

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received JUN 5 1984
date entered JUN 10 1984

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

1. Name

~~HISTORIC RESOURCES OF DAVIDSON COUNTY~~ (Partial Inventory: ~~Historic and~~
historic ^{M R A} ~~Architectural Properties~~)

and/or common

2. Location

street & number County boundaries of Davidson County not for publication

city, town vicinity of

state North Carolina code county Davidson code 057

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple owners--See individual nominations

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Davidson County Courthouse

street & number West Center Street

city, town Lexington state North Carolina 27292

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Davidson County Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date December 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records North Carolina Division of Archives & History
Survey and Planning Branch

city, town Raleigh state North Carolina

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>various</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

A. Davidson County is situated in the west-central part of North Carolina. Lexington, the county seat, is 114 miles west of Raleigh, 33 miles southwest of Greensboro, and 60 miles northeast of Charlotte. The county is bounded on the north by Forsyth County, on the east by Guilford and Randolph Counties, on the south by Montgomery County, and on the west by Rowan and Davie Counties, being separated from the last-named two by the Yadkin River. The county embraces an area of 579 square miles, or 370,560 acres.

Physiographically, Davidson County is a plateau, dissected by numerous streams which have cut deep, narrow valleys. The surface of the greater part of the county is rolling to steeply rolling and the lowlands along the streams constitute the only level areas. In the southern half of the county the topography becomes semi-mountainous in the vicinity of Cid, Denton, Jackson Hill, Bain, Newsom, Poplar Springs Church, Lick Creek Church, and High Rock. Among the more prominent of the semi-mountainous areas are Flat Swamp, Three Hat, Rich, Wild Cat, Grist, and Bald Mountains. The smoothest upland areas occur around Thomasville, Wallburg, Arcadia, Arnold, Jubilee, and Southmont.

The highest elevations occur in the northern end of the county and the lowest in the southwestern part, along the Yadkin River. The elevation above sea level at Thomasville is 851 feet, at Lexington, 758 feet, and at Linwood, 657 feet.¹

This account, written in 1917, still describes the county's geography with one exception. Ten years later High Rock Dam was completed, greatly altering the southern part of the county. The impoundment of the Yadkin River raised many tributaries far above their previous shore line. The resultant lake shore has seen extensive recreational development and has turned a few communities such as Southmont, Newsom, and High Rock into summertime resorts.

Davidson County's "rolling to steeply rolling" terrain seems naturally suited to its division into the small and medium sized farms which characterize the county's landscape. Farm boundaries run conveniently along nearby ridges or creeks, while red cedars have grown up along fence lines and farm lanes for a clear outline of many properties. Farms in northern Davidson County have experienced development pressures due to a convenient closeness to Winston-Salem, High Point, Lexington, and Thomasville. Interstates 85 and 52 provide easy access to these cities and beyond which makes Davidson County an attractive bedroom community. Small farms are easily divided into housing developments, especially when the dollar per acre is so tempting and the reality of farming fifty to one hundred acres so discouraging. In contrast, southern Davidson County has not seen the same level of development, for it lacks major highways or nearby cities. The landscape has remained much less encumbered by cul-de-sacs with rows of brick or frame tract housing.

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Accelerated rural development threatens the primary basis of Davidson County's historical and architectural significance, the county farm. Still standing on Davidson County farms are hundreds of buildings which best represent the county's historic resources. A few prominent structures stand in both Lexington and Thomasville, but by and large, the majority of the most significant resources are located in the rural countryside of seventeen townships.

B. Although the eighteenth century (1750-1799) is extremely important to Davidson County, not one structure is firmly dated to this period. Therefore, Davidson County's period of architectural significance begins with the nineteenth century and continues through the early twentieth century.

Descriptions and period accounts of Davidson County at the turn of the nineteenth century are nonexistent. Between 1800 and 1822 Davidson County was still part of Rowan County and characterized by subsistence levels of agriculture, minor industry, and back country commerce. Farmers were naturally interested in locating their houses near good sources of fresh water and ideally on rich soils. Priorities had to begin with the difficult task of clearing enough land to grow a sufficient supply of food to nourish family and animals. Evidently by 1822, a few farmers had reached admirable levels which distinguished them as planters. An 1822 advertisement in the Western Carolinian offered for sale the following valuable lands, belonging to the estate of the late Lewis Beard,

That valuable plantation commonly called "Beard's Mills," situated on both sides of Swearing Creek, near where it enters into the Yadkin River, and in that part of Rowan County, called the Jersey Settlement, the number of acres in the body about 2500, but it will be divided if required by purchasers. The product of cotton from this plantation, for several years, has exceeded 110 bales, besides proportionate crops of corn and small grain. Attached to the premises is a valuable set of wheat and corn Mills, and a Saw-mill, one Cotton gin, by water, and another excellent one by horse power, with a new prime packing screw. Also a good dwelling house with a store-room attached--an extensive distillery with all the necessary implements. In short, there is not a more complete and desirable establishment in the western part of the state for a man of capital. . . .²

Admittedly, this last sentence may be slightly exaggerative, but this description does describe the extreme height in agricultural and personal industrial development on the eve of Davidson County's formation. The period of 1822 to the Civil War saw comparable agricultural and minor industrial development. Encouraging trade within the county and to nearby markets were important roads from Salem, Salisbury, Greensboro, and Asheboro which linked Lexington and nearby communities. However, dirt

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roads remained slow and arduous at best and Davidson County was not relieved of its back country isolation until 1855-1856 when the North Carolina Railroad pushed through the country. Additional railroads were laid to connect other towns and stimulated Davidson County's growth through the early to mid twentieth century. What is now known as the High Point, Thomasville, and Denton Railway was laid in 1906 and followed by the Winston-Salem Southbound Railroad in 1909-1911, which joined with the Thomasville and Denton line at High Rock.

Davidson County is divided politically into seventeen townships and three principal municipalities. Lexington (population 17,205), the county seat, is centrally located and a diverse textile and furniture manufacturing town. Ten miles northeast of Lexington is Thomasville (population 15,230), another significant textile and furniture mill town. Denton is located in southern Davidson County with a population just over 1,000.³

A system of 1,413 miles of paved and unpaved roads lace Davidson County and link these key towns along with dozens of small rural crossroads. Interstate 85, also known as 29 and 70, runs diagonally through the county to connect High Point, Thomasville, Lexington, and Salisbury. NC Route 109 runs north/south between High Point, Thomasville, and Denton while US 64 runs east/west to connect Asheboro, Lexington, and Mocksville.

C.1. ARCHITECTURAL COMPONENT

Davidson County's architecture fits comfortably into the region geographically known as the Upland South and characterized by buildings common to Piedmont North Carolina, Virginia, northern Maryland and southern Pennsylvania. This only stands to reason since a vast majority of Davidson County settlers moved south from these northern areas to settle in the mid to late eighteenth century. A small pocket of buildings in southern Davidson County have features characteristic of eastern North Carolina and reflect the movement of some settlers north from Montgomery and Anson counties. In analyzing the 120-year history of Davidson County buildings, it becomes rapidly apparent that the county's overall architectural history follows a broad national pattern: the movement from the diverse vernacular traditions of the early to mid nineteenth century to the standardized and popular building methods and designs of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Of course, this general architectural development is specialized in Davidson County by a particular set of buildings with their own time frame and individual set of owners, builders, and in a few cases, architects.

For Davidson County's first hundred years (1750s-1850) county builders depended heavily on log walling techniques especially useful in the densely forested piedmont. Log wall construction was accompanied by frame, brick and a little stone construction. After the Civil War, mortise and tenon techniques followed by balloon framing

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supplanted log construction as the predominant building method. Brick construction, although used throughout the county, was primarily confined to urban areas.

However, a full description of Davidson County's domestic architecture is best approached through a discussion of three major aspects of building: house form, construction, and style. With a general background in these three categories, each house within the Multiple Resource Nomination is given a proper architectural context. Following the section on domestic architecture are sections on churches, schools, commercial and industrial buildings.

The proper start for any general discussion of building history begins with house form--the plan and orientation of personal or family space within a set of walls. From an analysis of Davidson County's collection of antebellum structures, it appears that owners and builders chose from a selection of five basic house types: the one-room plan, the two-room or hall/parlor plan, a three-room plan, and a center hall, single or double pile plan. After the Civil War, builders and owners ignored earlier house forms for the most part and favored the traditional center hall plans or totally new asymmetrical plans popularized by the country's industrial age.

Eight one-room plan houses were located in the county and each has been enlarged in some manner, but the original log, frame, or brick core averages around fifteen to twenty feet by fifteen feet, and they stand a story-and-a-half to two stories in height. Inside, a corner stair is located next to the fireplace but in one case built against the opposite wall. Contrary to what many people believe, the one-room plan house was used on all economic levels of society from wealthy antebellum planters to the most rudimentary slave house; clearly supported by the range of one-room plan houses in Davidson County. Well built brick or frame examples include the Thomas Farmhouse (DV-158), c. 1845, and the brick-nogged frame house once owned by Charlie Owen (DV-528), c. 1840-50.

By far the most prevalent house type built before the Civil War was the two-room or hall/parlor plan. In contrast to the inherent simplicity of a one-room plan are the various ways in which the hall/parlor form was interpreted. The most common interpretation is the story-and-a-half or two-story rectangle with a single exterior chimney. Inside, the often unequal sized rooms are divided by a board partition with the stair rising to the second floor against the partition wall. The main room or "hall" was heated by the fireplace while the second smaller room, called the "parlor" but more frequently used as a bedroom, was left without a direct source of heat in most cases. These two-room houses range in size from a diminutive story-and-a-half 24'6" by 18', as in the Bodenheimer-Sells Log House (DV-71), to the more ample proportions of the two-story Obie Waitman House (DV-328), which measures approximately 30' by 24'. A few hall/parlor houses, like the Spurgeon House (DV-5) (NR) were built with two exterior chimneys for more additional sources of heat, but with the same basic plan.

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An important variation in the hall/parlor plan is represented by the Eli Moore Log House (DV-125) which measures 26' by 18'. The rectangular space is divided by a log partition which separates a narrow stair hall from a 16' by 16' main room. In this case the unheated hall was apparently used for little more than access to the second floor while the larger second room was originally heated by a large six foot hearth and used as the primary living space. A few decades later the house was extended to the rear by a log kitchen.

In an area largely settled by German immigrants through the second half of the eighteenth century, one would think there would be more examples of the traditional center chimney Continental European two-room plan houses. However, the only indications of such a house in Davidson County include the 1910 description of Valentin Leonardt's forty by thirty-two-room plan log house with off-center chimney, a mid nineteenth century log house near Friedberg Church known as the Ginnie Kye House (DV-179), as well as a group of late nineteenth-century two-room plan center chimney frame houses in northern Davidson County. The glaring absence of this well-known Continental house form is attributed to the conscious decisions by owners to discard culturally distinctive types in favor of widely accepted alternatives practiced by the majority.

The three-room house form experienced similar structural changes for a three-room plan was used in Great Britain and on the Continent. But, by the late eighteenth century in Davidson County, the form had been more or less standardized to suit both cultures. The earliest example of the three-room plan was the Adam Spach House, built by Moravian masons in 1774. However, this house is now represented only by a depression in the ground. The earliest extant example is the A. N. Sink Farmhouse (DV-330), a two-story v-notched log house measuring 22'6" by 22'4". The main room or "hall," which contains the stair, measures 20'10" by 12'2", while the two smaller unheated rooms measure 10'4" by 10'2" each. Inch thick vertical board partitions separate the three rooms. Other examples of this plan vary in size with the smallest example measuring around 20' by 18'. A significant development for the three-room plan house included the introduction of a center hall which afforded the occupants more privacy for each room. One encounters a formal hall once inside the front door instead of the main living space. Additional improvements in the plan included corner fireplaces in each smaller room. Both of these changes in the three-room plan are expressed in the Haden Place (DV-317).

The fourth and fifth major house forms are the center hall single and double pile house types, ordinarily built with a center stair hall and flanking room(s). Both single and double pile forms were built by the wealthier residents before the Civil War as seen in the single pile c. 1829 Henry Walser House (DV-263) near Yadkin College, or the double pile c. 1834 Dr. William R. Holt House (DV-532) (NR) in Lexington. However, only a handful of property owners in Davidson County had the

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money, resources, or time to build such an ambitious house before the outbreak of the Civil War.

Through the last half of the nineteenth century, certain house forms continued in popularity while others faded into disuse. A general desire for privacy coupled with a practical sized house gave rise to the widespread construction of the two-story center hall single-pile farmhouse with center hall plan and attached two-room kitchen ell. This house form is found in large numbers throughout the county and constitutes the most frequently used late nineteenth-century house type that stems from a vernacular tradition. This house form became such a standard that it was built on a repetitive scale not experienced by any other house type--until the bungalow of the early twentieth century, the ranch house of the 1950s, or the split level of the 1960s. Late nineteenth-century builders also continued to use the hall/parlor house type, but only on a limited scale and by a few county residents evidently not interested in change.

