

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

MULTIPLE RESOURCE

THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME

HISTORIC Fair Grove Methodist Church Cemetery

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

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

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

South Thomasville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

North Carolina

— VICINITY OF

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

STATE

North Carolina 27360

— VICINITY OF

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		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

Fair Grove Methodist Church Cemetery is a large cemetery containing about 400 gravestones. 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
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Thomas Fisher

Doctor Wm. Dobson	1797-1829
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Simple geometric shape

Polly Lee	1767-1849
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8 SIGNIFICANCE

xx 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.

