

P#038 7341

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 30 1976

DATE ENTERED APR 26 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME *hm* **

HISTORIC
Benjamin W. Davidson House
AND/OR COMMON
Oak Lawn

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *W of Huntersville*
S.R. 2138, 0.6 mi. n. of junction with S.R. 2130
CITY, TOWN
Huntersville VICINITY OF
STATE CODE
North Carolina 37

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
9th
COUNTY CODE
Mecklenburg 119

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Mrs. Wilson L. Stratton
STREET & NUMBER
930 Berkeley Avenue
CITY, TOWN
Charlotte

STATE
North Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Mecklenburg County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN
Charlotte

STATE
North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
DATE
 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN
STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Oak Lawn is a transitional Georgian-Federal style plantation house with distinctive features clearly related to Holly Bend, a nearby house also related by family ties. Oak Lawn, facing south, is a two-story, five-bay, frame house resting on a stone foundation with Flemish bond exterior end chimneys. The foundation has iron air vents. The central entrance is slightly off center to the west (left), as is the corresponding window above.

A three-bay, one-story replacement porch protects the handsome entrance, markedly similar to that at Holly Bend; the entrance has slender, fluted pilasters flanking a boldly molded, three-part door frame which contains a four-light transom. Near the top edge of the transom each of the pilasters is a fluted scroll console surmounted by an applied circular molding; above, the pilaster continues, unadorned, to the porch ceiling cornice. The front door has six shallow flat panels. The three-bay wall area of the porch is flush sheathed and is separated from the lapped siding by pilasters similar to those flanking the door. The lapped siding is replacement but the flush siding appears to be original. There are three granite front steps; the first step has a volute on each end.

The windows also have three-part molded frames as well as molded sills. The window sash is nine-over-nine at both levels but smaller at the second level. The windows at the first level have shutters with three flat panels in each leaf, supported by strap hinges; there are fixed louvered shutters at the second level. The shutters and blinds are replacements but are said to be patterned after the original.

The cornice of the house and the front and rear porches is ornamented with a series of blocks formed by incised lines suggestive of tiny triglyphs—one block running vertically and the next running horizontally. This pattern is said to have been original but the cornice was so badly decayed that it had to be replaced. The cornice has a small, neat return at each gable end. The gable ends are similar, with windows flanking the chimney at both the first and second floors, as well as eight-light windows flanking the chimney in each gable. The basement entrance is in the east gable end, north of the chimney. The gable ends have no roof overhang. The rear of the house is similar to the front except for a door in place of a window in the second bay from the east end and a one-story, hip-roof porch that carries the length of the house. The extra door led into a one-story wing, since removed, that can be seen in a documentary photograph made in 1941.

The interior is a modified "Quaker plan" with center hall; that is, there is one large room to one side and two small ones at the other. The hall has a molded chair rail and cornice. The open-string stair rises from the rear of the hall along the east wall in an unbroken run. A unique feature of the stair is the end of the first step which is defined by an extended baseboard in a crossette-like manner. The square newel and one baluster rest on the first step. The balustrade treatment, like that at Holly Bend is, Georgian in feeling and is much lower than might be normally expected. The newel has a molded cap flush with the molded handrail. The handrail is supported by very short, turned balusters, two per step: both have an equally unturned long base section, but the urn-like turned section of the rear one of each pair is longer to accommodate the rise of the handrail. The stair brackets are ornamented with distinctive, fanciful curvilinear forms. The string is defined by a robust half-round molding which is repeated on the wall above the stair treads. The horizontal, wooden edges of the stair supporting platform are chamfered and molded. There is a closet beneath the stair, and the soffit of the stair has one large, flat panel.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE one