The mid-nineteenth century also brought carpenters' guides and design manuals that popularized architect designed plans which took the form of "Y," ell, or T-shaped houses with Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, or Italianate trimmings. In fact, two attempts at stylish architectural designs by county builders are represented by the Sowers House (DV-4) (NR) and the Captain Koonts House (DV-11). In effect they appear as scaled-down versions of nearby Cooleemee. Aside from these two exceptions and a handful of T-plan houses (for example DV-54, DV-531), the majority of Davidson County's late nineteenth century domestic architecture is straightforward and predictable in house form and often only distinguished from each other in applied decoration.

For the most part, each of these basic house forms is found throughout northern and southern Davidson with no major differences in their plan. However, one less important but distinctive difference between northern and southern Davidson County house forms is the common use of enclosed porch bedrooms in the four southern townships, namely Healing Springs, Emmons, Jackson Hill, and Alleganey (see DV-2, and DV-454). Small 9' by 9' rooms were framed and weatherboarded at one or both ends of the front porch. These rooms are locally described as bedrooms and in actual floor space have little more than the space a bed would occupy. Access was gained mainly through the porch but in at least one instance the room was entered through an outside as well as an inside door. This tradition appears to stem from coastal North Carolina and brought to Davidson County by settlers moving north from Montgomery and Anson counties.

With this short discussion of county house forms, it is clearly evident Davidson County's architectural history is comfortably placed in the broad context of vernacular and later popular traditions of the mid-Atlantic and upper South. Even though Davidson County included a culturally diverse group of settlers the

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extant houses do not reflect culturally distinctive types. Instead, the county's house forms represent a century long tradition of borrowing ideas between groups and the early years of standardized plans within vernacular traditions.

Davidson County's construction history parallels the development experienced in house forms. Construction methods moved from structurally diverse building traditions in log, frame, brick, and stone of the early nineteenth century to the standardized and uniformly executed building techniques of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

By far the most common building tradition used in Davidson County before the Civil War was log construction--represented today by several hundred log houses, barns, granaries, corn cribs, detached kitchens, spring houses, loom houses, blacksmith shops, and slave houses which remain on various county farms. Comparable collections of log buildings are known to have been built in other regions, but now only survive in court records. Unlike other areas, the vast supplies of Piedmont timber were not depleted by the mid nineteenth century, so log walling techniques continued as practical ways of building until the early and even mid twentieth century.

It is commonly believed that every log house was originally built with the logs exposed and sheathed at some later date with narrow weatherboards. Although a few log houses were built in this manner, the large majority were not. In fact, weatherboards were applied initially to more or less hide the logs and give the appearance of a fine weatherboarded house. More importantly, the siding provided a tight sloped surface for the preservation of the log wall and the corner notch.

In contrast to houses, log barns were meant to be exposed. Broad pent eaves and sheds were built around the barn to divert the water away from the walls and foundation. It has also been noticed in log pen construction that if there was a shortage of oak or comparable hardwood, the oak logs were placed on the bottom and the pine towards the top where the pine would not be subjected to as much rot. By the mid nineteenth century log barn construction reached a standard appearance which consisted of two rectangular hewn log pens separated by an open drive-through. Each pen contained animal stalls and in a few cases hewn log troughs for water and feed. The center passage contained an oaken floor used for threshing wheat. Located above each section were loose board floors for hay storage. The loft above the passage was often used for the specific storage of corn shucks. Side and rear sheds were used for implement storage or additional space for farm animals. Accommodations for only a few head of milk cows, cattle, or horses coincides with the fact that Davidson County farmers are not documented in agricultural census records as having large dairy herds until the early twentieth century. In addition, these barns were never built for excessive amounts of crop storage

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which agrees with the subsistence level of agriculture that many farmers experienced through the nineteenth century. Log wall construction was also used in the construction of countless 15' by 15' tobacco houses as well as scores of smoke houses, granaries, detached kitchens, and slave houses.

One of the most distinctive features common to many log as well as frame smoke houses and well houses is the cantilevered front gable roof. These distinctive gable fronted structures are characteristic of Piedmont North Carolina farms and traceable to the Virginia, western Maryland, Pennsylvania, and originally Continental European prototypes. The form was altogether standardized by the late nineteenth century but still important as a tie to Continental as opposed to Anglo-American building traditions.

The most common notch type found in the county is the half-dovetail; however earlier log buildings tend to have a v-notched corner. A few isolated examples of the square notch are found in the county but tend to be very late. Due to the standardization of the building trades and the availability of precut building materials, log wall construction eventually faded in the second quarter of the twentieth century.

Brick was used in the erection of a few domestic outbuildings like the combination well house/smoke house on the Riley Everhart Farm (DV-346) or the brick smoke house at Beallmont (DV-7).

In contrast to what many people believe, the earliest houses were not all log structures, for almost as many antebellum frame houses stand in Davidson County as do log houses. Skilled craftsmen among the early settlers had full knowledge of mortise and tenon frame construction techniques and it is probable some of the initial houses were built of frame. The earliest extant frame house is the c. 1800 front portion of Beallmont (DV-7), moved and remodeled around 1849. The entire two-story frame is fully covered inside and out except for a section inside a small closet which reveals an unused widow opening. Standard early frame construction techniques include ell-shaped corner posts and up and down corner bracing.

However, one important variation in bracing practice indicates a German framing technique in the John Peter Hedrick House (DV-349B). Here the diagonal braces are not joined into the corner posts. Instead, the brace extends from the tie beam directly to the sill on the end walls and from the girt to the sill on the front and rear walls. This variation in bracing is attributed to a Continental European origin rather than an Anglo-American tradition. Fully exposed examples are found at the Brothers' House in Old Salem.

One framing tradition which appears largely in northern Davidson County is brick nogging. Ten structures, eight of which stand in either Hampton, Arcadia, or Midway

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townships, are brick nogged frames. Although six of the eight were built after the Civil War, the technique was evidently considered good practice by later builders until the early twentieth century. Mortise and tenon frame techniques were used in house as well as barn construction through the final years of the nineteenth century, but were eventually replaced by balloon and platform framing methods that have dominated early twentieth-century construction.

Brick construction has experienced an equally long but not as extensive history in comparison to log and frame construction. Eighteen antebellum brick structures have been identified in Davidson County--one dating to the 1820s, three dating to the 1830s, four to the 1840s, and ten to the 1850s. Various bonding techniques were used in their construction, especially Flemish and common bond, along with molded bricks in one instance (DV-15). Commercial manufactured brick is known to have been available by the 1840s, but most of these structures have a shared tradition of the brick being made by slave labor at the nearest source of clay. Although not documented by primary sources, this tradition seems most probable with the county's slave population and the unending sources of red clay.

The most interesting aspect of Davidson County's antebellum brick tradition is the use of glazed brick headers in the decorative brickwork of a handful of chimneys and the walls of the Shadrack Lambeth House (DV-41). This primarily mid-Atlantic brick tradition has a strong use in eastern North Carolina. The most elaborate example was the Kinney-Clinard House (DV-10) which had three double-shouldered stacks with intersecting diagonals of glazed headers. However, this house has been dismantled and awaits re-erection in neighboring Forsyth County. Another significant example is the Alexander Caldcleugh House (DV-389) chimney which involves a heart design on a checkerboard field of glazed headers. These two examples are by far the most complex. Later examples are less elaborate with single diagonal or horizontal bands. The last house, known as the Andrew Motsinger Homeplace, to use such a technique is dated to 1859 and marks the fading tradition at mid century.

Davidson County's antebellum brick construction history culminated in the erection of two very public and visually dominant structures: the second county courthouse (DV-1) and the first Yadkin College Building (DV-56), both built in the mid 1850s. Each building, however, was initially stuccoed to imitate ashlar construction--a technique widely used in other areas, but one of the first public signs for Davidson County in a move towards stylish architectural tastes.

Large scale brick construction did not pick up after the war until the 1880s when the county's economy had stabilized. Several houses in the county--the Riley Everhart House (DV-346) and the Captain Miller House (DV-516), as well as a large share of Lexington's business district--mark the reoccurrence of brick construction. Assisting in the local manufacture of brick were several well known builders, two of whom were recognized in a March 5, 1890 issue of the Davidson Dispatch,

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Messrs. Watson and Cecil have moved their brick machine from Concord, N C where they have been making brick for some time and will put it up at once in Lexington. It will be placed in the northern part of town, near the cemetery. They will make the brick for a large block of buildings to be put up soon near the site where Mr. Leach's law office now stands . . .⁴

The manufacture and construction of brick buildings steadily continued through the first half of the twentieth century--a fact which is represented by countless bungalows and Colonial Revival houses in addition to major commercial blocks of downtown Lexington, Thomasville, and Denton.

In contrast to brick, stone construction is not known in Davidson County as a major building material. Only a handful of stone houses have ever been documented in the county, the earliest being the Adam Spach House, which was erected in 1774 and documented in the records of the Moravians as built by skilled masons. This hallowed rock house no longer stands and is only marked by a depression in the ground.

The most distinctive stone masonry is located in southern Davidson County in a few score exterior "flagstone" chimneys. A mixture of shaped fieldstones and slate gray "flagstone" makes for an unusual post-bellum stone masonry tradition not found in northern Davidson.

Isolated examples of granite construction are found in Lexington and Thomasville. The foundation and front steps of the old Courthouse (DV-1) were built with granite quarried locally. In Thomasville, the Dr. J. W. Peacock House (DV-601), c. 1900-1910, also known as "the castle," was built with cut and coursed granite blocks.

Like house forms and construction techniques, exterior and interior finishes follow the same developmental pattern from individual vernacular solutions to the popular and standardized designs of the late nineteenth century. A few houses have associated craftsmen, builders, or architects, but the vast majority of house interiors were executed by anonymous craftsmen.

The few early nineteenth-century (1800-1820) buildings that survive in the county contain little reference to style, and instead indicate a practical need for a weathertight house. Methods of interior finish in the earliest period range from a minimal coat of whitewash to a fully sheathed board wall interior. Stairs were usually enclosed and located in one corner for the utilitarian purpose of access to the second floor. A few early interiors, like the A. N. Sink Farmhouse (DV-330), c. 1800-1820, were professionally finished with six-panel doors, ovolo molded surrounds, hand drawn board walls, and cornice moldings. In contrast, the Eli Moore Log House (DV-125), c. 1820-1830, was finished inside with whitewash and the exposed floor joists were decorated with corner beads. The stair in both houses was enclosed, but the access provided between floors in the Eli Moore House is no

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more than a ladder within a box. The resourceful craftsman who finished the Eli Moore House fashioned wooden strap hinges which swing on wooden pintels, while the doors in the Sink farmhouse have wrought HL hinges.

By the early nineteenth century, house interiors were not culturally distinguishable, for German craftsmen were finishing houses in the same manner as their Anglo-American counterparts. However, one alternative method in constructing a board and batten door distinguishes it as inherently German and one vestige of a Continental European building tradition. This variation in board and batten door construction involved the cutting of two tapered door battens and driving each through a precut dove-tailed trench. Once the battens were in place, they were pinned. The tapered batten door tradition continued after the Civil War, but carpenters did not continue to cut a dovetailed trench for each batten. Instead, the tapered batten was simply nailed or screwed to the boards, as seen at the John Jacob Zink House (DV-356).

Corresponding to improvements in agriculture and minor industry through the second quarter of the nineteenth century, was a general rebuilding of the county's domestic architecture. A few structures like the Kinney-Clinard House (DV-10), can be comfortably labeled as largely Federal in style, but for the most part the Greek or Classical Revival style had the most profound effect on Davidson County owners and builders. References to the Greek Revival style in domestic architecture obviously vary in finished complexity from the simply hand drawn two-panel door of the Andrew Berrier Log House (DV-188) to the pattern book mantels, fluted surrounds, and pedimented gable ends of the Reid farmhouse (DV-2) (NR). The mantels in the Reid farmhouse are particularly significant since they are exactly like one mantel in another nearby house, the Adderton-Badgett House (DV-454).

Perhaps the single closest example of academic Greek Revival design in domestic architecture still remaining in Davidson County is the Dr. William R. Holt House (DV-532) built c. 1834 by a professional but anonymous craftsman. Delicate wooden carving in classical detail is found in the decorative treatment of the front door transom, the exterior and interior window surrounds, as well as a second floor bedroom mantel. Standard but well-executed fluted door surrounds complement interior doorways while scrolled decoration adorns each step end of the center stair.

As evidenced by W. R. Holt's South Main Street house, the Greek Revival style was well accepted by at least the more educated Lexingtonians by the 1830s. Through the next three decades the style experienced widespread use, culminating in 1856-58 with the county's most ambitious building project, the second county courthouse (DV-1) (NR). Six Corinthian columns rise on an elevated granite foundation and support the only classical temple pediment in the county. A clock tower rises above the pediment and remains as the most significant form on Lexington's skyline.

