

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

Iredell County

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR _____ THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Davidson House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

N side SR 1337, 0.4 mile W of jct. with SR 1338

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF Troutman

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

North Carolina

Iredell

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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 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
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. Joe Davidson

STREET & NUMBER

900 6th Street Drive NW

CITY, TOWN

Hickory

— VICINITY OF

STATE

North Carolina 28601

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Laura A. W. Phillips (Winston-Salem)

ORGANIZATION

Consultant for Survey & Planning Branch

DATE

February 4, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

Archives and History

TELEPHONE

(919) 733-6545

CITY OR TOWN

Raleigh, North Carolina

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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 Davidson House and outbuildings are arranged along a clearing on the northeast side of SR 1337 in rural central Iredell County. It is a one-and-one-half story, 2x2 bay, weather-boarded log house with hall and parlor plan. There are a shed porch, rear shed rooms and porch, and single shoulder 1 to 3 common bond brick chimneys. The dwelling was apparently built ca. 1805 (according to family tradition) and then enlarged and remodelled during the Federal period ca. 1830.

The highlight of the exterior is the front shed porch with its crisply fluted Doric corner column which draws attention to the flush sheathing, paneled wainscot and fluted engaged columns behind. The unusual paneled wainscot is repeated in the rooms of the first story.

On the interior, the hall boasts a well-proportioned Federal style tripartite mantel. This mantel has been pulled away from the wall by vandals, revealing a firebox that was originally larger with pencilled joints in the surrounding brickwork and a flat brick arch across the top. Originally there may have been no mantel at all, but possibly only a shelf above this fireplace. The parlor to the left of the hall until recently had a simple Georgian mantel with a two-panel frieze. This mantel has unfortunately been removed by vandals. An enclosed stairway leads from the hall to the upper half story. This half story consists of one large room completely covered with beaded sheathing. The shed-room additions on the left (south) side of the house exhibit both a paneled wainscot and corner fireplaces which share the chimney with the adjacent room and with the parlor behind. Throughout the house six-panel doors, 9/6 sash windows, molded door and window surrounds and attention to detail abound. Excepting the mid-twentieth century plywood paneling which has been affixed to the upper walls of the hall, the consistency of the interior and front porch detailing suggests that the present appearance of the house reflects primarily the period of remodelling and enlarging which took place during the Federal period.

Northeast of the house stands a well-constructed log building, originally used as a slave quarter, according to Joe Davidson, present owner and descendent of the original owner of the house. This structure features half-dovetail joints, brick chinking, a steeply pitched gable roof with weatherboarded ends with windows (one with batten shutter), and doors on side and end. According to Mr. Davidson, there were at one time other slave quarters on the property.

Farther east is a two-story, three-bay wide, half-dovetail log barn with center passage, possibly cut out sometime after the barn was constructed. Batten doors have wide strap hinges and rosehead nails. The roof of the barn has collapsed.

The Davidson House is now vacant and unfortunately has been partially vandalized. It remains, however, remarkably intact, and as one of the most architecturally outstanding houses dating from the early nineteenth century in the county, it deserves both recognition and special preservation efforts.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

_____ NATIONAL

_____ STATE

_____ X 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 type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input 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 ca. 1805; 1830

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Davidson House has remained in the same family ownership throughout its history. It appears to have been built ca. 1805 as a simple Georgian style farmhouse and then substantially remodelled and enlarged ca. 1830 in the Federal style. It remains essentially unaltered, with some of the finest finish of the early nineteenth century surviving in the county. The front porch boasts a finely fluted Doric column and pilasters, flush sheathing and a paneled wainscot (matching that on the interior) which is rare, if not unique, for porch treatment in the county. Finishing of a porch as a "room" is seen occasionally in North Carolina and represents an important regional use of exterior/interior dwelling space. The substantial half-dovetailed log outbuildings appear to date from the first half of the nineteenth century and help complete the picture of this early nineteenth century rural farmstead which grew and was remodeled to satisfy the needs and desires of its early occupants.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- C. The Davidson House embodies the distinctive characteristics of a late Georgian style Piedmont farmhouse which was remodelled perhaps a quarter of a century later in the Federal style. Its log outbuildings display construction techniques common during the first half of the nineteenth century. The porch treatment is important regionally.

