

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Green Hill House

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

250 yds. west of junction of S.R. 1760 and S.R. 1761

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Louisburg

X VICINITY OF

2nd

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

North Carolina

37

Franklin

069

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

___DISTRICT

___PUBLIC

X OCCUPIED

___AGRICULTURE

___MUSEUM

X BUILDING(S)

X PRIVATE

___UNOCCUPIED

___COMMERCIAL

___PARK

___STRUCTURE

___BOTH

___WORK IN PROGRESS

___EDUCATIONAL

___PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

___ENTERTAINMENT

___RELIGIOUS

___OBJECT

___IN PROCESS

___YES: RESTRICTED

___GOVERNMENT

___SCIENTIFIC

___BEING CONSIDERED

___YES: UNRESTRICTED

___INDUSTRIAL

___TRANSPORTATION

X NO

___MILITARY

___OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. George Davis/Mr. George D. Davis, Jr./Mr. Charles M. Davis

STREET & NUMBER

c/o Mr. Charles M. Davis, 103 Church Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Louisburg

VICINITY OF

North Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Franklin County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Louisburg

North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

1959

X FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Washington, D. C.

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Green Hill Place is a one-and-one-half story Georgian house standing on a raised basement amid a pleasant rural setting; nearby are two simple frame outbuildings with gable roofs and some beaded weatherboard, apparently of considerable age.

The frame house, which faces north, stands on a slight rise. Despite some expansion and alterations to provide conveniences, the dwelling retains essentially its eighteenth century character. The main block is three bays wide and three deep, with a rear shed extension. The building is covered with weatherboards, most of it replaced; the full raised basement is of brick laid in English bond. The windows have simple frames and molded sills as well as many thick early muntins. Nine-over-nine sash occurs at the first level, six-over-six at the second, and four-over-four in the tiny narrow dormer windows; there are two narrow pedimented dormers on the front and back slopes of the gable roof. A molded cornice with pattern boards terminates the facades. Sheltering the central entrance is a simple gable-roof porch with tapered posts and a simple railing with rounded handrail and slender balusters. It is said to have been rebuilt in the twentieth century. The entrance consists of a door with six raised panels.

At the west end is a large double-shoulder chimney of brick laid in Flemish bond, well to the front of the center of this elevation. There are no windows to the front of the chimney except one lighting the basement. To the rear of the chimney at the first level are two windows in the main block and a third in the shed extension, plus a single window in the gable. The east side features two chimneys both of brick laid in Flemish bond. That to the front is quite massive and has double paved shoulders; that to the rear has single stepped shoulders. Beginning just to the rear of the front chimney is a one-story extension that carries across the rear chimney and joins a rear shed, an extension of the main roof. The side extension is now enclosed, but as late as 1936 the part of it between the chimneys was open as a side porch, with posts and railing like that of the front porch. The porches stand on brick piers. The west side of the rear shed is enclosed as a room; the two east bays remain an open porch, repeating the balustrade and posts of the other porches, and with the sheltered walls flush-sheathed.

The interior of the house has two rooms across the front, and three small rooms across the rear, the central one functioning as the stair hall. There have been some alterations, but much of the simple, heavy Georgian finish remains, including heavy molded architraves, and doors with six raised panels, hung with rising L hinges. The west front room, which is two bays wide, is finished with walls plastered above a flat-paneled wainscot with quarter-round Georgian moldings; the molded chair rail serves as window sills. The mantel in this room is a three-part Federal one--obviously later--with fluted pilasters, well-executed sunbursts on end and center blocks, and reeding beneath a handsomely molded cornice and shelf that break out over all three frieze elements. The east room mantel is evidently of the same era, and has simple paneled pilasters that carry an unadorned three-part entablature. The Georgian wainscot recurs in this room. In one rear room is a mantel of similar design, but lacking the center tablet. The stair rises along the west wall of the small central rear stair hall, beginning with winders, rising on a single flight, back to front, and terminating with

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winders. The spandrel is horizontally flush-sheathed, as is the stair wall. The closed string is adorned only with a simple molding, and heavy posts and slender balusters square in section carry a rounded handrail.

The second level has a simple hall-and-parlor plan. The walls are plastered above a sheathed wainscot. There is a mantel with plain pilasters, an unadorned frieze, and a well-molded shelf. On this level is a door with an early box lock with pendant handle.

