es Department of the Interior ark Service

other (explain): __

JNAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES STRATION FORM

ster of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering oformation requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural sification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative s on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items. ame of property The Fountain ori**c name** er names/site number Walnut Fountain ocation et & number 1677 NC Highway 268 not for publication N/A or town Yadk<u>in Valley</u> vicinity N/A e North Carolina code NC county Caldwell code 027 zip code 28645 tate/Federal Agency Certification As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets ____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.) North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources State or Federal agency and bureau In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.) Signature of commenting or other official State or Federal agency and bureau ational Park Service Certification eby certify that this property is: Signature of the Keeper Date of Action entered in the National Register See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet. determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register

orm is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National

The Fountain	<u>Caldwell County, NC</u>
Name of Property	County and State
5. Classification	
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)
x private x building(s) public-local district public-State site public-Federal structure object	Contributing 1
Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A	Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A
6. Function or Use	
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions) DOMESTIC/single dwelling DOMESTIC/secondary structure Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions) DOMESTIC/single dwelling DOMESTIC/secondary structure	
7. Description	
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) Federal Greek Revival Queen Anne	
Materials (Enter categories from instructions)	
foundation Brick roof Asphalt	
walls Aluminum	

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet.

The Fountain	Caldwell County, NC			
Name of Property	County and State			
8. Statement of Significance				
Applicable National Register Criteria	Areas of Significance			
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property	(Enter categories from instructions)			
for National Register listing)	Architecture			
X A Property is associated with events that have	Social History			
made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of	Education			
our history.	Politics/Government			
•	Exploration/Settlement			
X B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.				
X C Property embodies the distinctive				
characteristics of a type, period, or method of				
construction or represents the work of a master, or	Period of Significance			
possesses high artistic values, or represents a	<u> 1807-ca. 1870</u>			
significant and distinguishable entity whose components	PORT TO THE PROPERTY OF THE PR			
lack individual distinction.	THE THE PERSON NAMED AND ADDRESS OF THE PERSON NAMED AND ADDRE			
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield				
information important in prehistory or history.	Significant Dates			
·	1807			
Criteria Considerations	ca. 1865-1870			
(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)	And the second s			
A owned by a religious institution or used for	Significant Bergen			
religious purposes.	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)			
B removed from its original location.	Davenport, William			
C a birthplace or a grave.				
	Cultural Affiliation			
D a cemetery.	N/A			
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.				
F a commemorative property.				
G less than 50 years of age or achieved	Architect/Builder			
significance within the past 50 years.	Unknown			
Narrative Statement of Significance				
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)				
O Major Dibliographical Deferences				
9. Major Bibliographical References				
Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one	or more continuation sheets)			
(Once the books, and other sources doed in preparing this form on one	or more continuation species.			
Previous documentation on file (NPS)				
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.				
previously listed in the National Register				
previously determined eligible by the National Register				
designated a National Historic Landmark				
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #				
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #				
Primary Location of Additional Data				
X State Historic Preservation Office				
Other State agency				
Federal agency				
Local government				
University				
Other Name of repository: Division of Archives and History, Paleigh, NC				
Name of repository: Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, NC				

The Fountain	<u>n</u>	Caldwell County, NC		
Name of Property	у	County and State		
10. Geograph	hical Data			
Acreage of P	Property 2.55 acres			
UTM Referen	nces (Place additional UTM referer	nces on a continuation sheet)		
	ne Easting Northing <u>7 451460 3983800</u>	Zone Easting Northing 3		
	dary Description undaries of the property on a continuation s	heet.)		
Boundary Ju (Explain why the	boundaries were selected on a continuation			
11. Form Pre				
name/titleD	Davyd Foard Hood			
organization_		date 16 January 2002		
street & numb	per_Isinglass, 6907 Old Shelby Roa	ad telephone <u>704/462-1847</u>		
city or town	Vale	state_NC zip code _28168		
	al Documentation			
	ring items with the completed form:			
Continuation	Sheets			
	nap (7.5 or 15 minute series) indica map for historic districts and prope	ating the property's location. rties having large acreage or numerous resources.		
Photographs Representa	ative black and white photographs	of the property.		
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)				
Property Own				
	em at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)			
name Kenneth Duane and Jennifer Byrd Johnson				
street & number 1677 NC Highway 268 telephone				
city or town	Lenoir	state_NCzip code_28645		
Paperwork Redu	uction Act Statement: This information is	being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate		

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.0. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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The Fountain Caldwell County, North Carolina

Narrative Description

The Fountain, a two-story-with-attic frame house said to have been built in 1807 and expanded by a ca. 1865-1870 kitchen and dining room ell, has a complex architectural history and somewhat deteriorated appearance. These qualities reflect the series of changes and improvements made to it through the course of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries while it was home (1807-1985) to five generations of the Davenport-Jones family. Standing on the east side of NC 268 (Patterson-Wilkesboro Road) the house occupies a knoll and faces south/southwest toward the Yadkin River and across broad bottom lands that were once a part of its domain. (For convenience the house will be described as facing south.) Built as the seat of a 1,350-acre plantation, The Fountain now occupies a residual lot of some two-and-a-half acres that is mostly grass-covered tree-shaded lawn and includes a ca. 1865-1870 brick well house/dairy.

The Fountain consists of two frame blocks in a T-arrangement that in plan form a rectangle but in elevation present a picturesque appearance. The house built in 1807 by William Davenport comprises the front two-story-with-attic single-pile block anchored by a double-shouldered Flemish-bond brick chimney on its east gable end with a ca. 1882-85 five-sided bay on its west end. A one-story full-façade hip-roof porch occupies its south façade. The north elevation of this block is occupied by an expansive one-and-a-half-story ell, incorporating the earlier rear shed rooms and standing on a brick basement. It is believed to have been added by the builder's grandson, William Davenport Jones, who came to live here at the end of the Civil War. The surviving kitchen and storeroom in the basement, the original stair rising on the porch from that kitchen to the dining room on the first story, the ornamental cut-work bargeboard surviving in fragments on the north gable end, and the Greek Revival finish surviving in the dining room, together with other seemingly contemporary fabric all seems to be of "a piece." However, the elegant Federal-style turned newel on the staircase in the hall, situated at the south end of the ell and parallel with the 1807 block (and in a manner similar to contemporary breezeways in other instances linking houses with their kitchen/dining room wings), hints at an earlier date. While it may have been a retarditaire feature, it is more likely original to the 1807 construction period and relocated here ca. 1865-1870 when the first-story rooms of the main block were refitted with Greek Revival woodwork.