Sometime around the first decade of the nineteenth century, Joseph Davidson built a house between present day Statesville and Troutmans in Iredell County. He constructed the dwelling on a tract of land that his grandfather, also named Joseph Davidson, willed to him in 1795.¹ The elder Davidson had received the land in 1762 from a 692-acre grant made by the Earl of Granville and, according to family tradition, built his own house near the site where his grandson later erected his dwelling. During the American Revolution Tories supposedly burned the first house, and two of the sons of the first Joseph Davidson were killed while serving in the American Army.²

Joseph Davidson, the builder of the second house, was a farmer who held a number of local offices including road overseer, school commissioner, and justice of the county court.³ Family descendants claim that he remodeled his house around 1830, and examination of the structure verifies this as a possible date of renovation. In 1850 his farm was valued at \$4,000, and he owned 20 slaves.⁴ He died in 1859 and left the tract containing the Davidson House to his son, Thomas Melmoth Clayton Davidson.

At age 21 Davidson enlisted in Co. A, 4th Regiment, North Carolina Troops, in April, 1861. During the Civil War he rose to the rank of Second Lieutenant, was captured by Union Troops at Winchester, Virginia, in 1864, and released from prison at Fort Delaware, Delaware, in June, 1865, after taking the oath of allegiance.⁵ Following the war he became a farmer and resided at the Davidson House. In 1886 he held the county office of Register of Deeds and served in the State Legislature, 1905-1908. Since his death in 1927 the Davidson House has remained in the family and is presently owned by Joe Davidson of Hickory, North Carolina.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cheney, John L., Jr., editor. North Carolina Government, 1585-1974: A Narrative and Statistical History. Raleigh: North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State, 1974.

Evans, Virginia Fraser, and others, compilers. Iredell County Landmarks: A Pictorial History of Iredell County. Statesville: The Iredell County American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, 1976.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 8.75

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	5,0,7	6,2,0	B	9,5,5	8,7,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING				NORTHING
C				D						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION That part of Tract 3, Block B, Map 6C, Statesville Township lying within the following boundaries: starting at a point on the north side of SR 1337 opposite the north boundary line of Tract 6, then running northeast 200 feet, then running northwest 1150 feet, then running southwest 200 feet to the north side of SR 1337, then running southeast along the north side of SR 1337 to the point of beginning, as outlined in red on map.

The property being nominated includes the house, outbuildings, the clearing in which they stand and a border of woodlands to help preserve the integrity of the site.

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Iredell County

Davidson House

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Bibliography (Cont'd)

Iredell County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh (subgroup: Wills).

Jordan, Weymouth and Manarin, Louis, compilers. North Carolina Troops, 1861-1865: A Roster. Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, 7 volumes, 1973-1979.

Rowan County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh (Subgroup: Deeds).

United States Bureau of the Census. Schedules for Iredell County, North Carolina, 1850-1870.

FOOTNOTES

¹ Iredell County Wills, Joseph Davidson, 1795, State Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, hereinafter cited as Iredell Wills.

² Virginia Fraser Evans and others, compilers, Iredell County Landmarks: A Pictorial History of Iredell County (Statesville: The Iredell County American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, 1976), 40; Rowan County Deed Books (microfilm), State Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, Deed Book 5, p. 164.

³ Homer M. Keever, Iredell, Piedmont County (Statesville: The Iredell County Bicentennial Commission, 1976), 172, 202-203, hereinafter cited as Keever, Iredell.

⁴ Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: Iredell County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, 234, Slave Schedule, 48.

⁵ Iredell Wills, Joseph Davidson, 1859.

⁶ Weymouth T. Jordan and Louis H. Manarin, compilers, North Carolina Troops, 1861-1865: A Roster (Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, 1973-1979, 7 volumes), IV, 13-14.

⁷ Ninth Census of the United States, 1870: Iredell County, Population Schedule, 531.

⁸ Keever, Iredell, 301; John L. Cheney, Jr., editor, North Carolina Government, 1585-1974: A Narrative and Statistical History (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State, 1974), 483-485.

⁹ Iredell County Will Books (microfilm), Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, Will Book 9, p. 448.

ID 19

Davidson House
N. side SR 1337, Troutman vic.
Iredell Co., Troutman quad
Scale 1:24000, 8.75 acres
UTM References: Zone 17
Easting 507620 Northing 3955870



DAVIDSON

