

**FINDING TIVOLI: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEARCH  
FOR WILLIAM RICHARDSON DAVIE'S HOME  
AT LAND'S FORD, CHESTER COUNTY,  
SOUTH CAROLINA**  
(revised)

by

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and  
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Research Report No. 22  
Research Laboratories of Archaeology  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

April 2004

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

This project was sponsored by the Research Laboratories of Archaeology and conducted under a Special Use Permit granted by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. We would especially like to thank Lindsay Pettus, president of the Katawba Valley Land Trust, who invited us to undertake this endeavor and whose enthusiasm for finding Tivoli has been infectious. Lindsay has been a great source of information and documents relating to William R. Davie, as well as a staunch supporter of our other research program in the area—the Catawba Project. We also wish to acknowledge the assistance readily provided by Don Oneppo and Al James, rangers at Landsford Canal State Park. Don and Al provided access to the site and shared their knowledge of the area’s history and archaeological resources. Finally, we wish to thank Deborah Joy for graciously sharing the results of her earlier search for Tivoli, including the artifact collections and associated records from sites 38CS299 and 38CS304.

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Over four days between September, 2003, and March, 2004, the authors undertook an archaeological survey on the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources' Landsford Forest Legacy Tract to locate the site of "Tivoli," General William R. Davie's home (ca. 1805-1865) near Landsford in Chester County, South Carolina (Figure 1). Davie, a Revolutionary War hero, North Carolina delegate to the United States Constitutional Convention, founder of the University of North Carolina, governor of North Carolina, U.S. envoy to France, and president of the South Carolina Agricultural Society, was among America's "Founding Fathers." The purpose of this investigation was to locate evidence, including archaeological features, artifact concentrations, and architectural remains, which could be attributed to Tivoli, and to assess the potential for further archaeological research in order to preserve, manage, and interpret this important heritage resource.

Planning is currently underway, involving participants from the University of North Carolina, government agencies in North and South Carolina, the Katawba Valley Land Trust, and other private organizations and individuals, to commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of William R. Davie's birth in June 22, 2006. As part of this commemoration, the Research Laboratories of Archaeology hopes to conduct an archaeological field school in May and June, 2006, to provide data for interpreting Davie's life during the 15 years he lived at Tivoli.

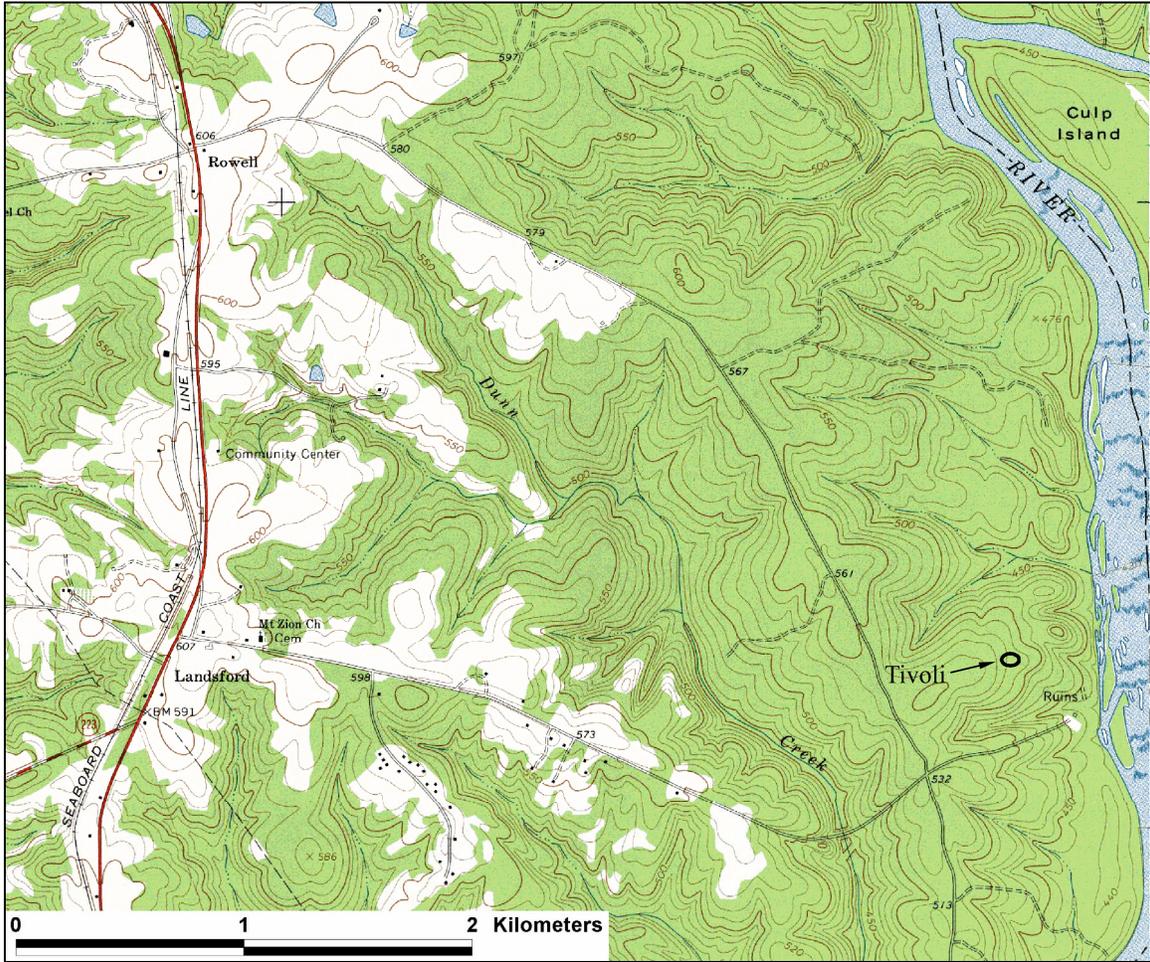


Figure 1. Map showing the location of Tivoli (from Catawba, S.C. USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle, 1968). The circled area has previously been designated site 38CS299. The north-south road west of Tivoli was a post road in the early nineteenth century; the road west of the intersection southwest of Tivoli led to the Chester District courthouse; and the road east of the intersection led travelers to Land's Ford, an important Catawba River crossing.