Whatever the case, the house was refashioned again, ca. 1882-1885 either in tandem with the construction of nearby Holly Lodge by General Collett Leventhorpe, who was married to Mrs. Jones's sister, or in 1885, when the Leventhorpes sold Holly Lodge to Nathan Hunt Gwyn and removed to The Fountain where they lived with Mr. and Mrs. Jones until their deaths. A

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The Fountain Caldwell County, North Carolina

documentary photograph of The Fountain, published in THE NORTH CAROLINA BOOKLET in 1916 shows the house after the completion of this remodeling. In short, the then old-fashioned late-Georgian/Federal and Greek Revival blocks were given a late-Victorian dress. The west gable end chimney was taken down (and its successor relocated inside) and replaced by a five-sided bay. The three-bay south façade was updated with a one-story bracketed porch, a shallow, projecting center bay in the second-story, and gable hoods over the flanking second-story windows. The porch carrying along most of the ell's west side had posts linked by diamond lattice-work while a gable-roof second-story porch, inset off-center and having the appearance of a dormer, has a simple railing. By 1940, when two contemporary views of The Fountain were published in HAPPY VALLEY: HISTORY AND GENEALOGY, the south porch was supported by simple square columns; the lattice posts on the ell porch also had a simpler appearance.

Except for the addition of aluminum siding over the house's weatherboarded elevations, a perceived money-saving effort that probably dates to the 1960s, the exterior of The Fountain has changed little in the last half-century. Some window sash replacement begun in 2000 was halted.

The original block of The Fountain and the one-story, later-nineteenth-century hipped-roof porch on its south façade stand on brick piers with later brick infill; the house block is covered with a side-gable roof of asphalt shingles. The center-bay south entrance is finished with a molded surround and a four-panel door below a three-pane transom. Its flanking bays hold replacement nine-over-nine sash while the three bays on the second story hold original/early nine-over-six sash. This fenestration pattern, with both original and replacement sash, recurs on the other elevations. When the aluminum siding was installed, the outer edges of the molded window surrounds were covered with aluminum. The molded box cornices, incorporating the gable top of the center bay and the hoods above its flanking windows, returns on the east gable end. This east elevation is dominated by a double-shoulder Flemish-bond chimney flanked by windows at each level; the small, square attic openings hold four-pane sash. The west end of the original 1807 block is finished with the 1880s five-sided bay that is blind in its outer faces and holds windows in the center three.

Architecturally, this five-sided bay serves a function parallel to that of contemporary towers on the prominent corners of Queen Anne-style houses, where they serve to visually link and give prestige to two equally important elevations. While the south elevation of the house was its original "façade," the probable re-routing of the public road (today's NC 268) to the northwest of the house means that its west façade is the one seen from the public road. Whether, in fact, the path of the public road was changed, or when that occurred, is now unknown; however, this west elevation came to enjoy an architectural footing equal with the south elevation. This status was

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The Fountain
Caldwell County, North Carolina

reinforced ca. 1865-1870 by the presence of the house's most elegant entrance in the southernmost bay of the ell's three-bay porch. Here a six-pane transom and sidelights, featuring four panes above blind panels, frame a (later) fifteen-pane glazed door opening into the through stair hall. The north end of the porch, now supported by square posts, is enclosed by a fourth, blind bay in the form of a shed room with a glazed and paneled door opening onto the porch. The nineteenth-century wood staircase, with tapering newels and a round ramped railing, descends to the north under the shed room to the basement level kitchen. A pair of windows under the porch illuminate the dining room. The second-story gable-front porch, inset as a dormer above the porch's center bay, has weatherboarded half-sides and a picket railing across its west front.

The four-bay north elevation of The Fountain is entirely symmetrical and the least complicated of its elevations. The brick basement, laid in one-to-seven bond and fully above grade here, has doorways in its outer bays flanking paired window openings with header sills and lintels holding nine-over-six sash. The west doorway retains its original frame and four-pane transom; however, the door is lost. At the east end the door is a later replacement inside the original frame; its transom is framed in. On the first story a corresponding quartet of openings hold nine-over-six sash while a pair of six-over-six sash windows are set in the upper center of the gable end. Remnants of the ornamental cut-work bargeboards survive along the eaves.

The east elevation of The Fountain's ell, effectively the back of the house, has a utilitarian appearance. A shed roof porch, probably dating to the mid-nineteenth century in its form, occupies the center of the elevation and continues to the south to abut the double-shouldered chimney. The porch's north end has been enclosed (to form a breakfast nook off the kitchen) while the remainder has screening above a sheathed apron. A brick flue stack, serving the basement furnace room, stands against the ell and beside a kitchen window, partially infilled and located above a corresponding window in the basement wall. A gable-roof dormer, with paired four-over-four sash windows, is set off-center in the ell roof.

The interior finish of The Fountain reflects the same sequence of building stages, visible on the exterior, which span the Davenport-Jones family's occupation of the house. Important fabric and architectural finish dates from both the original 1807 construction of the house and the ca. 1865-1870 refitting in the Greek Revival style and the construction of the ell, as well as the the ca. 1882-1885 late-Victorian renovation. Fabric and finish of these three periods survives on the first story except in the remodeled southwest parlor of the 1807 block, where the fireplace has been removed and later twentieth-century wall and ceiling surfaces have been installed, and in the northeast room of the ell, which has been used as a kitchen since its relocation from the basement and has seen a sequence of improvements and replacement fittings. The first-story bathroom, at the east foot of the staircase, probably dates to the first-third of the twentieth century; however,

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The Fountain Caldwell County, North Carolina

its fittings are modern. The second story of The Fountain retains the original center-hall plan of house built by William Davenport in 1807, original Georgian woodwork, and an important, unusual and original enclosed corkscrew stair to the attic, together with fabric from the other two periods. A passage on the north side of the stair head has doors opening onto the second-story porch, a mid-twentieth century bathroom in the area above the first-story bathroom, and a large bedchamber in the north gable end of the ell. (Because the west elevation facing onto NC 268 has long been considered the front of the house and the door from its porch into the stair hall the house's main entry, the description will begin from that point.)