Three years after the dedication of the handsome new courthouse, the Civil War interrupted the movement to improve southern society and the building boom of the 1850s turned sour. A specific Sowers family history described the half-finished

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state of Philip Sowers's house in 1861 and its four-year wait for completion. The Philips Sowers house along with the second courthouse not only straddle two important eras in Davidson County history, but they also mark the county's transition from antebellum vernacular building traditions to the beginnings of popular revival architectural styles of the post-Civil War period. In addition to the Sowers house, the Captain John Koonts House (DV-11), c. 1870, was built on the same "radiating" or "Y" plan with three single story one-room wings off a six-sided hall. In this case, the structure is frame and a six-sided second story rises above the first floor hall. Both houses post-date the construction of Cooleemee Plantation, c. 1853-55, in Davie County, the source of at least the inspiration for such houses on the east bank of the Yadkin.

Admittedly, the Sowers and the Koonts houses are exceptions to Davidson County's post-bellum architecture, but they do signify the move away from traditional architectural forms and the acceptance of foreign designs previously unused by county residents. Other attempts at popular styles appear rather timid when compared with the Sowers or Koonts houses, but nevertheless signify a willingness to change. Two prominent T-plan houses, the Gaither Walser House No. 1 (DV-54) in Yadkin College and the J. H. Welborn House (DV-531) in Lexington, as well as one elaborate ell plan house, the T. S. Eanes House (DV-21), also in Lexington, signify the boldest county attempts to represent the Italianate style of the 1870s. Elaborate bracketed eaves distinguish each house cornice and a mixture of classical and Victorian elements are found in the three structures. In other instances the builder took a traditional two-story center hall house and dressed it in stylish detail, as expressed by the Riley Everhart House (DV-346) in Arnold. Here the segmental arches over each window are highlighted by raised bricks and the eaves to both house and porches were distinguished by brackets and sawn ornament.

County builders also used the Gothic Revival style in domestic architecture, but on an even more limited scale than the Italianate style. The closest example to the pattern book "Gothic cottage" is the E. L. Greene House (DV-51) in Yadkin College built around 1885. The ell-shaped frame house remains in an excellent state of preservation with pointed arch sash and corresponding shutters. Decorative sawn work in the eaves adds interest and separates this house from less elaborate examples. By far the most extensive use of the Gothic Revival style is found in church architecture of the late nineteenth century, discussed in later pages on churches and schools.

In addition to the Italianate and Gothic Revival styles, the Queen Anne style found expression in Davidson County and on a much broader scale. Examples range in complexity from the ambitious G. W. Wall House (DV-80) or the Lessie Harris House in Thomasville (DV-612) to the plain simplicity of the Koonts-Hartley House (DV-256) in Yadkin College. Characteristic of the style as seen in Davidson County is a high hip roof with multiple gables extending from the main roof. Bay windows, wraparound porches, and in some cases, ornamental towers, are found in significant numbers throughout the county.

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Although the Queen Anne, Italianate, and Gothic Revival styles are well represented in Davidson County, the majority of the late nineteenth-century houses were built with more practical priorities and less emphasis on elaborate detail or unusual plans. Relatively plain one or two-story three-bay frame houses with two-room service wings were built on a scale not experienced by any other house form. Exterior decoration, if any, was often limited to mass-produced turned porch posts with sawn brackets.

This conservative philosophy in house construction carried over into the early twentieth century even though styles changed in favor of the bungalow and Colonial Revival. In fact, these two early twentieth-century styles constitute the basis of Davidson County's early twentieth-century architecture and symbolize its corresponding prosperity. This is not surprising when one considers the conservative nature of both styles, especially the bungalow. The bungalow style house was used extensively in both urban and rural settings and obviously appealed to the middle class family with its moderate size, informal plans, and adequate but not pretentious attention to decorative detail. In fact, the bungalow cottage, in its various forms, was chosen as the model mill dwelling built along grassy medians in the planned mill community of Erlanger (DV-22).

The Colonial Revival, on the other hand, appeared in Lexington and its environs through the early to mid 1920s and is represented by the stately houses which front West 2nd and 3rd avenues. The Colonial Revival and Beaux Arts styles were chosen as the proper style in which to build the county's new Junior Order Orphanage, south of Lexington, in 1925 (DV-506). Herbert Hunter, a High Point architect, was retained for the initial designs of the main administration building, the three flanking dormitories, as well as the complex power plant. Seven years later, William Henly Detrick of Raleigh was commissioned to design the orphanage auditorium/gymnasium. A score of other buildings were included in the original plan but were never built--undoubtedly a result of the 1929 Depression.

As in the rest of the nation, the 1930s and pre-World War II years did not include many building projects. But the few structures that were built, like Thomasville's Art Deco City Hall (DV-594) follow along the same conservative patterns that have run through most of the county's building history. The city hall design makes clear reference to the style but does not overwhelm the viewer with extravagant size or intricate detail.

Post World War II buildings in Davidson County are easily characterized by the general movement from the late Colonial Revival to the ranch house designs of the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s. Within the last ten years, a resurgence in the Colonial or "Williamsburg" Revival has instigated another raft of early American inspired designs.

After this short discussion of county house forms, construction techniques, and stylistic interpretations, it can be firmly stated that county residents have been

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largely conservative in their architectural tastes. In only a few instances have citizens ventured beyond traditional building patterns to make independent and bold architectural statements. This does not indicate ignorance for a large percentage of Davidson County residents, but firm priorities based on traditional ways of building, practical concerns in daily life, as well as ambitions that were limited by more or less average yearly incomes.

Churches and Schools

Davidson County's churches and schools share similar building patterns that move from the initial frame or log structures to their well-built masonry replacements. This pattern is repeated throughout the county for both churches and schools and therefore addressed together.

Most Davidson County church histories include a sequence of at least two houses of worship and, in some cases, as many as four different structures. Each congregation experienced prosperous as well as lean years which were usually tied to general economic conditions. However, other factors such as church attendance along with competition from other denominations played important roles in determining whether a congregation should repair, remodel, or completely replace their house of worship.

The recorded beginnings of several churches include the initial erection of an outdoor arbor under which people worshiped. These arbors were often impermanent structures of lashed timber and covered with brush. None of the eighteenth or early nineteenth century arbors have survived due to their impermanent construction and eventual replacement by permanent structures. One later mortise and tenon frame version at Chapel Hill, c. 1850-1900 (DV-466), has lasted. The Chapel Hill Methodist Church arbor is the exception, for no other church in Davidson County can claim such a survival.

When money and time permitted, a log or frame structure was built to accompany or replace the arbor. This naturally occurred at different times for each congregation. The first building was in most instances a weatherboard frame or log rectangle with a simple gable roof. Many fundamentalist congregations required the separation of sexes within the church as evidenced by separate doors built into the main facade. This feature was common to some Baptist and Methodist congregations, for example, Mt. Ebal (DV-441) and Jersey Baptist Church (DV-9). The Jersey Baptist congregation was the first rural group to erect a brick house of worship in 1845. Although extended in numerous ways, the main 1845 body still stands today. However, most congregations were not blessed with members that owned rich Jersey soils and therefore had to rebuild in the mid to late nineteenth century in frame. Through the post-bellum decades most churches acquired the money to rebuild in the Gothic Revival style, the major design source for late nineteenth-century church architecture.

Perhaps the most prominent Gothic Revival church in Davidson County is the 1901 Grace Episcopal Church (DV-530) on South Main Street in Lexington, thought to have been designed by New York architect Richard Upjohn. A discrepancy in the 1901 date

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of the church and the actual entries into Upjohn's account book of 1847-1849 leave the question of whether Upjohn's drawings were used in the 1901 construction of the present church. Thus far, Upjohn's drawings have not been located for a comparison.

As a rule, the only Gothic Revival stylistic references in many rural frame churches are pointed arch sash windows, pointed arch entrances, or an occasional wooden spire. Despite the construction of scores of simple weatherboarded frame churches throughout the county, all but nine have been replaced by early to mid twentieth-century brick structures, while only six of the nine have survived with an intact interior. Apparently the small frame churches proved inadequate after World War I and not worthy of substantial improvements. Instead of retaining the old church, the building was sold and moved or dismantled. In its place, a permanent brick structure was erected. One of the most impressive brick structures to remain standing in rural Davidson is the Holly Grove Lutheran Church (DV-415) built in 1914 with locally manufactured brick. As is true with most early twentieth-century churches, the new building repeated the late nineteenth century Gothic Revival style. The Holly Grove church has an impressive front tower, buttressed walls, and expansive arched windows on each side. However, the solid majority of rural congregations did not build on the scale of Holly Grove, but did remain loyal to the Gothic Revival.

Old churches continue to be replaced today, the most recent being the Old Friedberg Church (DV-177), first built in the early nineteenth century and remodeled several times. In 1972 the congregation decided to rebuild and to replace the original church.

Davidson County school buildings have experienced a similar architectural change from the one or two-room log or frame nineteenth-century structures to the post World War II brick schools that dot the countryside.

Davidson County antebellum rural schools repeat the traditional one-room buildings found throughout the United States and endlessly glorified in nineteenth-century American art and literature. Scores of local documentary photographs record individual classes standing proudly outside their building. However, very few early schools have survived to this day and not one of the remaining handful date to before the Civil War. Most have been moved at least once and used for an alternative purpose. One school that has remained relatively intact is the Hampton School, c. 1880-1900 (DV-217), in Hampton township. This simple weatherboard frame structure has a single door opening in the front gable and rests on a rock pier foundation.

By the mid nineteenth century several private academies were being built in Lexington, Thomasville, and Yadkin College. The decade of the 1850s witnessed the organization of several academies in Davidson County alone, the most noted being Yadkin College, first known as Yadkin Institute. Generally, these schools provided

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post-grade school education to a few dozen students in a single year. One main building often served the entire enrollment where courses were held in traditional studies as well as certain specialties. At Glenanna Female Seminary in Thomasville additional courses were held in piano and French. Enrollment in these early private academies never reached large numbers and mainly served the privileged classes. A broader education for a majority of the county's population was not implemented until the last decades of the nineteenth and early years of the twentieth century, documented by the presence of consolidated schools in rural communities of Arcadia, Pilgrim, Reeds, Tyro, Churchland, Denton, Holly Grove, etc., as well as Thomasville and Lexington. A few of these turn-of-the-century buildings were brick, but the large percentage were rambling frame structures that have been replaced by modern brick facilities that reduced the threat of fire and offered a stable and attractive structure for a stronger community identity. However, within the last twenty years, these fifty to sixty-year old structures have been replaced by modern schools of the 1970s and 1980s. A few schools, like the Cecil School in Lexington (DV-581) are being reused as county offices.

Industrial and Commercial Buildings

Davidson County's collection of industrial and commercial buildings shares a similar history of renovation and replacement through the years. Updating industrial and commercial buildings has taken two courses. It has involved either extensive renovation or complete replacement. A July 14, 1892 entry in the Davidson Dispatch recalls such work on two Lexington buildings,

Extensive improvements are being made on the old Welborn Tobacco Factory by Mr. Baxter Shemwell, the owner. Mr. Shemwell is having the windows on the northern side torn out and filled with brick. It is probable that he will put an iron front to the building, and fit it up for store rooms, making it one of the most elegant in town.

It is rumored, also that Mr. Jacob Clodfelter will put an iron front to his building, the old Clodfelter Stand, and that he will otherwise make considerable improvements on the building.⁵

Renovations to an existing building apparently suited these two men at the time, but for various reasons through the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, both Lexington and Thomasville's downtown business districts have been largely rebuilt. As a result, all antebellum commercial structures have been replaced and a substantial number of the post-bellum buildings have been lost or severely compromised. Several individual late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial and industrial structures, along with important municipal buildings, save Lexington's and Thomasville's business districts from being

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architecturally bland. For example, Thomasville's Hinkle Milling Company (DV-38) survives as the oldest continually operating business in Davidson County and is still housed in the original three-story frame mill on Randolph Street. In Lexington, the three-story March Hotel (DV-554) on the corner of South Main Street and West First Avenue competes with the old courthouse for architectural prominence in a business district consisting largely of two-story structures.

On the periphery of main business districts in both Lexington and Thomasville are collections of textile and mill villages. Wannonah Cotton Mill (DV-29) and its mill housing was erected in 1886, well after neighboring Randolph and nearby Alamance County mill villages. The large two-story brick mill is distinguished by two three-story towers and several rows of one or two-story frame houses. Wannonah Cotton Mills was joined shortly after with Nokomis Cotton Mills in 1900 and Dakotah Cotton Mills in 1908, each having their individual mill housing.