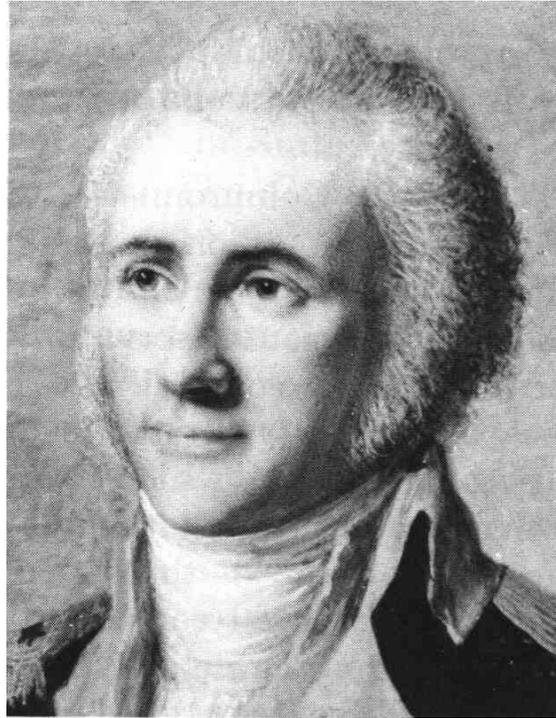


Figure 2. Portrait of William Richardson Davie (from [www.constitution.org](http://www.constitution.org)).

## **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

William Richardson Davie was born in Egremont, Cumberlandshire, England on June 22, 1756 (Figure 2). He came to America as a boy in 1763, and was adopted and raised by his maternal uncle, William Richardson, in the Waxhaws settlement. Upon graduation from the College of New Jersey in 1776, he briefly studied law in Salisbury before joining the colonial forces in the American Revolution. He obtained the rank of colonel and, by early 1781, was appointed commissary-general, serving under General Nathanael Greene (NARA n.d.).

After the war, Davie resumed practicing law, married, and moved to Halifax, North Carolina. Over the next 20 years, he had a distinguished career in state and federal government, serving variously as a North Carolina state legislator, a commissioner in the North Carolina-South Carolina boundary dispute, a representative to the Constitutional Convention, and as North Carolina's governor. As a member of the North Carolina

House of Commons in 1789, he authored the bill to create the University of North Carolina, personally selected a site for the campus at Chapel Hill, chose its first instructors, and also selected the curriculum. He was later awarded a Doctor of Laws degree by the University's trustees, who also conferred on him the title "Father of the University" (NARA n.d.; Powell 1979).

In further military service, Davie was appointed a brigadier general by President John Adams in 1798 and also served as Adams' envoy to France in 1799 during the XYZ Affair (NARA n.d.). He later declined an appointment as major-general by President James Madison in 1813.

In 1805, following his defeat in a bitter political campaign for Congress, Davie sold his North Carolina property and moved permanently to Tivoli—his plantation at Land's Ford in Chester County, South Carolina. There, he continued as a commissioner in the North Carolina-South Carolina boundary dispute, was elected president of the South Carolina Agricultural Society, and worked toward the reconstruction of his house and plantation (Louise Pettus n.d.).

The principal crops at Tivoli were cotton and corn, and at the time of Davie's death in 1820, at the age of 65, his estate was valued at \$46,989.37. In addition to his house and land, the estate included 116 slaves, a cotton gin, a threshing machine, a "great deal of valuable china, glassware and silver," and a substantial library (Lindsay Pettus, personal communication 2004).

Tivoli stood until 1865, when it was burned and pillaged during waning months of the Civil War.

## **DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE**

Local tradition places Tivoli on a high plateau just to the northwest of Land's Ford on Catawba River and, in fact, remnants of the plantation house are said to have been visible well into the twentieth century; however, its location also can be determined by several historical documents. The earliest of these is a letter written by Davie to General John Steele of Salisbury on June 11, 1808, before he moved permanently to Tivoli (see Appendix A). In this letter, Davie gave detailed directions to his house when

traveling down the post road south from Old Nation's Ford near present Fort Mill. He states:

When you come within a mile and ½ of my house you will probably observe a graveyard, and when you come nearly opposite my gate you will observe a road goes out to the left hand, which in 200 yards brings you to my gate; should you pass this fork, you will soon come to a place too remarkable to pass your notice, the road from the Chester Ct. H. and the road from my house, come into the post road (which is the one you will travel) exactly at the same place on different hands. You have then nothing to do but to turn up the road leading to my house, the post is not 250 yards from my gate. [Davie to Steele, June 11, 1808]

The post road, graveyard, the road off the post road to Davie's house, and the road intersection "too remarkable to pass your notice" are all features still visible today and provide reference points for determining the general location of Tivoli (Figures 3 and 4).

At least two published maps of the period also show Tivoli. The first is actually a map of North Carolina, published in 1808 by Price and Strother (Figure 5). It shows adjacent portions of South Carolina and, perhaps because of Davie's prominence in North Carolina political affairs, his house is specifically depicted as "Tivoli: Seat of Gen. Davie." A second map useful in determining the general placement of Tivoli is the Chester District map surveyed by Charles Boyd in 1818 and published in Robert Mills' *Atlas of South Carolina* (1825) (Figure 6). This map depicts Tivoli northwest of Land's Ford but appears to place it adjacent to Landsford Canal (under construction at the time of Davie's death in 1820), rather than back away from the river as Davie described it to John Steele.

Another important document for locating Tivoli is a map drawn by D.G. Stinson in 1873[?] of the Land's Ford vicinity, showing General Sumter's encampment during the American Revolution and other contemporary features, with the addition of Davie's and Henry Izard's houses (9VV305[179], Sumter papers, Lyman Draper manuscripts) (Figure 7). This map shows Tivoli as being set back from the river and more appropriately placed relative to Davie's letter.

Finally, two other documents dating to the 1950s are also useful in determining the placement of Tivoli. One of these is a narrative account, written by Landry Huey McMurray, of his search for the remains of Tivoli in 1955 (see Appendix B). He



Figure 3. The graveyard described by Davie as being on the post road about a mile and a half from the road leading to his house. This cemetery, dating to colonial times, is 1.6 miles from the present access road to the Tivoli site.



Figure 4. The intersection of the old post road with the Chester District courthouse road (at right). The road to the left leads to Land's Ford and another road at this intersection led northeast to Davie's house. Davie regarded this intersection as "a place too remarkable to pass your notice."

