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
CITY, TOWN South Thomasville
STATE North Carolina

3 CLASSIFICATION
<table>
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<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
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4 OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME Fair Grove Methodist Church
STREET & NUMBER 204 Cedar Lodge Road
CITY, TOWN Thomasville
STATE North Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE Register of Deeds Office, Davidson County Courthouse
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Register of Deeds Office, Davidson County Courthouse

6 FORM PREPARED BY
NAME / TITLE Ruth Little, Consultant
ORGANIZATION Survey and Planning Branch
STREET & NUMBER Division of Archives and History
CITY OR TOWN Raleigh
STATE North Carolina
DATE July 26, 1983
TELEPHONE 919/733-6545
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 stonemason 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

**Thomas Fisher**
- Doctor Wm. Dobson 1797-1829

**Simple geometric shape**
- Polly Lee 1767-1849
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


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**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.
not to scale

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**


**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

Acres of Nominated Property: Approx 2 1/2 acres

UTM References

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<td>D</td>
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Verbal Boundary Description

The cemetery boundaries include an area of roughly 2 1/2 acres with the approximate dimensions of 300 feet by 600 feet by 500 feet in a triangular configuration as shown on the U.S. Geological Survey map, Fair Grove, N.C. Quadrangle.