

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Beaver Dam (Plantation House)

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER E. side NC 73, 0.65 mi. S. of junction with SR 2420

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Davidson

VICINITY OF

9th

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

North Carolina

37

Mecklenburg

119

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Dr. Chalmers Davidson

STREET & NUMBER
Davidson College

CITY, TOWN
Davidson

— VICINITY OF

STATE
North Carolina 28036

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Mecklenburg County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Charlotte

STATE
North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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

Beaver Dam, located on a knoll overlooking the bottom lands of Beaver Dam Creek, is a two story frame house following a plan typical of early nineteenth century Piedmont residences of the small planter class. While the general appearance of the house today recalls its appearance when it served as the residence of William Lee Davidson, II, Beaver Dam has been heavily renovated by the present owner following substantial deterioration suffered while it was a rental property and later unoccupied. While the two story block of the house is known to have had a shed porch across its asymmetrical front (south) elevation and shed rooms across the rear elevation, those portions of the house today were rebuilt by the present owner who has also replaced the window surrounds (except those under the front porch) and replaced the weatherboards with beaded siding.

Resting on a low mortared fieldstone foundation Beaver Dam is a two story single-pile frame house, four bays wide. It is covered with a wood shingle gable roof and has brick exterior end chimneys laid up in Flemish bond with queen closers. These chimneys, set in the center of the east and west gable ends, rest on stone bases and have stepped weatherings. They are flanked by windows at both stories. A one-story shed roof porch carries across the front elevation while a rather deep shed carries across the rear elevation and extends for several feet beyond the east gable end; an engaged porch carries across the south front of this projection. The design of the front porch, derived from a similar, Federal period house in South Carolina, is comprised of square panelled posts connected by rectangular banisters containing diagonally arranged members creating a diamond patterned railing. This same scheme is repeated on the porch fronting the east projection of the rear shed.

The front elevation has an unusual, asymmetrical four bay division with a pair of closely spaced windows in the western half of the elevation, suggesting the presence of the larger of the two rooms, per floor, which they illuminate. On the flush sheathed first story the main entrance occupies the first bay to the east of the center of the elevation with a third window in the fourth and easternmost bay. The fenestration on the second story repeats this same positioning. The two part Federal surround of the six-panel front door, is missing the outer molded member on the lintel. The original window surrounds on the first story feature the same two part surrounds, and are here intact, while the window surrounds throughout the rest of the two story block are also missing the top molded portion of the lintel. The window openings contain nine over nine sash on both stories. The arrangement of fenestration on the second story of the rear elevation repeats the asymmetrical position seen on the front elevation while on the shed six windows are set in an asymmetrical arrangement across its elevation.

The interior of Beaver Dam, less disturbed than the exterior, follows an off-center hall plan with the stair to the second story rising to the north along the west wall of the hall. The interior of the original two story block is simply finished with horizontal sheathing of flush hand planed pine boards; molded chair rail and baseboard are consistently used. The door and window surrounds follow a two part Federal form. The stair railing is comprised of a chamfered newel with a shaped handrail and simple square balusters.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

A door on the east side of the hall gives into the dining room which contains the most elaborate mantel treatment in the house. Here fluted pilasters rise, at either side of the rectangular fire opening, to the wide frieze whose plain outer members continue the line and proportion of the pilaster to the projecting molded mantel shelf above which a second set of fluted pilaster boards rise to the ceiling. A series of simple Federal moldings is applied horizontally across the face of the frieze. The horizontal sheathing above the mantel shelf and between the upper pilaster boards is exposed while the other portions of the wall above the chair rail are papered. A door in the center of the dining room's north wall leads into the modern kitchen.

Returning to the hall, a door in its north wall leads to the house's secondary hall in the rear shed while a door in the west wall, at the foot of the stairs gives into the living room--the larger of the two first story rooms. Two windows are set in the south (front) wall, and a door into the rear shed is located in the north wall near the northeast corner of the room. The fireplace at the center of the west wall has a simple Federal mantel with plain vertical members at each side of the arched fireplace opening, rising to the shallow molded shelf. A narrow band carries horizontally across the center of the wide frieze and acts as the base of the unornamented center tablet. The doors throughout the first story except that from the stair hall to the rear shed are reproduction six panel types with long modern strap hinges and reproduction brass locks.

The second story of the house repeats the floor plan of the first story; however, the southern end of the stair hall has been partitioned off to provide a small room for a bathroom.

A six panel door original to the house opens into a study above the living room in which it is flanked by built-in bookcases. On the opposite wall the mantel is a reduced version of that in the living room except that the fire opening is rectangular. The opposite room over the dining room never had a fireplace; it now serves as a bedroom.