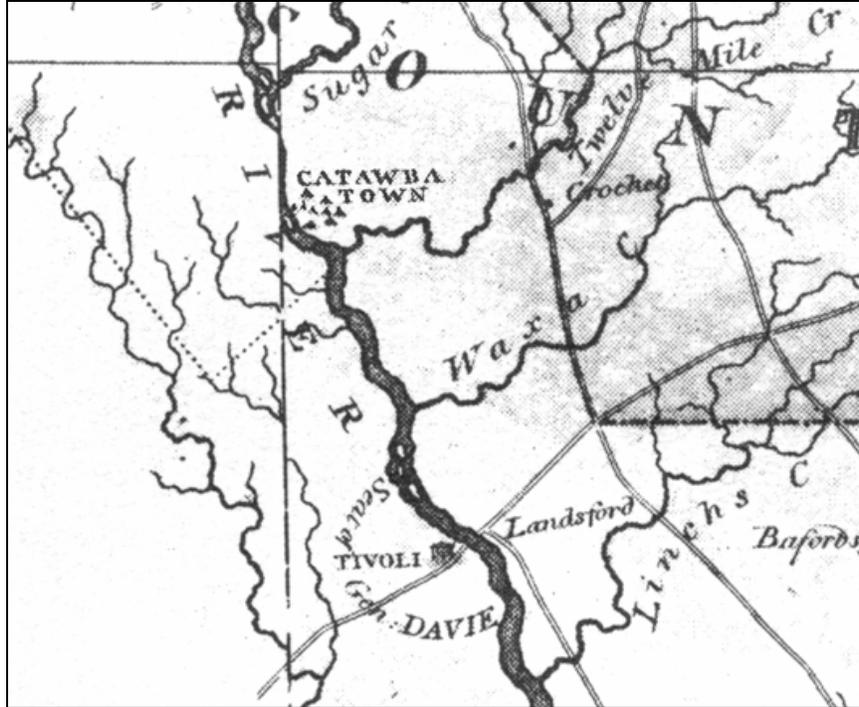


Figure 5. Portion of the 1808 Price-Strother map of North Carolina, showing Tivoli on the west side of Catawba River at Landsford.

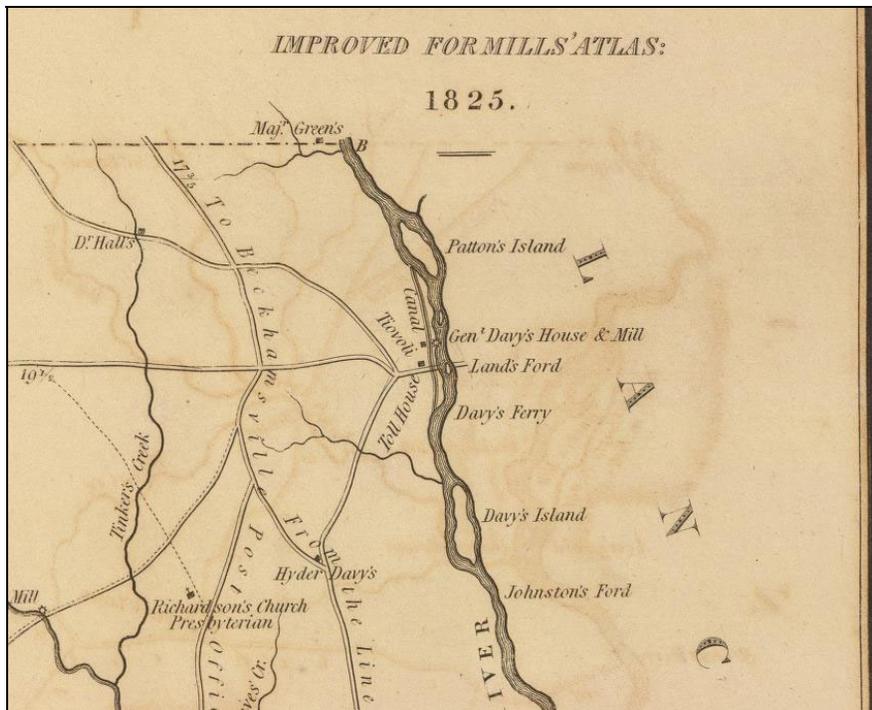


Figure 6. Portion of the Chester District map from Robert Mills' *Atlas of South Carolina*, 1825, showing the location of Tivoli above Land's Ford.