The interior doors have six shallow flat panels and are supported by long strap hinges. Much of the original hardware survives throughout the house. The parlor is to the west of the hall and occupies all of that end of the house. It has a chair rail, wainscot, and molded cornice similar to the hall but it is dominated by the vigorous, vernacular, highly ornamented chimney piece which is nearly identical to that at Holly Bend. Flanking a reeded, molded architrave are pilasters resting on unadorned plinths of base-board height and rising to the height of the fire opening with a small scroll shaped console with gouged stop molding which ends at the top with a curvilinear pattern. The console has a reeded and molded lower portion. A doubled, square-link chain-like motif is deeply incised to about one-third of the way down the pilaster. The molded and reeded shelf breaks over the end consoles and center tablet; the tablet is unadorned except for quarter fans in each corner. The overmantel has two panels with a molded outer frame and a cable molding within. At the upper, outside corners of each panel is a truncated pilaster and cap with pierced stop fluting and a reeded band. The molded reeded band carries into a broken pediment with circular bosses ornamented with uneven gougework in a rosette-like pattern. The pediments are joined to the central element above the panels by a cable molding swag. The central element--an elaborate composition resembling a tall, complex keystone--reaches almost to the ceiling and consists, from top to base, of a reeded and molded band, a wooden floral boss, and small molded band, a block with two concentric applied rings, and a molded console resting on a gouged band with a gouged shell design suspended from the bottom. Near the bottom of the panels, separating them, is a reeded and molded block.

Across the hall in the front room are a chair rail, wainscot, and molded cornice similar to the others with notable but less elaborate mantel. The other room of the first floor has become a kitchen. The upstairs rooms are well finished but less elaborate than the first floor. Remnants of "Captain Cook" wallpaper, issued by Dufour in Macon, France, 1804, remain in a corner of an upstairs room made into a closet.

To the rear of the house is a brick well house made of brick which are laid in Flemish bond. There are iron ventilator grills in the well house walls. There is also a small square Greek Revival outbuilding with pyramidal roof.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

ca. 1820

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Oak Lawn is a Federal plantation house built around 1820 for planter Benjamin Davidson. One of southern Piedmont Mecklenburg County's notable group of Federal era dwellings, it is especially significant for its elaborate vernacular woodwork of a vigorous and distinctive character, clearly the work of the same carpenter who worked at nearby Holly Bend, a house related by family as well as stylistic connections.

The traditional building date for Benjamin Wilson Davidson's house, later called Oak Lawn, is 1818, the year Davidson married Elizabeth (Betsy) Latta. The property on which the house was built, however, was not acquired from his father (Major John Davidson, a participant in the American Revolution) until April 14, 1819. Furthermore, purchases from Charleston in Davidson's account with his father-in-law, James Latta, in 1821, are of the type and quantity to indicate the building of his house at that time. Tradition holds that Davidson was called "Independence Ben" by his father because he was born on May 20, 1787, the twelfth anniversary of the controversial Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence.

Davidson lived the life of a prosperous cotton planter as a member of the numerous and locally prominent Davidson family. Davidson died relatively young in 1829, leaving his widow with six sons. Betsy Latta, Benjamin's wife, had been educated at Salem Academy where, it is said, the Moravians placed much stress on gardening. One of her granddaughters, Mrs. J. W. Bradfield, wrote of the house as it appeared just after the Civil War. She described an avenue of oaks a quarter of a mile long, leading from the house to the road. Where the oaks ended, cedars were planted to lengthen the avenue almost a mile. She further described the gardens with their rows of altheas (Rose of Sharon), both white and lilac, the neat beds bordered with trimmed box bushes. There were also beds of old fashioned flowers and herbs which were planted to blend the aromas of the garden. There were long seats under the grapevine arbors and she tells of a high brick wall, with four gates, surrounding the house. Only a few large oaks remain of the above description. Mrs. Bradfield continues her recollection with the house interior: "But the glory of the house was the Indian room! It was above the parlor and quite 30 by 20 feet. The paper was from England, decorated with Indian scenes. Red men carrying strings of fish and bananas and loading them in primitive ships and canoes." (This has been authenticated as "Captain Cook" wallpaper, issued by Dufour in Macon, France, 1804.) She continued with her recollection that this was the guest room and there were three or four beds in this room. The kitchen at this time was described as being forty feet from the rear door.

Following her husband's death, Betsy Davidson remained at Oak Lawn until 1835. It is said that because of her strong religious convictions (Presbyterian) that she would never permit a fire in the kitchen on Sunday; meals were prepared on Saturday and the servants were given a day of rest. To her religious convictions was also attributed her calm among

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Blythe, LeGette and Charles Raven Brockmann. Hornet's Nest, The Story of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. Charlotte: Published for Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County by McNally, 1961.
- Davidson, Chalmers G. "Old Davidson House Faithfully Restored," The Charlotte Observer, Charlotte, North Carolina, no date.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 9 1/2 acres State Plane Coordinates: 439,192/184,180
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	5,1,1	2,6,0	3,9	1,6	7,4,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING				NORTHING
C							D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Research and architectural description by Charles Greer Suttlemyre, Jr., survey specialist
 ORGANIZATION Division of Archives and History DATE 19 January 1976
 STREET & NUMBER 109 East Jones Street TELEPHONE 919/829-7862 829-4763
 CITY OR TOWN Raleigh STATE North Carolina

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Jay E. Jim

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 19 January 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

437158

Jay L. [Signature]
Charles [Signature]

DATE

4/26/98

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

7-23-76

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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PAGE one

the panic and cries of "Judgement Day" that ensued at midnight on November 13, 1833, when "the stars fell on North Carolina" as they did that same night on Alabama.