The through stair hall, carrying on a west/east axis at the south end of the ell and parallel with the north side of the original 1807 block, is the effective center hall of the first story and one of its best-preserved spaces. The west entrance, with transom and sidelights, is repeated at the east end of the hall where an older (perhaps six) paneled door was refitted with twelve panes in its upper half. The four-panel doors opening from the hall into the two chambers to the south and the dining room to the north are set in channeled and mitred surrounds below three-pane transoms; the four-panel door into the bathroom has no transom. While the hall floor is covered with ca. 1956 VAT tile, the hand-planed sheathing on the walls and ceiling is intact. The staircase, with its Federal-style newel and ramped round railing carried by pickets, rises to the west along the hall's north wall; the closet enclosed under it has a two-panel door. On the south side of the hall, the southwest chamber, with the five-sided bay at its west end, has been refitted with new finishes on the walls and ceilings, its mantel removed and firebox closed up. The pendant southeast chamber retains its pine floor, sheathed walls (under wallpaper), Greek Revival-style two-part surrounds on the south door and windows, and its Greek Revival-style tapering postand-lintel mantel with a wide frieze. The dining room, on the north side of the hall, is the largest room in The Fountain, and it has an oak floor overlaid on the earlier flooring. The walls and ceiling are plaster and its doors and windows are fitted with the channeled-and-mitred surrounds seen in the hall. The fireplace in the center of the north wall is flanked by a recessed china press on its west side, fitted with paired blind, two-panel doors, and a doorway on the east opening into a long, shallow room across the north end of the ell. The doorway in the dining room's east wall, connecting with the present kitchen, is also fitted with a three-pane transom. From this distance it is unclear how the present kitchen and the shallow room across the north end of the ell were originally used. The "north end room" has finish like that of the dining room and a mantel of like appearance. The doorway at its west end, opening into the small shed room, now used as a utility room, is fitted with a three-pane transom; it has a later fifteen-pane glazed door.

On the second story the landing at the top of the stair has been enclosed as a small hall from which openings on the west give into the center hall of the 1807 block and the east give into a

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The Fountain Caldwell County, North Carolina

passage serving the rooms in the ell. The center hall retains its pine flooring, flush board sheathing, with tongue-and-groove beaded ceiling at its south end where the ornamental bay was installed. The enclosed stair to the attic is fitted with a raised six-panel door retaining its original lock. A raised six-panel door in the hall's east wall opens into the southeast bedchamber that retains its wide board floor and ceiling, wallpaper over flush-sheathing walls, and Georgian mantel. The mantel features paired raised panels above an arch-headed firebox. A like six-panel door with raised panels in the hall's west wall opens into the large bedroom in the southwest corner of the second story whose west end was extended by the five-sided bay. A wood archway marks the line of the extension and covers the seam in the flush-sheathed ceiling while wallpaper covers the similar seam in the sheathed walls. When the fireplace was relocated in a newly-built chimney in the room's north wall, ca. 1882-1885, the room's original mantel, with paired raised panels, was refitted for the new firebox.

The passage on the north side of the stair head, serving the rooms of the ell, is sheathed with unpainted beaded tongue-and-groove ceiling that has aged to a rich nut-brown color. Unpainted five-panel doors open onto the second-story porch, the bathroom, and the large bedroom at the north end of the ell; the door onto the porch is flanked by four-over-four sash windows. The finish of the bathroom appears to date to the 1930s-1950s when a bedroom was partitioned to form the bathroom and a walk-in closet. The finish of the bedroom includes original wide flush sheathing, and later tongue-and-groove ceiling. Closets under the eaves of the sloping ceiling are fitted with board-and-rail doors.

The basement kitchen at The Fountain is one of the few such nineteenth-century kitchens to survive in western North Carolina. A raised six-panel door at the foot of the porch steps opens into the rectangular room whose open beam ceiling and brick walls are coated with white-wash. Concrete has been poured over a part of what was probably a brick floor. The brick fire-box in the center of the south wall is flanked by partially collapsed open shelving on the west and a six-panel door on the east opening into a brick-walled pantry behind (south of) the chimney. These six-panel doors may be original to their door openings or reused from the 1807 block when it was updated, ca. 1865, with Greek Revival-style mantels, etc. The doorway from the kitchen into a small room in the northeast corner of the basement has no door; this room, perhaps originally a keeping room, has long since become the house's furnace room.

Well-house/dairy ca. 1865-1870 Contributing structure NPS Form 10-900-a (6-86)

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The Fountain Caldwell County, North Carolina

Believed to date to the post-Civil War refitting of the Davenport house and the construction of the kitchen/dining room ell, this small brick building enclosed the well and contained a trough for cooling milk and other perishables. It stands at the northwest corner of the house and on grade with the basement. Covered with a hipped roof of asphalt shingles and now used as a pump house, the deteriorated building has a board-and-rail door on its east elevation, facing the house, and window openings in the center of its west and north elevations; the north opening has been infilled with brick while the west opening has a partial board infill.

Car shed ca. 1956-1960 Noncontributing building

Erected by Walter Thomas Jones, this simple two-bay shed roof garage is located at the east end of the 1807 block and has two openings on its south side. It has a poured concrete floor, metal framing, manufactured sheathing on its west, north, and east elevations, and a shed roof of asphalt sheeting.

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The Fountain Caldwell County, North Carolina

Summary Statement

The Fountain, a residence of the Davenport-Jones family from 1807 to 1985 and one of the two oldest known houses in Caldwell County and its Happy Valley, is a building of exceptional importance in the history of its time and place. The two-story-with-attic main block is said to have been erected in 1807 by William Davenport (1770-1859) who lived here with his wife Mary (Lenoir) Gordon (1772-1859), the eldest daughter of the Happy Valley patriarch General William Lenoir, until their deaths. William Davenport was a leading figure in the civil, political, and social life of the Happy Valley, having held offices or appointed positions in the government, successively, of Burke, Wilkes, and Caldwell counties, having served in both houses of the State Legislature, having acted as a surveyor in the settlement of the boundary between North Carolina and Tennessee in 1821, having served as a commissioner to lay out Lenoir, the county seat of newly-formed Caldwell County in 1841, and lastly having been a founder and principal donor in 1855 of Davenport College, which was named for him and operated in Lenoir until 1933 when it merged with Greensboro College. While his descendants, occupants of The Fountain, did not exercise his degree of influence, in large part because of financial reverses associated with the Civil War, they nevertheless figured prominently in the civic and social affairs of the Happy Valley, Lenoir, and Caldwell County in the succeeding years. At the end of the Civil War William Davenport Jones (1839-1912), the eldest grandson, refitted and occupied the house with his wife Mary Virginia Bryan (1842-1931). The Fountain was also the home of their spinster daughter Mary Lily Jones (1867-1964), their bachelor son Rufus McCampbell Jones (1874-1958), and last the home of the builder's great-grandson Walter Thomas Jones (1901-1985).