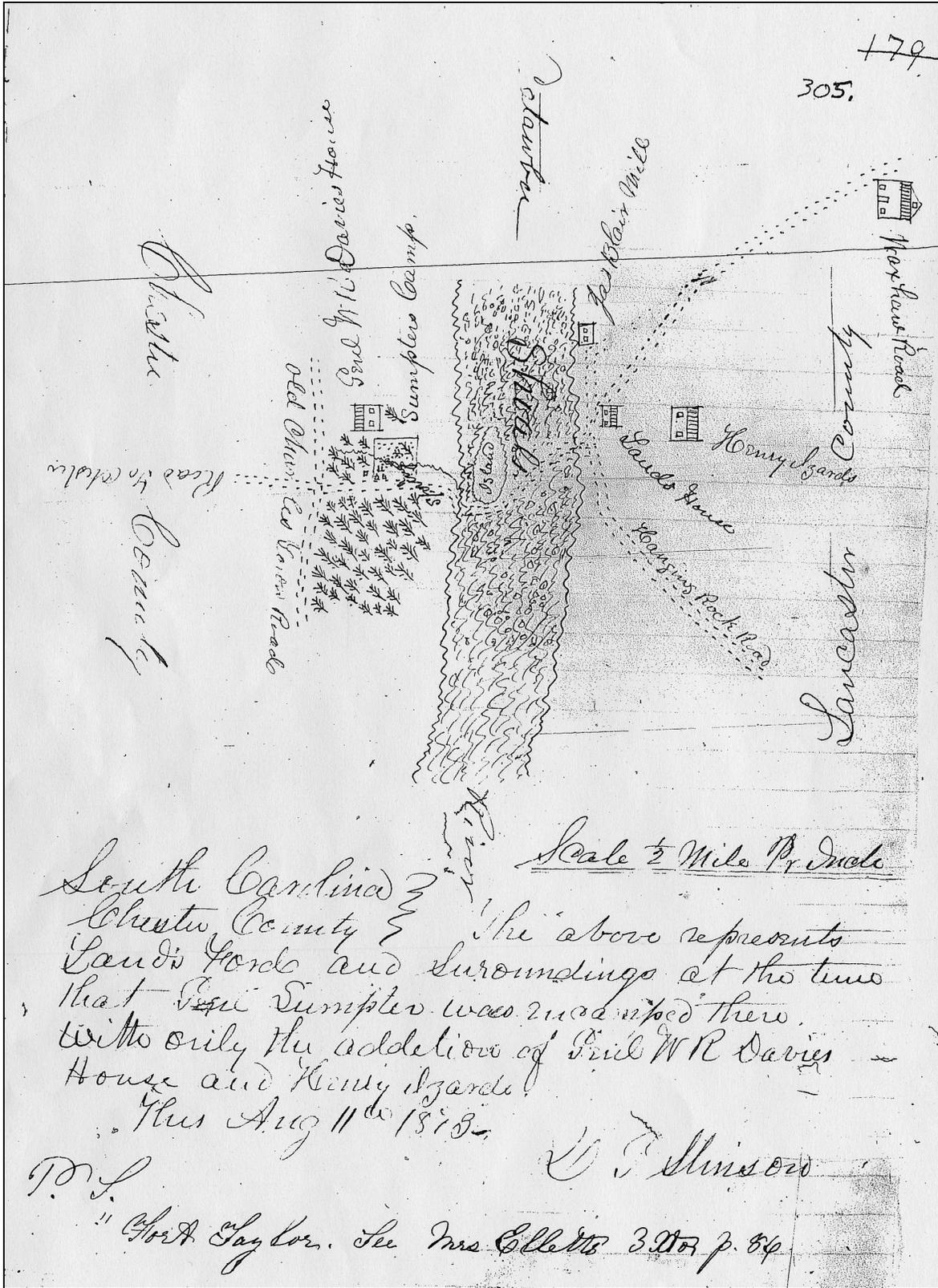


Figure 7. Map drawn by D.G. Stinson in 1873, showing General William R. Davie's house at Land's Ford.

describes starting from the stone arch bridge across the upper lock at Landsford Canal and following an old roadbed up the hill to the northwest to a high plateau where he observed:

A large walnut tree is standing with 2 large hewn rocks at the foot; there are several other large trees nearby, one a beautiful locust.... An old roadbed passes near the place in an almost direct line to the river, and a few hundred yards down the roadbed we found an old pit, still about 5 or 6 feet deep and 10 ft. across.

Tivoli, possibly, was built on this elevated plateau, with its direct road to the river, and its screw pit where cotton was pressed into bales for shipment to Charleston by raft—or wagon.

There is a fishing road trail apparently used by present day fishermen, and along this trail we found bits of real china and of pottery, fragments of old-time burned bricks, and pieces of iron, and a most unusual bit of iridescent glass. These bits and pieces could have been part of the Davie mansion. [McMurray 1955]

The final document useful in locating Tivoli is a U.S. Soil Conservation Service aerial photograph which was flown in 1955, before the suspected location of Davie's house was forested. Among other things, it reveals a number of geometric anomalies marked by differential vegetation growth in a pasture (Figures 8 and 9). These anomalies are suggestive of former structures or enclosures and are believed to be coincident with Tivoli. The photo also shows an abandoned roadbed fitting Davie's description of the one that turned off the old post road. As will be shown later, one of the darkened areas on the aerial photo appears to correspond to the site of Tivoli and at least two others contain large stone foundation blocks and likely are locations of outbuildings.

## **PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS**

A earlier archaeological investigation to find Tivoli was undertaken by Legacy Research Associates, Inc. in July and September, 2000. This investigation was supported by the Katawba Valley Land Trust, which was working to acquire a 1,000-acre tract adjacent to Landsford Canal State Park and preserve the former plantation lands of William R. Davie. A team of three archaeologists, headed by Deborah Joy, spent five days examining the purported location of Tivoli and reported five historic and prehistoric archaeological sites (designated 38CS299 to 38CS305).



Figure 8. 1955 Aerial photograph of the Tivoli site area. Note the dark areas in the pasture at the center of the photograph.

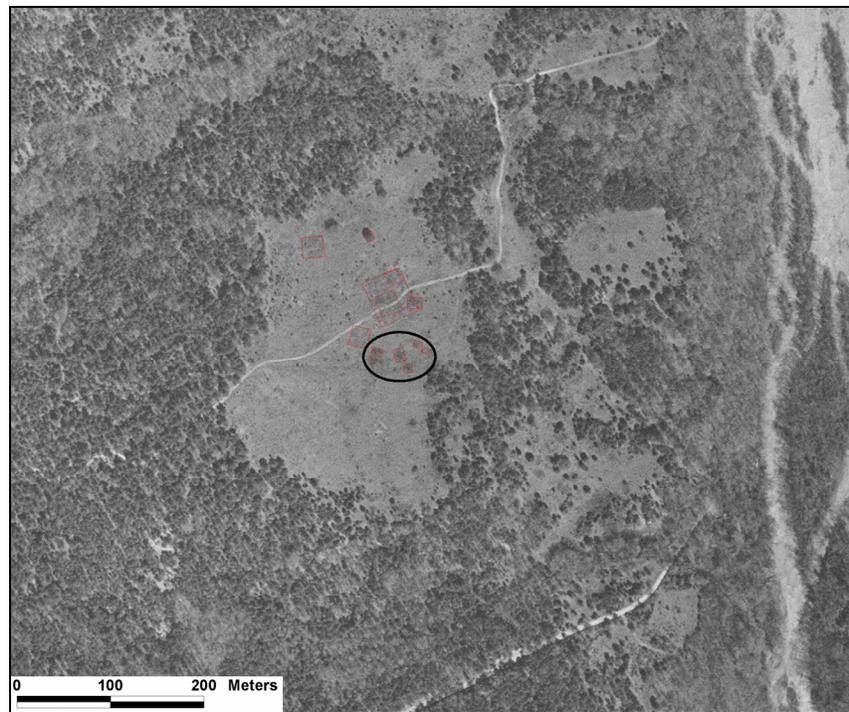


Figure 9. 1955 Aerial photograph of the Tivoli site area with the site outlined with a black oval. Note that the dark areas in the pasture also are finely outlined.

