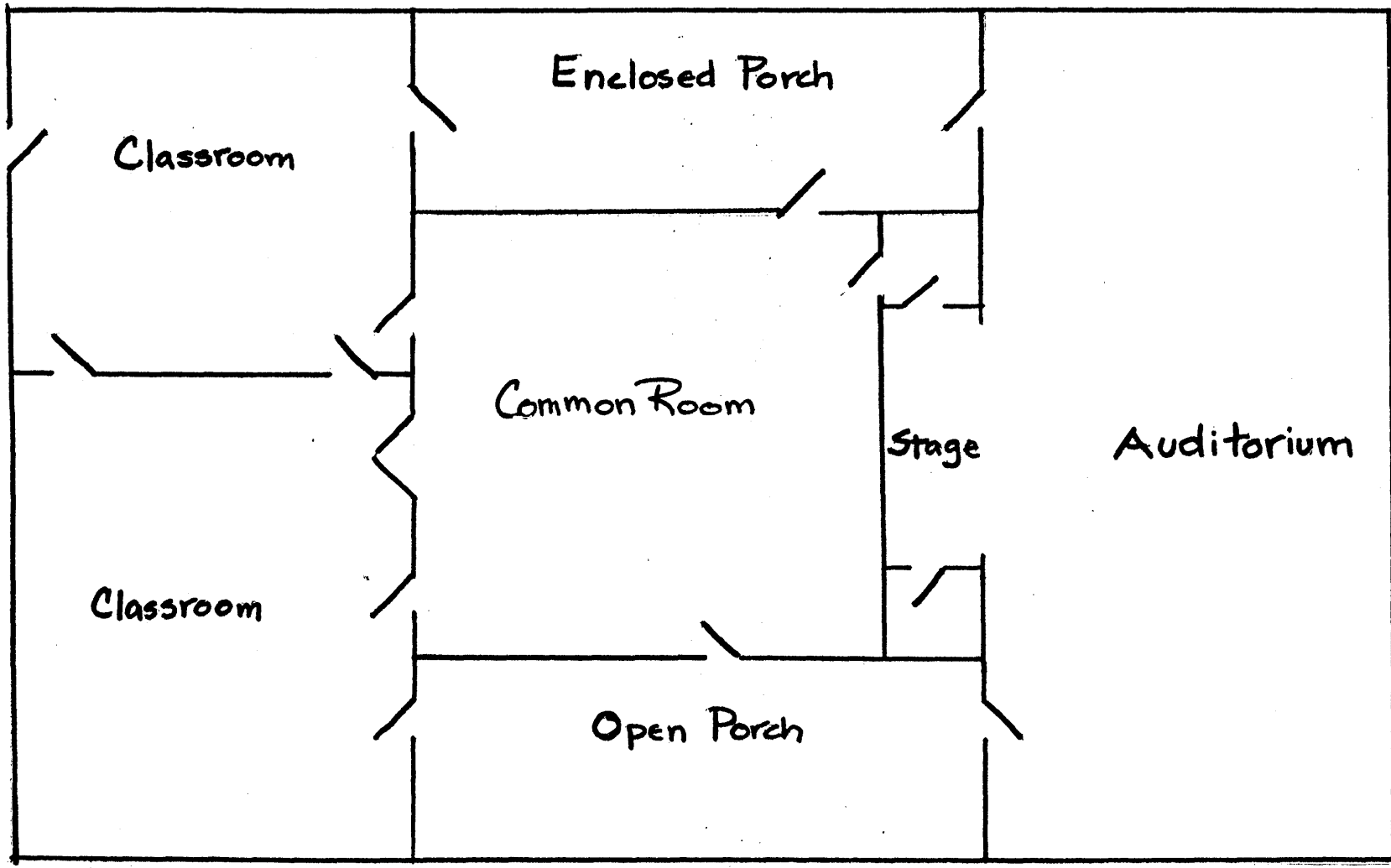
## BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The tax map for this nomination has the scale 1" = 400'. This scale tax map is prepared by the Tennessee State Board of Equalization for rural areas. In the past, the Tennessee Historical Commission has used this scale map for nominations and has found that the 1" = 400' adequately meets our office needs. The Tennessee Historical Commission does not have the facilities to prepare maps to the scale preferred by the National Park Service. To supplement this map, the nomination includes a detailed verbal boundary description.

The boundaries for Davidson School include all of parcel number 8 on Fentress Tax Maps #125 and #117.

## BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries include the land historically associated with Davidson School



Davidson School  
Fentress Co., TN

Not to Scale



215.02AC.