The Fountain satisfies National Register criteria A, B, and C, and holds local significance in the areas of architecture, education, exploration/settlement, politics/government, and social history through its long association with the life and career of William Davenport. The period of significance begins in 1807 and extends to ca. 1870. Said to have been built by Mr. Davenport in 1807, The Fountain, together with Fort Defiance and Clover Hill, was an important center of Yadkin River plantation society through the half-century up to his death in 1859 and it figured prominently in the development of the Happy Valley as a rich and prosperous agricultural-based community. The house was home to Mr. Davenport and his family during the period when he held important local political offices and supported the founding of Davenport College in Lenoir which perpetuated his name in the foothills region where he left no sons to carry on his legacy or name.

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The Fountain Caldwell County, North Carolina

The local architectural significance of The Fountain is associated with its two principal dates of construction: 1807, and ca. 1865-1870. Although the exterior of the house has been subject to change, most notably the addition of aluminum siding, the handsome double-shoulder Flemish bond chimney on its east gable end suggests the original character of the house where on its second floor important late Georgian woodwork, including mantels, doors, and a remarkable enclosed corkscrew attic stair, survives. The ca. 1865-1870 refitting of the house incorporates an early relocation of a plantation house kitchen from a freestanding building into the main body of the house, here in the brick basement of the ell, where it survives as one of the few such domestic spaces of its type and period in North Carolina.

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The Fountain Caldwell County, North Carolina

Historical Background

Social History, Education, Politics/Government, Exploration/Settlement Contexts

William Davenport, the son of Martin Davenport, was born on 12 October 1770 in Culpepper County, Virginia, and in the early 1770s he came with his parents and siblings to western North Carolina. This area of the state, in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, enjoyed generally peaceful relations with the native Americans in this period; it quickly experienced an influx of settlers in the years following on the removal of the Cherokee Indians by General Griffith Rutherford in 1776. The family settled on John's River in a part of old Rowan County that was set apart as Burke County in 1777 and in 1841 became a part of Caldwell County when it was formed from Burke and Wilkes counties. Although the circumstances of his schooling are as yet unconfirmed, he was well-educated, and a part of his education included the study of law. He entered public life in the early 1790s, serving as a road commissioner and as a captain of the local militia. In 1796 he became a judge in the Burke County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions. In 1798-1800 he represented Burke County in the House of Commons, the lower chamber of the State Legislature, and in 1802 he represented the county in the State Senate. That same year he joined the society of Happy Valley when he married Mary (Lenoir) Gordon (1772-1859), the eldest daughter of General William Lenoir (1751-1839) and the widow of Major Charles Gordon (1750-1799). William and Mary Davenport were the parents of four daughters born between 1803 and 1812, three of whom lived to adulthood: Elizabeth Davenport (1803-1807); Mira Adeline (1807-1837); Sarah Martha (Davenport) Tate (ca. 1809-1831); and Sophia Caroline (Davenport) Jones (1812-1860). Of these, only Mrs. Jones, the wife of Edmund Jones and the chatelaine of Clover Hill (NR, 1973), produced children.

According to family tradition and "'The Fountain' and Its Builder," an account written by his grandson Edmund Jones (1848-1920) and published in THE NORTH CAROLINA BOOKLET in 1916, Mr. Davenport built The Fountain in 1807. It is situated on lands that came into his possession through his marriage to the daughter of General Lenoir. Mr. Jones recalled that The Fountain was "named from a beautiful spring nearby" and provided a description of the house built by his grandfather who he had visited as a young boy.

The Fountain, as originally constructed, was along building lines generally in vogue at that day and time for residences on Southern plantations. Two stories in height, with a portico in front the entire length of the house, the corresponding side in the rear one-story shed rooms built to and constituting a part of the main building. At each end were great, broad, massive chimneys, and on the inside fire-places in each room corresponding in size to the chimneys. There was not a passage in the house: their use and convenience seem not to have been known or were unappreciated. The staircase ran up from the inside

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of the rooms, all of which, on the same floor, were connected by doors in the partition walls. Immediately under the roof was the great garret; . . . The "big house" occupied one side of a quadrilateral. On another was the dairy, the loom-room and the kitchen; opposite on the other side was the smoke-house, granary and carriage house. On the far side and in the rear across the road were the negro quarters in easy call of the master's voice, the whole constituting the typical planter's seat, as many of the passing generation remember them (BOOKLET, 80-81).

With his marriage to the eldest daughter of General Lenoir and the construction of their plantation seat above the Yadkin River, William Davenport committed himself to the further settlement and development of the upper Yadkin River valley in the opening decades of the nineteenth century. Doing so he joined the initiative undertaken here by General Lenoir in the 1780s, and their two houses, exceptional in their day, survive as reflections of their ambition and their accomplishment. However, the two men and their families were not alone. In the late 1780s and 1790s, while General Lenoir was improving his Fort Defiance estate with a new residence, outbuildings, and other enhancements, an influx of new citizens coming mostly from Virginia arrived here in western Wilkes County, and took up lands on the river and its lesser waters. The most prominent of these were members of the Dula, Horton, Jones, Coffey, and Witherspoon families, including Captain William Dula (1755-1835), Edmund and Thomas Foster Jones who would also marry daughters of General Lenoir, and Catlett/Catlitt Jones who married a daughter of Captain Dula. Today the first-generation houses of all these families are lost, and their presence in the Yadkin River valley is recalled only on gravestones in cemeteries. Members of these families, the Lenoirs, and the Davenport daughters would intermarry through the nineteenth century and create a broadly-related plantation society along the length of the Yadkin River in what came to be known as the Happy Valley.³

Although the actual extent of William Davenport's real estate holdings may never be known because of the destruction of the Burke County records during the Civil War, a surviving Burke County tax list for 1805 cites him as the owner of 1,500 acres. This property, like much of that held by General Lenoir, was located in Wilkes County, and with his removal here, Mr. Davenport entered public service in his new home county. After 1812, when the last of his four daughters was born, Mr. Davenport surely realized he would have no sons to perpetuate his legacy, and he committed himself to his public offices while carrying on highly successful farming operations on his fertile lands. In 1813 he represented Wilkes County in the State Legislature, and he served as its register of deeds from 1816 to 1842. In 1821 he acted as a surveyor appointed by the commissioners charged with establishing the long-disputed boundary line between Tennessee and North Carolina. With the formation of Caldwell County in 1841,

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Mr. Davenport came to hold an office of public trust in a third North Carolina county. That year he was named one of five commissioners to lay off the county seat that was to be named Lenoir in honor of the recently-deceased general who was both his father-in-law and the new county's most distinguished citizen.