The basement is still used as dining room and kitchen. The plan repeats essentially the plan of the first floor. The fireplaces have great arched openings, and the English bond walls are visible. Partition walls of brick and of vertical boards exist, as well as batten doors with strap hinges attached with rosehead nails with leather washers, hung on driven pentils. The ceiling has exposed beams with evidence of whitewash.

SIGNIFICANCE

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Green Hill House is a one-and-one-half-story frame plantation house probably built for Green Hill in the late eighteenth century. Its form, full basement, large chimneys, and exterior and interior detail make it a representative and well-preserved example of vernacular Georgian architecture. Green Hill was a leading citizen of early Franklin County, playing an important role in political and educational circles as well as in the Methodist community. He hosted several visits by Bishop Francis Asbury; his house is of considerable significance to the history of Methodism as the scene in 1785 of the first annual conference of the newly-organized Methodist Episcopal Church, attended by Bishop Asbury and Bishop Coke.

Green Hill, Jr., the son of Green Hill, was born in 1741 and reared in Northampton County, North Carolina. On October 13, 1761, he married Nancy Thomas, by whom he had five children. Nancy Thomas Hill died January 16, 1772, and on June 3, 1773, Hill married Mary Seawell, sister of Colonel Benjamin Seawell of Bute County, North Carolina. Green Hill and Mary Seawell had eight children. Benjamin Seawell, whose grandson was later to own the Green Hill House, was one of the best known and prominent planters of Bute (later Franklin) County. Seawell was a delegate to the Assembly at Halifax on November 13, 1776. Among the Bute delegates to the Assembly at New Bern in 1777 were Seawell, a member of the Senate, and his brother-in-law, Green Hill, in the House of Commons. It was at this session that Seawell introduced the bill that divided Bute into the counties of Franklin and Warren. The bill was not adopted until January 29, 1779. Green Hill and Benjamin Ward sponsored the bill in the House.

Earlier Green Hill had become involved in the revolutionary activities of the colony, and in August, 1775, he represented Bute at the first provincial convention at New Bern. In 1776 Green Hill became 2nd major in Colonel Thomas Eaton's company of Bute Militia. In 1779 Hill was named a commissioner and trustee for laying off the Franklin county seat town of Louisburg (spelled Lewisburg in the act). Green Hill was one of the most conspicuous figures in early Franklin County.

On January 15, 1779, Green Hill purchased 200 acres on the south side of Tar River from Garrett Goodlow of Bute County. On September 22, 1784, Benjamin Seawell, sheriff of Franklin County, conveyed to Hill 325 acres adjoining his earlier purchase. On October 17, 1786, William Green deeded 30 acres (in two conveyances) to Hill, and on March 21, 1788, Jordan Hill deeded his father, Green, 75 acres, adjoining the above tracts. Strong and sustained local tradition has credited Green Hill with building the house on this property. The exact date of construction is uncertain, but can be put sometime in the late eighteenth century. (It is possible that it was built before Hill purchased the property.)

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Green Hill appears to have become a minister associated with the Methodists. On August 16, 1775, Francis Asbury, who had come to America in 1771 as a missionary for the Methodist Society of the Church of England, laid plans for a visit to North Carolina. It was five years before he made his planned trip. On Wednesday, July 5, 1780, his diary recorded that he "set out to Green Hill's," and he goes on to say "I was very finely entertained, and blessed with fellowship at Green Hill's, but never met with so many difficulties as I have met with in this circuit:" On Sunday, July 9th he had returned to Hill's, for again his diary records, "Preached at Green Hill's to about four hundred souls . . ."

On Asbury's fourth visit he again stayed with Green Hill, and on Wednesday, February 26, 1783, he preached to "a proud and prayerless people, many of whom are backsliders." On Bishop Asbury's eighth visit to North Carolina he "met Doctor Coke at Green Hill's that evening (Tuesday, April 19, 1785): here we held our conferences in great peace." Dr. Coke was bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church; the conference Asbury referred to in his diary was the first annual conference of the newly-organized church. At this conference the states of South Carolina and Virginia were also represented. In all, these three states had 31 circuits, and 9,063 members.

Bishop Asbury stopped regularly at Green Hill's house in 1788, 1792, and 1793, as well as in 1816, on his final tour. Green Hill was not his host on the last visit, for he had removed to Tennessee in 1799. Four annual conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church were held at the house of Green Hill, and Hill was their host.