The plan of the rear shed is roughly divided into thirds. A master bedroom suite occupies the western third, a pantry, hall and bathroom occupy the center position, and a large kitchen occupies the eastern, remaining third. The latter can also be reached through a door on the secondary porch fronting the shed at its eastern end.

There are three outbuildings on the property. The oldest is a large, ca. 1910, frame barn with a center passage covered with weatherboards and a gable roof; it is located some fifty yards northeast of the house. Due east of the house is a small rectangular building, the pumphouse, dating from 1974 (or 1975); it is covered with beaded weatherboards and a gable roof. To the northeast is a one story frame two car garage whose rectangular openings on both the south and north elevations have clipped corners.

8 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 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 1829?

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Beaver Dam, thought to have been completed in September, 1829, by William Lee Davidson, Jr., as the new seat of a plantation he acquired in 1808, occupies an important place in the history of Mecklenburg County and Piedmont North Carolina as the seat of a member of the prominent Davidson family and its identification with the events establishing Davidson College. It was here, in this two story Federal plantation house, that a committee of the Concord Presbytery met in April, 1835, and decided on the location of a new educational institution--a tract of land belonging to Mr. Davidson, one of the committee members, and thereafter an important force in the growth of the school. The following year the school was named Davidson College, honoring General William Lee Davidson, and has since grown into one of the leading educational institutions in North Carolina.

Criteria Assessment:

- A. Beaver Dam has important historical associations with the formation of Davidson College as it was the site of the committee meeting of the Concord Presbytery during which the location of the college was determined as well as being the residence of William Lee Davidson, Jr., a member of that committee, from whom the Presbytery acquired the campus tract.
- B. While William Lee Davidson, Jr., the son of General William Lee Davidson of Revolutionary fame, lived on this property for nearly forty years the present seat, Beaver Dam, served as his residence for some twenty years while Davidson continued his plantation operations in addition to his active role in the organization and growth of Davidson College. The house is one of the oldest remaining houses in Mecklenburg County associated with the Davidson family who were among the most prominent planter and land-owning families in the county.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

Beaver Dam, the plantation home of William Lee Davidson, Jr., has played a significant role in the history of Mecklenburg County and the western piedmont. Once covering more than a square mile of land near Davidson College, the Beaver Dam property now encompasses only eight and a half acres. The dwelling, however, still recalls one of the region's most prominent families and is occupied by a descendant of the builder.

William Lee Davidson, Jr., was born on January 2, 1781, about a month before his famous father, General William Lee Davidson, was killed at the Battle of Cowan's Ford. On October 30, 1805, he married Elizabeth Lee (Betsy) Davidson, the youngest daughter of Major John Davidson of Rural Hill. Three years later, William Lee Davidson purchased 451 acres on Beaver Dam Creek in Mecklenburg County where he established a plantation that took its name from the geographical location.

The Davidsons apparently lived for some years in a dwelling said to have been a three-story log structure just east of the present house. Whether or not W. L. Davidson built the first "Beaver Dam" is unclear because the purchase price of \$2,250 is noncommittal. The Price-Strother Map of 1808 shows a Harris homeplace in approximately the same location as the present house, and since Davidson bought the property from the Harris family, the log house may have been standing at the time of purchase. Early maps, however, are not totally reliable for precise locations, so the question cannot be answered with authority. The log house stood until the Reconstruction period and served as the Davidson home when Major John Davidson came to live with his daughter and son-in-law in the 1820s.

An inscription in one of the chimneys indicates that the present Beaver Dam was completed in September of 1829. The presence of the log house hampers verification of the date in the official records, especially since Davidson added adjacent lands to his home tract. The time, however, is compatible with the rising prosperity enjoyed by William Lee Davidson, who by 1830 owned twenty-five slaves, placing him among the planter class. Mrs. T. J. ("Stonewall") Jackson, a great niece of Betsy Davidson, left a few insights into the appearance of Beaver Dam in its antebellum years:

Ah what a happy home was Aunt Betsy's . . . Nobody else had so well managed a house hold . . . no body else such a richly stored winter fruit room--apples, peanuts, & hickory nuts in such abundance . . . no body else such a dairy and such a poultry yard . . . So much spinning and weaving and dying [sic] and soap making went on as supplied the farm with strong well fitting garments, kept clean by the most perfect arts of the laundry. . . .

The flower garden bordered the box [woods] and filled with a great variety of old fashioned flowers and surrounded with shrubbery of lilacs, syringas, snow ball, crape trees & flowering almonds, was a

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

"thing of beauty and a joy" to me. The Catalpa trees in early summer hung out their rich clusters of bloom. . . .

When a carriage drove up to the gate, some member of the family always came out to meet the visitor. This cordial welcome was one of the very pleasant features of visiting in those days.