On January 24, 1835, Betsy Davidson married Rufus Reid, widower of one of her deceased sisters who had left three small daughters. They lived at his plantation home "Mount Mourne" until her death following the birth of their first child, a daughter. To further complicate the family complexities, following her death, Reid married the step-daughter of the third Latta sister, who was a widow with a daughter, and this marriage produced four more children.

Following the Civil War the plantation passed from the Davidson family to John W. Moore who bought the property at the courthouse door on December 13, 1886. In 1904, the place was sold to John W. Cross and his wife; in 1933 the farm once again was sold at public auction, this time to the town of Huntersville. It passed through three more owners and was purchased in October, 1941, by Mr. and Mrs. Wilson L. Stratton who began architectural rescue work on the long neglected house. Mrs. Stratton continues as owner of Oak Lawn.

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ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE one

- Davidson, Chalmers G. The Plantation World Around Davidson, The Story of North Mecklenburg "before the War." Davidson, North Carolina: The Mecklenburg Historical Association, printed by the Davidson Printing Company, 1969.
- Davidson, George F., Papers. Perkins Library, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina.
- Mecklenburg County Records, Mecklenburg County Courthouse, Charlotte, North Carolina
(Subgroups: Deeds, Estate Papers).
- Mecklenburg County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina
(Subgroups: Deeds, Estate Papers).

76001331

Property *Davidson, Benjamin W., House*

Mecklenburg

State *North Carolina* Working Number *1.30.76.2463*

TECHNICAL

Photos 5
Maps 1

CONTROL

OK 2/6/76

HISTORIAN

*Accept
W.R. Luce
4/21/76*

*After some research and a conversation with
Sutcliffe, the "modified Gasker plan", slightly off-center, is
a valid local "style". They are fairly common here.*

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

*Accept
H. J. Kelly 4-21-76*

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

glad i'm not doing the genealogy

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

*Accept
Cole
4-22-76*

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

*accept
H. J. Kelly
4-23-76*

National Register Write-up _____ Send-back _____
Federal Register Entry 6-1-76 Re-submit _____

Entered **APR 26 1976**

INT:2106-74



NEGATIVE NUMBER N-75-1-929

PHOTOGRAPHER Copy

PHOTO DATE Unknown

SUBJECT Documentary of Oak Lawn (Benjamin W. Davidson House)

original owned by Mrs. Wilson L. Statton
930 Buxley Avenue, Charlotte, Mecklenburg County

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS Number 4-26-76

Title: Davidson, Benjamin W.,

House (Oak Lawn)

Loc. Mecklenburg Co., NC

documentary view,

looking NW 1 of 5

FROM STATE DEPARTMENT OF
ARCHIVES AND HISTORY
RALEIGH, N. C.

JUL 8 1975

PRINT BY NORTH CAROLINA
MUSEUM OF HISTORY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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1 NAME

HISTORIC

Benjamin W. Davidson House

AND/OR COMMON

Oak Lawn

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

COUNTY

Huntersville

North Carolina

Mecklenburg

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Randall Page

DATE OF PHOTO 1/75

NEGATIVE FILED AT Division of Archives and History

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Documentary overall view, looking northwest

PHOTO NO.

1025



NEGATIVE NUMBER N. 75.1. 905

PHOTOGRAPHER RANDALL PAGE

PHOTO DATE January 1975

SUBJECT Front Door

Oak Lawn (Benjamin W. Davidson House)
Mecklenburg County

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS Number 4-26-76

Title: Davidson, Benjamin W.,
House (Oak Lawn)

Loc. Mecklenburg Co., NC

Front door, looking

N. 205

FROM STATE DEPARTMENT OF
ARCHIVES AND HISTORY
RALEIGH, N. C.