William Davenport's interest in education saw result in two actions. In 1852 he joined his son-in-law Edmund Walter Jones, Samuel Finley Patterson (1799-1874), and James C. Harper (1819-1890) in the establishment of the relatively short-lived Yadkin Valley High School on grounds near The Fountain. Later in the antebellum period his fame was assured, when in 1855 he was the largest contributor to a fund to establish a girls' school in Lenoir under the auspices of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. His gift, said to have been \$3,000 of the total \$12,000 subscribed for the effort, earned him the honor of having the school named for him. Davenport Female College opened in 1858 under the Reverend Henry M. Hood and received its charter in 1859. It joined Greensboro Female College, chartered in 1838, as one of the higher education institutions sponsored by the Methodist Church in North Carolina that provided an important educational opportunity to the young women and later men of western North Carolina.⁵

William Davenport had also made provision for religious services in the Yadkin River valley. His grandson recounted the effort in his 1916 article.

Soon after the completion of his residence, he erected in a beautiful grove on his plantation, and in a central and convenient location, a large and roomy church with an annex for negroes, and here during his life, whenever there was service, he and his relatives and neighbors, with their many slaves, might be found assembled for worship. He always retained the title to the property, for he would never permit it to be sectarianized, though he himself was a devoted Methodist (BOOKLET, 86).

At this distance the question of whether Mr. Davenport's chapel was the same building as one known to have stood in the valley in the opening decades of the nineteenth century and called "Yadkin Meeting House" cannot be answered for certain but it appears likely. The latter building was used for services by visiting clergy of all denominations, and an account survives of an oration on proper conduct in church by General Lenoir on 15 July 1824 (York, 51).

After the deaths of two of their three daughters in 1831 and 1837, and marriage of their youngest daughter Sophia Caroline to her cousin, Edmund Walter Jones (1811-1876) in 1838, William Davenport and his wife lived on alone at The Fountain. These years were enjoyed in affluence and plenty; in the 1850 Census for Caldwell County his real estate was listed at \$13,000, indicating his status as one of the four largest landowners in Caldwell County. Samuel Finley

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Patterson (1799-1874), who lived at Palmyra, was also listed with property worth \$13,000 while Mr. Davenport's brother-in-law Thomas Lenoir (1780-1861), then residing at Fort Defiance, was probably Caldwell County's wealthiest resident with real estate worth \$20,000. Mrs. Davenport predeceased her husband on 4 January 1859; Mr. Davenport died on 19 August of that year. They were buried in the family cemetery at Fort Defiance where three of their daughters were interred.

On 9 November 1859 Samuel Finley Patterson and Edmund Walter Jones qualified as executors and administrators of Mr. Davenport's estate. The inventory, submitted by Mr. Jones in 1860, lists the crops and stock of a successful, diversified, self-sufficient plantation. The crops included quantities of blade fodder, oats, hay, straw, shucks and top fodder, rye, and peas together with 750 barrels of corn, 270 bushels of wheat, and 250 pounds of cotton. The Fountain livestock comprised fourteen horses, sixty-one head of cattle, thirty-two "Fat hogs for pork," fifty-six stock hogs, and twenty-seven sheep. The agricultural property also included farm implements, wagons, and "5 or 6 bee stands." Mr. Davenport's slaves were simply described as "32 Negroes, old & young." The furnishings of The Fountain included seven bedsteads, twenty Windsor chairs, one sideboard, one secretary bookcase, two gilt looking glasses, and "A library containing 180 volumes." His assets included "Good notes" worth \$10,556.56, insolvent notes of \$838, a bank account of \$1,050, and cash on hand of \$556 (William Davenport Estate Records, North Carolina State Archives). Mr. Davenport's heir was his only surviving child, Sophia Caroline Jones.

The death of Mrs. Jones on 26 September 1860 and the events of the Civil War left the circumstances of The Fountain unresolved for years. Whether the house was rented during the war is unknown; however, its fields were probably tended by the Davenport slaves and those of Mr. and Mrs. Jones who were the wealthiest couple in Caldwell County on the eve of the war. Apparently because of the war and the fact that the three eldest sons of Edmund and Caroline Jones were serving in the Confederate States Army, no real attempt was made to settle the Davenport estate, or that of Mrs. Jones. In fact, it was not until the death of Edmund Walter Jones in 1876 that settlement of the now reduced estates of the Davenport-Jones family occurred. At the end of the war, in which his two middle brothers were killed, Captain William Davenport Jones (1839-1912), Mr. Davenport's eldest grandson and namesake, returned to Caldwell County, occupied The Fountain, and lived here until his death in 1912.

The division of the Davenport and Jones lands and the settlement of the Jones estate, complicated by the debts of Edmund Walter Jones, began in the later 1870s and continued into the early 1880s. In April 1882 The Fountain, described in the deed as "Being the tract upon which he now lives Known as the Davenport lands," was set apart as "the homestead of W. D.

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Jones" by commissioners (Caldwell County Deeds, 12/337-38). By 1882, The Fountain had long been home to William Davenport Jones, his wife Mary Virginia Bryan (1842-1931) who he had married in 1861, and their seven children. Meanwhile, in the 1870s the family circle had been enlarged through the arrival in Happy Valley of Mrs. Jones's sister Louisa (1827-1908) and her husband, General Collett Leventhorpe (1815-1889)⁶. In May 1878 General Leventhorpe purchased 546 acres of the Jones's lands on the Yadkin Ridge for \$5,000 and built a handsome (but now lost) Gothic/Italianate cottage that was called Holly Lodge (Caldwell County Deeds, 9/382-85).

It was probably coincident with their building of Holly Lodge or the Leventhorpes' sale of the house and its lands in October 1885 (and removal to The Fountain), that William Davenport Jones undertook the Victorian renovations to the house. He took down the Flemish bond chimney at the west gable end of The Fountain and installed a five-sided bay with a scallop-shingle string band. This remodeling also included the addition of an ornamental center bay and gable roof window hoods on the second story of the west façade. The second-story sitting porch on the west side of the ell may also date from this effort.