William Lee Davidson lived in the present Beaver Dam for eighteen years, seemingly content with the life of a Mecklenburg County planter. He was inclined towards the Whig Party but after a brief term as state senator in 1818, he confined himself to local politics where he served on numerous committees appointed by the court.¹⁰ In keeping with his Scotch-Irish ancestry, Davidson affiliated with the Presbyterian Church. In 1838 he was a delegate to the Philadelphia meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, representing the Synod of North Carolina, Concord Presbytery. While stopping in Baltimore, he was robbed of \$600, and thereafter never attended another general assembly of the church.¹¹

In the early 1840s, Davidson was swept up in the widespread fever for developing a silk industry in the state. He invested large sums in specially adapted mulberry trees and silk houses. Unlike most who made the effort, Davidson was moderately successful in producing a raw product. Ironically, he could not find a market that paid enough to return his investment, so after one or two years he took his losses and abandoned the project.¹²

Something of Davidson's attitudes as a plantation master are suggested by his will, in which he directed that his blacks be sold "so far as is practical in families, so that mother and small children be kept together as much as can conveniently be done." Three old slaves, Phebe, Rose, and Amy were to be provided for during the remainder of their lives.¹³

William Lee Davidson's most significant accomplishments came from his association with Davidson College. In March, 1835, the Concord Presbytery decided to establish a Manual Labor School within a fifteen mile, semicircular radius of Beatties Ford.¹⁴ A committee to select the exact site, of which William L. Davidson was a member, met at Beaver Dam in April and chose a 469 acre parcel of land belonging to Davidson but lying northwest of his home tract. The committee settled on a price of \$1,521 to be paid by January 1, 1836, and Davidson agreed to sign over a title "when it shall be called for."¹⁵ A few months later the Concord Presbytery resolved to name the institution Davidson College in honor of General William Lee Davidson. Since no transfer of title could be found, it seems possible that Davidson refused the sale price and donated the land to the Presbytery that had honored his father.¹⁶

William Lee Davidson took an active part in the growth and development of the new college. He served as one of the original trustees and was elected one of the Board's

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

vice-presidents at the first meeting; treasurer of the college; and on numerous committees including finance and buildings.¹⁷ Davidson moved to Marengo County, Alabama (between October 1847 and December 1848) where he died on November 13, 1862. His will bequeathed \$10,000 to Davidson College,¹⁸ \$2,000 of which was to be divided equally between the literary societies.

In preparation for his move to Alabama, Davidson sold his 785 acre tract on Beaver Dam Creek to Joseph Patterson for \$3,500.¹⁹ Patterson, who had married Margaret Reid in 1844, was a successful antebellum planter.¹⁹ He and his wife and young son, John, moved into Beaver Dam.²⁰ By 1850 the plantation was valued at \$6,650 and Patterson owned twenty-five slaves.²¹ He died in 1858 at the age of forty-four without a will to dispose of his land or extensive personal estate. The court declared Joseph's only living child, John P. Patterson, as the heir to the real estate subject to the dower of the widow Margaret L. Patterson.²² Personal property was sold at auction to pay outstanding debts of the estate.

On August 10, 1859, the widow Margaret L. Patterson, married James P. Henderson who lived two farms closer to Davidson College.²³ Henderson had moved to the village area in the 1840s from his former home near Derita.²⁴ For at least two years Beaver Dam Plantation was rented by tenants who farmed the land and worked the Patterson slaves.² John P. Patterson arrived at lawful age in 1861 and sometime thereafter married and moved into the old Davidson residence. He was among the many North Carolinians who suffered financial reverses from the Civil War. On April 14, 1870, Patterson mortgaged Beaver Dam Plantation to secure several debts owed to Rufus Barringer. A second mortgage was entered a year later in which Barringer set an annual interest rate of fifteen percent with the principal due upon thirty days notice.²⁷ Patterson defaulted on the agreement and sometime after 1871, Rufus Barringer became the legal owner of Beaver Dam and 515 acres of land.²⁸

General Rufus Barringer, a lawyer and Civil War veteran, was a very prominent personality in Mecklenburg County, but the records indicate that he never lived in the Beaver Dam home.²⁹ Recollections of John P. Patterson's daughter, who lived for some years in the house, suggest that the Patterson family may have continued to live at Beaver Dam for a few years after Barringer assumed ownership. The Pattersons were gone by 1880, however, and some unidentified tenant apparently leased the farm.³⁰ Barringer died in possession of the estate and a codicil to his will possibly indicates such an arrangement. He referred to a partnership with T. M. Long and indicated that he would "be glad to see him [Long] continue in charge of the Farm, as it now stands under such fair rental as he or the executor may agree on. . . ."³¹ Barringer, however, owned extensive lands in Mecklenburg County, and it is not certain that this codicil refers to Beaver Dam. At Barringer's death in 1895, his total estate was valued at approximately \$100,000.³²

