United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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

The David Caldwell Log College Site

and/or common

2. Location

street & number

Between Cornwallis Drive, Hobbs Road & Holden Road

— not for publication

city, town

Greensboro

X vicinity of

congressional district

state

North Carolina

code 037

county

Guilford

code 081

3. Classification

Category

district

building(s)

structure

site

object

Ownership

X public

_ private

_ both

Public Acquisition n/a

Status n/a

occupied

unoccupied

work in progress

Accessible

yes: restricted

X yes: unrestricted

_ no

Present Use

_ agriculture

commercial

educational

entertainment

_ government

_ industrial

_ military

_ museum

_ park

private residence

religious

scientific

transportation

_ other:

4. Owner of Property

name

City of Greensboro

street & number

c/o Mr. Jim Melvin, Mayor

city, town

Greensboro, N.C.

X vicinity of

state

North Carolina

27402

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.

Guilford County Courthouse

street & number

state

North Carolina

27402

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title

Archaeological Excavations

has this property been determined eligible? _ yes X no

date

1981

at the site of David Caldwell's Log College

federal

state

county

X local

depository for survey records

Department of Cultural Resources Archaeology Branch

city, town

Raleigh

state

North Carolina
7. Description

In 1767, David and Rachel Caldwell built their home on a 550 acre farm three miles from the town of Greensboro. Here they raised eight children, ran their school, and operated a successful farm for fifty-seven years. After Caldwell's death, the farmstead was abandoned. (Baroody, 1980:77).

Around 1915, the land was once again cleared and farmed, but by then there were few traces of the house and outbuildings built during the Caldwells' tenure. (Baroody, 1980:12). Today, most of the original farm is part of residential Greensboro.

In 1959 and 1960, Dr. Lawrence Lee and Mr. Stanley South, respectively, conducted limited archaeological testing of the traditional location of the David Caldwell home and log college. (Lee, 1959, South, 1960). Both believed that a stone foundation they tested, The House on Hobbs Road, was a home of Dr. Caldwell. In 1978, Mr. Mark Miller wrote a research paper on David Caldwell and provided evidence that the land owned by the city of Greensboro was a part of the Caldwell farm. (Miller, 1978). In 1979, the David Caldwell Log College, Inc., contracted Mr. John C. Baroody to conduct an intensive archaeological survey of the property.

The survey techniques used during the 1979 study included: probing, test units, shovel tests, some backhoe trenching, and finally, excavation of the foundation, located by Lee and South.

Survey and test results. The most noticeable aspect of the artifact collection is that none of the artifacts recovered by shovel testing were of a type manufactured after 1840. The two hundred and seventy-three datable ceramic artifacts from the shovel tests have a range of manufacture dates from 1750 to 1840. If we discount the three delft sherd and two transfer print pearlware sherd which date well within the manufacture range of the other ceramics, but which represent the extreme dates of the range, we have an occupation date of 1762 to 1830. When compared to the 1766 to 1825 historical dates of the Caldwells' occupation, a direct relationship becomes clear. This part of the Caldwell farm was occupied during but not after the Caldwells' tenure.

The shovel tests were excavated at 20 feet intervals over the entire land available for study and at 10 feet intervals for the four acres shown to contain the greatest density of artifacts. (See figures 1 and 2.) Immediately noticeable is the clustering of artifacts from east of the unnamed creek, which split the study area, to a point roughly 70 feet east of the house on Hobbs Road and from Cornwallis Drive to a point roughly 140 feet south of the house on Hobbs Road. These tests indicate the following:

1. The creek which divides the study area into east and west halves was a feature at the time of the property's occupation.
2. The area west of the creek was not utilized as a habitation area nor were there any outbuildings which would have left any notable remains.
3. The artifact pattern extending south of the house on Hobbs Road by more than two hundred feet suggest land use of the property in the southern direction, and that the orientation of the farm and its outbuildings was to the south of the house on Hobbs Road.
4. The clusters of ceramics apparently would continue north of the house on Hobbs Road, had the construction of Cornwallis Road not destroyed that information.
5. The distribution of brick and nail found in the shovel tests support the conclusions of the ceramic distribution.

When the nail and brick fragment distributions are overlaid with the ceramic density maps, the locations of several outbuildings are suggested. (See figure 3.) The nail and brick fragment distribution maps suggest a building west of the house. The ceramic artifacts indicate areas of other possible outbuildings.