Test units were excavated at sites 38CS299 and 38CS304, both of which contained nineteenth-century artifacts likely associated with the Tivoli plantation. Site 38CS304 was interpreted as a possible kitchen site and consisted of a large pile of stone blocks, with some foundation stones still in place. A single one-meter (?) test pit yielded 109 historic artifacts, including glass, whiteware sherds, a pearlware sherd, a gray salt-glazed stoneware sherd, cut and wire nails, and several fragments of a cast iron kettle.

About 200 meters northeast of site 38CS304 was site 38CS299. This site is located at the place described by McMurray in 1955 as a possible location of Tivoli (see above). Three one-meter test pits and an isolated feature (designated TU1, TU2, TU3, and Feature 1) were excavated here.

Based on Legacy Research's field sketch map, it appears that TU1 (also designated S70/W20) intruded a low pile of brick rubble and rock at about 103R101 (our site grid), between our Test Units A and C (see below). This excavation yielded 193 historic artifacts, including 151 window glass fragments, 6 bottle glass fragments, 10 cut nails, a brass tack, 7 brick fragments, 3 creamware sherds, 1 salt-glazed stoneware sherd, 2 pearlware sherds, 2 porcelain sherds, and 2 Catawba sherds. Photographs of TU1 also suggest that it cut through a stone foundation.

TU2 (also designated S70/W120) was dug into another rock pile apparently located 15-20 meters west of TU1. It yielded only a green bottle glass fragment and a cut nail.

TU3 (also designated S120/W50) appears to have been dug about 10 meters south of TU1. It yielded an alkaline-glazed stoneware sherd, 2 Catawba sherds, 3 Coke bottle fragments, a cast iron kettle fragment, 2 cut nails, an indeterminate iron object, 4 window glass fragments, and 18 brick fragments.

Feature 1, a shallow surface deposit of discarded refuse, is located along the edge of the access road about 40-45 meters north of TU1. It contained a large number of historic artifacts (n=136) and faunal remains (n=77), including 16 pearlware sherds, 4 creamware sherds, 3 stoneware sherds, 3 Canton porcelain sherds, 52 Catawba sherds, 18 window and bottle glass fragments, 39 cut or wrought nails, and a brick fragment.

The artifacts recovered from Feature 1 and TU1 largely date to the appropriate period (1805-1820) for Tivoli during Davie's lifetime. Although Deborah Joy interpreted

these remains as being associated with the Tivoli plantation, she did not feel confident in identifying site 38CS299 as the location of the main house (Joy 2000). During subsequent archival research in the Library of Congress map room, a draft map of Lands Ford, drawn by Charles Boyd in 1818 for Robert Mills' *Atlas of South Carolina*, was found which appeared to depict Davie's house closer to the river and almost certainly on state park land (Joy 2001). With that discovery, the search for Tivoli by Legacy Research was concluded.

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK**

Our initial visit to the site was with Lindsay Pettus (Katawba Valley Land Trust) and Paul Gettys (Catawba Regional Council of Governments) on September 17, 2003. The entire project location, with the exception of one small area covered in privet, was a mature pine forest. We used a copy of the 1955 aerial photo to locate several of the suspected building sites and then briefly explored two of these with a metal detector. In both areas, we encountered numerous metal artifacts, mostly wrought nails, which we did not collect. These areas also appeared to correspond to one of the areas where Legacy Research earlier had recovered historic artifacts (i.e., site 38CS299).

With this preliminary information, we formulated a plan to systematically metal detect the largest anomaly seen in the aerial photo, a 50 m square (centered at UTM 17/510811/3847490) thought to be the possible location of Davie's house. We surmised that, within this house, we would find a concentration of metal artifacts—mostly nails—telling us where the house stood, and then we would be able to: (1) identify and map distributions of temporally diagnostic artifacts referable to the Davie occupation; and (2) locate and confirm architectural evidence (e.g., foundations) and facilities (e.g., cellars) associated with the Tivoli manor.

When we returned on January 15, 2004, it quickly became apparent that the best place to begin our search for Davie's house was not where we had proposed to look but within a much smaller area (represented by six geometric anomalies on the aerial photo) where several large, dressed granite blocks were visible on the surface and near where archaeologists from Legacy Research Associates, Inc. excavated a trash deposit in 2000 which they designated Feature 1. This site was reported by Legacy Research and has

been previously recorded as 38CS299. This area also was adjacent to an abandoned roadbed, just to the south, which appeared to run from the old post road to Land's Ford (Figures 10 and 11).

Site 38CS299 is the place described by McMurray in 1955 as being a possible location for Tivoli. Furthermore, this area had not been planted in pines but rather was thickly covered in privet. We later learned from Lindsay Pettus that a former employee of Crescent Resources, the former owner of the property, had told him that it was not planted in pines because they too thought it to be the location of Davie's house.

We began our investigation of this area with a metal detector and discovered numerous cut or wrought nails, most of which appeared to have been burned. We did not, however, discover any concentrations of metal artifacts that might represent trash deposits or refuse-filled pits. As we looked closer at this area, we noticed a low mound of dirt with a large stone block sticking out of it and several brick fragments scattered on the surface. We probed this mound with a soil auger and detected numerous bricks beneath the surface. We excavated and exposed a small area and observed a jumble of whole and broken bricks, possibly from a chimney fall.

Next, we laid out a grid on a north-south axis and began auger testing at 2 m intervals. A few meters west of the possible chimney fall, we detected more brick about 20 cm beneath the surface. When we removed the overlying soil, we found an intact brick footer estimated to measure about 50 cm by 50 cm. We probed to determine its limits but did not completely expose it. The upper bricks had been removed, but the tops of the remaining bricks were still covered with a thin layer of sand mortar and within the soil overlying these bricks were several pieces of very thin window glass, a piece of rum bottle glass, a piece of blue-painted pearlware, and a Catawba potsherd.

Given these results, we concluded that this likely was evidence for Davie's Tivoli since only the main house would have had brick footers and glass windows. The footer bricks are aligned with the cardinal directions, indicating that the house was oriented either facing south toward the adjacent road or facing east toward the river. It should be noted that the D.G. Stinson map in the Draper Manuscripts depicts the house as facing the river.