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

During the first decade of the twentieth century, the Beaver Dam tract was substantially reduced in size. M. L. Barringer (widow of Rufus) sold 318 3/4 acres to S. J. Christenberry in 1903; Christenberry, four years later, transferred 155 acres to Moses Hovis who lived in the house until his death in the 1920s.³³ The Hovis heirs lost the property because of indebtedness in 1934, but a year later, another member of the family, Caldwell Hovis,³⁴ purchased the 155 acre estate from the Prudential Insurance Company. In 1937,³⁵ Caldwell Hovis sold 8.5 acres to the present owner, Dr. Chalmers G. Davidson.

For the next twenty-eight years Beaver Dam was rented out except for intermittent periods when it stood vacant. By the time Chalmers Davidson decided to make Beaver Dam his home,³⁶ deterioration had taken its toll. Davidson moved into the house in May, 1975.³⁷ Major renovations, particularly to the exterior, have given Beaver Dam a fresh look.³⁷ The house has been recognized by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Properties Commission as a significant historic structure, and on March 7, 1977, the Board of County Commissioners of Mecklenburg County resolved, "That the building and property known as 'Beaver Dam' located on North Carolina Highway 73 in Mecklenburg County, is hereby designated as historic property pursuant to Part 3B, Article 19, Chapter 160A of the General Statutes of North Carolina."³⁸

Footnotes

¹Family Bible of William Lee Davidson (1781-1862) now in possession of Dr. Chalmers G. Davidson of Davidson, North Carolina. Here taken from Chalmers G. Davidson, "Major William Lee Davidson, II" (Documented typescript submitted to the Division of Archives and History), 2, hereinafter cited as Davidson, "Major William Lee Davidson, II."

²Mecklenburg County Deed Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Mecklenburg County Courthouse, Charlotte, Deed Book 19, p. 538, hereinafter cited as Mecklenburg County Deed Book.

³Based on recollections of Mrs. Watson Smith, born Lulu Patterson, a resident of the house during the Civil War era. Here taken from Davidson, "Major William Lee Davidson, II," fn. 10. Davidson gives no date or place for the interview with Mrs. Smith.

⁴The purchase price averaged nearly five dollars an acre. How this related to improvement would depend upon the quality of the land, and that data was not available. See Mecklenburg County Deed Book 19, p. 538.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 5

⁵ Davidson, "Major William Lee Davidson, II," 2-4; and S. A. Ashe (ed.), Biographical History of North Carolina (Greensboro: Van Noppen, 1917), VIII, 138, hereinafter cited as Ashe, Biographical History with appropriate volume and page. See also fn.3.

⁶ According to Chalmers Davidson, the date is inscribed in the east chimney. "Survey and Research Report on Beaver Dam," prepared by Dan Morrill, Chalmers Davidson, and Jack O. Boyte for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Properties Commission, May, 1976. Copy in Survey and Planning Branch, Archeology and Historic Preservation Section, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, hereinafter cited as "Survey and Research Report on Beaver Dam."

⁷ By 1847 Davidson had added 334 acres to the original tract. See Mecklenburg County Deed Book 2 (second series), p. 497.

⁸ Fifth Census of the United States, 1830: Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, Population Schedule. Census records hereinafter cited by number and date. See also Davidson, "Major William Lee Davidson, II," 4.

⁹ Written in 1882. Taken from Davidson, "Major William Lee Davidson, II," 4-5.

¹⁰ William Lee Davidson was elected to replace William Davidson who had resigned in November following his election to Congress. W. L. Davidson served from December 4 to December 26, 1818. John L. Cheney, Jr. (ed.), North Carolina Government 1585-1974 (Raleigh: Department of the Secretary of State, 1975), 272, 349 n. For county services, see J. B. Alexander, Reminiscences of the Past Sixty Years (Charlotte: Ray, 1908), 431; Daniel A. Tompkins, History of Mecklenburg County (Charlotte: Observer, 1903), I, 128; and Davidson, "Major William Lee Davidson, II," 5-6.

¹¹ Minutes of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of America 1838 (Philadelphia, 1838), 6; and R. H. Morrison to Wm. A. Graham, May 24, 1838. Papers of Wm. A. Graham, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh. Here taken from Davidson, "Major William Lee Davidson, II," 7, fns. 29, 30. The letter from Morrison to Graham can be found in the manuscript collection. It does not appear in J. G. de Roulhac Hamilton (ed.), The Papers of William A. Graham (Raleigh: State Division of Archives and History, 4 vols., 1957-1961).