JUL 8 1975

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1 NAME

HISTORIC

Benjamin W. Davidson House

AND/OR COMMON

Oak Lawn

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Huntersville

VICINITY OF

STATE

North Carolina

COUNTY

Mecklenburg

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Randall Page

DATE OF PHOTO 1/75

NEGATIVE FILED AT Division of Archives and History

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Front door, looking north

PHOTO NO.

2 of 5



NEGATIVE NUMBER N. 75. 1. 884
PHOTOGRAPHER RANDALL PAGE
PHOTO DATE January 1975
SUBJECT Stair

3

Oak Lawn (Benjamin W. Davidson House)
Mecklenburg County

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS Number 4-26-76
Title: Davidson, Benjamin W.,
House (Oak Lawn)
Loc. Mecklenburg Co., NC
Stair, looking east
3 of 5

FROM STATE DEPARTMENT OF
ARCHIVES AND HISTORY,
RALEIGH, N. C.

JUL 6 1975

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Benjamin W. Davidson House

AND/OR COMMON

Oak Lawn

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Huntersville

VICINITY OF

STATE

North Carolina

COUNTY

Mecklenburg

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Randall Page

DATE OF PHOTO 1/75

NEGATIVE FILED AT Division of Archives and History

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Stair, looking east

PHOTO NO.

305



NEGATIVE NUMBER U-75-1-900
PHOTOGRAPHER RANDALL PAGE
PHOTO DATE January 1975
SUBJECT Parlor Mantel
Oak Lawn (Benjamin W. Davidson House)
Mecklenburg County

(4)

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS Number 4-26-76

Title: Davidson, Benjamin W.,
House (Oak Lawn)

Loc. Mecklenburg Co., NC
Parlor mantel, looking
West 4 of 5

FROM STATE DEPARTMENT OF
ARCHIVES AND HISTORY
RALEIGH, N. C.

JUL 8 1975

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AND/OR COMMON

Oak Lawn

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Huntersville

VICINITY OF

STATE

North Carolina

COUNTY

Mecklenburg

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Randall Page

DATE OF PHOTO 1/75

NEGATIVE FILED AT Division of Archives and History

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Parlor mantel, looking west

PHOTO NO.

4 of 5



NEGATIVE NUMBER N-71-9-471

PHOTOGRAPHER Charles Clark

PHOTO DATE sept 71

SUBJECT OAK/2WN (Benjamin W. Davidson House)

5

Mecklenburg, Co.

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS Number 4-26-76

Title: Davidson, Benjamin
W., House

Loc. Mecklenburg Co, NC
Overall view of house,
looking N 5 of 5

FROM STATE DEPARTMENT OF
ARCHIVES AND HISTORY
RALEIGH, N. C.

JUL 10 1975

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VICINITY OF

STATE

North Carolina

COUNTY

Mecklenburg

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Charles Clark

DATE OF PHOTO 9/715

NEGATIVE FILED AT Division of Archives and History

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Overall of house looking north

PHOTO NO.

5025



NEGATIVE NUMBER N-75-1-854

PHOTOGRAPHER RANDALL PAGE

PHOTO DATE 1/75

SUBJECT Oak Lawn (Benjamin W. Davidson House)

SR 2138, 0.6 mi N of junction with SR 2130

Huntersville, Vic., Mecklenburg,
Co.

looking SW

FROM DIVISION OF
ARCHIVES & HISTORY
RALEIGH, N. C.

APR 14 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

PRINT BY
HISTORIC SITES SECTION

[Handwritten signature]

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

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Benjamin W. Davidson House

AND/OR COMMON

Oak Lawn

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Huntersville

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Mecklenburg

STATE

North Carolina

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE USGS Map, Lake Norman South Quadrangle