The house on Hobbs Road was excavated during the 1979 study. The archaeological, historical and structural evidence combine to give fair proof that the structure was the original Caldwell cabin and school. Several features associated with the house and the farm complex area were exposed or partially excavated during the study. A pre-1785 trash pit was excavated approximately 65 feet east of the house (figure 4). This feature was saucer shaped, with its center 2.5 feet below the surface, and measured approximately eight feet in diameter. The feature was apparently used as an open pit for discarding butchered bone and other debris. Cow, pig, deer, and sheep were identified, with cow and pig bones occurring in large numbers. An east-west fence line located about 70 feet south of the house appeared to have been erected between 1795 and 1805. Another fence, running north to south about 30 feet east of the house on Hobbs Road was apparently constructed around 1780. The close intervals between posts suggest that the fence may have been the "pannel fence" mentioned in the historical notes.

A feature which has been interpreted as a tunnel was partially exposed, running from the southwest corner of the cellar foundation of the house on Hobbs Road to a point 120 feet west, in an area interpreted as having been the kitchen or another house. In the area near the house, the feature is four feet deep, three feet wide, and paved with cobbles (figure 5). A similar profile was obtained in the kitchen/house area by a backhoe cut. No artifacts were recovered from the fill of this trench. The lack of artifacts suggests a short-use period for the feature and that it was filled at an early date in the land use. That David Caldwell would have a need for a tunnel, or an inclination to construct such a device is suggested by the prominent role he played during the War of the Regulation of the late 1760s and early 1770s, and during the Revolution, which may have impressed on him a need for protecting his family from the hostile elements working in his area.

Although the house on Hobbs Road was completely excavated, the other features were only partially disturbed by the 1979 study. The suggested locations of the other outbuildings are relatively undisturbed. The tunnel was merely sampled. Less than 5 percent of the area delineated as the farm activity area has been destroyed by construction activity or by archaeology. The research potential, on the other hand has been greatly enhanced by the historical study, and by the extensive archaeological testing. The 4 acre area delineated by the ceramic distribution (see figures 3 and 6) as the main farm complex, should be preserved for its historical value and its research potential. This will contain all the suspected building locations, the tunnel, the spring, and the house on Hobbs Road.
8. Significance

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Specific dates: 1767 to 1825

Builder/Architect: N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

General Significance

Well documented, single component sites are increasingly rare in historic archeology. If such a site should be connected with a person and events of considerable historic import, the significance increases dramatically. The "David Caldwell Log College Site", in Guilford County, is a unique combination of archeological integrity and historical interest. Caldwell, an adamant supporter of the American Revolution and early educator of some renown, built his first home on the site in 1767, and later established a school at the same location. Unlike numerous other sites, this one was not re-developed, but abandoned after Caldwell's death. Although there has been agricultural activity on the site, three separate archeological investigations have resulted in the discovery of intact remains. The first two investigations located and tested the dwelling, while the third intensively excavated these remains and tested other areas of the site. This last investigation provided information for the interpretation of Caldwell's life, indicated other areas of probable remains and suggested areas and directions for future study.

Criteria:

A. Originally constructed as a rural farmstead in 1767, Dr. Caldwell's Academy was established in Guilford County by a prominent educator, minister, and political leader. The Caldwell school was perhaps the most influential southern academy of the era, and a focal point for events vital in the development of North Carolina in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. His elevated position in the burgeoning community made his home a center for local political and social activities. Caldwell's fervent stance for the Revolution caused the Tories to make several raids on the farmstead to attempt his capture, and the British used his land as a staging area for the battle of Guilford Courthouse in 1781. While no major battles took place on the property, it was the scene of events which are indicative of difficulties faced by individuals working to form the new government.

B. The David Caldwell Log College site is the home of one of North Carolina's most influential rural colonial leaders and educators. Graduating from the College of New Jersey, now Princeton University, in 1761, and being ordained four years later, Caldwell came to Guilford County to serve as Pastor of Buffalo and Alamance Churches. As a teacher, he trained numerous leaders including future governors of five states, members of congress, and a great number of lawyers, judges, ministers, and physicians. Caldwell was the recipient of one of the first Doctor of Divinity Degrees awarded by the University of North Carolina.
During the Revolution, Caldwell became a leader in politics, and was an outspoken supporter of the new nation. He negotiated, though unsuccessfully, to avoid conflict between the Regulators and colonial forces. In 1776, he was a member of the provincial congress which met to draw up a state constitution, and in 1788, was a member of the constitutional convention in Hillsborough.