Perhaps the most impressive mill village is Erlanger (DV-22), laid out in 1913-1914 on a picturesque plan with wide streets and various bungalow style mill dwellings. Fieldstone retaining walls, grassy medians, and circular streets add to the "park like" atmosphere not found in other mill villages.

Amazon Cotton Mills (DV-34), located in Thomasville, was laid out in 1909 and contains a sprawling mill village south of town. On the other hand, Ragan Knitting Company (DV-42) organized in 1918 and converted the old Thomasville Female College Building, erected in 1858. Through the years, additions have been made to every side, fully covering the old academy.

By far the most prominent industry in the "Chairtown" is Thomasville Furniture Industries, Inc. (DV-46) located on both sides of town with the main plant facing East Main Street. Successive stages of expansion are very evident across its long facade.

Outside the incorporated towns of Lexington, Thomasville, and Denton even fewer industrial and commercial sites survive intact. Out of thirty rural grist mills operating in 1896, only four buildings survive today. Likewise, country stores have dwindled to a relative few. In 1896, forty-seven merchants and tradesmen were operating outside the three major towns and today only five rural stores, dating between 1870-1910, were located during the survey.

One of the best preserved and earliest mills to remain standing, and the only one on the Yadkin, is the Grimes-Crotts Mill (DV-240), distinctive for its monitor roof. The best preserved late nineteenth-century rural store building is located in Arnold on the Riley Everhart Farm (DV-364). The c. 1870-1880 two-story frame structure contains its original green and black wall shelves along with one counter. The second floor was divided originally into two rooms for separate apartments.

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The largest and most extensive rural industries in Davidson County's history have dealt with extractive mineral mines and the timber business. However, neither industry has left permanent structures that document the activity.

C. 2. PHYSICAL RELATIONSHIPS

Davidson County's "rolling to steeply rolling" terrain is characteristic of the entire western piedmont of North Carolina--an area largely known for its small to medium sized farms. Due to the gently undulating nature of the terrain, it is uncommon to see vast expanses of farmland from elevated locations, aside from atop one of the county's small mountains. Instead, one's vision throughout the county is usually limited by neighboring hill tops and tree lines.

The county farm, which has dominated Davidson's historical development, has changed gradually since the late eighteenth century, but still represents the rural landscape. Due to mid to late nineteenth century economic and social improvements, priorities for house sites have developed from practical needs to be near convenient springs to a desire to be close to a prominent road for handy access to electric power. To complicate matters, the county road system was not fixed with permanent routes until the second quarter of the twentieth century. As a result, many houses have been moved or the location of the homeplace has been changed due to a relocation of the road.

Through the mid to late nineteenth century, rural crossroads developed to cater to the needs of an agricultural society. Unincorporated villages such as Wallburg, Arcadia, Tyro, or Reeds provide the basic services common to any rural crossroads.

Within the last quarter century northern Davidson County farmland has been subjected to development pressures resulting from a convenient closeness to Winston-Salem, High Point, Thomasville, and Lexington. Southern Davidson County--the area below US 64--has not experienced such changes due to a lack of nearby urban areas.

Davidson County's two main urban centers are Lexington and Thomasville. Lexington, the county seat, was laid out on a standard grid plan which was oriented around a center public square. Originally, the courthouse was located in the intersection of Main and Center streets, like nearby Pittsboro. However, in planning the second courthouse in 1856, it was decided to build the structure on the southwest block of the center square. Today, the opposite corners have been used for commemorative monuments and modest plantings. Lexington's business district consists largely of two-story late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial blocks, standing in continuous blocks up and down North and South Main streets. Within the three to four blocks outside the center square, a mixture of houses and city churches dominate the streetscape. Once outside the center six blocks of town commercial

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development picks up again, especially along North and South Main streets. In addition, Lexington's furniture and textile mills and the accompanying mill housing add another substantial element to the town's housing stock. Located along the fringes of the town limits and the Southern Railroad are three major mills along with individual one or two-story mill houses typically arranged in neat rows.

Thomasville, on the other hand, is oriented to the railroad which occupies a wide path through the center downtown business district. This area also contains small green spaces which have been used for commemorative monuments and decorative plantings. Most notable is Thomasville's "Big Chair" which stands on a large limestone base and represents the town's history in chair production. The "Chairtown" business district is comprised of two blocks of continuous two-story commercial buildings along Salem Street and North Main Street. Beyond this center business district stands a mixture of dwellings, churches, businesses and small scale industries along Randolph Street and North and South Main. Thomasville's oldest housing is located along Lexington Avenue and Salem Street north of the business district. Like Lexington, mill housing is located on the outskirts of the town limits and consists of one or two-story dwellings. Two main arteries, NC 109 south of Main Street, and National Highway have been developed into commercial strips with typical shopping centers and fast food stands.

Denton, the only other incorporated area, is a small southern Davidson County town oriented on a basic grid plan. A dispersed group of commercial, industrial and residential buildings constitute the town's core.

C. 3. Since Davidson County is composed of seventeen largely rural townships, the building percentages in these various areas highly favor agricultural and residential use. Local stores, schools, churches, and industries only make up a small percentage of the rural buildings. Out of the 629 buildings surveyed, approximately sixteen percent were located in the incorporated towns of Lexington, Thomasville, and Denton. Within each town there is a relatively even distribution of commercial and residential properties with the normal smattering of public and church buildings.

D. 1. ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPONENT

Archaeological properties were not included in either the scope of the one-year survey or the National Register Multiple Resource Nomination. General prehistoric occupation is thought to have occurred along the Yadkin River and its many tributaries. The entire county has produced Indian artifacts in the way of shaped points which coincides with the belief the land was mainly used as general hunting grounds.

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E. SURVEY METHODOLOGY

In conjunction with the Archaeology and Historic Preservation Section of North Carolina Archives and History and the Davidson County Historical Association, a year-long comprehensive architectural survey was begun in November of 1981 by Paul B. Touart, an architectural historian. During the survey, several weeks were spent in each of the county's seventeen townships and two major towns with an emphasis placed on building dating prior to 1920. With the aid of USGS maps, 1,413 miles of county roads along with most farm lanes were inspected for possible sites. In total, 629 sites were identified and recorded. Computerized forms provided by the state were used in documenting each structure and in some instances measured drawings were made of more significant house plans and outbuildings. Archaeological subsurface testing was not a component of the survey.

In the recording process, priorities were established for rare as well as threatened buildings. On farmsteads, equal emphasis was placed on the house and its outbuildings. In a few cases, the significance of the barn or outbuilding outweighed the house. Due to time constraints, repetitive house types, especially bungalows, were only identified on maps.

In regards to the nominated properties included within the Multiple Resource Nomination, recommendations were based on National Register criteria. Properties were included which illustrated important areas of the county's history, significant and unusual examples, notable farm complexes, and a representative industrial site. Due to a lack of time and money, two dozen remaining buildings are listed in the North Carolina Survey and Planning Branch "study list." During the Multiple Resource Nomination phase of the Davidson County project, Ruth Little, a preservation consultant, was hired to complete specific nominations while Paul Touart researched and wrote the broad historical and architectural statements as well as writing the Yadkin College Historic District. Yadkin College was chosen at this time as the only historic district since it comprises the largest collection of historic and architecturally related buildings in Davidson County.

FOOTNOTES

1. R. B. Hardin and L. L. Brinkey, Davidson County Soil Survey (Washington Government, 1917), pp. 5-6.

2. Western Carolinian, February 19, 1822.

3. Jewel Sink and Mary Green Matthews, Pathfinders Past and Present, A History of Davidson County (High Point: Hall Printing Co., 1972), p. 434.

4. Davidson Dispatch, March 5, 1890.

5. Davidson Dispatch, July 14, 1892.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates see individual nom. **Builder/Architect** see individual nominations

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Located in North Carolina's west central piedmont, Davidson County is dominated by a rural landscape of small farms spread across a plateau of rolling hills. Settled by people of predominantly German, Scotch-Irish and English descent and modest means, the county has an architectural heritage which is neither grand nor monumental. Its significance is tied to a more subtle scale and expressed through slight variations in house form, construction techniques, and stylistic interpretation that represent the adaptation of traditional European forms and the increasing dominance of Anglo American types and popular styles.

Initially a part of Anson County, the area known today as Davidson County subsequently was a part of Rowan County from 1753-1822. Within this seventy-year period, the county like the rest of the back country was a wide open frontier ripe for settlement. Germans and Scotch-Irish settlers, moving south by way of Great Wagon Road, began laying claim to lands northeast of the Yadkin River by the late 1740s with major waves of settlers arriving in the 1750s. Settlers of primarily English stock were also moving north from Montgomery and Anson counties establishing themselves in what is now southern Davidson County. By the close of the eighteenth century, a large majority of prime land had been granted. Nothing survives to this day to indicate Davidson County was any different from the rest of the Piedmont's subsistence level of agriculture with settlers left to their own devices for survival and self-improvement. Today, only subtle construction details firmly tie the county's early building traditions to a Continental European Germanic one rather than an Anglo American. While specific German building techniques were being replaced by standardized American practices, the German language hung on with a fierce tenacity that did not fade until the Civil War. However, it is Davidson County's pierced and carved tombstones that most vividly portray the area's German heritage, in addition to illustrating the eventual decline of the language and disappearance of such expressive motifs.

Following the formation of Davidson County in 1822, the county's growth throughout the antebellum period centered on agriculture and industry, both of which were boosted by the completion of the North Carolina Railroad in 1855. The county was primarily made up of small farms with a few mills built on major streams and along prominent roads which criss-crossed the county. Cotton and tobacco were the major cash crops. In 1823-1824 Lexington was established as the county seat and by 1852 Thomasville, a neighboring town, was founded. Also through the efforts of Henry Walser, Yadkin Institute was established by the Methodists in 1855. Antebellum building patterns reflect an ongoing tradition of log and frame construction techniques with only a few more exceptional buildings reflecting a sophisticated interpretation of fashionable Federal, Greek Revival, and Italianate styles.

After the Civil War, life in Davidson County evolved around agricultural and industrial recovery and expansion including such varied enterprises as local plow, shoe, and machine factories to silver, lead and copper mines. In 1886 W. E. Holt built Wennonah Cotton Mills in Lexington. After the turn of the century, the textile, tobacco and furniture industries were expanding rapidly. Between 1909-1911 the Winston-Salem Southbound Railroad was laid to connect points south, and a third incorporated municipality, Denton, was

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SIGNIFICANCE

- A. Davidson County fits comfortably into the historical development of the expansive mid-section of North Carolina, known as the Piedmont. Geographically, the landscape of approximately eighteen counties differs little from river to creek or hill to mountain. In this relatively uniform region, the historical significance of its resources follows along similar patterns. However, Davidson County has been recognized in its 161-year past for a variety of features including plump German farmers, rich Jersey soils, its celebrated healing springs, gold and silver mines, in addition to its famed barbecue, now an experience shared by Davidsonians and world dignitaries.

Although these and other aspects have been previously identified, Davidson County's architecture has only recently been given the proper attention it duly deserves. With a 62⁹-site inventory now complete, it is possible to approach valid statements concerning the county's architecture and its place in relation to the state and the nation.

With a few notable exceptions, the county's architecture is neither grand nor monumental. Rather, the significance of its buildings is tied to a more subtle scale and expressed through slight variations in house form, construction techniques, and stylistic interpretations.

In addition to the county's architectural subtleties, approximately twelve cemeteries boast a unique collection of pierced and carved tombstones which are the strongest vestige of the county's early German heritage.

The historical development of Davidson County can be easily divided into five distinct periods:

1. Settlement and Cultural Diversity--1740s-1820.
2. Formation of Davidson County--Growth of Agriculture and Minor Industry--1821-1860.
3. Civil War--1861-1865.
4. Post-bellum Davidson--Agricultural and Industrial Recovery and Expansion--1866-1918.
5. Post World War I--1919-1980.

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established in 1907. As industry and commerce grew, the agricultural economy fluctuated in strength. However, the thriving production of bright leaf tobacco provided a sound economic opportunity. Post-bellum rural building traditions were rooted in standard one or two-story center-hall frame houses sporting little or no decorative detailing. This trend continued well into the first few decades of the twentieth century with only a few notable exceptions. On the other hand, in the more urban areas the Victorian, Colonial Revival, and Bungalow styles all flourished in domestic architecture. Industrial and commercial buildings reflected new and safer building codes requiring masonry construction. Usually translated in brick, these structures followed standard commercial forms with either Victorian, Classical, Mission or Art Deco stylistic details. Throughout its history, Davidson County has typified the evolutionary and blending process which took place in piedmont North Carolina from its settlement into the twentieth century.