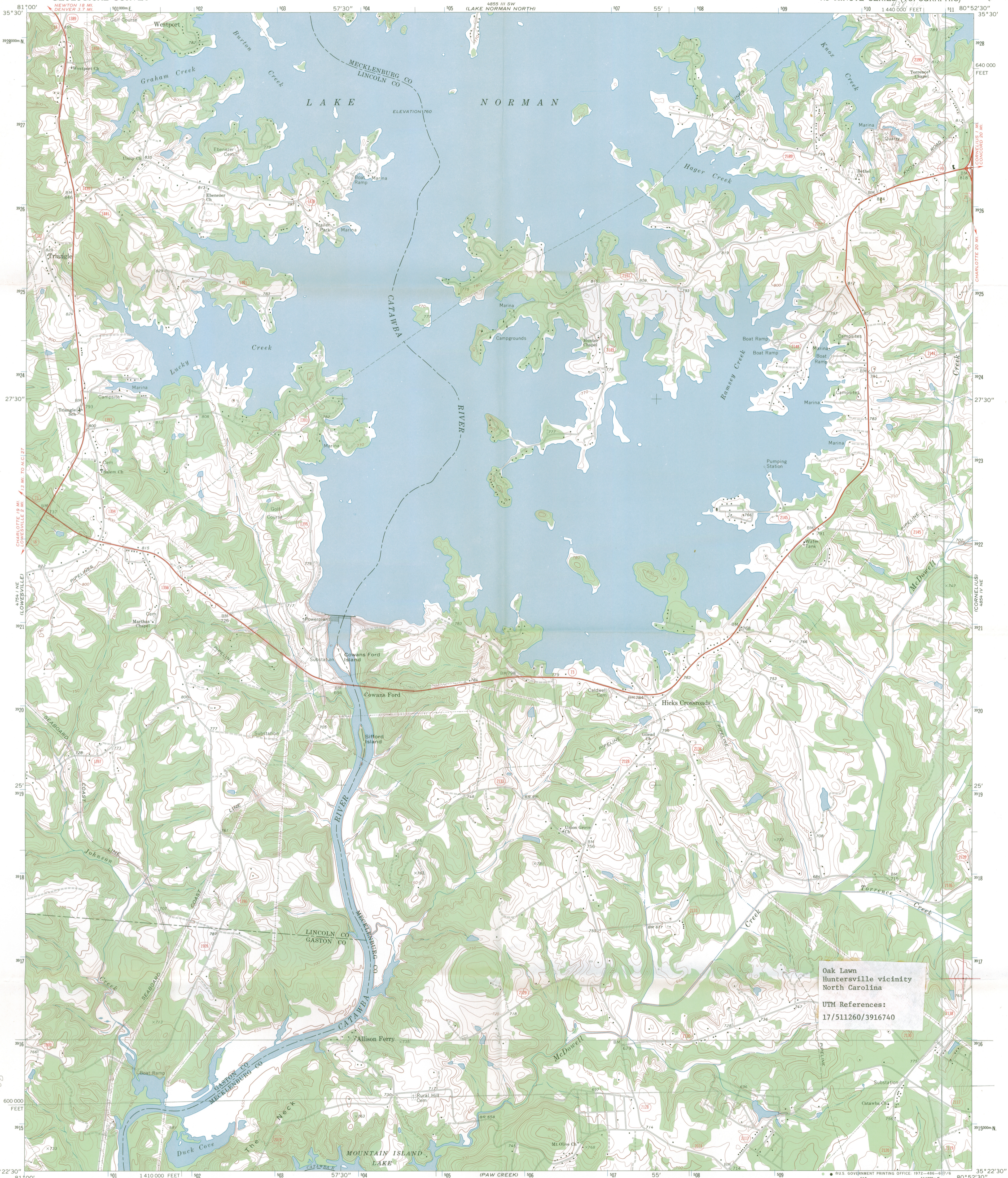
SCALE 1:24000

DATE 1970

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



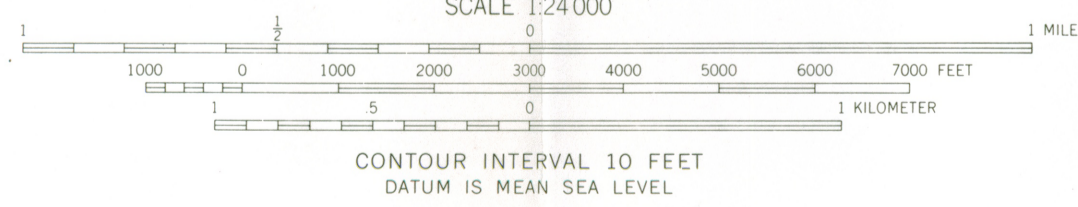
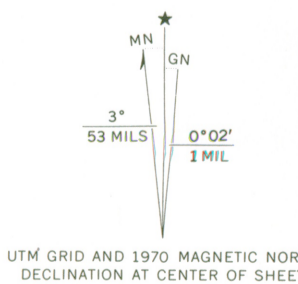
Oak Lawn
Huntersville vicinity
North Carolina
UTM References:
17/511260/3916740