¹² John B. Alexander, Biographical Sketches of the Early Settlers of the Hopewell Section (Charlotte: Observer, 1897), 33, hereinafter cited as Alexander, Biographical Sketches.

¹³ According to Chalmers Davidson, the will is on file in Marengo County (Alabama), Will Book B, 116-118. See Davidson, "Major William Lee Davidson, II," 7, fn. 31.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 6

There is, however, no copy of the will on file in Mecklenburg County. A partial abstract of the will appears in Davidson and Allied Families of North Carolina (Gastonia: William Gaston Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, 1956), II, 431-432, hereinafter cited as Davidson and Allied Families.

¹⁴ Western Carolinian (Salisbury), May 30, 1835, hereinafter cited as Western Carolinian.

¹⁵ Western Carolinian, May 30, 1835. The article refers to the home of William S. Davidson, Esq. which caused some confusion. Concentrated research led to the conclusion that the editor apparently misread the handwritten L. for an S. as he set the type. See the following sources in the State Archives, Raleigh: Fifty Census, 1830, Mecklenburg County, 344, 352, 361, and Iredell County, 35; Sixth Census, 1840, Mecklenburg County, 275, and Iredell County 159; Iredell County Deed Book N, 88, 337; Davidson Estates Papers, Mecklenburg and Iredell counties; Cross Index to Wills, Mecklenburg and Iredell counties; and Marriage Bonds, Mecklenburg and Iredell counties.

¹⁶ The name was adopted on August 26, 1835. Semi-Centenary Celebration of Davidson College . . . June 13, 1887 (Raleigh, 1888), 34. There is considerable controversy about the land transaction. Early histories argue for donation. The Minutes of the Presbytery (1844) says it was purchased. Family members contend that some of the land was donated and the rest sold at a reduced price. Surely the intent of the Presbytery was to buy the land, but the records do not indicate that the sale was consummated. Of course, there is always the possibility of an unrecorded deed. For details of the different views, see Davidson, "Major William Lee Davidson, II," fn. 41.

¹⁷ Cornelia Rebekah Shaw, Davidson College (New York: Fleming H. Revell Press, 1923), 13, 15, 17, hereinafter cited as Shaw, Davidson College; Davidson and Allied Families, 431; and Davidson, "Major William Lee Davidson, II," 10-11.

¹⁸ Shaw, Davidson College, 17; Davidson and Allied Families, 432. Dates for Davidson's move to Alabama calculated from time he sold his property in North Carolina until time his daughter was married in Marengo County, Alabama. See Mecklenburg County Deed Book 2 (second series), p. 497; and Marriage Records of Marengo County, Alabama 1818-1860. Abstracts in Genealogy Branch of the State Library in Raleigh. Chalmers Davidson states that William Lee and Betsy Davidson were childless. ("Major William Lee Davidson, II," 4, 12), but the marriage record states that William L. Davidson gave consent for his daughter, Violet E. Davidson, to marry David W. Pitts on December 13, 1848. Perhaps W. L. Davidson had no natural children but adopted (through legal channels or by family consent) some of his nieces and nephews. The Census of 1840 shows one female and one male about the ages John Colwell [Caldwell] and Violet E. would have been. Violet E. was 24 when she married David Pitts in 1848. John Caldwell came to live with the Davidsons at age nine. See Alexander, Biographical Sketches, 34.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 7

- ¹⁹ Mecklenburg County Deed Book 2 (second series), p. 497.
- ²⁰ Margaret Reid apparently was Patterson's second wife. Son John was issue of his first marriage. Mecklenburg County Marriage Bonds, State Archives, Raleigh: Sixth Census, 1840, p. 321; and Seventh Census, 1850 Population Schedule, 54.
- ²¹ Seventh Census, 1850, Population Schedule, 54, and Slave Schedule.
- ²² Mecklenburg County Estates Papers, Joseph Patterson, State Archives, Raleigh, hereinafter cited as Estates Papers with name of deceased. See also John P. Patterson's disposal of the property in Mecklenburg County Deed Book 6, p. 743.
- ²³ Mecklenburg County Marriage Bonds; and Seventh Census, 1850, p. 54. See order of houses visited.
- ²⁴ J. B. Alexander, The History of Mecklenburg County from 1740-1900 (Charlotte: Observer Printing House, 1902), 242, hereinafter cited as Alexander, The History of Mecklenburg County.
- ²⁵ Mecklenburg County Records, Records of Accounts, vol. 8, 1857-1869, John P. Patterson Estate by his guardian John P. Ross, 54.
- ²⁶ Mecklenburg County Deed Book 6, p. 743; and Deed Book 7, p. 205. The names of adjacent property owners in the deed description are the same as those listed as Patterson's neighbors in the Ninth Census 1870, pp. 9-10, Deweese Township, indicating that Patterson was living at Beaver Dam by that time.
- ²⁷ Ibid.
- ²⁸ There is no notice of sale but Barringer's widow owned the property in 1903. This transaction was the only means indicated in the records by which Barringer could have acquired the property. See Mecklenburg Deed Book 7, p. 205; and Deed Book 174, p. 678.
- ²⁹ Alexander, The History of Mecklenburg County, 201-207; Ninth Census, 1870, and Tenth Census, 1880, Deweese Township; and Will of Rufus Barringer, Mecklenburg County Wills, Office of the Clerk of Superior Court, Mecklenburg County Courthouse, Charlotte, copy of original in Mecklenburg County Wills, State Archives, hereinafter cited as Rufus Barringer Will.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 8