William Davenport Jones lived the life of a gentleman farmer at The Fountain until his death on 4 November 1912; he was buried in the cemetery at the Chapel of Rest, which had become a burying ground at the death of his youngest brother Patterson Harper Jones in 1856. His widow Mary Virginia (Bryan) Jones, together with her bachelor son Rufus McCampbell Jones (1874-1958) and maiden daughter Mary Lily Jones (1867-1964), lived at The Fountain until her death in 1931. The division of The Fountain lands began with the sale of a twenty-three acre tract for \$2,300 to William Davenport Jones, Jr. (1866-1951) in 1923 (Caldwell County Deeds, 115/500). In 1926 Mrs. Jones and her children set The Fountain house and a lot of 5.16 acres apart and conveyed it to Rufus McC. Jones and Mary Lily Jones (Caldwell County Deeds, 122/508 and 149/320). Through four deeds dated 1 April 1931, the remaining 446 acres of The Fountain plantation lands were divided among the four surviving children: William Davenport Jones, Jr.; Louise Henry (Jones) Hall; Rufus McC. Jones; and Mary Lily Jones (Caldwell County Deeds, 149/561, and 570-72).

On 3 August 1931, four months after these deeds were prepared, Mary Virginia (Bryan) Jones died and her body was buried at the Chapel of Rest. In her will, dated 14 January 1926, she bequeathed various items of jewelry, furniture, silver, and other furnishings to her children, grandchildren, and the widow of her deceased son Edmund Bryan Jones. The majority of her personal property, both in value and in amount, was devised to Rufus and Lily Jones, on whom "the care of the same (the old house) & myself has largely fallen" (Caldwell County Wills, E/215-220). Thereafter the two siblings lived here alone until ca. 1950-1954 when they relocated

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to Hickory and lived with their youngest sister Louise Henry (Jones) Hall. During this period their elder brother, William D. Jones, Jr. (1866-1951) was occupying a residence on the land he acquired in 1923. At this distance, given the demise of knowledgeable family members, it is unclear when the kitchen was relocated from the basement to the first story or when the bathroom was installed in the second story of the dining room ell; however, these changes probably occurred in the 1920s or in the period after Mrs. Jones's death in 1931. For reasons now unknown, except perhaps for financial considerations, Rufus, Lily, and Walter Jones conveyed their real estate holdings of the ancestral Davenport-Jones plantation to Lenoir businessman Ervin L. Smith on 25 March 1955. By four deeds they transferred ownership of 105 acres plus the five-acre homeplace including The Fountain, reserving "possession of the house located on the above described property until January 1. 1956" (Caldwell County Deeds, 310/230-233). Six months later, on 27 September 1955, Mr. Smith and his wife conveyed a 40.50-acre tract including The Fountain to Walter T. and Ann W. Jones and her sister Fannie W. Herman (Caldwell County Deeds, 315/255). Rufus McCampbell Jones died in Hickory on 4 November 1958. Lily Jones died on 17 August 1964. Both are buried at the Chapel of Rest.

The final period of Jones family occupancy at The Fountain dates to 1956 when Walter Thomas Jones (1901-1985), the eldest son of William Davenport Jones, Jr., moved from Hickory back to the Happy Valley with his wife Ann Winkler (1903-1984) and his wife's sister Fannie Belle (Winkler) Herman (1889-1962). Walter Thomas Jones was among the first students at Patterson School when it opened in 1909. He attended Lenoir High School and studied civil engineering at North Carolina State University. In Hickory in the 1930s he formed a partnership with Rex Frank Miller (1915-1965), Jones & Miller Engineering Company, which continues in operation today as Miller Surveying Company. He married Ann Winkler in 1943; the couple were childless. The Jones family's last years at The Fountain, an ancestral home filled with the furnishings of generations of the Davenport, Jones, and Bryan families, were marked by diminished finances, particularly after the death of Mrs. Herman in 1962. Through three deeds in 1965, 1966, and 1972, Walter and Ann Jones conveyed twenty-seven acres of The Fountain's diminished grounds to Mrs. Jones's nephew Albert Ross Winkler, Jr. (Caldwell County Deeds, 515/377-78, 546/17-18, 637/784). Other acreage was sold to Jones Cottrell. Ann (Winkler) Jones died on 1 September 1984 and was buried at the Chapel of Rest. Walter Thomas Jones died on 15 January 1985 and was buried beside his wife. He bequeathed his entire estate, including The Fountain and its contents, to his wife's nephew Albert Ross Winkler, Jr., and his wife who occupied a house on the west side of the property which the Jones family had sold to Mr. Winkler. In effect, Mr. Jones died insolvent. To prevent the sale of The Fountain and its furnishings to settle his debts, Mr. and Mrs. Winkler loaned the estate \$17,813.19. The final account of the estate filed on

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13 July 1998 listed assets of \$2,810, which were distributed to the Winklers (Caldwell County Estate Records).

The Fountain stood unoccupied for several years after Mr. Jones death in 1985. On 6 July 1998, the Winklers conveyed The Fountain and its residual lot of 2.55 acres to their niece Jennifer Ray (Byrd) Johnson (b. 1971) and her husband Kenneth Duane Johnson (b. 1972) who now reside in The Fountain (Caldwell County Deeds, 1229/1610-11).

Architectural Significance

Although the significance of The Fountain is well established through its local importance in the areas of education, exploration/settlement, politics/government, and social history, the house possesses an unquestionable architectural significance as well. While the application of aluminum siding (probably) in the early 1960s can be said to visually compromise the exterior appearance of The Fountain, the survival of important intact architectural fabric from its initial building in about 1807 and its expansion ca. 1865-1870 outweigh that consideration. This fabric is important, not merely for its survival; however, in the matter of the 1807 Georgian woodwork that could be sufficient, but for what the architectural fabric and finish imparts to our understanding of building practices and lifestyle study at two important periods in the nineteenth century.