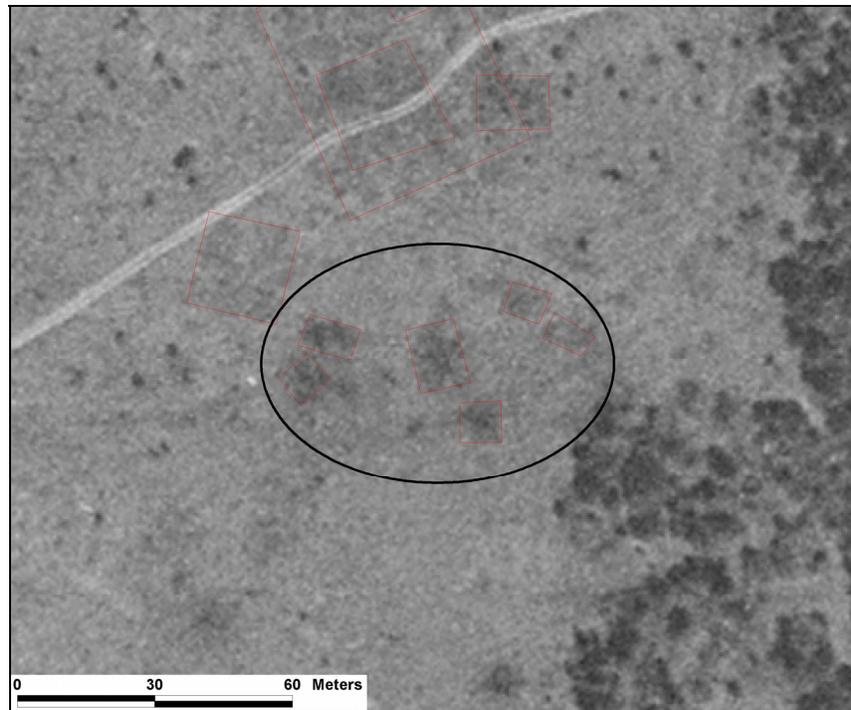


Figure 10. Close-up aerial photograph of Tivoli showing approximate site boundary and geometric anomalies.

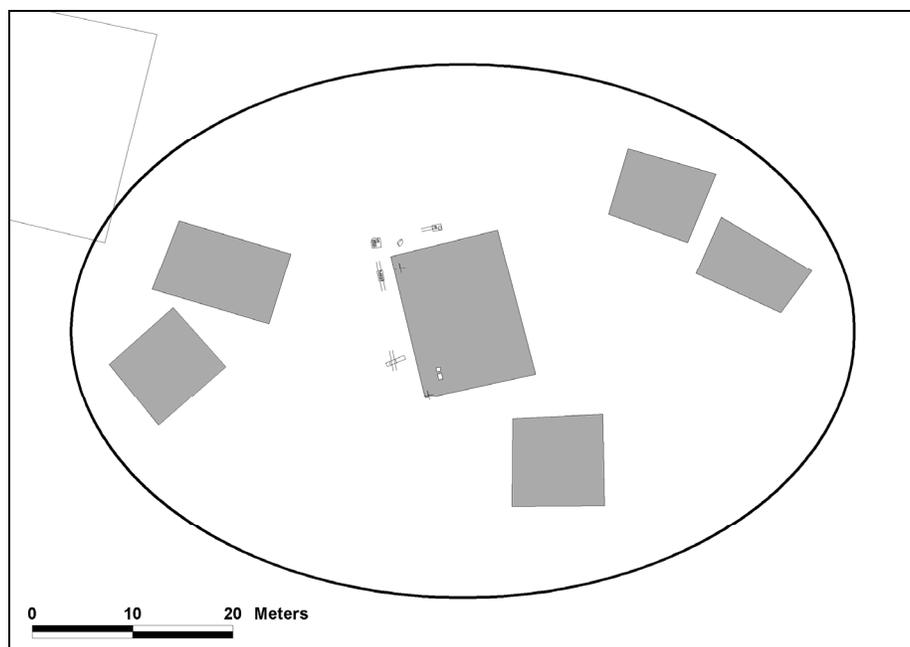


Figure 11. Map of Tivoli showing approximate site boundary and geometric anomalies depicted on the 1955 aerial photograph. The large anomaly in the center is believed to reflect Davie's house. Foundation remains revealed by archaeology are shown along the north and west sides. UTM coordinates for the site boundary are: 17/510826/3847709, 17/510787/3847736, 17/510825/3847762, and 17/510864/3847736.

The final two days of fieldwork were conducted on March 4-5, 2004 (Figure 12). Our plan on March 4 was to re-expose the brick footer found on the previous trip and, from there, search for additional footers along suspected wall alignments using soil probes (Figure 13). The excavation exposing this foundation remnant measured about 0.9 m by 0.9 m by 20 cm deep and was designated Test Unit A (Figure 14).

We first explored a line west of the footer for a distance of about 10 m, probing an area 50 cm wide at about 10-15 cm intervals, but found nothing. We then explored in a similar manner a line south of the exposed footer for about 15 m and at about three meters from Test Unit A found an alignment of foundation bricks three bricks wide and four bricks long. Bricks at both ends of this foundation remnant had been removed. This excavation measured about 0.5 m by 1.0 m by 12 cm deep and was designated Test Unit B (Figures 15 and 16).

We then probed a line east of Test Unit A and at six meters found a section of stones resting *in situ* in a foundation trench. The excavation exposing these stones measured 0.6 m by 0.9 m by 16 cm deep and was designated Test Unit C (Figure 17). More probing indicated additional preserved foundation between Test Units A and C, as well as other buried brick and stone that may represent a chimney pad. Rubble and rock form a low mound here. Probing to the east of Test Unit C also revealed possible buried foundation stones, but these appear to be offset slightly (to the south) from the wall alignment indicated by Test Units A and C.

Following these results, we now believe that the building here, interpreted tentatively as William R. Davie's Tivoli, rested on continuous brick and stone foundations rather than on brick piers.

None of the fill from these units was screened, and while some artifacts were found and recorded during these excavations, they were placed back in the pits prior to backfilling.

