

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| |
|--------------------------|
| STATE: North Carolina |
| COUNTY: Burke |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |
| ENTRY DATE |

1. NAME

| |
|---------------------------|
| COMMON: Quaker Meadows |
| AND/OR HISTORIC: |

2. LOCATION

| | | | |
|---|------------|--|-------------|
| STREET AND NUMBER: Northeast of N.C. 181, 0.1 mi. east of junction of N.C. 181 and S.R. 1414 | | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: Morganton | | CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Tenth The Hon. James Broyhill | |
| STATE North Carolina | CODE 37 | COUNTY: Burke | CODE 023 |

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress | Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

| | | |
|---|--------------------------|------------|
| OWNER'S NAME: Crescent Land and Timber Company | STATE: North Carolina | CODE 37 |
| STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 874 | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: Morganton | | |

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

| | | |
|---|--------------------------|------------|
| COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Burke County Courthouse | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: Union Street | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: Morganton | STATE: North Carolina | CODE 37 |

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

| | | |
|---|--------|-------|
| TITLE OF SURVEY: | | |
| DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local | | |
| DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: | STATE: | CODE: |

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7. DESCRIPTION

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|------------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One) | | | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
| | (Check One) | | | (Check One) | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Facing the Catawba River (south), about a mile away across the broad flood plain, Quaker Meadows overlooks one of the earliest settlements of this region. Similar in form to several houses built in this area by early planter families, Quaker Meadows is a four-bay, two-story brick house with the brick laid in Flemish bond. Each of the two-bay gable ends has an exterior chimney. The north and south facades are nearly identical. The east and west bays of the first story contain windows with nine-over-nine sash and the central two contain doors. In each bay at the second story is a window with nine-over-six sash. The windows have double Federal architraves with small molded sills. Over each window is a stuccoed and scored flat arch; the door architraves are similar and the doors have four-light transoms. The transom bars on the south facade have a rounded molding which tapers at each end, running along the length of the bar. A one-story shed porch extends the length of both the north and south facades. However, the east bay of the south facade was covered when that part of the porch was recently enclosed to make an additional room. The porches are supported by square pillars ornamented by scroll sawn brackets. An early photograph shows this porch carrying along the north, west, and south sides of the house; only the floor of the porch remains at the west end. A corbel cornice extends below the more recent box cornice and replacement roof. A one-story addition covers the east end of the house in the area shown by old photographs to have been occupied by a brick kitchen.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The interior of Quaker Meadows follows, appropriately, a modified "Quaker" plan. The house is divided into three rooms on each floor; one large room occupies all of the west half of the house and is separated from the two smaller rooms in the east half by an enclosed stair entered from either side. The main parlor may be entered through four doors, two exterior doors (one on the north and the other on the south) or from each of the east rooms. The parlor wainscot consists of square, flat panels alternating with narrow vertical ones, the latter enriched with elongated, reeded ovals. This unusual ornament is repeated on the mantel which has Greek Revival proportions but Federal form and detail. Paired pilaster strips flank the fire opening and support a reeded architrave. The frieze features paired end blocks over the pilasters, and the center tablet repeats the treatment and is flanked by two flat panels. The oval reeded motif is repeated on the pilaster strips and frieze elements. The shelf, which breaks out over the end blocks and center tablet, bears a cable molding and a variation of the reeding theme. The two smaller rooms on the first floor had corner fireplaces but only the south room retains its original mantel. It is quite simple, consisting of two flat panels in the frieze and a plain shelf. In the east wall of the north room is a batten door with strap hinges. The door probably gave access to the brick kitchen which lay beyond. This room has a molded chair rail above a sheathed dado. The enclosed stair rises near the south wall from a low platform between the two doors which originally afforded access to the parlor and the south room.

The second floor reflects the first floor plan except that it has a central hall. In the hall is a balustrade with a rounded handrail, slender rectangular balusters and a square newel with a simple, molded cap. The door to the larger chamber is unique in that the panels on the hall side of

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| | |

(Number all entries)

7.

the door are made flush with the rails and styles by the use of heavy reeding filling each panel, vertically set in the lower panels and horizontally in the top two. In the large bedroom is a typical three-part Federal mantel. The two small second floor rooms are entered from the hall and have raised-paneled doors.

To the rear (north) of the house is a one-story log outbuilding with half-dovetail corner timbering.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1812

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Quaker Meadows is historically significant because of its association with the Revolutionary War figure, Charles McDowell (it was built three years before his death and quite near his own house), and the long association with the McDowell family who influenced the early political history of this area. It was also in this house that Zebulon B. Vance (later Civil War governor) married Charles McDowell's niece, Harriet N. Espy. The house is an especially well-executed and representative example of the great brick plantation houses of the Catawba River Valley, and it is distinguished by the unique treatment of the parlor wainscot and mantel.

Joseph McDowell and his cousin, "Hunting John" McDowell, migrated to western North Carolina about 1760 from Virginia. Hunting John established a plantation called Pleasant Garden, and at about the same time, Joseph settled at Quaker Meadows. According to tradition, the name Quaker Meadows was known long before the McDowell's or any other whites established homes in the area and derived its name from the grassy, broad bottom lands near which a Quaker had camped and traded furs with the Indians. On November 19, 1752, Bishop Spangenburg, while exploring sites for the Moravians who eventually settled in what is now Forsyth County, recorded in his diary that he was in camp near Quaker Meadows and that he was "in the forest fifty miles from all settlements." Colonel Charles McDowell, Revolutionary War leader, inherited Quaker Meadows from his father in 1775. It was on this farm, under an oak near his house that McDowell met on September 30, 1780, with militia leaders to lay plans which led to the defeat of the British under Colonel Ferguson at King's Mountain on October 7, 1780. The oak, which existed until about 1900, and Colonel McDowell's house no longer exist. However, the large brick house built by his son, Charles, in 1812 still remains. Charles, who married his cousin Ann McDowell of Pleasant Garden on September 7, 1813, lived in this house until his death in 1859. (His father died March 31, 1815, and is buried at Quaker Meadows.) Charles McDowell's valuable plantation was involved in court action as late as the 1880s; the situation was complicated by his death occurring so near the Civil War, the death of his only son, James C. S. McDowell, in May, 1863, at Marye's Heights, near Fredericksburg, and the destruction of Burke County's public records in April, 1865. Quaker Meadows plantation never recovered from the Civil War; however, the house has survived remarkably intact and is currently owned by a subsidiary of Duke Power Company.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Research and architectural description by Charles Greer Suttlemyre, Jr., survey specialist.
 Ashe, Samuel A., ed. Biographical History of North Carolina from Colonial Times to the Present. Greensboro, North Carolina: Charles L. Van Noppen, 1907.
 Burke County Records, Burke County Courthouse, Morganton, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds (Subgroups: Deeds and Estate Papers).
 Burke County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds and Estate Papers).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | O R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|---|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | |
| | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | |
| NW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | 35° 45' 26" | 81° 43' 15" | |
| NE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 9 acres

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|---------|------|
| | | | |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| | | | |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| | | | |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| | | | |

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Survey and Planning Unit

ORGANIZATION: Division of Archives and History DATE: 2 August 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:
 109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name H. G. Jones

Title Director, Division of Archives and History

Date 2 August 1973

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

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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9.

Connor, R. D. W., ed. A Manual of North Carolina. Raleigh, North Carolina:
E. M. Uzzell & Co., State Printers, 1913.

Saunders, William T., ed. The Colonial Records of North Carolina. Volume V.
Raleigh, North Carolina: Josephus Daniels, Printer to the State, 1888.