When General William Lenoir set about building Fort Defiance in 1788, on lands some few miles to the east, his intention was to construct a house and its attendant domestic outbuildings on home grounds that would serve as both the physical and symbolic heart of his plantation. Doing so he built a house that could arguably be described as a mansion in its time and place, when and where virtually all of his neighbors on the upper Yadkin River were living in log houses. In 1807, less than twenty years later, when his son-in-law William Davenport is said to have built The Fountain, he, too, initiated an important effort at place-making that had both Fort Defiance as its model and these men's familiarity with plantation landscapes in their native Virginia. This is not to suggest that Messrs. Lenoir and Davenport sought to recreate a Virginia model in western North Carolina but rather, knowing the domestic accommodations enjoyed by families of learning and affluence in both Virginia and North Carolina, they went about creating houses and their dependencies in the way of outbuildings, grounds, gardens, and orchards appropriate to their station and class. General Lenoir's efforts are well portrayed in Maurice C. York's "The Many Faces of Fort Defiance" of 1979.

William Davenport's creation at The Fountain has received far less scrutiny. The principal early record of William Davenport and his life at The Fountain was that penned by his grandson

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Edmund Jones, "'The Fountain' and Its Builder," published in THE NORTH CAROLINA BOOKLET in 1916. The pertinent section dealing with the building, cited earlier herein, briefly described the two-story with attic hall-and-parlor plan house, with Flemish-bond chimneys standing in the center of each gable end, a full-façade one-story porch, and complementing shed rooms on the house's north rear elevation. His description of the interior was limited to an account of the first story, with its enclosed staircase to the second story, and doors linking the two rooms of the main block with those in the shed, and his sentence concerning the attic.

"Immediately under the roof was the great garret; that awful and mysterious region where ghosts walked and where dire and fearful engines of torment were stored for the purpose of administering punishment to delinquent children or those too daring or inquisitive in their investigations" (BOOKLET, 81).

Mr. Jones was clearly recalling the childhood memory of visits to his grandparents here in the years before their deaths in 1859. His description of the attic may have derived in real part from the means of reaching it. Staircases of the period, whether enclosed or not, usually followed one of two forms: either a straight, single flight of steps along a wall; or a dog-leg stair consisting of two runs linked by either a landing or a grouping of splayed steps, positioned in the corner of a room. The stair linking the first and second stories of The Fountain was of the first type, probably only partially enclosed, and according to Mr. Jones, "ran up from the inside of the rooms (sic)." When The Fountain was refitted by William Davenport Jones, the author's older brother, ca. 1865-1870, he is believed to have reused the newel post of that stair when erecting the present staircase.

During that refitting Mr. Jones appears to have left the second story of The Fountain and its late Georgian fabric intact. It, unlike the first story, has a center-hall plan that is either original or an early improvement. While the surviving raised panel doors and mantels are imposing, the truly remarkable feature to survive is the extraordinary corkscrew attic stair enclosed in the southwest corner of the hall. Protected by an unusually tall six-panel door, it rises in quick steep steps to the dimly-lit, floored attic. (One can well imagine the intrigue and mystery it represented to the young Edmund Jones in the 1850s.)

William Lenoir's Fort Defiance was truly exceptional in its day, and so, too, was The Fountain; and within the space of some eight years, by 1815, the two houses were joined by the first known brick house erected on the upper Yadkin River. Known as Palmyra, and situated about midway between Fort Defiance and The Fountain, it was built by General Edmund Jones, another of General Lenoir's sons-in-law, and the paternal grandfather of the Jones brothers. With the loss of Palmyra to fire in 1924, The Fountain, even in its altered state, survives as one of only two

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known houses on the upper Yadkin River in Caldwell County from the period of initial settlement in the 1770s until the later 1830s and 1840s when a trio of houses, including Clover Hill, the great 1846 brick mansion of Edmund and Sophia (Davenport) Jones, was built.⁷

The Fountain appears to have stood as erected by Mr. Davenport until the post-Civil War refitting by his eldest grandson, William Davenport Jones. The positioning of the house on "one side of a quadrilateral" with the dairy, loom room, and kitchen on another, the smokehouse, granary, and carriage house on the third, and the slave quarters forming the fourth side of the yard was described by Mr. Jones as "constituting the typical planter's seat, as many of the passing generation remember them." At the end of the war, the Jones family suffered the loss of both their slaves and most of their wealth which had afforded them a very comfortable existence. When William Davenport Jones came to The Fountain about 1865 he decided upon improvements to provide a more comfortable house for his growing family and to consolidate the many domestic functions housed in the outbuildings. This reflected both necessity and a reduced number of servants/domestic workers, as well as changing views on domestic arrangements, namely the relationship of the kitchen to the family dining room. The relocation of the plantation kitchen from a freestanding building to one incorporated into the body of the dwelling house is an architectural and societal process of the post-Civil War period which has been little explored to date. Often, when the kitchen stood very near the main house, the space between the two, whether a covered breezeway or an open path, was enclosed or built up as a room and thus the two buildings formed one. In other instances a wing or ell containing a kitchen (and often a new dining room) was added to the house. William Davenport Jones decided on the latter course. Although the ca. 1882-1885 Victorian remodeling somewhat clouds a sure understanding of the matter, it appears that Mr. Jones refashioned the one-story shed of his grandparents' house as the new stair hall, added doors with sidelights and fanlights at both east and west ends, and overbuilt it as a part of a large one-and-a-half-story ell that essentially doubled the plan of the house. The principal room on the first-story of this addition became the family dining room. The original use of the other three rooms of varying size is not known; however, the two largest were probably bedrooms. The critical feature of this new ell was the relocation of the kitchen to its brick basement and the linking of the kitchen with the dining room by means of a stair inset in the porch on its west side. Arrangements such as this are known to have existed at some few other houses in the western Piedmont, including the mid-nineteenth century addition to the Eli Hoyle House in Gaston County. What is important here at The Fountain is the survival of this original post-bellum kitchen, with its cooking fireplace, shelves and storage room, and the stair which rises from a landing at its northwest corner door to the first story. While the fabric of the kitchen has deteriorated in the years since 1956 when it was used exclusively for storage, it nevertheless

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remains, if in deteriorated state, as an exceptionally well-preserved space that has no known parallel in Caldwell County, and few, if any, in its region.