Criteria Assessment:

- A. Associated with German, Scotch-Irish, and English settlement of the North Carolina piedmont in the eighteenth century; the development of an agricultural economy composed of small self-sufficient farms; and the eventual breakdown of ethnic diversity and popularization of national styles and trends.
- B. Associated with the active lives of several local and statewide leaders active in the fields of politics, business, industry, building, education, and religion: see within.
- C. Exhibits excellent examples of late eighteenth, nineteenth, and early twentieth century architectural styles and traditions ranging from traditional vernacular German influenced buildings of the earlier periods to handsome Federal and Greek Revival dwellings from the antebellum era to notable late nineteenth and early twentieth century Italianate, Gothic Revival and Queen Anne style dwellings. These occur in both a rural and urban context and in many instances still reflect their significance as parts of complexes.

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B. HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

Settlement and Cultural Diversity--1740s-1820

Davidson County's colonial history predates its official formation by more than seventy years. Prior to 1822 Davidson was part of Rowan County, founded in 1753, and before that it was considered Anson County. Within this first seventy years, the area now known as Davidson County, like the rest of the "back country," was a wide open frontier ripe for settlement. Germans and Scotch-Irish settlers, moving south by way of the Great Wagon Road, began laying claim to lands northeast of the Yadkin by the late 1740s with major waves of settlers arriving in the 1750s.¹ Settlers of primarily English stock were also moving north from Montgomery and Anson counties and establishing themselves in what is now southern Davidson County. By the mid to late 1750s enough settlers of separate denominations had established their families in specific areas for the organization of individual churches. The Jersey Meeting House (DV-9), c. 1755², located in the Jersey settlement on the northeast bank of the Yadkin, was formed by a mixed group of Scotch-Irish and English settlers. The German settlers tended to locate in northern Davidson County and closer to the German Moravians at Bethabara. In fact, a small group of German settlers established themselves closest to the Moravians at South Fork. Adam Spach, the leader of the group, helped to establish the Moravian church known as Friedberg (DV-177) in 1773.³ Slightly earlier German Lutherans and Reformed settled between Abbott's and Leonard's creeks and organized Leonard's, now Pilgrim Church (DV-351) c. 1753. The fourth church founded about the same time was Abbott's Creek Meeting House, the first Baptist church in northeastern Davidson (DV-76), c. 1756.⁴ The organization of four independent church communities indicates at least moderate settlement by the late 1760s. By the close of the eighteenth century a large majority of the prime land had been granted. However, it took another twenty to thirty years before second and third generation inhabitants began considering a move to less populous areas west.

Aside from scanty church records, the metes and bounds of early land grants, and obscure court cases for Rowan County, little was written to give a clear impression of life in Davidson County before 1822. Nothing survives to this day to indicate Davidson County was any different from the rest of the Piedmont's subsistence level of agriculture with settlers left to their own devices for survival and self-improvement.

The few period accounts from both North and South Carolina that do remain leave much unknown, but nevertheless show a general condition of severe hardship. Descriptions of dwellings are not plentiful either, but the ones that do exist basically agree with what Charles Woodmason experienced in the wilds of South Carolina. His September 28, 1766 entry reads, "The People all new Settlers, extremely poor-Live in Logg Cabins like Hogs-and their Living and Behaviour as rude or more so than the Savages. Extremely embarrassed how to subsist. Took up my quarters in a Tavern-

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and exposed to the Rudeness of the Mobb-People continually drunk."⁵ Obviously, not all conditions equaled Woodmason's impressions of crudeness and debauchery. George Soelle, ordained minister of the Brethren, visited George Reed in the River Settlement on the Yadkin within the years of 1771 and 1773. His description of Reed follows, "Reed is a man who loves the truth, and gladly listens, but he has yet little light . . . his home was twenty miles from Wilson's and twenty miles from Salem." Soelle later remarked that the "Reed house was so cold that his feet did not get warm during the two days he was there."⁶ Little more documentary evidence survives and sadly, not one structure is firmly dated in Davidson County to the earliest settlement period (1750-1799).

The Revolutionary War undoubtedly brought to Rowan County, increased hardship, social disorder, and strife, as it did the rest of the state.⁷ The war caused some loss of lives, in addition to romantic notions of British gold and silver at the bottom of Abbott's Creek.⁸ However, in the total scheme of the Revolution, Davidson County, then Rowan, survived largely unscathed.

Through the final decades of the eighteenth and first two decades of the nineteenth century, no major events took place within the boundaries of Davidson County. A few landowners acquired sufficient wealth to erect more substantial improvements on their farms, as evidenced by eight houses in Davidson County which date from 1800-1820. Five of these houses have a German history of ownership, but none follows the traditional center chimney two, three, or four-room plans well known to the Continental Europeans settling throughout eastern Pennsylvania, and moving south into Maryland, Virginia, and finally North Carolina. The closest example of the two-room version is found in a 1910 description by Dr. J. C. Leonard of Valentig Leonardt's eighteenth-century two-story log house with off-center chimney pile. The major difference between Dr. Leonard's description of Leonardt's house and the extant early nineteenth-century frame or log examples is the placement of the chimneys. Both the John Peter Hedrick House (DV-349B) and the John Jacob Zink House (DV-356) are located near Pilgrim Church. Each house has a hall/parlor plan with openings on each gable end for an exterior chimney pile. Even though the chimney and stair placements were altered to suit the "new" way a house should operate, specific construction methods traditionally used in earlier German buildings appear in each house. The John Jacob Zink house contained one board and batten door with two dovetailed trenches and corresponding tapered battens, while the corner braces in the timber frame of the John Peter Hedrick House closely resemble the manner in which diagonal braces were used in the Brothers' House in Salem. Although these details appear very subtle, they are the last architectural details that are firmly tied to a Continental European, rather than Anglo-American, building tradition.

Another house with a German background is the A. N. Sink farmhouse (DV-330), a two-story three-room plan log house, located southwest of Lexington. Here, like the previous two houses, the chimney was located on an exterior wall. In addition

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to the chimney relocation, the two smaller rooms of the three are of equal size, a feature more common to the Anglo-American version of the three-room house plan. The house is accompanied by an equally early double pen log barn with heavy dimensioned principal rafter roof system. The barn is surrounded by pent eaves on three sides and is extended to the rear by two log sheds. This barn form, brought to North Carolina from Pennsylvania, is thought not to be a pure extract from Continental Europe, but rather, a combination of British and Central European ideas.¹⁰ The double pen log barn became more standardized in time and not normally built with principal rafter roof systems after the first quarter of the nineteenth century.

Perhaps the closest example to the Continental European house type known to exist in Davidson County was the Adam Spach House, built by Moravian masons in 1774. This single story three-bay fieldstone house no longer stands, but exterior photographs indicate a three-room plan and interior end chimneys. Like the previously cited examples, the idea of a center chimney around which the three rooms revolved had been discarded for the Anglo-American version with interior or exterior end chimneys.

While specific German building techniques were being replaced by standardized American practices, the German language hung on with a fierce tenacity that did not fade until the Civil War. Through the first half of the nineteenth century church sermons and many birth, marriage, and death records were given in the native tongue. Several county families with a German ancestry possess fanciful fraktur certificates commemorating important family events.

However, it is Davidson County's pierced and carved tombstones that most vividly portray the area's German heritage, in addition to illustrating the eventual decline of the language and disappearance of such expressive decorative motifs. The carving of these c. 1800-1850 grave markers is attributed to early nineteenth-century carpenters working primarily out of the Swicegood school. More detailed information is found within the separate thematic portion of the multiple resource nomination.

In contrast, the pre-1820 non-German buildings are largely standard one or two-room plan log or frame structures; in most cases, moved and added to in the construction of more ambitious dwellings. Only three have been identified and are now covered inside and out with board sheathing. The rear log section to Beallmont (DV-7) as well as the front frame section are both c. 1800 structures that were extensively remodeled around 1849.¹¹ The rear wing to the Hampton House (DV-221) is a single story log structure which was dismantled and reused as the rear service wing to a two-story brick nogged frame house. One early interior feature includes beaded floor joists which remain exposed in the kitchen.

Formation of Davidson County--Growth of
Agriculture and Industry, 1821-1860

The next four decades of county history are filled with significant events from the formation of Davidson in 1822 to the completion of the North Carolina Railroad

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in 1855. These formative years were bracketed by two important public buildings, the first and second county courthouses.

In 1820, the Federal Census recorded 27,305 persons living within Rowan County, an increase of 5,762 from ten years previous.¹² Unfortunately, there is no way to determine the exact number of residents northeast of the Yadkin. Evidently by early 1822 enough residents had voiced their desire for a county seat independent of Salisbury. In addition, a new county in the back country provided for desperately needed support in the state legislature.

On November 22, 1822, Joseph Spurgeon introduced a bill into the State Senate to create Davidson County. Eighteen days later, on December 10, an article ran in Salisbury's Western Carolinian announcing the act,

Old Rowan is now divided; and we trust all the benefits and conveniences will result from it, which our friends in the new county have anticipated. But although the population and territory of Rowan are now diminished yet we doubt she will not still hold a respectable and influential standing among her sister counties. What she has lost in territory and population she must make up in public spirit and intelligence; in the improvement of the territory which remains, and in the industry and enterprise of her citizens.¹³

The state of Davidson County's development in 1822 is hard to determine with the dearth of documentary evidence, but it can be stated safely that the county was primarily made up of small farms with a few mills built on major streams or rivers and along prominent roads. By 1822, major roads had developed which crisscrossed the county between Greensboro, Asheboro, Salem, and Salisbury. The Salem-Salisbury Road ran down the western portion of the county and was distinguished by several ordinaries or private houses that serviced both man and beast. Probably the most famous guest was President George Washington. His diary entry for May 31, 1791 reads,

Left Salisbury about 4 o'clock at 5 miles crossed the Yadkin, the principal stream of the Peedee, and breakfasted on the No. bank, (while my carriages and horses were crossing) at a Mr. Young's; fed my horses 10 miles farther, at one Reed's - and about 3 o'clock arrived at Salem, one of the Moravian towns 20 miles farther - In all 35 miles from Salisbury.¹⁴

These roads became so well traveled that numerous Yadkin River ferries competed for a traveler's fare only to be threatened shortly thereafter by the construction of toll bridges. Friction soon developed between ferry operators, bridge proprietors, and local tavern keepers. Litigation was filed by the complainants, Moses A. Locke,

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Charles Fisher, and John Beard, Jr., against the defendant, Frederick Thompson, who operated a tavern on the northeast side of the river and was accused of spreading vicious rumors about the poor condition of both the bridge and the road leading to it. The 1828 court depositions of William Gillam and James Farnandas acquitted Thompson of any accusations.¹⁵

The Greensboro Road passed directly through the center of Davidson County on its way to Salisbury and gave rise to many stopping places; one of the most noted presently is Brummel's Inn (NR) (DV-3), located west of High Point. Several taverns were established in Lexington and operated by a selection of the town's more prominent citizens.

Michael Beard advertised the sale of his business in the Western Carolinian on June 5, 1821,

The well known stand in Lexington, N. C., known by the name of Swan Tavern, with one and a half Town Lots, with good Stables, a Kitchen, and all Necessary Out-houses. The Dwelling-house is roomy, and well furnished with furniture, which may be had by the purchaser.¹⁶

After a drawn out controversy in 1823-1824 over the site of Davidson's county seat, it was finally decided to buy a tract no less than twenty-five acres adjoining the town of Lexington on which to erect the public buildings. William Nichols, Esq., an English-born architect who had established a fine reputation in the eastern part of the state, was recommended to the court to supervise the erection of said buildings.¹⁷ Not much is known at present about the first courthouse aside from it being a two-story structure in the middle of Washington Square. But it is highly likely that Nichols provided the new county with a more elegant design than many such counties could have obtained in comparison to nearby examples.¹⁸

The years following the erection of Davidson County's first courthouse were characterized in general by overall improvements throughout North Carolina. Agriculture remained the state and county's primary industry, but the 1840s and 1850s also brought marked development in mining, transportation, manufacturing, commerce and urban life.¹⁹ The decades before the Civil War saw an increase in the production of cash crops, especially cotton and tobacco, along with the sale of surplus grains in Davidson County. In fact, Lefler and Newsome point out that, "The wheat crop, produced chiefly in the central Piedmont with Randolph, Chatham, and Davidson leading--more than doubled in the 1850s--from 2,000,000 bushels to 4,700,000."²⁰ Davidson alone was producing 82,424 bushels of wheat, as well as 507,961 bushels of Indian corn, 79,129 bushels of oats, 2,225 bushels of rye, and 7,888 tons of hay. Also in 1850, Davidson County farmers produced 45,839 pounds of tobacco and 932 bales of ginned cotton, with each bale weighing 400 pounds.²¹ Aside from the cash crops in tobacco and cotton, Indian corn was by far the most important single crop with a wide array of uses.