While we were working, Al James, a ranger at Landsford Canal State Park, stopped by and took us to other possible building sites nearby, including: (1) a pile of large stones about 200 meters to the southwest where Legacy Research found fragments of an iron kettle and interpreted the site as a possible kitchen (38CS304); (2) an area of scattered large stones, perhaps associated with a barn, about 160 meters to the northwest;

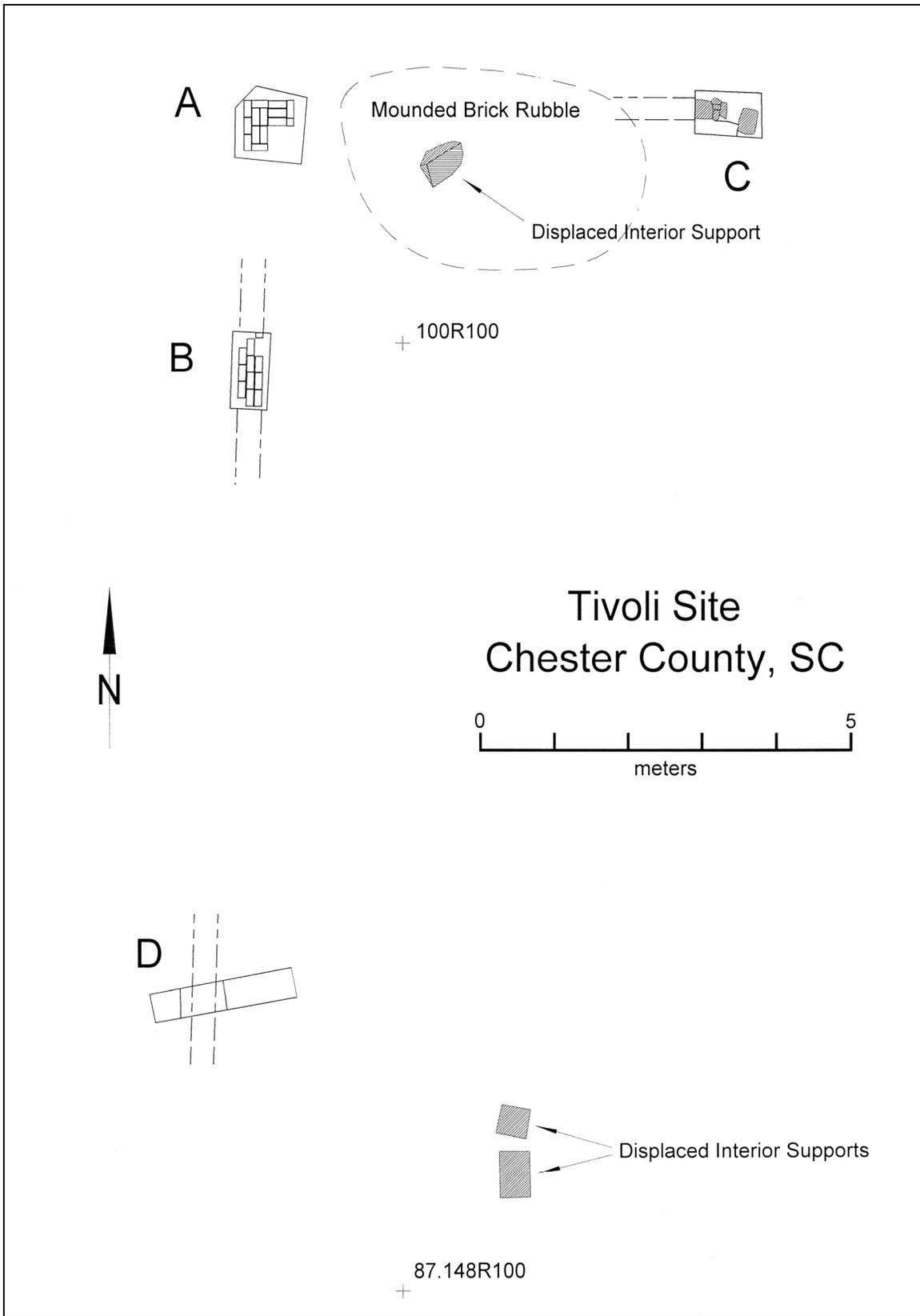


Figure 12. Map of the Tivoli Site showing the results of archaeological testing.



Figure 13. General view of the Tivoli site, showing Test Units A (center, foreground), B (center, right), C (left), and D (far right). View to southeast.



Figure 14. Photograph of the brick corner foundation uncovered in Test Unit A. View to west.



Figure 15. View to the south along the west wall foundation. Brett Riggs is cleaning Test Unit B ; Test Unit A is in the foreground.



Figure 16. Top of exposed brick foundation in Test Unit B. View to east.



Figure 17. Top of stone foundation in Test Unit C. Note the brick rubble along the top and right edges, the dark fill along the interior side of the wall, and the sand mortar between the stones. View to north.

and (3) another pile of large stones about 160 meters to the north. These later two locations are clearly indicated as dark anomalies on the 1955 aerial photo.

On March 5, our final day at the site, we dug a slot trench (designated Test Unit D) about 11.5 m south of Test Unit A (and 8.5 m south of Test Unit B) to determine if the builder's trench was preserved at this location. We earlier had failed to find any intact foundation here. The excavation measured 1.9 m long by 0.4 m wide by 20 cm deep, and it revealed the top of a trench-like disturbance about 60 cm wide filled with dark mottled soil, brick fragments, and patches of sand mortar (Figure 18). An auger test into this trench encountered subsoil clay at about 2 cm, which suggests that portions of the trench to the east, toward the river where the surface elevation is slightly lower, may no longer exist. Interestingly, the alignment of this builder's trench appears to be offset slightly from the alignment formed by the foundation remnants in Test Units A and B. This finding, coupled with the fact that the foundation east of Test Unit C also appears to be offset, suggests an architectural plan more sophisticated than a simple rectangular configuration.

We photographed and mapped our excavations once they were completed, and we also mapped two large stones near Test Unit D and one near Test Unit A (Figure 19). These stones likely represent displaced interior floor supports; other such supports, along with much of the foundation stones and bricks, probably were removed after the house was destroyed by fire in 1865.

Artifacts found during excavation, including pearlware sherds, window and bottle glass, wrought nails, and a Catawba potsherd, were placed back in the pits and all were backfilled. With the exception of one piece of bottle glass, all of these artifacts appear to date to the early nineteenth century and therefore are consistent with an interpretation that this site may represent Tivoli.