D. The David Caldwell Log College site provides an unusual opportunity to study an early single family farmstead in piedmont North Carolina. The site is single component, closed context dating from 1767 to 1825. The early loss of the standing structures and lack of later development on the site has preserved patterns of artifact dispersion, and eliminated the confusion of materials deposited from later occupations. In addition, there is a degree of written documentation available which is rare for a homestead of this period.

Archeological investigations at the site have already provided some valuable information concerning Caldwell's life, and clarified some vague documentation concerning the property. Although the main structure has been completely excavated, additional archeological information concerning outbuildings, including one tentatively identified as the kitchen, as well as activity areas, remains intact.

Archeological remains at the Caldwell site have excellent potential for several research problems include:


2) Tests concerning the veracity of primary, secondary and oral sources for archeological sites.

3) Definition of activity areas, and farm layout differences reflected by social status and cultural background.

4) Tests concerning professions as reflected by material culture.

The most important element of the David Caldwell Log College site is that it is extremely well documented, and differences in the material culture may be directly related to specific social and economic variables. Therefore, the site may be used to compare and contrast results from other less well-documented sites.
David Caldwell was born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in 1725. He was the son of Ulster Scotsman and farmer Andrew Caldwell and his wife Martha. He lived in Pennsylvania and worked as a carpenter until he reached the age of twenty-five. Having a strong desire to be a Presbyterian minister, he then entered the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University) and graduated in 1761. The Presbytery in New Brunswick, New Jersey licensed Caldwell as a minister in 1763, and he was ordained at Trenton two years later.

Shortly thereafter Caldwell came to Guilford County where he became pastor of Buffalo and Alamance churches. He had come at the request of the Nottingham Colony, a group of Ulster Scots who migrated to North Carolina from Pennsylvania in the 1750s and formed the Buffalo and Alamance congregations. They had asked Caldwell earlier to become their pastor once he was ordained. After his arrival in Guilford County, Caldwell married Rachel Craighead. She was the daughter of the Reverend Alexander Craighead of Mecklenburg County, a leading North Carolina Presbyterian minister and a revolutionary firebrand exiled from Pennsylvania for his harangues against the British. Apparently Craighead's revolutionary zeal had some influence on his son-in-law.

The newly-married Caldwells settled on a 550 acre tract on the headwaters of North Buffalo Creek. Here Caldwell cleared the land and constructed a log structure for use as a dwelling house. It was evidently in this house that in 1767, he first conducted the school which would later be known as Dr. David Caldwell's "Log College." Caldwell's associate and biographer, Eli Caruthers, later gave a general description of the structure:

The log cabin here spoken of, if the dwelling house be meant, was a two-story log house with a chimney in the middle, which was a respectable building for those times.

The building was enclosed by a "pannel fence" with a gate, and a large locust tree stood nearby. On the site also stood a smokehouse and a "large brick oven in the yard, a few steps from the house, used for baking bread." Beyond this, little is known of how the house and grounds appeared in Caldwell's day. Following the American Revolution, Caldwell built a new dwelling house, and apparently the original log structure was used solely as the academy. (Both buildings have since been demolished.)

Instruction at the academy included theological and classical training for young men. Caldwell's wife Rachel, two of his sons, as well as one or two tutors, assisted him in teaching: An estimated two to twenty students attended each year. During the school's operation in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, it produced a number of the governmental and religious leaders in the state and the South. Five of its scholars, according to Caruthers, "became governors of different states; many were members of congress, some of whom occupied high standing ... and a much greater number became lawyers, judges, physicians and ministers of the gospel. Among these students was Archibald D. Murphey, a state senator, judge, and leader in education and internal improvements. Established when formal schools were few in the state and the region, the academy represented a vanguard in learning. "For its place and time," writes one authority, Mark F. Miller, "Caldwell's academy was unparalleled."
In addition to his work as an educator, Caldwell was a conscientious pastor of his two Guilford County congregations and an active leader in the Presbyterian Church statewide. He seldom missed a synod or presbytery meeting from 1767 to 1819. According to Miller, "Along with the Reverend Henry Patillo, Caldwell stood as the most important figure in the Presbyterian Church in North Carolina into the nineteenth century." His training of theological students also helped shape Presbyterianism in the Tar Heel State.