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Despite these impressive figures, many county farmers were nevertheless still chained to subsistence agriculture with a large percentage of a year's crop used for feeding both family and animals. But, in some cases, excess grain as well as crops in tobacco and cotton provided desperately needed cash. Although most merchants in town preferred a farmer's cash for store bought items, a few proprietors realized the scarcity of paper money and would deal on a trade or barter system. The January 9, 1832 issue of the Western Carolinian lists an advertisement for a new firm in Lexington,

The Subscribers have entered into copartnership under the firm of Henly and Hunt, in the Town of Lexington, Davidson County, N.C. and have bought that elegant brick house, North West of the Court House.

Mr. Henry Humphrey's, also that splendid assortment of goods of Henry Humphrey's and Co. consisting of almost every article kept in a retail store, which they will sell very low for cash. Persons wishing to purchase cheap goods will please to give us a call as no pains will be spared on our part to give general satisfaction.

P.S. All kinds of country produce will be taken in exchange for goods.²²

Dec. 17, 1831

John H. Henly
Andrew Hunt

Profitable market years did leave a little cash from time to time, but in general, farm families did without luxury items and made do with what resources they had in the farm. Most of what a person needed in the way of shelter, food, and clothing was found close to home. Having to provide for themselves led many farmers, their wives, children or slaves to perform specific tasks often left to skilled craftsmen in more affluent or more mobile regions of the country. Home industry, in fact, played an extremely significant role in the production of woven cloth through the early nineteenth century. As early as 1814, statewide production of thread and woven cloth reached 7,500,000 yards on more than 40,000 looms in North Carolina.²³ Weaving or spinning equipment was evidently so important to daily life that special provisions were often made in wills for the inheritance of not only the weaving apparatus but specific patches of growing cotton as well. Ann Smith's will of 1825 left to her daughter Peggy, ". . . my loom and all that belongs to it . . .", in addition ". . . my flax wheel and cotton wheel and cards. . . ." To her son, Abner, she left ". . . the patch of cotton he calls his own. . . ." It was also Ann Smith's desire that, ". . . Peggy should have as much of the cotton that is now growing that is sufficient to clothe her."²⁴

The philosophy of a self-supporting life carried over into construction in addition to many other daily activities. With the help of neighbors, a farmer was often

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able to raise a house, barn or auxiliary outbuilding with the materials found or made on the property. Little more than the timber cut off the farm and nails bought or made nearby was needed in the construction of most Davidson County antebellum farmhouses or barns. If brick was called for it was often made along a nearby creek or by the owner's slaves--an oral tradition which pervades the entire county. Nowhere is the resourceful hand-crafted aspects of Davidson County's building history better illustrated than in the exposed construction methods of its double pen log barns (DV-157). Two separate hand hewn log pens rest on large fieldstones and are covered by a continuous principal rafter, or in most cases, a common pole rafter roof; the rafters held in place by a pinned mortise and tenon or lap joint at the peak and a wooden pin or iron spike at the foot. In door construction, where one would believe the most iron would be needed, very little iron was used aside from nails. Door stiles, hinges, and even lock mechanisms were fashioned out of wood.

The farmer's ability in house and barn construction did not preclude the employment of trained carpenter builders or joiners in the erection of traditional but well built structures. A carpenter's expertise was often called upon in executing the house and/or its interior woodwork when the owner could afford such a luxury. Professional brick masons as well as carpenters advertised their abilities in Salisbury's Western Carolinian. Robert Cox printed in April of 1839 his desire to,

. . . contract with any person either in Davidson, Rowan, or Cabarrus Counties who wish houses, factories, or any other kind of buildings erected of Brick, to build them as cheap, as durable and in as good a style as any workman in this country. He will also, mould and burn the Brick if wanted--He trusts that his long experience in

Moulding and Laying Brick will entitle him to a share of public patronage.²⁵

Evidence of professional brick masons predates this advertisement by three decades. There appears in a handful of c. 1800-1860 houses the tradition of decorative glazed headers in the brick bond. This complex technique required the expert knowledge of a trained mason and constitutes the brightest spot in Davidson County's masonry construction before widespread commercial manufacture. This tradition faded in the second quarter of the nineteenth century as it did elsewhere.

In addition to the glazed header tradition, Davidson County experienced its first major wave of brick houses from 1820-1860. Admittedly, antebellum brick structures are relatively few in Davidson County but prior to 1800 they were virtually unheard of. The desire to build in brick stemmed largely from a fear of devastating fire in town along with an obvious feeling of permanence and status that has always been associated with masonry construction. Ravaging fires have wiped out countless business districts dating back

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to the fires in London, New York, Philadelphia, etc. Brick buildings were at least some deterrent in any age without pressurized water. One of the earliest and most substantial brick buildings still standing in the county is the Thompson House or Tyro Tavern (DV-15). The center hall double pile structure is laid in both Flemish and common bonds and highlighted by molded brick cornices.

Also working in Davidson County from 1800-1850 were several carpenter/joiners and two county houses have special craftsmen attached to, at least, the interior woodwork if not the entire house. The Dr. William Dobson House, commonly known as the Kinney-Clinard House (DV-10), was one of the most ambitious and best built houses of its day. Erected in 1829, the two-story five-bay structure was dismantled in the summer of 1981. In the course of the project, a piece of baseboard was discovered with Jonathan Long's signature and date.²⁶ Jonathan Long was bound to John Swicegood to learn the cabinetmaker's trade in August of 1820 and apparently finished by the time he married Polly (Mary) Clodfelter in 1825.²⁷ Both Swicegood, Long as well as Jesse Clodfelter, comprise part of a well documented group of Davidson County cabinetmakers who enjoyed more than average success from around 1800-1860. Jonathan Long's will is dated January 28, 1858, while Swicegood and Clodfelter had moved to Illinois by the late 1840s.²⁸ These three men are best known for their distinctive school of cabinetmaking, but were apparently hired out to execute house interiors like that of Dr. Dobson's. A second house, the John Jacob Zink House (DV-356), is a two-story hall/parlor log structure with second floor interior paneling signed by Jesse Clodfelter. Unfortunately, no other houses have been attributed to either craftsman. Three other antebellum houses in Davidson County point to such expertise, but no information about specific craftsmen survives. The Haden House (DV-317) c. 1830-1850, is a well built Federal/Greek Revival frame house no doubt erected by an expert craftsman, as are the Homestead in Lexington (DV-5) and the Spurgeon House near High Point (NR) (DV-5).

By the 1840s and 1850s, more and more property owners found themselves with better economic footing and therefore chose to build a better house or reuse the old house as a rear wing, as a storage building, or possibly as an outside kitchen. In the case of Beallmont (DV-7), two c. 1800 houses--one frame, the other log--were brought together and refurbished in the late 1840s Greek Revival style. This process of rebuilding and/or replacement of the initial housing stock is a phenomenon every area experiences at least once, and most likely several times. In Davidson County rebuilding began about fifty years after settlement and reached its first peak in the prosperous decades before the Civil War. This rise in the number of housing starts was a direct result of improved conditions in the county's overall economy.

Not only was agricultural production reaching its highest levels, but advances were being made in industrial output, mainly in the way of exploiting the county's natural resources. However, poor transportation and a general skepticism towards industry limited capital investments by native Davidsonians. The 1850 manufacturers

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schedule lists eighteen individual industries--six of which dealt with leather as shoemakers, tanners, or saddlers; two of which were blacksmiths; another two produced agricultural implements; four other operated grist and/or saw mills; one carpenter; and one carriage maker. Each operation required five or less hands with an average pay of \$50 to \$60/month. The largest local capital investments reached \$2,500-\$3,000 in the operation of grist and saw mills by David Haines and George Kinney.²⁹ Each of these industries operated as a response to the agricultural economy and the basic needs of Davidson County residents.

One of the most important county manufacturers was J. H. Thompson, who is listed in the 1850 schedule as plow and gin manufacturer with a yearly product of 150 plows valued at \$900, 3 gins valued at \$300, and \$500 worth of miscellaneous items.³⁰ By 1857 he evidently expanded his line to accommodate an ever increasing agricultural and industrial productivity. The Carolina Watchman advertisement reads,

Encourage Home Industry

The Proprietor of Eagle Foundary and Machine Shop . . . would inform his friends that he is still manufacturing the following articles, together with many others not mentioned to wit: The celebrated Drurey Threshing Machine, and Horse Power of Baltimore; Lambreth's Vertical Waterwheels, for Grist and Saw Mills, Mill and Factory Gear and Suction Force Pumps--separate or combined--Eastman's Straw Cutter, Drurey's Corn Shellers; Ploughs of every variety; Cultivators; Engine and Gold Machinery; all kinds of Casting and Machine Work, made to order at short notice . . . All articles,³¹ will be delivered in care of the N. C. Railroad free of charge.

Tyro - March 20, 1857

J. H. Thompson

However, the exception to the minimal amount of capital outlay came to Davidson County through northern investments in the Washington Mining Company with invested capital in 1850 totaling \$510,000. Extracting silver and gold required the only steam engine in the census plus the largest county payroll with forty-one employees.³²

Undeniably, the greatest physical encouragement to Lexington, and indeed, the entire county and state, was the construction of the North Carolina Railroad in 1855 between Goldsboro and Charlotte. The railroad was to Lexington, like every other town on its route, a tremendous source of pride, satisfaction, and inspiration. The railroad's potential was no better glorified than by the Chief Engineer, Walter Gwynn, who analyzed and submitted proposals throughout its construction,

. . . it embraces in its route a variety of soils and productions not to be found on any railroad in the county . . . traversing on its way a highly productive Grain, Tobacco, and Cotton growing

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country. What is defecient on one part of the line to supply the wants of man is found on another, the raw material on one point will supply the manufacturers at another, who in turn will send out the wrought fabrics to the producer. The wheat and flour of the West will be exchanged for the products of the coast, and thus a reciprocal, growing and constantly increasing way trade will spring up, which the history of railroads shew is the most profitable business, indeed that it is the only business that pays . . .³³

From 1820-1860, Lexington experienced the dramatic shift from a small, rather insignificant crossroads, to the county seat and a depot for the North Carolina Railroad. In addition, this period witnessed the founding of Thomasville in 1852, the growth of Yadkin College along the Yadkin River, and the development of Jackson Hill in southern Davidson County. The 1858 tax assessments list 66 town lots in Lexington valued at \$45,537; in Yadkin College 45 lots valued at \$5,315; in Thomasville 25 lots valued at \$7,936; Browntown 11 lots valued at \$1,725; and in Captain Tesh's district one town lot valued at \$30.³⁴ Both Lexington, Thomasville, and Yadkin College continued to expand with their respective institutions of higher learning. Slyva Grove Female Seminary was founded in 1849 south of Thomasville but later renamed Glen Anna Female Seminary and moved into town. In 1855 the Methodists supported Henry Walser's desire to establish a college on his property in a loop of the Yadkin, while Lexington's Male and Female Academies were founded c. 1855 and 1858 respectively.

The Lexington Yadkin and Flag of October 3, 1856 ran a notice concerning Yadkin College, first known as Yadkin Institute,

This Institution is now completed and its first session will commence on the 20th instant. This Institution is situated in the county of Davidson, three miles east of Fulton, in the forks of the Danville and Lexington Roads, 9 miles from Lexington. Its location is most healthy and beautiful. The neighborhood is as moral as any in the county. The building is of brick, finished in the most handsome style . . . Dwelling houses are now in process of erection on the lots of the Institute and board can be had at private houses in the neighborhood . . .³⁵

The building referred to as "finished in the most handsome style" is a two-story five-bay stuccoed brick block, scored to imitate ashlar construction. Inside, the fireplaces were surrounded by simple post and lintel mantels. Although straight-forward in plan and detail, the first college building represents one of the first known attempts in Yadkin College to imitate nationally popular architectural styles. Due to its isolation and competition from larger schools, the Methodists consolidated

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Yadkin College with the newly formed High Point College in 1924.

Within the same year that Yadkin College opened its doors, Davidson County began its most ambitious building project in Lexington, the second courthouse (DV-1) (NR). This impressive Classical Revival structure was contracted and built between the years 1856-1858, and when finished, represented the supreme height of the construction trade before the war. The most vivid account concerning its construction was printed in the Greensborough Patriot on Friday, March 20, 1857,

The public square in Lexington is now covered over with large blocks of granite, and the sound of the hammer is heard from the rising to the setting of the sun, preparing and dressing rock for a new courthouse. A new courthouse is very much needed in Davidson, and her citizens have determined to build one worthy of the county, and in keeping with the progressive spirit of the age. A contract has been entered into with Mssrs. Dudley and Ashley, for the erection of the building, at a cost of \$20,000, the foundation and basement, which will be of grante, is eight feet high, the building 80 feet long and 60 wide; two stories high, and when completed, will no doubt be the finest in the State.³⁶

Davidson County's new courthouse, more than any other structure known to stand at that time, boldly reflected the "progressive spirit" of a county on the brink of major industrialization.