³⁰Tenth Census, 1880, Deweese Township, does not list John P. Patterson. Lula Patterson (Mrs. Watson Smith) was ten years old when her father mortgaged the property. Her vivid recollections suggest a more mature acquaintance with the homestead. See fn. 3 above and also Rufus Barringer Estate Papers.

³¹Rufus Barringer Will.

³²See probate of Rufus Barringer Will, February 14, 1895.

³³Mecklenburg County Deed Book 174, p. 678; Deed Book 228, p. 168; and Deed Book 853, p. 215.

³⁴The heirs of Moses Hovis were R. L. Hovis and wife Carrie, and C. B. Hovis and wife Irene. On March 25, 1929, they mortgaged the property (155 acres) to the Chicamauga Trust Company of New Jersey with the Prudential Insurance Company as a third party. The Chicamauga Trust Company went bankrupt in the early thirties and was bought out by Prudential which purchased the mortgage on Beaver Dam for \$5,400. On January 11, 1935, the Prudential Insurance Company sold the house and tract to Caldwell B. Hovis of Greensboro for \$5,750. Mecklenburg County Deed Book 651, p. 285; Deed Book 853, p. 215; and Deed Book 862, p. 137.

³⁵Mecklenburg County Deed Book 908, p. 108.

³⁶Chalmers G. Davidson to Larry E. Tise, July 26, 1978. Letter in Beaver Dam File, Survey and Planning Branch, Archeology and Historic Preservation Section, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

³⁷Memorandum from Davyd Foard Hood to Larry E. Tise, September 1, 1978. Copy in Beaver Dam File (see fn. 35 above).

³⁸Minutes of the Board of County Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, Mecklenburg County Courthouse, Charlotte, Minute Book No. 23, p. 532. Copy in Beaver Dam File (see fn. 35 above).

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

- Beaver Dam File. Survey and Planning Branch, Archeology and Historic Preservation Section, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.
- Cheney, Jr., John L., ed. North Carolina Government 1585-1974. Raleigh: Department of the Secretary of State, 1975.
- Davidson, Chalmers G. "Major William Lee Davidson, II." Typescript submitted to the N. C. Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, 1978.
- Davidson and Allied Families of North Carolina. 2 vols. Gastonia: William Gaston Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, 1956.
- Iredell County Records. State Archives, Raleigh. Subgroups: Deeds, Estates Papers, Inventories and Accounts, Marriage Bonds, Wills.
- Maps. Price-Strother Map of North Carolina, 1808. MacRae-Brazier Map of North Carolina 1833. Map of Mecklenburg County, 1911.
- Marengo County, Alabama, Records. State Library, Raleigh. Index to Wills, 1820-1862. Marriage Records, 1818-1860.
- Mecklenburg County Records, State Archives, Raleigh. Subgroups: Deeds, Estates Papers, Inventories, Marriage Bonds, Record of Accounts, Wills.
- Morrill, Dan, Chalmers Davidson, and Jack O. Boyte. "Survey and Research Report on Beaver Dam." Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Properties Commission, Charlotte.
- Semi-Centenary Celebration of Davidson College . . . June 13, 1887. Raleigh. 1888.
- Shaw, Cornelia Rebekah. Davidson College. New York: Fleming H. Revell Press, 1923.
- Tompkins, Daniel A. History of Mecklenburg County. Charlotte: Observer, 1903.
- United States Census Records. Iredell County, North Carolina, 1840-1850. Marengo County, Alabama, 1850-1860. Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, 1830-1880. Perry County, Alabama, 1850.
- Western Carolinian. Salisbury. May 30, 1835.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Alexander, John B. Biographical Sketches of the Early Settlers of the Hopewell Section. Charlotte: Observer, 1897.