Endnotes

- General William Lenoir, the patriarch of the Happy Valley and probably the largest landowner on the Yadkin River, was the son of Thomas and Mourning Lenoir and a native of Brunswick County, Virginia. In 1759 he went with his family to Edgecombe County, North Carolina, where he grew up. He soon gravitated back to the society of his native Virginia and that of nearby Halifax County, North Carolina, where he married Ann Ballard (ca. 1750-1833) in 1771. In 1775 he, his wife, and their daughter Mary (1772-1859) removed west to an area on the Yadkin River known as Mulberry Fields (present-day North Wilkesboro) in what was then Surry County but which became a part of Wilkes County when it was formed in 1777. Mr. Lenoir held public office in both Surry and Wilkes counties, served in General Rutherford's Indian campaign in 1776, and achieved lasting fame when he led his militia company during the campaign that culminated in the Battle of Kings Mountain on 7 October 1780. The patriot victory at Kings Mountain, secured by soldiers later dubbed the "Over the Mountain Men" was a critical turning point in the war for independence. The path followed by General Lenoir and his company, among others, carried along the Yadkin River in today's Caldwell County and through the fertile bottomlands that would be known as the Happy Valley. When the Land Entry Book for Wilkes County opened in 1778 Mr. Lenoir began entering tracts and by 1780 he is said to have accumulated 10,250 acres; by July 1784 he is said to have owned just over 14,000 acres. During this period, in December 1782, he acquired a 200-acre parcel known as the "Fort Tract" that included the site of the colonial era fortification Fort Defiance. This holding, which would soon encompass several thousand acres and become his home plantation, was where he built an imposing Georgian house between 1788 and 1792 that he, too, would call Fort Defiance (NR, 1970).
- 2. Apparently according to an informal agreement with General William Lenoir, William Davenport and his wife Mary erected The Fountain on a portion of the Fort Defiance lands that were destined to be a part of her eventual inheritance. On August 1822, when General Lenoir undertook a general division of his property, he conveyed a tract of 610 acres to William and Mary Davenport and described the property as the plantation on which they were residing. The text of that deed survives in the Lenoir Family Papers, Southern Historical Collection, Chapel Hill, NC. No record survives of its having been recorded by Mr. Davenport who was then serving as register of deeds for Wilkes County. A second,

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apparently replacement deed for the same tract was made on 22 August 1838 and recorded (Wilkes County Deeds, 33/473).

- 3. When the term "Happy Valley" was coined and by whom remains unknown; however, it is believed to date to the mid-nineteenth century. It first appears in print with the publication in 1881 of HAND IN HAND THROUGH THE HAPPY VALLEY, an elegiac tribute to two sisters, the great-granddaughters of General Lenoir, who died of diphtheria within hours of each other in September 1877 at Fort Defiance. The best known and most valuable account of Yadkin River valley society is Thomas Felix Hickerson's HAPPY VALLEY published in 1940. Having gained wide currency Happy Valley remains in common use today to describe the Yadkin River valley from Patterson, near the junction of US 321 and NC 268, through eastern Caldwell County and into Wilkes County.
- 4. In 1914 a lawsuit concerning the boundary, with the State of North Carolina as complainant and the State of Tennessee as defendant, was argued before the United States Supreme Court (Case 235 U. S. 1). William Davenport's field book for the 1821 surveying work, then preserved in a sideboard at The Fountain, was exhibited before the justices; its contents, listing the courses and distances of the 1821 survey, proved to be the determining evidence in the resolution of the case. A description of the case is displayed on the Web page of FindLaw: Laws: Cases and Codes: SUPREME COURT.
- 5. Davenport College operated in Lenoir with varying success under its successive presidents until 1933 when it was merged with Greensboro College in Greensboro. In 1956 when a North Carolina Highway Historical Marker was erected to recognize the college, two brick buildings remained on the former campus grounds. The Cornelius Building has been subsequently lost and today only the school music building survives. It houses the Caldwell County Heritage Museum.
- 6. Mary Virginia and Louisa Bryan were the daughters of General Edmund Bryan (1791-18_) and Ursilla Hampton, his wife, and the granddaughters of Andrew Bryan Jr. (1756-1808) and his wife Delphia Garnett Jones (1770-18_). Delphia Jones was the older sister of General Edmund Jones (1771-1839) who married Ann Lenoir (1778-1838), a daughter of General Lenoir and the younger sister of Mary (Lenoir) Davenport, and established a plantation here known as Palmyra. Edmund and Ann Jones were the parents of Edmund Walter Jones who married Sophia Carolina Davenport.
- 7. The other two houses are the William Hagler House (NR, 1982) a brick house of uncertain, questioned date which has suffered the loss of its interior fabric and an overscale addition,

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and the picturesquely-sited McCaleb Coffey House at the head of the Happy Valley, which is believed to date to ca. 1830-1845 with later additions. For Palmyra see Mrs. Lindsay Patterson, "Palmyra in the Happy Valley," THE NORTH CAROLINA BOOKLET XII (October 1912), 104-34.

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 - "Death Comes to Aged Resident," 18 August 1964.
 - "Ann W. Jones," 3 September 1984.
 - "Walter Thomas Jones," 15 January 1985.

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Albert Ross Winkler, Jr., telephone interview with author, 2 September 2001.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is the 2.55-acre parcel bearing PIN #2842982149 in the Caldwell County Tax Mapping System.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property, comprising 2.55 acres, is the residual tract that forms the historic site and setting of The Fountain and its outbuildings. The parcel, bound on the northwest by the path of NC 268, is surrounded on its other sides by once-associated Davenport farmlands that were separated from the house tract through the course of the twentieth century and are now the site of non-historic buildings.

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Schedule of Photographs

- 1. Name of property: The Fountain
- 2. County and state: Caldwell County, North Carolina.
- 3. Name of photographer: Davyd Foard Hood
- 4. Date of photographs: 13 and 25 February 2000
- 5. Location of original negatives: Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, NC

List of Photographs

- A. Overall view, looking northeast with car shed on right.
- B. View looking northwest with car shed in foreground.
- C. Landscape view, looking east with well-house/dairy in left middle-ground.
- D. North elevation, looking south.
- E. Detail view, looking west, showing principal basement kitchen entrance and wellhouse/dairy.
- F. Basement kitchen, looking southwest to fireplace and collapsed shelving.
- G. Detail view, looking north, of service stair on west porch linking kitchen with first story.
- H. Ca. 1865-1870 entrance, looking east.
- I. Foot of main staircase in ca. 1865-1870 stair hall, looking north.
- J. Original ca. 1807 mantel in southeast second-story bedroom, looking east/northeast.
- K. Corkscrew stair from second story to attic, looking southwest.
- L. Ca. 1865-1870 mantel in dining room, looking north.

the Fountain-Fist floor 1677 Highway 268 Lenotr, NC. - 28645

5 November 1999, 2:00 -> 5:45 p.m. Drawn by Davyd Found Hood