At the close of the 1850s Davidson County along with most of the Piedmont was experiencing the benefits of sustained agricultural, minor industrial, and commercial prosperity. Davidson County was finally breaking away from its century-old subsistence level of life and back country isolation. Education was reaching unprecedented levels with several private male and female academies as well as a newly formed Methodist school on the banks of the Yadkin. Lexington had a spectacular two-year old courthouse and the county a four-year old railroad. Everything seemed set for brighter prospects in the decades to follow were it not for the ever present sectional differences between North and South which culminated with the Civil War.

Civil War 1861-1865

Davidson County's role in the Civil War was similar to many Piedmont counties. It supplied its requisite number of troops and suffered through four years of minimal agricultural yields and overall extreme difficulty. Letters between family members document the hard times without the men on the farm. No serious battles

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were fought on Davidson County soil. This fact was remembered by ex-slave Bill Crump,

I reckon dat I was borned in Davidson County on de plantation of Mr. Whitman Smith, my mammy's marster . . . I doan know much 'bout de Yankees case de warn't none 'cept de skirtin parties camed our way . . . After de war we stays on fer four or five years mebbe, an' I goes ter school two weeks. De teacher war Mr. Edmund Knights from de No'th.³⁷

Throughout the four years of war the worst single Davidson County event involved the burning of the courthouse in the fall of 1865 when General Judson Kilpatrick's company was stationed in Lexington.³⁸ The extent of the damage is not known, but it is thought most, if not the whole interior had to be replaced.

Post-Bellum Davidson--Agricultural and Industrial
Recovery and Expansion, 1866-1918

From the surrender at Appomattox Courthouse (April 9, 1865) through the next ten years, Davidson County found itself in a constant push to regain its prewar economic vitality. Branson's North Carolina Business Directory for 1867-68 contains the only statistics for the period immediately after the war. Three manufacturers are listed at the time: J. H. Thompson's Plow and Thrashing Machine Factory at Tyro; the Shelby Brothers Shoe Factory in Thomasville; and a second Thomasville shoe factory run by C. M. and G. Lines. Eight mills were operating at that time along with eleven county merchants. Two mines were also listed in that year: the Silver and Lead Mines at Silver Hill, and the Davidson Copper Mine near Thomasville.³⁹ Farmers, in general, were shoved back into a subsistence level immediately after they returned. As noted in ex-slave Bill Crump's narrative of the post-war period, some free blacks remained on the farms, "fer four or five year mebbe" and helped the economic transition between slave and free labor. Although close to 25 percent of the 1860 population was black, Davidson County had never been totally dependent on slave labor since most farmers owned only one to five slaves and the few planters no more than twenty-five.⁴⁰ In contrast to large plantation areas, Davidson County's experience without slaves was not the complete economic shock that farms in eastern North Carolina or the deeper South were faced with.

By the 1880s, Davidson County had regained a majority of its prewar levels in agriculture and small scale industry, while surpassing those records in several categories. Cotton and tobacco production, the two staple cash crops, were far ahead of the 1860 statistics with 1,553 bales of cotton and 260,528 pounds of tobacco.⁴¹ The reasons behind such jumps in production vary, but are largely due to better transportation and sophisticated manufacturers in nearby Piedmont cities. Winston's first tobacco factory was built in 1871 and followed by R. J. Reynolds,

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P. H. Hanes and others.⁴² In Lefler and Newsome's History of a Southern State, they point out that,

In 1880, forty-nine larger cotton mills, chiefly in the prewar textile counties in the Piedmont and owned largely by the same families (Schenck, Fries, Holt, Moorehead, Odell, Leak, Lineberger, Battle, and others) were producing goods worth almost \$2,500,000—⁴³ nearly double that of 1870 and more than twice the 1860 product.

Although Davidson County did not take the industrial lead after the war, it was to wait only a few years before large scale manufacturers established themselves in both Lexington and Thomasville. In 1886, W. E. Holt, son of E. M. Holt, an antebellum textile mill owner from Alamance County, built Wennonah Cotton Mills. On the 1896 issue of Lexington's Sanborn Insurance Maps, the industrial complex consisted of two weaving, carding, and spinning mills, a separate mill office, a mill chapel, and over four dozen frame workers's houses.⁴⁴ On a smaller scale, but equally as important to Davidson County's local markets were dozens of agriculturally related businesses. In 1884, Branson listed 51 flour, saw, or corn mills, 16 blacksmiths, 7 whiskey makers, 4 tanneries, 4 millwrights, 3 wool-carding operations, 2 coopers, and 1 broom maker. At the same time demand had risen to justify 3 stove manufacturers, 3 foundry and machine shops, 1 chair manufacturer, 4 contractors and builders, and 4 tobacco factories. Davidson County's mineral deposits were also being exploited by companies subsidized with Northern based capital.⁴⁵

After the turn of the century, Davidson County increased expansion in the textile, tobacco, and furniture industries. The construction of more mill villages and factories in both Thomasville and Lexington demanded additional rail connections to nearby Winston-Salem and other areas. The Winston-Salem Southbound Railroad was laid out in 1909-1911 to connect points south.

Before 1912 Lexington's textile industry was built and controlled by either the Holt or interrelated Hunt families. C. A. Hunt, Sr., was president of Nokomis Cotton Mills, founded in 1900, while his son C. A., Jr., was president and general manager of Dakota Cotton Mills, organized on December 21, 1908.⁴⁶ In 1912-14, however, Lexington experienced a dramatic infusion of new textile capital from a new source--Charles and Sydney Erlanger of Baltimore, Maryland. The Erlangers operated a B.V.D. underwear plant in Baltimore.⁴⁷ Northwest of Lexington's city limits the Erlangers laid a separate model community of Erlanger (DV-22) (now called Parkdale Mills) with a mill and surrounding complex of over 200 mill houses, a company store, a community club house, day nursery, kindergarten, primary grammar schools, a dairy, and community church. Neatly laid out streets with grassy medians were bordered by a variety of small but adequate style mill dwellings.

Coupled with this prosperity in the last decades of the nineteenth century was a second major wave of rebuilding throughout Davidson County. Not only were

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farmhouses and barns updated, but by the early twentieth century Lexington's entire business district had been rebuilt. Earlier frame and even brick structures were evidently reaching stages of decay which instigated replacement. Characteristic of the period is the following quote from the Davidson Dispatch, September 17, 1890, eight years after the paper's founding,

The elegant new brick block on the corner, nearly in front of the Court House, just completed, is an ornament to our town, and a long stride forward in our material improvement. It is not only an addition to the looks of our town, but would be an honor to any place. It has an entire iron front and the whole building is constructed on a modern plan. The finish of the front is highly artistic, and the owners and proprietors of this enterprise deserve the praise of every public spirited citizen of Lexington. The first room is occupied by the popular merchant, J. F. Ward, the second by J. W. McRary, who has a first class furniture store, and the third by Messrs. Redwine and Son, the enterprising hardware man. Each room is 23 by 100 feet in size.⁴⁸

The body of this commercial block still stands on the northeast corner of North Main Street and the Court House Square, but like most nineteenth-century structures within the business district, the facade has been reworked. In this case, the iron front was removed in the mid-twentieth century and replaced by a sheathing of red brick. Iron fronts were evidently very popular in Lexington, but not one full facade has survived intact. A few buildings in town retain iron cornices and support posts.

This same period experienced the rebuilding of Lexington's domestic architecture, clearly supported by the growth from a fledgling population of 475 persons (324 white and 151 black) in 1872 to a moderate sized county seat and mill town of 2,500 in 1897.⁴⁹ But less than a dozen houses remain from this period in Lexington's history. Town residents chose to build initially within the very center of Lexington's business district. As the commercial value of real estate increased through the first half of the twentieth century, houses were supplanted by businesses competing for desirable downtown locations. As a result, Lexington's once prominent collection of post-bellum houses was slowly whittled down and almost completely destroyed. Two of the most prominent and best preserved houses from the period are the Welborn House (DV-5) on South Main Street and the T. S. Eanes House (DV-21) on East Center Street. Both houses were built on popular T or ell shaped plans and ornamented with pedimented gables and bracketed eaves.

Thomasville, founded in 1852, grew on each side of the North Carolina Railroad which passes directly through the center of town. The double set of tracks occupy a wide median which separates North and South Main streets. The railroad was the main reason for Thomasville's growth and is appropriately the town's central focus. Representative of the railroad is the recently restored Thomasville Passenger

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Depot (NR) (DV-6) moved and restored on North Main Street. The c. 1870-71 Victorian stick style structure is one of Thomasville's more stylishly up-to-date buildings. It was also one of the most prominent structures erected after the war and therefore marked the town's entrance into the industrial rebirth of the "New South." Population statistics reveal an 1860 level of 308 persons and by 1900, 751 people were living in town.⁵⁰ However, Thomasville's largest expansion occurred through the first quarter of the twentieth century with a population of 5,676 in 1920.⁵¹

Thomasville's industry through the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries had a healthy diversity, but was centered on furniture and cotton manufacturers. In fact, the town claims to have had one of the first "cottage" type chair manufacturers in the state, a fact and reputation it would strengthen in later years with the nickname, "the Chairtown." The most noted tribute to chair production was the erection of the world's largest chair between the pair of railroad tracks in 1922. The initial chair, made of enough wood for one hundred chairs, eventually rotted and was replaced in 1949 by a steel reproduction of a Duncan Phyfe armchair.⁵²

"The Chairtown" has also lost a large percentage of its significant commercial and domestic buildings. Like Lexington, the central business district has been largely rebuilt with only a few remnants of nineteenth-century fabric. One of the most noted commercial structures in Thomasville is the Hinkle Milling Company (DV-38) begun in 1883 and still operating in the same three-story frame building in which it started.

Thomasville's historic housing stock has dwindled to a few late nineteenth and early twentieth-century structures, located along both Salem and Randolph streets and Lexington Avenue. The larger and more unusual structures date to the 1900-1950 period and coincide with Thomasville's period of prosperity. In fact, in 1938 the town appropriated the necessary funds to erect a simple but well executed City Hall in the Art Deco style (DV-594).

Denton, the third incorporated municipality in Davidson County, is located in southern Davidson County. Denton grew for many of the same reasons that Thomasville thrived in the first few decades of the twentieth century. M. L. Jones, a leading businessman from Thomasville, financed the construction of a railroad which connected Thomasville and Denton. He did this in order to transport lumber from the relatively undeveloped and heavily wooded townships of southern Davidson County. Shortly thereafter Denton became known as the "cross tie capital" of North Carolina. In 1907 Denton was incorporated and by 1914 had a population of 621 (615 white, 6 colored).⁵³ In addition, several manufacturers had located in Denton including Denton Roller Mills, Denton Lumber Company, Hugh and Price Lumber Company, Freeman's Molding Plant, Denton Chair Company, and L. A. Smith's Brick Plant.⁵⁴

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Since the railroad went through Denton, nearby Jackson Hill settled into a slow decline with its final store closing in 1960.

The general prosperity witnessed in each of these three towns through the late nineteenth and early twentieth century was coupled with a general rebuilding of the county's antebellum housing stock. In each area, popular architectural styles and house forms began to replace the diverse vernacular traditions that dominated Davidson County's early architecture. In general, frame and brick construction replaced log wall techniques, and various room arrangements were discarded in the widespread acceptance of the center-hall single-pile house type.

However, it is important to point out that although industry and commerce thrived in most portions of the county, the farmers suffered through national agricultural problems in overproduction and falling prices. This painful fact forced many county farmers to seek work in the nearby mills, unless they were able to capitalize on the thriving bright-leaf tobacco business operating throughout the Piedmont.

Riley Everhart, a local farmer, merchant, and tobacco manufacturer, organized and built a three-story frame tobacco factory and employed several dozen black laborers. In addition to his tobacco factory, Riley Everhart managed a country store adjacent to his two-story ell shaped brick house. The Riley Everhart farm (DV-346) not only exemplifies the highest level of post-bellum economic success in Davidson County, but the conservative use of the single pile center hall plan house form. To distinguish his house from others, Riley Everhart hired D. K. Cecil, a local brick mason/contractor, to embellish the structure with nationally popular Italianate arched windows and bracketed eaves.

Another contemporary house which represents this same desire in a different manner is the Captain Koontz House (DV-11) c. 1870-1880, located along the banks of the Yadkin River. This Y-plan frame house is fundamentally the same as the nearby Sowers House (DV-4) (NR) c. 1870. While both houses make reference to an architectural idea first introduced by Peter Hairston in the construction of Cooleemee Plantation in neighboring Davie County (NL), neither house is an exact replica of Cooleemee nor is either house an exact copy of each other. But each Davidson County house was built within ten years of each other on essentially the same Y-plan.

These three houses are a few of the exceptions to Davidson County's post-bellum building traditions. Each of these structures aptly represent a clear desire to break away from the norm with a bold architectural statement that reflected their acquired economic status. Most county residents could not entertain such ambitions in house construction and made do with standard one or two story center hall frame houses with little or no decorative detail through the first few decades of the twentieth century.