On August 29, 1799, Green Hill, Sr., (as he had styled himself since the birth of his son and namesake) deeded to Green Hill, Jr., 400 acres of land in Franklin County which had formerly been his homeplace. Hill, Sr., his wife, and minor children then moved to Tennessee. There he established his house, which he called Liberty Hill, ten miles south of Nashville, and this house became a regular stop for prominent Methodist leaders. His brother-in-law, Seawell, had moved to Tennessee in 1790, and it seems likely that this influenced Hill to do likewise.

Green Hill, Jr., was a prominent man in Franklin County. He was trustee of Franklin Male Academy from 1804-1808, and clerk to the trustees. In 1814 he along with his uncle, Joel King, was one of the commissioners appointed to build a house for a Female Seminary. On September 30, 1803, he deeded 308 acres of his plantation to Lewis Bond. This land was adjoining Wolf Pit Branch, the Tarborough Road, and Tar River. This 308-acre tract is believed to have contained the dwelling house. On October 9, 1811, Hill deeded the balance of his land holdings in the area (419 acres) to William Moore. During 1822 both Bond and Moore sold their interests in the property to Joel King, brother-in-law of Green Hill, Sr.

Joel King too was among the leading citizens of Franklin County. Born in 1778,

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he was the eldest son of Dr. John King, and his wife, Sarah, a daughter of Colonel Benjamin Seawell. Dr. King was a founding trustee of the Franklin Male Academy on January 6, 1787. Joel King first married Sarah Hill, sister of Green Hill, Sr. He was always closely identified with the Franklin Academy, and the Female Seminary, and was a trustee, secretary, and treasurer of both institutions for many years. He was also treasurer for the Tar River Navigation Company during its short life.

When King died in 1863 he left a life estate in the Green Hill tract to his second wife, Martha Elizabeth Long King, and the remaining interest to his son, Benjamin Joel King. By deed of September 19, 1869, Benjamin J. King conveyed the land (then containing 510 acres) to his bachelor brother John G. King, who lived at the house for many years. At the time of his death his heirs were forced to sell his land to pay debts, and on January 2, 1892, the commissioners appointed by the court, deeded 203 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres to Matthew S. Davis.

Matthew S. Davis, born in Franklin County, graduated from the University of North Carolina in the class of 1855, and later received his "MA" from the University. In 1856 he began teaching at the Louisburg Male Academy, and for a quarter of a century was principal of the school. He was for many years prior to 1884 superintendent of schools in Franklin County. In 1881 he resigned as principal of Louisburg Academy and began to farm. He soon became elected treasurer of Franklin County and served three terms. In 1896 he reorganized the Louisburg Female College. He died at the Green Hill House on February 26, 1906.

By deed the Green Hill House and 100 acres eventually came into the possession of George D. Davis, grandson of Matthew S. Davis, and descendant of William Hill, brother of Green Hill, Sr. George D. Davis died September 19, 1973, leaving a life estate to his wife, Marybelle M. Davis, and a remainder interest to his two sons, George, Jr., and Charles M. Davis. Mrs. George D. Davis lives at the Green Hill House, which is kept in an excellent state of repair.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Carroll, Grady L. E. Francis Asbury in North Carolina, Nashville, Tennessee; no date.

Davis, Edward Hill, Historical Sketches of Franklin County, Raleigh; 1948.

Franklin County Records, Franklin County Courthouse, Louisburg, North Carolina (Subgroups: Wills, Deeds).

Franklin County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Wills, Deeds).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 9 1/2 acres L&L: 36° 04' 51" 78° 18' 19"

UTM REFERENCES

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

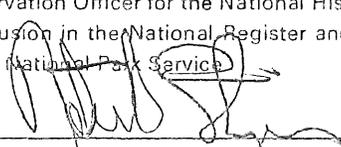
NAME / TITLE	Research by John Baxton Flowers, III, survey specialist; <u>architectural description by Catherine W. Cockshutt, survey supervisor</u>
ORGANIZATION	<u>Division of Archives and History</u>
STREET & NUMBER	<u>109 East Jones Street</u>
CITY OR TOWN	<u>Raleigh</u>
DATE	<u>8 April 1975</u>
TELEPHONE	<u>919/829-7862</u>
STATE	<u>North Carolina</u>