_____. History of Mecklenburg County. Charlotte: Observer, 1902.

_____. Reminiscences of the Past Sixty Years. Charlotte: Ray, 1908.

Ashe, Samuel A., ed. Biographical History of North Carolina: From Colonial Times to the Present. 8 vols. Greensboro: Van Noopon, 1905-1917.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 8.68 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Cornelius

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	5,1,6	5,2,0	3,9	2,5	5,9,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C							D			
E							F			
G							H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See attached tax map of Mecklenburg County. As the acreage comprising the original plantation unit has been much, and variously divided among numerous property owners in the century and a quarter since Davidson disposed of the plantation we are now nominatin

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES only that acreage retained to the house tract.

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Description prepared by Davyd Foard Hood, Survey Specialist; significance prepared by Jerry L. Cross, Research Branch

ORGANIZATION N. C. Division of Archives and History DATE _____

STREET & NUMBER 109 East Jones Street TELEPHONE (919) 733-4763

CITY OR TOWN Raleigh STATE North Carolina 27611

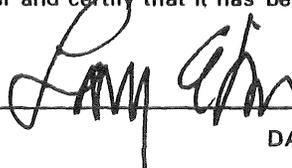
12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL _____ 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

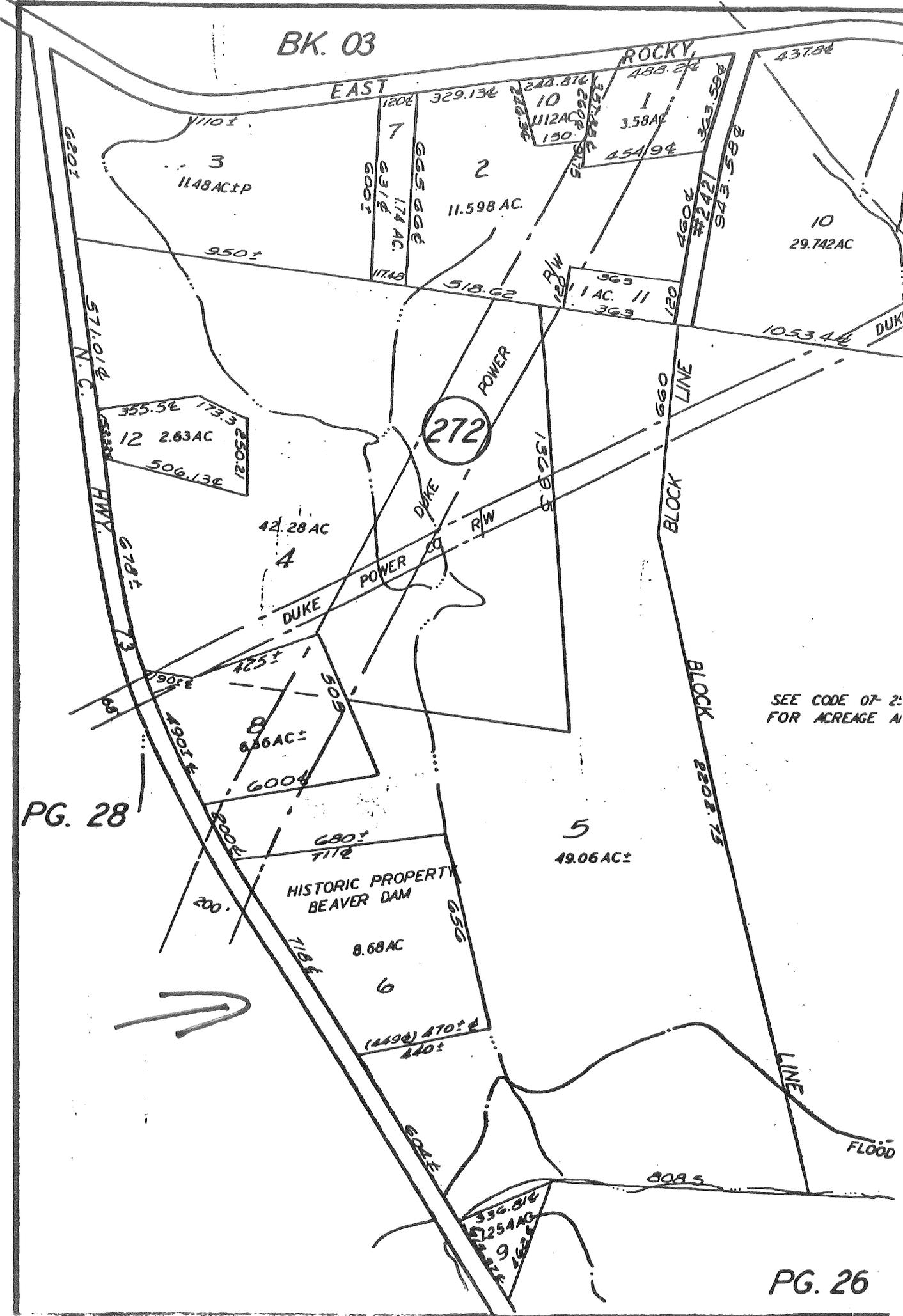


TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE January 11, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
ATTEST:	DATE
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION	DATE

