

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

MULTIPLE RESOURCE

THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME

HISTORIC Pilgrim Reformed Church Cemetery

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER N side of SR 1843, 0.25 mi. SW of jct. with SR 1841

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN
Lexington V.C.

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"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES. RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES. UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER Cemetery

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Pilgrim Reformed United Church of Christ

STREET & NUMBER
City Lake Road

telephone: 704-249-1051

CITY, TOWN
Lexington

— VICINITY OF

STATE
North Carolina 27292

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTER OF DEEDS, ETC Register of Deeds Office, Lexington 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

CITY OR TOWN
Raleigh

STATE
North Carolina 27611

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The cemetery of Pilgrim Reformed Church contains approximately 350 gravestones, of which some 150 are of local stone and local craftsmanship. The congregation had access to all of the major stonecutters in the county, and contains examples of all seven of the significant "schools" of gravestones. The finest group of gravestones in the cemetery are thirteen attributed to David Sowers. Sowers belonged to this church until he left the county in 1835, and three of these gravestones are for the Sauer (Sowers) family, perhaps his kin. These gravestones and a few others are cut from a dark gray, dense, shiny stone which resembles slate, and may have been quarried nearby. It is quite different from the more porous, lighter gray soapstone used in the "Pierced Style" gravestones and most of the other local stone gravestones. Not until about 1850 do professional marble gravestones begin to appear in this cemetery. The following gravestones, grouped by schools, are the most significant monuments:

Early Phase

Berrier	1829	semicircular lunette with sunburst
Cadarena Ebethall	1829	semicircular tympanum with sunburst
illegible	1789	simple geometric shape--German Gothic script
illegible	1791	simple geometric shape--German Gothic script
Nicholas Michael	1837	simple geometric shape
P. Y.	1838	monogrammed semicircular tympanum
Wooldrick Frits	1781	semicircular monogrammed tympanum
Valentein Leonhart	1718-1781	semicircular monogrammed tympanum
Katy Younts	-1838	simple geometric shape
Casper Brinkle	-1839	simple geometric shape
Ellis Kenoy	1799-1850	incised floral ornament

David Sowers

Polley Frit	1812-1812
Adam Hetrich	1741-1815
Caderina Sauer	1816-1816
Daniel Sauer	1816
Henry Dorr	1816
George Spricker	1818
Barbara Zinck	1780-1816
Susana Conrad	1798-1823
Emanuel Sowers	1830-1833
Henry Conrad	1762-1834
Mary Lopp	1768- ?
Phelip Cink	1755-1829
Peter Lapp	1760-1827

Swisegood School

Elizabeth Leonard	?
? Leonard	1758-1835
Barbara Headrick	1750-1832
Joteph Ler	1820-1823
Voentin Leonard	1731-1814

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

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

Pilgrim Reformed Church Cemetery

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date entered

Continuation sheet

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Item number

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Pierced Tradition

Sarah Green	183?-1842
Mary Hedrich	1790-1833
Benjamin Yonts	1797-1845

Attr. to John Rickard

Lualen Fritts	1819-1846	derivative Pierced Tradition
Elizabeth Leonard	1818-1842	derivative Pierced Tradition
Madison Leonard	1832-1848	semicircular lunette with sunburst
Eve Conrad	1792-1849	semicircular tympanum with sunburst
Adam Leonard	1832-1852	semicircular tympanum with sunburst
Elenor Olin	1825-1855	derivative Pierced Tradition
John Fritts	1813-1854	derivative Pierced Tradition

Modern Master

Daniel Leonard	1789-1848	urn-and-willow style
Mary M. Brinkle	1781-1846	"Classical" style

One of earliest professional marble stones

Eli Fritts	1832-1850
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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 checked="" 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

Pilgrim Reformed Church, the earliest Lutheran congregation in Davidson County, dates to about 1757 when the first record book was begun. Some years ago a gravestone with a 1761 death date was visible, but the oldest inscribed gravestone presently visible is dated 1781. One of the earliest members was Philip Sauer, who emigrated from Palatine Germany to Pennsylvania in 1749 and came to the Pilgrim community in 1753. Another early settler was Adam Conrad, who came to Pilgrim about 1763. Adam's father Johann Georg Conrath Sr. had emigrated from Pfalz, Germany to Pennsylvania in 1737.¹

Footnote

¹Sink and Matthews, Pathfinders Past and Present: A History of Davidson County, North Carolina, 18-20; monuments erected by descendants in Pilgrim Cemetery.

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.

