

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

MULTIPLE RESOURCE

THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME

HISTORIC Beck's Reformed Church Cemetery

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER East side SR 2250 0.2⁶ mi. South of jct. with SR 2249²²⁵¹

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN
Silver Hill

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 Beck's Reformed Church

STREET & NUMBER Beck's Church Road

CITY, TOWN Lexington

VICINITY OF

STATE North Carolina 27292

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 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

Beck's Reformed Church Cemetery is a large cemetery, containing approximately 500 gravestones, located a few miles southeast of Lexington. The earliest of the some 75 gravestones which are of local manufacture is dated 1771. The cemetery contains a larger number of gravestones from the "Early Phase" of gravestone design than any other cemetery in the county. These date from the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, and represent the traditional German design idiom, with splayed sides and monogrammed or dated semicircular tympana. Most of these are small, amateurish gravestones probably carved by family members of the deceased. This is the only early Lutheran congregation in south Davidson County, and, like Emanuel Church, it was outside of the sphere of influence of the most talented stonecutting workshops. Only three examples of the "Pierced Style," one gravestone by the Master of the Upper and Lower Case, one gravestone attributed to John Rickard, and no gravestones by the "Modern Master" are here. The following gravestones, grouped by schools, are the most significant:

Pierced Tradition

Susannah Smith	178?-1825
Frederick Beck	1786-1847
Leah Beck	1811-1847
William A. Smith	-1827

Swisegood School

Peter Smith	1790-1830
David Smith	1755-1825
Elizabeth Garner	1765-1835

Attributed to known stonecutters

Elizabeth Bailey	-1815	attr. to James Cavany, York Co., S.C.
Delila Crouse	1843-1848	attr. to Master of Upper and Lower Case
Henry Alexander Headrick	184?	attr. to John Rickard: semicircular tympanum with sunburst

Professional marble gravestones

Polley Smith	1788-1819	
Margaret Smith	1763-1831	
Timothy Crouse	1847-1852	
B. Frances	1852-1862	urn-and-willow style

Miscellaneous

Polly Hedrick	-1904	one of last local stone headstones in cemetery
Anna Catharina Beck	1790-1870	"Classical" style--locally made

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Beck's Reformed Church Cemetery
Continuation sheet 7

Item number 1

Page

Early Phase: 1771-ca. 1830

Semicircular monogrammed tympanum

Wilhelm Franck	1804
Mardin Franck	1802
Johannes Bollenback	1781
Andreas Stockinger	1801-1804
David Schiften	1720-1787
Peter Hedrich	1733-1798
Barbara Smith	-1804
Rebecca Kably	1773- ?
Gaste_ Smith	-1804
Sherey Smith	1798-1801
George Smith	1804
Margereta Dorrin	-1789
Rosina Weberin	1720-1794
Nicy Ann Marten	1810-1831
John Peter Frank	1774-1828
Sally Crouse	1817-1834
Elisabeth Dorr	1754-1825
John Clafer	1758-1794
Ludwig Stockinger	1776-1806

(has foils like stones by David Sowers)

(pointed arch tympanum with monogram)
(pointed arch tympanum with sunburst)

Simple Geometric Shape

Barbara Franck	1738-1815
Susanna Clafer/John Clafer	d. 1791
Jacob Miller	1826-1827
John Henry Miller	1836-1838
Karen Wos	1842
Barnhart Swing	1788-1849
Prissie Ann Swing	-1849

Crude Fieldstone

Henrich Dorr	1816
Julian A. Billing	1733-1804
Jacop Beier	1771
Julius Lucknbil	1785
S. L.	1821
AMAF	1787
H. Y.	1801-1839

German Gothic script

David Bauerer	1802-1802
Siegfried Billing	1730-1801

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 checked="" 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

Founded in 1787, Beck's Lutheran and Reformed Church was organized under the Reverend Mr. Schneider. Dr. John Billings, L. Smith and others gave 53 acres of land for the church in 1787, and the first church was a log structure located near the road. The church operated as a union church until 1878, when a large frame church was built north of the cemetery for the Reformed congregation and the Lutheran congregation established a separate church a few miles away. The present brick Reformed church was dedicated in 1951.¹