BK. 03

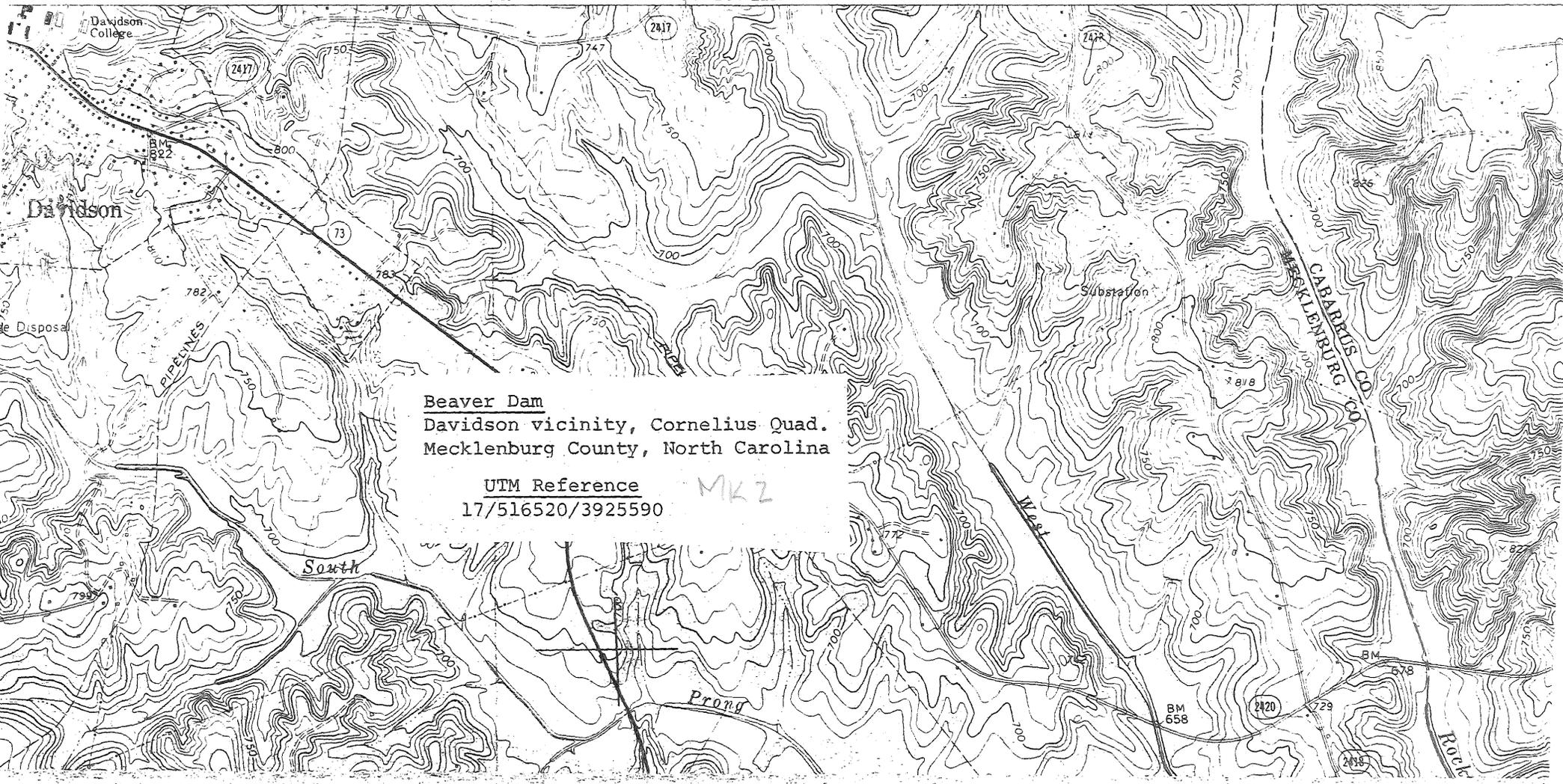


SEE CODE OF- 2:
FOR ACREAGE A

PG. 28

PG. 26

514 515 50' 516 4855 III SE (MOORESVILLE) 518 47'30" 1 470 000 FEET 520



Beaver Dam
Davidson vicinity, Cornelius Quad.
Mecklenburg County, North Carolina

UTM Reference
17/516520/3925590

MK2