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL x STATE _____ LOCAL _____

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE 

TITLE North Carolina State Historic Preservation Officer DATE 8 April 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE
ATTEST:	DATE
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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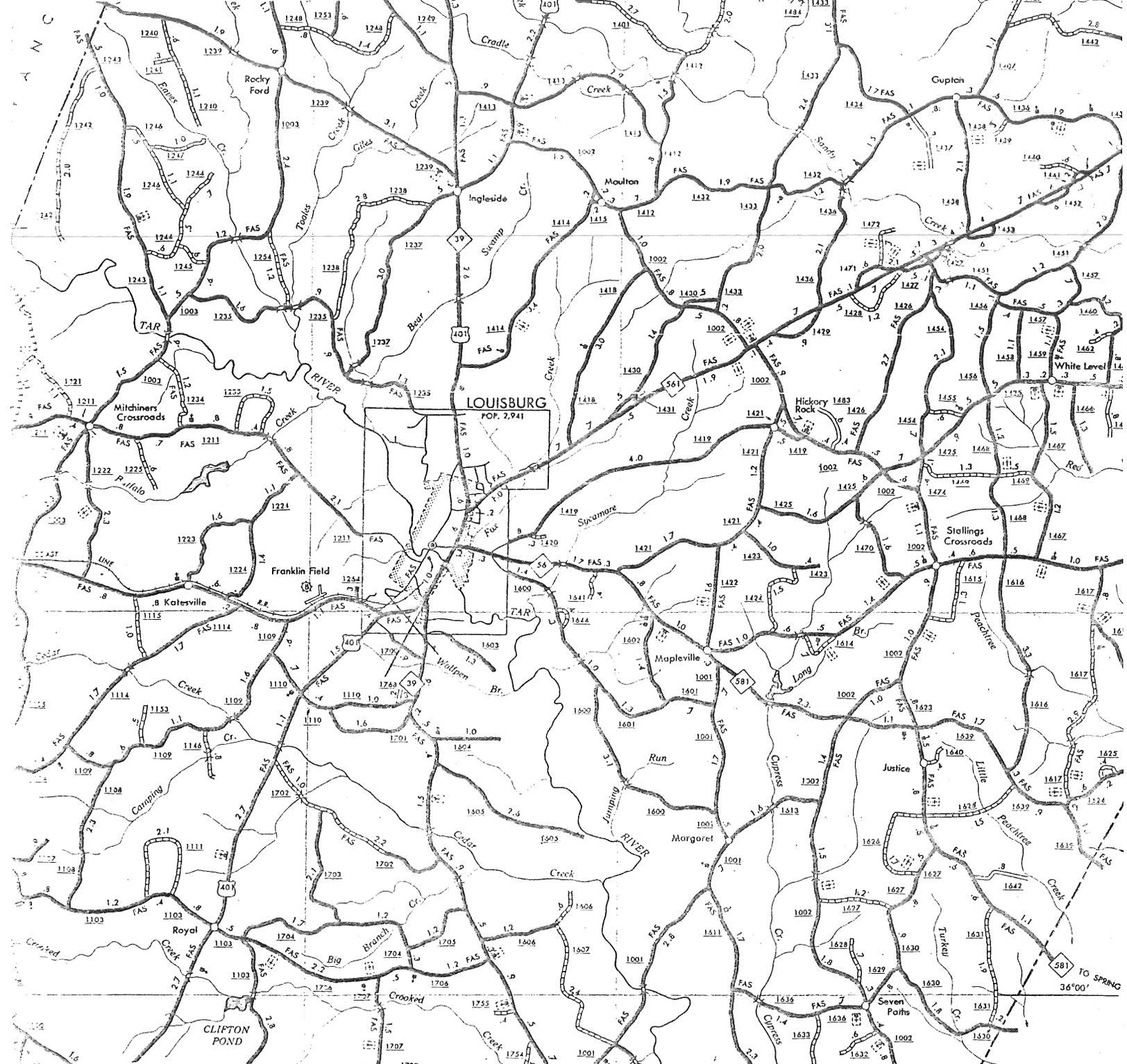
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Stuart Hall Hill Papers, Vol. III. Manuscript in the North Carolina State Library,
Raleigh.



Green Hill House
 Louisburg vicinity
 North Carolina

N. C. Highway Commission Map (no USGS map available)

Scale: 1/2" = 1 mile

Date: 1974

Latitude Longitude
 degrees minutes seconds degrees minutes seconds

36 04 51 78 18 19