Footnote

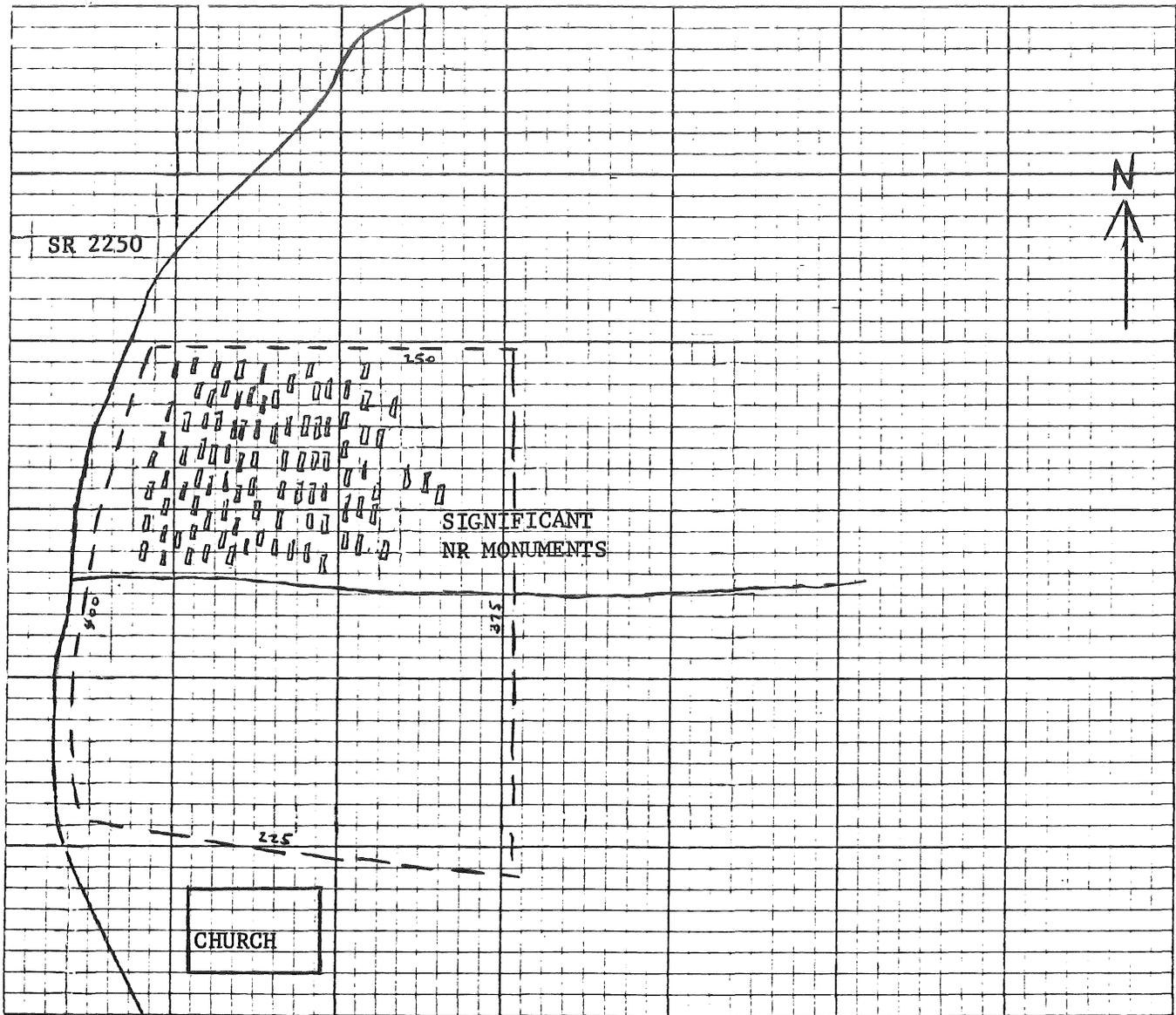
¹Monument erected by congregation in Beck's Church Cemetery; Sink and Matthews, Pathfinders Past and Present: A History of Davidson County, North Carolina, 20-21.

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 the largest number of early, traditional German gravestones in one cemetery in Davidson County, illustrating the broad stylistic spectrum and decorative possibilities present in the local German design idiom.

SITE PLAN



not to scale

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Monument erected by descendants in Beck's Church Cemetery.

Sink, M. Jewell and Matthews, Mary Green. Pathfinders Past and Present: A History of Davidson County, North Carolina. (High Point, N.C.: Hall Printing Company, 1972.)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. 2 1/2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	7
---	---

5	7	0	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	9	5	7	1	9	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The cemetery boundaries include an area of roughly 2 1/2 acres with the approximate dimensions of 250 feet by 375 feet by 225 feet by 400 feet in a misshapened rectangular figure as shown on the U.S. Geological Survey map, Lexington East, N.C. Quadrangle.