Caldwell had a number of interests besides church and school. Because there was a need for a medical doctor in his area, for example, he read widely in books on medicine and became a practicing physician. He also ran successfully his plantation which he eventually expanded to 832 acres. His land holdings placed him among the top twenty-five landowners recorded in Guilford County in 1815, and he owned nine slaves in 1820—a relatively large number for the area.

On the eve of the American Revolution, Caldwell became a leader in politics and American patriotism. At the time of the War of the Regulation, which culminated in the Battle of Alamance in 1771, he negotiated earnestly but unsuccessfully with royal Governor William Tryon to avoid hostilities between colonial troops and the Regulators in Alamance County. During the Revolution he was a member of the provincial congress at Halifax which met in 1776 to draw up a state constitution. Here, tradition says, he proposed a bill providing for the separation of church and state. Throughout the Revolution Caldwell incited the patriotism of his congregations and urged them to take up arms against the British. Because of such efforts by Caldwell, British general Cornwallis allegedly offered a reward of 200 pounds for his capture, and the Presbyterian minister was forced to hide out for a short time. Following the Battle of Guilford Courthouse in 1781, Caldwell gave medical aid to the casualties. Returning home he discovered that Cornwallis's army had camped on his plantation and destroyed some of his property including his papers and library.

After the Revolution Caldwell again devoted himself to school, church, and farm. He re-entered the realm of politics in 1788 when he was a member of the constitutional convention which met in Hillsborough to consider the constitution. He agreed with the majority of delegates, and opposed its ratification on the grounds that the document did not offer sufficient protection of individual liberties. In 1794, Caldwell supposedly declined the presidency of the University of North Carolina and continued to teach at his school until he retired as the result of old age—probably sometime around 1805. Even in his later years, however, he instructed a few private students like prominent North Carolinian, John Motley Morehead, a future governor. In 1810 the University of North Carolina awarded Caldwell one of its first Doctor of Divinity degrees. During the war of 1812, Dr. Caldwell further displayed his national patriotism by exhorting the men of Guilford County to volunteer to fight the British. He continued his ministry in the county until 1820, when he was ninety-five. Dr. Caldwell died in 1824.

At his death that portion of his land which included the house, and school, passed to his son, Robert Caldwell. The Caldwell family continued to own the property until 1887, when it was sold to one Calvin H. Hancock who died in 1910. His widow sold the site to one David White. White soon sold the property to Greensboro land magnate Alfred Moore Scales. In 1926, Scales mortgaged the property to the Atlantic Bank and Trust Company who then sold it to the Starmount Company. That company transferred the school tract on 1.7 acres to the North Carolina Society of the Preservation of Antiquities in 1959. The society sold the property to the City of Greensboro in 1971. Three years
later, the David Caldwell Log College Corporation was formed to explore the site as a Bicentennial project. Recent archaeological excavations by the Division of Archives and History have revealed the exact locations of the Caldwell House and Academy. The David Caldwell Log College Corporation and the City of Greensboro have acquired ten acres and plan to purchase additional acreage at the site.
FOOTNOTES


3. Miller, "David Caldwell," 14-17


8. Powell (ed.), *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, I, 301;


9. Major Bibliographical References

1981 Baroody, John C. Archaeological Investigations at the Site of David Caldwell Log College (Report)

1978 Miller, Mark David Caldwell Research Report (Manuscript)

1842 Caruthers, Eli Life and Character of the Reverend David Caldwell, D.D.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 4

Quadrangle name Greensboro

UMT References

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Quadrangle scale 7.5 minute

Verbal boundary description and justification The land nominated for the National Register is located from directly south of Cornwallis Drive to the edge of the Smith's yard (340 feet) and from the unnamed creek which runs north to south midway between Hobbs Road and Holden Road, east to just beyond Spring #1 (300 feet) roughly forming a rectangle. (See figures 3 and 6.)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title John C. Baroody, Consultant; Joe Mobley, Researcher; John Clauser, Archeologist

organization Archives and History, N.C. Department of Cultural Resources

street & number 109 East Jones Street

city or town Raleigh

state North Carolina

telephone (919) 733-7342

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national ___ state ___ local X

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: ___

date

Chief of Registration
Figure 1 Location of Artifacts Recovered
From 20 Foot Shovel Test Intervals
Figure 2 Location of Ceramics Recovered From 10 Foot Shovel Test Intervals
DAVID CALDWELL
LOG COLLEGE
SITE
-1979-
FIGURE 3
DAVID CALDWELL
LOG COLLEGE
SITE
- 1979 -
Figure 6