1 - (125)

1.01 (117)

6.02  
160'x68'x104'

6.01  
2.04AC

DAVIDSON

5.01  
10.01AC

9.02  
321'x376'

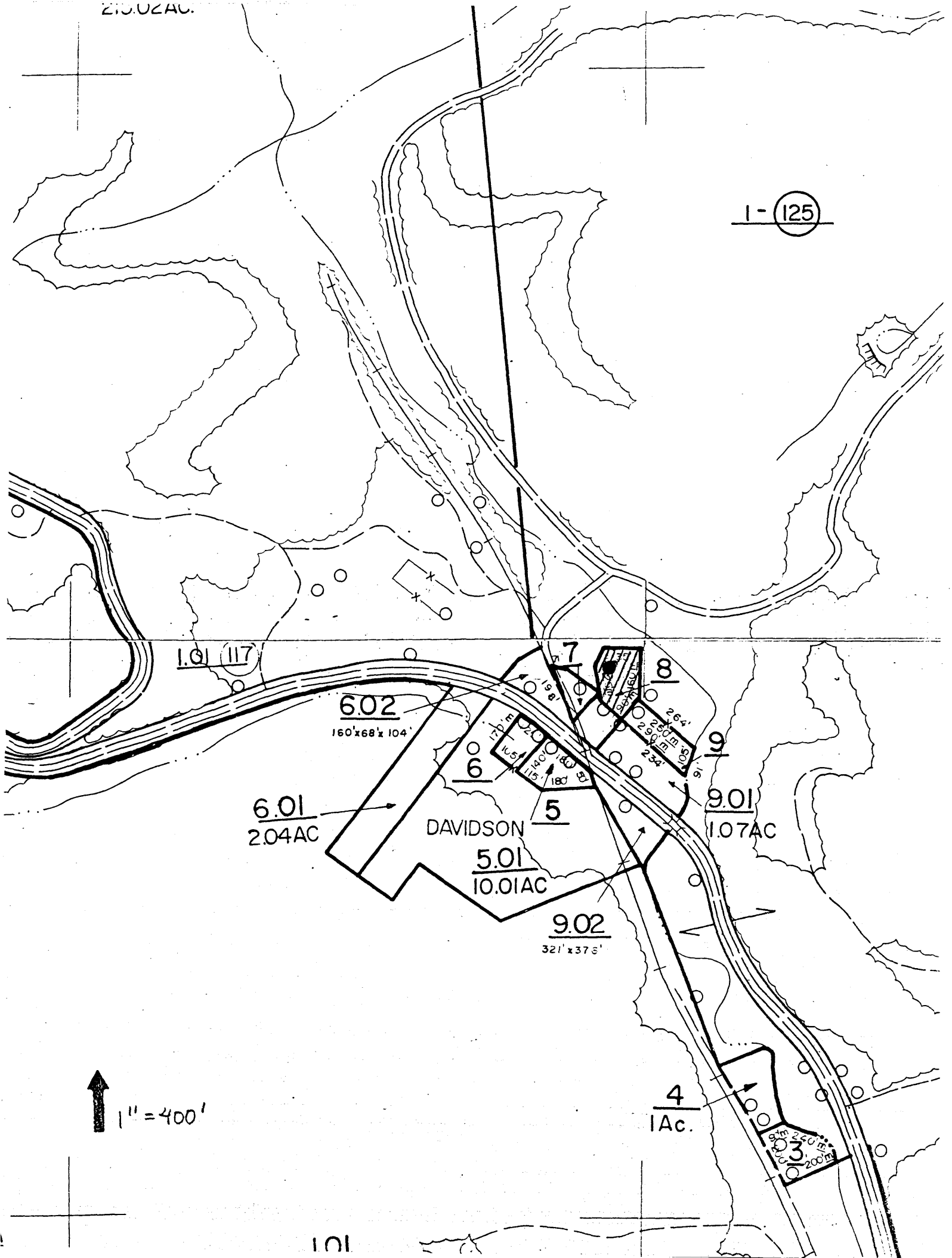
9.01  
1.07AC

4  
1Ac.

3  
538'x240'x200'

↑  
1" = 400'

101



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Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

Fentress County MPS

Fentress County, TENNESSEE

Date Listed

COVER

~~Substantially destroyed~~

7/3/91

1. Allardt Presbyterian Church

~~Substantially destroyed~~

7/3/91

2. Forbus Historic District

Entered in the  
National Register

7/3/91

3. Gernt Office

Entered in the  
National Register

7/3/91

4. Youngs Historic District

~~Substantially destroyed~~

5. Allardt Historic District

Entered in the  
National Register

10/29/91

6. Davidson School

Entered in the  
National Register

1/7/93