Mount Holly
182,880

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1965. Field checked 1970
Supersedes Hicks Crossroads map dated 1948

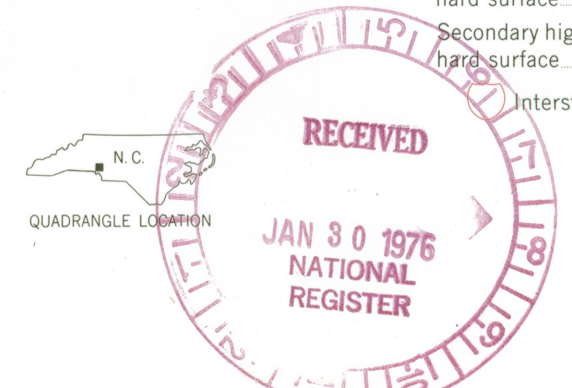
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on North Carolina coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 17, shown in blue



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	State Route



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

LAKE NORMAN SOUTH, N. C.
N3522.5-W8052.5/7.5

1970
AMS 4854 IV NW-SERIES V842



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
Department of Cultural Resources
Raleigh 27611

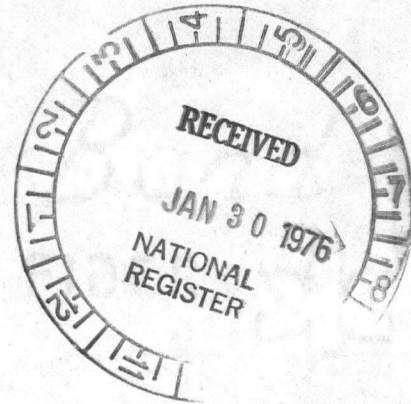
19 January 1976

James E. Holshouser, Jr.
Governor

Grace J. Rohrer
Secretary

Division of Archives and History
Larry E. Tise, Director

Dr. William J. Murtagh
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
18th and C streets, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20240



Dear Dr. Murtagh:

We are enclosing a nomination for Oak Lawn in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, to be entered in the National Register of Historic Places.

We trust you will find this nomination in order. If there are any questions, please call us.

Sincerely yours,

Larry E. Tise
State Historic Preservation Officer

enclosures

cc: Hon. Robert Morgan
Hon. Jesse Helms
Hon. James G. Martin

JAMES G. MARTIN
9TH DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTIES:
IREDELL
LINCOLN
MECKLENBURG

COMMITTEE:
WAYS AND MEANS

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
115 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-1976

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

February 25, 1976

Dr. William J. Murtagh
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
18th and C Streets, NW
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

I have recently received a letter from Mr. Larry Tise of the Department of Cultural Resources, State of North Carolina regarding the nomination of Oak Lawn as an entry in the National Register of Historic Places.

Oak Lawn, a culturally rich historic site located in Mecklenburg County, is certainly worthy of this nomination. I would appreciate your kind consideration in this matter.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

James G. Martin
James G. Martin
Member of Congress

MAR 1 1976

Honorable James G. Martin
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Martin:

I am pleased to acknowledge your letter of February 25 concerning nomination of Oak Lawn in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, to the National Register of Historic Places.

We appreciate your interest in this matter and will provide you a reply at the earliest opportunity.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) Gary Everhardt

Gary Everhardt
Director

bcc:

LS (@2) w/c of inc.

FNP:HCGilley:lf:3/1/76

Pend.

*W. R. Luce
Herrington
W. B. Norton for PH*

H34-PR

MAR 11 1976

*To Wood
3/10
Whitaker 3/11*

Honorable James G. Martin
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Martin:

Thank you for your letter of February 25 concerning the nomination of the Benjamin Davidson house (Oak Lawn), Mecklenberg County, North Carolina, to the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Register procedures provide a period for the submission of comment concerning the significance of a nominated property following a published notice in the "Federal Register." Notice of the proposed listing of the house appeared in the February 24, 1976, "Federal Register." The property cannot be listed before the close of the commenting period, but we will expedite the review of the nomination and will inform you by the usual form notification if the property is listed in the National Register.

We appreciate your interest in the historic preservation programs of the National Park Service.