Contains almost all known gravestones attributed to master stonecutter David Sowers, cut between about 1815 and 1835 in a highly decorative "Fraktur Style."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received *6/2/84*
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	Date/Signature
21. Abbott's Creek Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery	for Keeper	<i>Melona Byers</i> 7/10/84
	Attest	_____
22. Beck's Reformed Church Cemetery	for Keeper	<i>Melona Byers</i> 7/10/84
	Attest	_____
23. Bethany Reformed and Lutheran Church Cemetery	for Keeper	<i>Melona Byers</i> 7/10/84
	Attest	_____
24. Emanuel United Church of Christ Cemetery	for Keeper	<i>Melona Byers</i> 7/10/84
	Attest	_____
25. Fair Grove Methodist Church Cemetery	for Keeper	<i>Melona Byers</i> 7/10/84
	Attest	_____
26. Jersey Baptist Church Cemetery	for Keeper	<i>Melona Byers</i> 7/10/84
	Attest	_____
27. Pilgrim Reformed Church Cemetery	for Keeper	<i>Melona Byers</i> 7/10/84
	Attest	_____
28. St. Luke's Lutheran Church Cemetery	for Keeper	<i>Melona Byers</i> 7/10/84
	Attest	_____
29. Spring Hill Methodist Protestant Church Cemetery	for Keeper	<i>Melona Byers</i> 7/10/84
	Attest	_____
30. Waggoner Graveyard	for Keeper	<i>Melona Byers</i> 7/10/84
	Attest	_____

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Pilgrim Reformed 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 / 7-30-84
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

William Reformed Church Cemetery (Anglo-German Cemetery) (R) (Davidson County, N.C.)
 Davidson County, N.C.
 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. 83-9-329

PHOTOGRAPHER Ruth Little

PHOTO DATE MAY-JUNE 1981

SUBJECT Pilgrim Reformed Church Cemetery
Davidson County
Overall View



EVE CONRAD
WAS BORN APRIL
THE 14D 1792
& DIED MAY
THE 29D 1849

NEGATIVE NUMBER N.83-9-323

PHOTOGRAPHER Ruth Little

PHOTO DATE MAY - JUNE 1981

SUBJECT Pilgrim Reformed Church Cemetery

Davidson County

Eve Conrad gravestone - attributed to John Rickard



NEGATIVE NUMBER N.83-9-324

PHOTOGRAPHER Ruth Little

PHOTO DATE MAY-JUNE 1981

SUBJECT Pilgrim Reformed Church Cemetery
Davidson County
Incised stone

PL

67

WILHELMUS DITMERS
PETER
JOHANN
LAPP

in arborum saxe

NEGATIVE NUMBER N. 83-9-325

PHOTOGRAPHER Ruth Little

PHOTO DATE MAY-JUNE 1981

SUBJECT Pilgrim Reformed Church Cemetery
Davidson County
Peter Lapp Gravestone - David Sowers School



JOHN BRETTON
THE SON OF JOHN
BRETTON & MARY
WASTON
OCTOBER 30 1715
DIED AUGUST 10
1762 Aged 46
Years
He was buried in
the North Burial
Ground

NEGATIVE NUMBER N.83-9-326

PHOTOGRAPHER Ruth Little

PHOTO DATE MAY-JUNE 1981

SUBJECT Belgian Reformed Church Cemetery

Davidson County

John Hitts gravestone - attributed to John Rickard



NEGATIVE NUMBER N.83-9-327

PHOTOGRAPHER Brith Kittle

PHOTO DATE MAY-JUNE 1981

SUBJECT Pilgrim Reformed Church Cemetery
Davidson County
John Fitts gravestone - detail

DANIEL LEONARD
was born May 6 1780
died Feb. 10 1848 age
67 58y. 9 m. 4d.

NEGATIVE NUMBER N.83-9-328

PHOTOGRAPHER Ruth Little

PHOTO DATE MAY-JUNE 1981

SUBJECT Pilgrim Reformed Church Cemetery

Davidson County

Daniel Leonard gravestone - Modern Master School (urn & willow style)



NEGATIVE NUMBER N.83-9-330

PHOTOGRAPHER Luth Little

PHOTO DATE MAY-JUNE 1981

SUBJECT Belgum Reformed Church Cemetery
Davidson County



WIE WOHLT WEINEM LEIB NACHT
CESTANTINUM LIDEN WIE WOHIT
MMELER REUTEN 1815

A.H.
1815

ADAM HETRICH WARGEBOHREN
IN PENNSYLVANIA IN LENOX STER
CAUNTY IM JAHR 1741 DEN 12
OCTOBER SEINE ELTERN SIND
PETER HETRICH UND SEINCH
STUCHS WEIB MILLA
ADAM HETRICH STGE

NEGATIVE NUMBER N.83-9-331

PHOTOGRAPHER Ruth Little

PHOTO DATE MAY-JUNE 1981

SUBJECT Pilgrim Reformed Church Cemetery

Davidson County

Adam Hetrich gravestone - David Sowers School

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000444