

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

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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 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 |

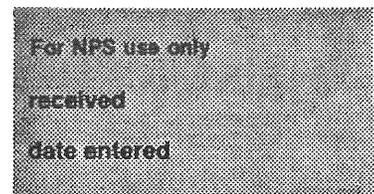
Swisegood School

| | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| 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



Continuation sheet 7 Item number 1 Page

Pierced Tradition

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

Attr. to John Rickard

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| Luallen 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 |
|------------|-----------|

8 SIGNIFICANCEXX

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 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.

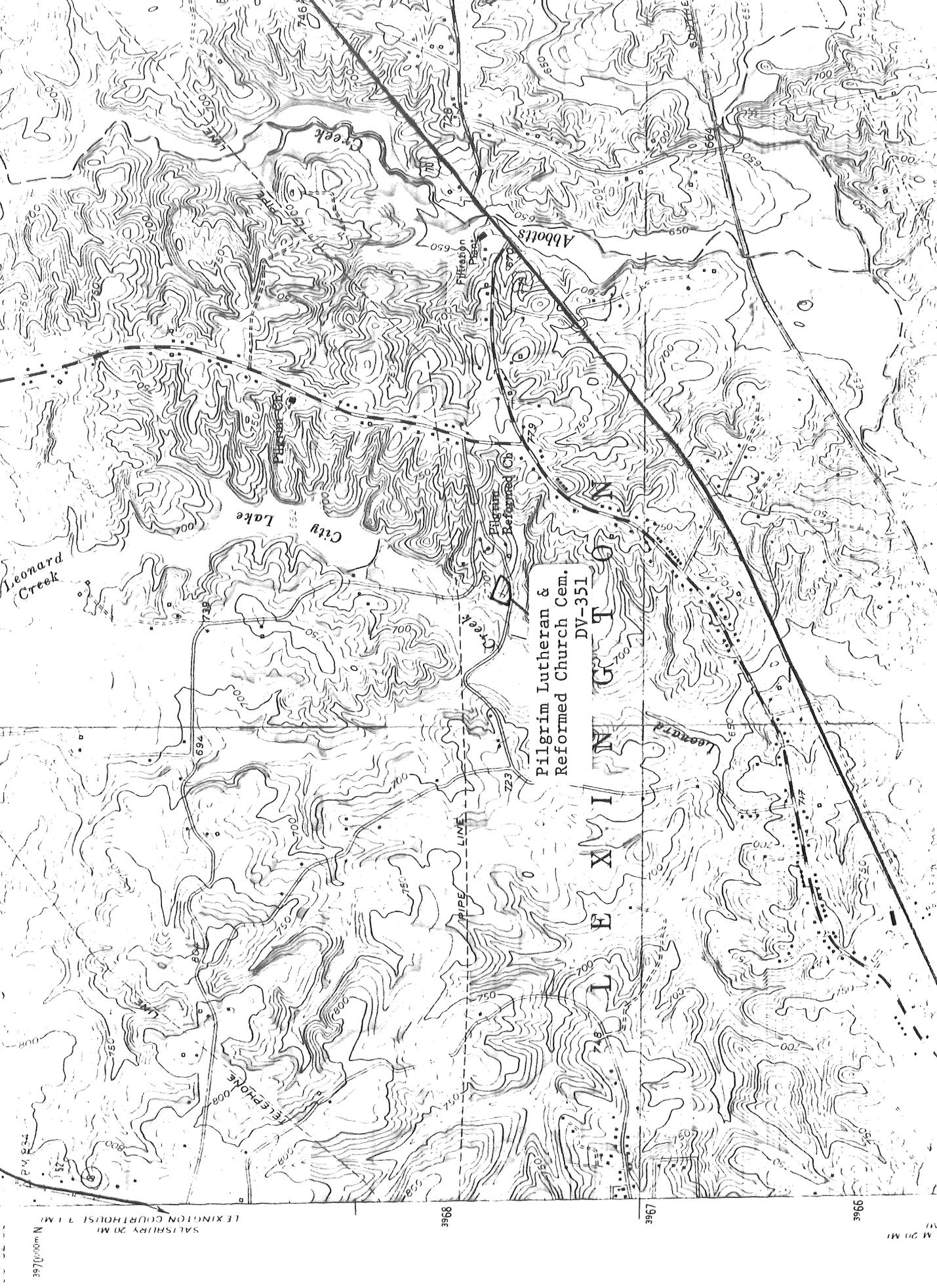
Contains almost all known gravestones attributed to master stonecutter David Sowers, cut between about 1815 and 1835 in a highly decorative "Fraktur Style."

Lexington East

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
HIGHWAY AND PUBLIC WORKS

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

4955 N.W. 4955 N.W. (MIDV. 4V)
573 572 571 12:30 570 569000' E



Pilgrim Lutheran &
Reformed Church Cem.
DV-351

L E X I N G T O N

3970'000m N
SALSURRY 20 MI
LEXINGTON COURTHOUSE 7.1 MI

1 M 20 MI

