

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

MULTIPLE RESOURCE

THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME

HISTORIC Fair Grove Methodist Church Cemetery

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Jet. of SR 2072, and 2070 and old NC 109,

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

South Thomasville

— VICINITY OF

STATE

North Carolina

CODE
037

COUNTY

Davidson

CODE
057

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 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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER Cemetery

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Fair Grove Methodist Church

STREET & NUMBER

204 Cedar Lodge Road

telephone 919-475-2598

CITY, TOWN

Thomasville

— VICINITY OF

STATE

North Carolina 27360

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTER OF DEEDS, ETC. Register of Deeds Office, Davidson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

STATE
North Carolina

6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Ruth Little, Consultant

ORGANIZATION
Survey and Planning Branch

DATE

July 26, 1983

STREET & NUMBER
Division of Archives and History

TELEPHONE

919/733-6545

CITY OR TOWN

Raleigh

STATE

North Carolina

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT

GOOD

FAIR

DETERIORATED

RUINS

UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED

ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fair Grove Methodist Church Cemetery is a large cemetery containing about 400 grave-stones. A small group of approximately 15, located beneath ancient cedar trees in front of the church, contain the earliest, locally made gravestones. The oldest of these has a death date of 1829, and is significant because it is probated to a stone-cutter named Thomas Fisher, and is the only known gravestone by him. The design, a semicircular tympanum with foils, was perhaps influenced by the gravestones of David Sowers at Pilgrim Church. A group of six of these early gravestones, which have simple classical designs and professional lettering, are cut from slate-like stone similar to that used at Pilgrim Church. These date in the 1840s, and may be by the "Modern Master." The two finest locally-made gravestones are the headstones of Margaret and George Hoover, also dated 1829, which represent the height of the Swisegood School achievement. The following gravestones, grouped by schools, are most significant:

Swisegood School

Margaret Hoover 1761-1829
George Hoover 1761-1829

Pierced Tradition

Sarah Dobson 1786-1836

Thomas Fisher

Doctor Wm. Dobson 1797-1829

Simple geometric shape

Polly Lee 1767-1849

8 SIGNIFICANCE NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" 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 various

STONECUTTERS:

unknown

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Fair Grove Methodist Church, the first known Methodist congregation in Davidson County, was established by 1828 when John Myres deeded land for a church building.¹

Footnote

¹Sink and Matthews, Pathfinders Past and Present: A History of Davidson County, North Carolina, 161.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

A,C Derives primary significance from the unique collection of folk gravestones by local stonecutters erected here in the late eighteenth and first half of the nineteenth centuries. These highly decorative soapstone gravestones with folk symbols for resurrection and eternity represent the height of folk art accomplishment within the craft community of the Anglo-German farmers of north Davidson County.

Represents the limited impact of local stonecutters in the church cemeteries established later in the nineteenth century, yet contains two of the finest examples of the "Pierced Style" in the county.

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

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Fair Grove Methodist Church Cemetery (Anglo-German Cemeteries TR) (Davidson County MRA)
Davidson County
NORTH CAROLINA

Working No. JUN 5 1984
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-5-85
Date Due: 7/5/84 - 7/20/84
Action: ACCEPT 7-10-84
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use
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4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition

- excellent
- good
- fair
- deteriorated
- ruins
- unexposed

Check one

- unaltered
- altered

Check one

- original site
- moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

Fair Grove Methodist Church Cemetery (Anglo-German Cemeteries TR) (Davidson County, North Carolina)
 (MRA)
 Davidson County
 NORTH CAROLINA

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



NEGATIVE NUMBER N. 83-9-314

PHOTOGRAPHER Ruth Little

PHOTO DATE MAY-JUNE 1981

SUBJECT Fair Grove Methodist Church Cemetery
Davidson Co.
Overall View

IN MEMORY
OF DOCTOR WM DOB
^{DECEASED}
SON WHO WAS BORN
THE 4th OF FEBRU
ARY 1797 AND DE
PARTED THIS LIFE
THE 29th OF AUGUS
-1829- AGED 32 6 MO
AND 15 DAYS-

NEGATIVE NUMBER N.83-9-315

PHOTOGRAPHER Ruth Little

PHOTO DATE MAY-JUNE 1981

SUBJECT Sari Grove Methodist Church Cemetery

Davidson County

Doctor William Dobson gravestone - cutter: Thomas Fisher

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000444