In order to determine the exact location of the site, we ran a traverse with a total station from our two permanent site grid points (marked with gutter spikes and flagging at 100R100 [AE=100.00] and 87.148R100) along the dirt access road to the hard-surface road (formerly the old post road) and then to its intersection with Canal Road, an overall distance of about 1.15 km. This allowed us to place accurately the site within an ArcView GIS project file and determine its UTM location.



Figure 18. Close-up view of a section of Test Unit D, showing the west wall foundation trench. The black arrows indicate the trench edges. View to south.



Figure 19. Displaced interior support blocks near Test Unit D. These are the two “large hewn rocks” near a large walnut tree (now a stump) mentioned by McMurray in 1955. View to northeast.

## CONCLUSIONS

The purpose of the research described above was to identify the site of Tivoli. While we cannot yet say definitively that the archaeological evidence uncovered is in fact associated with Davie's home, everything found is consistent with such an interpretation. First, Davie's own description, in his letter to John Steele, of where his house was located places it in the near vicinity of where the foundation remnants were found. This placement also is consistent with the depiction of his house on D.G. Stinson's map, the visible architectural and archaeological remains encountered by McMurray in 1955, and the location of a prominent geometric anomaly on the 1955 aerial photograph.

Second, the brick and stone foundations uncovered by test excavations and the occurrence of numerous fragments of window glass appear to represent a substantially built residence. The revealed foundation segments, coupled with the results of probing, indicate further that this building measured at least 36 ft (11.0 m) by 44 ft (13.4 m) and was perhaps considerably larger. These dimensions are consistent with the size of a prominent citizen's home but not an overseer's house or slave quarter.

Finally, artifacts found in association with the foundations are consistent with an early nineteenth-century date for the structure. The several wrought nails found also appear to have been burned, which is consistent with local tradition that Tivoli was burned by Federal troops at the close of the Civil War.

Ultimately, more expansive excavation and data recovery are needed before we can argue forcefully that Tivoli has indeed been found. Our expectation is that such additional work will permit a determination of the building's overall footprint, its architectural details, and an associated assemblage of artifacts which will allow a more complete consideration of the status and affluence of the building's occupants. At that time, we should be able to say with greater confidence if this was William R. Davie's residence.

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## APPENDIX A

### Letter from William R. Davie to General John Steele, 1808

[Letter from University of North Carolina files. Transcribed for Perry Belle, a Lancaster historian, on June 21, 1939.]

Lands-ford, Catawba, June 11, 1808

Dear Sir,

We were so engaged, when I had the pleasure of dining with you, that I forgot to give you the necessary directions how to find my house; the plantation being covered from any view from the road by a skirt of woods. You will pass at the O.N. [Old Nation's] ford in preference to the ferry, as it is a good ford, 2 miles nearer, and the ferry is badly kept. If you cross at the ford get the directions at Captain Herron's to the mill about a mile from the ford, where you will be directed as to the remainder of the road, which is easily found, after you pass the forks near the mill; the road most deeply marked by the wagons will bring you to Lands-ford. When you come within a mile and  $\frac{1}{2}$  of my house you will probably observe a graveyard, and when you come nearly opposite my gate you will observe a road goes out to the left hand, which in 200 yards brings you to my gate; should you pass this fork, you will soon come to a place too remarkable to pass your notice, the road from the Chester Ct. H. and the road from my house, come into the post road (which is the one you will travel) exactly at the same place on different hands. You have then nothing to do but to turn up the road leading to my house, the post is not 250 yards from my gate. You may perhaps observe a good deal of timber has been cut nearly opposite to the plantation at different times.

My cotton is greatly improved since I left home, as well as the corn – rain, however, is wanting. You observe how strangely things are working in Spain. “The world was made for Caesar” – Voltaire, with his second causes, would smile at my superstitions but I confess I have no other way of accounting for more than half the events within the past 15 years. Adieu my best regards to your family and believe me with great regards yours etc.

W.R. Davie

General John Steele  
Salisbury

## APPENDIX B

### Landry Huey McMurray's Account of His Search for the Remains of Tivoli, 1955

#### The Davie Home

The spot marked "Tivoli" on a map of Chester County, S.C., offered a challenge to me. Thoughts of the mansion near the old canal at Land's ford crossing on the Catawba lingered in my mind—a mansion built by the patriot William Richardson Davie in which he spent his last days. It is recorded that he died there in 1820. This historic old place intrigued me; I determined to try to find it.

On Sunday, May 1, 1955, Mr. Frell Johnstone and I made a trip to the Land's ford location. The survey for Mills' map of Chester County was made in 1818, and according to the map the Davie home, Tivoli, was about 3/8 of a mile northwest of the ford. We went on foot from the bridge across the old canal in the general direction of "Tivoli" as shown on Mills' map. At about 3/8 of a mile from the rock bridge over the canal and at about 1/8 of a mile from the flat river-bottom land, we found a most beautiful spot on a plateau possibly 200 feet above the river. A large walnut tree is standing with 2 large hewn rocks at the foot; there are several other large trees nearby, one a beautiful locust. The fields around are densely covered with wild grass. An old roadbed passes near the place in an almost direct line to the river, and a few hundred yards down the roadbed we found an old pit, still about 5 or 6 feet deep and 10 ft. across.

Tivoli, possibly, was built on this elevated plateau, with its direct road to the river, and its screw pit where cotton was pressed into bales for shipment to Charleston by raft—or wagon.

There is a fishing road trail apparently used by present day fishermen, and along this trail we found bits of real china and of pottery, fragments of old-time burned bricks, and pieces of iron, and a most unusual bit of iridescent glass. These bits and pieces could have been part of the Davie mansion. They have been transferred to the Rock Hill Public Library with the hope that other fragments may be found, and that in our minds Tivoli can be re-constructed on its original site.

Gen. Thomas Sumter had his camp very near the old Davie home and we hope to locate it at some future time. I have heard that there are several trees still standing on the camp site which have iron rings in them. The story is that the rings were used to tie up run-away slaves but I doubt this was the original purpose. It is more logical to assume that the rings were used for tying horses and mules around the camp.

The campsite may be known, due to the iron rings in the trees. Its location would be another step in the finding of Tivoli.

Landry Huey McMurray

Presented to Miss Nancy Crockett