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Post World War I

After World War I, Davidson County, like much of the state, continued to expand its industrial base in addition to improving its educational facilities, social services, transportation, and hydroelectric power.

Perhaps the single most spectacular event to affect Davidson County in the last sixty years was the construction of High Rock Dam in 1927 by Carolinian Aluminum Company with the resulting impoundment of the Yadkin River. This plant was used later by Southern Power and part of James B. Duke's mammoth utility producing and distributing corporation, now known as Duke Power Company.⁵⁵ This gave Duke Power the ability to provide necessary electricity to thousands of industrial as well as residential customers.

The most ambitious philanthropic event in the county's early twentieth century history has to be the construction of the Junior Order Orphanage for United American Mechanics, initially built and operated for orphaned children of this national fraternity. The National Council, with strong assistance from the local order, purchased Ab Taylor's 300-acre farm south of Lexington.⁵⁶ An impressive set of Beaux-Arts brick buildings, designed by High Point architect Herbert Hunter, were erected in the years 1925-1927. Shortly afterwards, the Sam F. Vance Auditorium was designed by William Henly Detrick of Raleigh and added to the complex.

Through the last sixty years, Davidson County's population has grown from 55,201 in 1920 to its 1970 level of 95,627. Corresponding growth has occurred in both Lexington and Thomasville; in 1920 Lexington had 5,254 residents compared to Thomasville's 5,676, while 1970 statistics record 17,205 living in Lexington and 15,230 in Thomasville.⁵⁷

In 1920, 23,712 residents lived outside the incorporated towns of Lexington, Thomasville, and Denton, in contrast to 1970 when 62,125 people lived in the country, a difference of 38,413. The ratio between urban and rural residents is not much different between 1920 and 1970, but the general increase in population coupled with enhanced mobility to the suburbs has encouraged residential development, especially in those townships which border Lexington, Thomasville, Winston-Salem, and High Point. To accommodate more urban residents, city limits were expanded which now include large early twentieth century neighborhoods of Queen Anne, Bungalow, Colonial Revival, or ranch style houses. Especially noteworthy collections of early twentieth-century domestic buildings are located along West First, West Second, and West Third avenues in Lexington, or Salem Street and Lexington Avenue in Thomasville. Literally hundreds of these stylish houses were built throughout the county. Mid twentieth-century construction saw an increased appearance of brick or concrete block houses and the final arrival of the ranch.

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Within the last twenty years, tract developments have run the gamut from palatial country club estates in Willow Creek or Sapona to rows of rectangular tin trailers in south central Midway township.

Development has not encroached southern Davidson County to the same degree due to the distance between urban centers, but more and more people find the gently undulating landscape of Davidson County naturally pleasing and economically attractive.

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D. ARCHITECTURE

The buildings included in Davidson County's Multiple Resource Nomination represent the wide array of house forms, construction techniques, and interior finishes characteristic of Davidson County's early dependence on vernacular building traditions and later change to nationally popular styles. In turn, these buildings physically represent the county's transformation from an isolated back country wilderness to an industrial power in North Carolina. This architectural change is no better illustrated than when comparing the Eli Moore Log House (DV-125), a simple and very basic settlement type dwelling, to the Riley Everhart House, which exemplifies the conservative, but very obvious desire to build in an architecturally up-to-date style. Although the revival styles reached other more urban centers by the 1850s it was not until the 1870s and 1880s that such styles were considered in Davidson County. This cultural or aesthetic lag in county buildings is characteristic of Davidson County and is found not only in styles but more importantly, house forms and construction techniques.

Agriculture

Davidson County's estimated 230-year history has been largely centered around the small to medium sized farm. Although industry has located in Lexington, Thomasville, and Denton, as well as out in the county, the county farm remains the most dominant feature of Davidson County's landscape. Not until the 1880s did industry play a larger role than simply providing necessary goods for an agriculturally based society. Included in the Multiple Resource Nomination are several farm complexes, most notably the Hamilton Everhart and Riley Everhart farm complexes. Located on both farmsteads are a compliment of outbuildings which reflect the self-sufficient nature of the Piedmont farm as well as the diversity of both domestic and farm operations.

Education

Yadkin College, founded in 1856, represents in Davidson County the statewide organization of private institutions through the second and third quarters of the nineteenth century. The "intellectual awakening" experienced throughout the state instigated the founding of several similar academies in Davidson County. But Yadkin College operated the longest and maintained a respected reputation until its closing in 1924.

Industry

Characteristic of any agricultural society are the numerous grist and saw mills which supplied basic needs of county farmers. Davidson County was no different from any other area with scores of water and later steam and diesel generated mills.

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Today, only a handful of these mills still stand to represent this important aspect of rural life. The Grimes-Crotts Mill (DV-240) is the only mill to remain standing along Davidson County's portion of the Yadkin River.

Religion

With settlement of this area dating to the late 1740s, several important churches reflect this long history. Jersey Baptist Church (DV-9), established in 1755, is one of the oldest congregations in Davidson County. The single story brick church, erected in 1843-45, is the oldest church building in rural Davidson. The county's diverse cultural heritage is aptly represented by several German Reformed and Lutheran congregations in addition to the standard Baptist, Methodists, Presbyterians, Catholics, Episcopalians, etc. These churches formed the basis around which each individual community operated.

Sculpture

Located in twelve church cemeteries is a unique collection of carved and in some cases, pierced tombstones, mainly dating between 1800-1850. The hand carved sculptural qualities of these grave markers are a fine tribute to the craftsmen as well as the German culture which contains such expressive and decorative motifs. These tombstones are the strongest link Davidson County maintains with its German heritage.

E. Archaeology is not a component of the Multiple Resource Nomination.

F. The recent preservation and/or restoration movement that has swept the country in the last twenty years is a relatively new concept in Davidson County. Nearby Salisbury and Old Salem have strong historic districts and have gone a long way to establish a vital awareness and sensitivity for historic preservation in Davidson County. People throughout the country have a genuine interest in "old timey" ways and often try their best in at least maintaining what they can. Group efforts have effectively saved several important structures; for example, the Old Davidson County Courthouse (DV-1) and the Thomasville Railroad Depot (DV-6). The watchful eye of North Carolina's Historic Preservation Fund has brought professional and financial assistance in the preservation of two county properties and plans to do more. (The Homestead (DV-532) and the Craven House (DV-25).) To date, six properties have been nominated to the National Register: the Old Davidson County Courthouse (DV-1), the Reid Farm (DV-2), Brummel's Inn (DV-3), the Philip Sowers House (DV-4), the Spurgeon House (DV-5), and Thomasville's Railroad Depot (DV-6).

Within the last ten years several private people have moved historic buildings to a new, but usually compromised site, with the well-founded desire to keep at

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least the building. As a rule, Davidson County residents are practical people and will often maintain a good roof on a building that still offers some sort of usable space, if only to store tobacco or hay. Unfortunately, a good percentage of the county's important buildings fall into this category which always carries with it an uncertain future. It is the philosophy of some landowners that although a building may stand unused, but still retrievable, they would rather see its eventual decay than to sell the land. This is understandable but often a frustrating point of view for historically minded people.

G. The sites included in the Multiple Resource Nomination were chosen through a priority system which emphasized architectural rarity, integrity, and historical significance. A concern was also established for threatened structures which contain extremely important features not found in other buildings. The nomination includes seventeen individual properties, one historic district, and one thematic group of twelve cemeteries. Individually these properties meet the National Register criteria and collectively they represent broad patterns in Davidson County history. The one district at Yadkin College consists of a collection of mid to late nineteenth-century frame and brick buildings, a rare group of well preserved historically related structures. Therefore this community drew the highest priority with the limited amount of time. At some future date, smaller twentieth-century residential or commercial districts in Lexington as well as individual properties may be added when time allows

H. Although Jersey Church, Mount Ebal and the twelve cemeteries are religious properties, and as such generally exempt from listing on the National Register, they are included in Davidson County's Multiple Resource Nomination because they reflect important settlement areas as well as distinctive architectural and cultural traditions. The tombstones are especially significant in portraying the German heritage of northern Davidson. (For additional information, see individual property.)

I. During the entire survey period Davidson County's Planning Office has been extremely cooperative in lending information and support. Their initial comprehensive plan, executed in June of 1978, includes a segment on historic sites and admits the need for a full cultural resource survey.

On the state level, the information gathered on the inventory computer forms will form the data base of the architectural portion of the Cultural Resources Evaluation Programs (CREP). CREP will allow a full range of data management capabilities including the sorting, selecting, reporting, analyzing, and graphic mapping of these resources so that they can be easily considered in statewide planning processes of various types.

It is the hope of the Historical Association that the information will be published in the near future.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheets

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____ See individual forms Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References

A

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C

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D

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See individual forms

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

state N/A code county N/A code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart Individual nominations--Ruth Little

organization Davidson County Historical Association date June 15, 1983

street & number P. O. Box 404 telephone 704/246-2283

city or town Lexington state North Carolina 27292

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is: See individual forms

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 *William S. King, Jr.*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date March 15, 1984

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

See Continuation sheet for listing date
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Davidson County Multiple Resource Area
State NORTH CAROLINA

Cover 66 District 7/10/84

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Adderton-Badgett House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melona Byers 7/10/84

Attest

2. Beallmont

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melona Byers 7/10/84

Attest

3. Everhart, Hamilton, Farm

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melona Byers 7/10/84

Attest

4. Everhart, Riley, Farm and
General Store

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melona Byers 7/10/84

Attest

5. Grimes-Crotts Mill

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melona Byers 7/10/84

Attest

6. Haden Place

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melona Byers 7/10/84

Attest

7. Hampton House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melona Byers 7/10/84

Attest

8. Jersey Settlement Meeting House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melona Byers 7/10/84

Attest

9. Junior Order United American
Mechanics National Orphans Home

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melona Byers 7/10/84

Attest

10. Koonts, Capt. John Jr., Farm

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melona Byers 7/10/84

Attest

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National Park Service**

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Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received 6/1/84
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 3 of 3

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Davidson County Multiple Resource Area
State NORTH CAROLINA

Nomination/Type of Review	Entered in the National Register	for	Date/Signature
21. Abbott's Creek Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery	Entered in the National Register	Keeper	<u>Melona Byers 7/10/84</u>
		Attest	_____
22. Beck's Reformed Church Cemetery	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	<u>Melona Byers 7/10/84</u>
		Attest	_____
23. Bethany Reformed and Lutheran Church Cemetery	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	<u>Melona Byers 7/10/84</u>
		Attest	_____
24. Emanuel United Church of Christ Cemetery	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	<u>Melona Byers 7/10/84</u>
		Attest	_____
25. Fair Grove Methodist Church Cemetery	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	<u>Melona Byers 7/10/84</u>
		Attest	_____
26. Jersey Baptist Church Cemetery	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	<u>Melona Byers 7/10/84</u>
		Attest	_____
27. Pilgrim Reformed Church Cemetery	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	<u>Melona Byers 7/10/84</u>
		Attest	_____
28. St. Luke's Lutheran Church Cemetery	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	<u>Melona Byers 7/10/84</u>
		Attest	_____
29. Spring Hill Methodist Protestant Church Cemetery	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	<u>Melona Byers 7/10/84</u>
		Attest	_____
30. Waggoner Graveyard	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	<u>Melona Byers 7/10/84</u>
		Attest	_____

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National Park Service

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For NPS use only

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Item number

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Davidson County Multiple Resource Area
State NORTH CAROLINA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

11. Lambeth, Shadrach, House Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 7/10/84

Attest

12. Moore, Eli, House Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 7/10/84

Attest

13. Mount Ebal Methodist Protestant
Church

Keeper Wm Duke 7/10/1984

Attest

received
14. Shoaf, Henry, Farm

Substantive Review

Keeper Wm Duke 7/13/1984

Attest

15. Tyro Tavern Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 8/16/84

Attest

16. Wall, George W., House Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 7/10/84

Attest

17. Welborn, John, Henry, House Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 7/10/84

Attest

COVER Substantive Review
18. Anglo-German Cemeteries Thematic
Resources

Keeper OK - Duke 7/10/84

Attest

19. Good Hope Methodist Church Cemetery
Substantive Review

Keeper Wm Duke 7/10/84

Attest

20. Beulah Church of Christ Cemetery

for Keeper Delores Byers 7/10/84

Attest

Entered in the
National Register

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Davidson County Multiple Resource Area
State NC

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

31. Yadkin College Historic District entered in the National Register

Keeper *Melvin Byrum* 2/25/88

Attest _____

32.

Keeper _____

Attest _____

33.

Keeper _____

Attest _____

34.

Keeper _____

Attest _____

35.

Keeper _____

Attest _____

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Keeper _____

Attest _____

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Keeper _____

Attest _____

38.

Keeper _____

Attest _____

39.

Keeper _____

Attest _____

40.

Keeper _____

Attest _____