Sincerely yours,

Robert M. Utley

Acting Associate Director

✓ Basic File Retained in PR

CG 3/10

bcc:

Dr. Larry E. Tise

Director, Division of Archives
and History

State Historic Preservation Officer

Department of Cultural Resources

190 East Jones Street

Raleigh, North Carolina 27611) w/c of me

Regional Director, Southeast Region)

Director's Reading File

P

PH

PR)

LS)

L-

Dr. Curry)

LS-Dir-Chron W. Luce

FNP! ~~Heating~~! b AC! 3.9.29



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
Department of Cultural Resources
Raleigh 27611

James E. Holshouser, Jr.
Governor

Grace J. Rohrer
Secretary

April 23, 1976

Division of Archives and History
Larry E. Tise, Director

Micky Lutz
National Register
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Micky:

Enclosed is the rear overall photograph of Oak Lawn (Benjamin W. Davidson House) which you requested.

I have checked into the question of the dates for Holly Bend and Oak Lawn. Although nothing can be established conclusively, Chalmers Davidson has written a book entitled The Plantation World Around Davidson. Dr. Davidson is not only a member of the Davidson family related to both houses, but is a local historian of some note. He does not document his source but he says that Holly Bend was built ca. 1800. This does not shed a great deal more light on the issue, but does bring the dates of the two buildings closer together.

Sincerely,

Charles Greer Suttlemyre, Jr.
Survey Specialist
Survey and Planning Branch

CGS:sw

Enclosure

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE NORTH CAROLINA

Date Entered APR 26 1976

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Davidson, Benjamin W., House	Huntersville Vicinity Mecklenburg County

Also Notified

Hon. Jesse A. Helms
Hon. Robert B. Morgan
Hon. James G. Martin
Regional Director, Southeast
Region

√PR:M Mott:coc 4/28/76

State Historic Preservation Officer
Dr. Larry E. Tise
Director
Division of Archives and History
Department of Cultural Resources
109 East Jones Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27611

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 4/21/76
Reviewer INITIALS: WRL

NR DOE
(4-26-76)

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Davidson, Benjamin W., House

OTHER NAMES: Oak Lawn

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER: W of Huntersville on SR 2138

CITY, TOWN: Huntersville CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 9th

STATE: No CAR VICINITY OF: Mecklenburg COUNTY code: 119

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline): FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):
NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST
SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR: Substantially intact-1
 unknown - 4
 not applicable - 7

EXTERIOR: Substantially intact-2
 unknown - 5
 not applicable - 8

ENVIRONS: Substantially intact-3
 unknown - 6
 Not applicable - 9

Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION - EXCELLENT DETERIORATED UNALTERED ORIGINAL SITE
 GOOD RUINS ALTERED MOVED
 FAIR UNEXPOSED Reconstructed Unknown
 Unexcavated Excavated

ACCESS - Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)
then- House
now- House

SIGNIFICANCE:

- ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
- ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
- AGRICULTURE
- ARCHITECTURE
- ART
- COMMERCE
- COMMUNICATIONS
- CONSERVATION
- ECONOMICS
- EDUCATION
- ENGINEERING
- EXPLORATION
- INDUSTRY
- INVENTION
- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- LAW/Gov't/politics
- LITERATURE
- MILITARY
- MUSIC
- PHILOSOPHY
- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
- RELIGION
- SCIENCE
- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER (SPECIFY)
- entertainment
- health
- recreation
- settlement
- socio/cultural
- urban & commun planning

Claims

"first" YES NO "oldest" YES NO "only" YES NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: *Federal / ~~Georgia~~*

architect/m.builder:

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

personal

Benjamin Wilson Davidson

(label role
&
appropriate date)

events

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century):

✓ 1820^N - 1822

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

9.5

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

2 story frame, exterior end chimneys. rectangular gable roof. Clapboard & flush siding.

- fine interior woodwork, including fine mantle & over mantle Modified "Quaker Plan."

- original piece of 1804 wall paper in ~~the~~ a second floor room

Woodwork similar to "Holly Bend."

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

a Federal plantation house especially significant for its elaborate vernacular woodwork.

(attached)

✓ Frame, clapboarding; 2 stories, rectangular, gabled roof, exterior end chimneys with corbeled caps; front off-center paneled entrance with transom, architrave and fluted trim; center front and full-width screened rear porches with hipped roofs, fluted posts and stylized triglyph friezes; original interior woodwork; brick outbuildings.

Good example of plantation home in ~~the~~ Vernacular Federal style.

KB 2/1/78