

Tar Heel/Steve Matteson

## The Morehead Planetarium

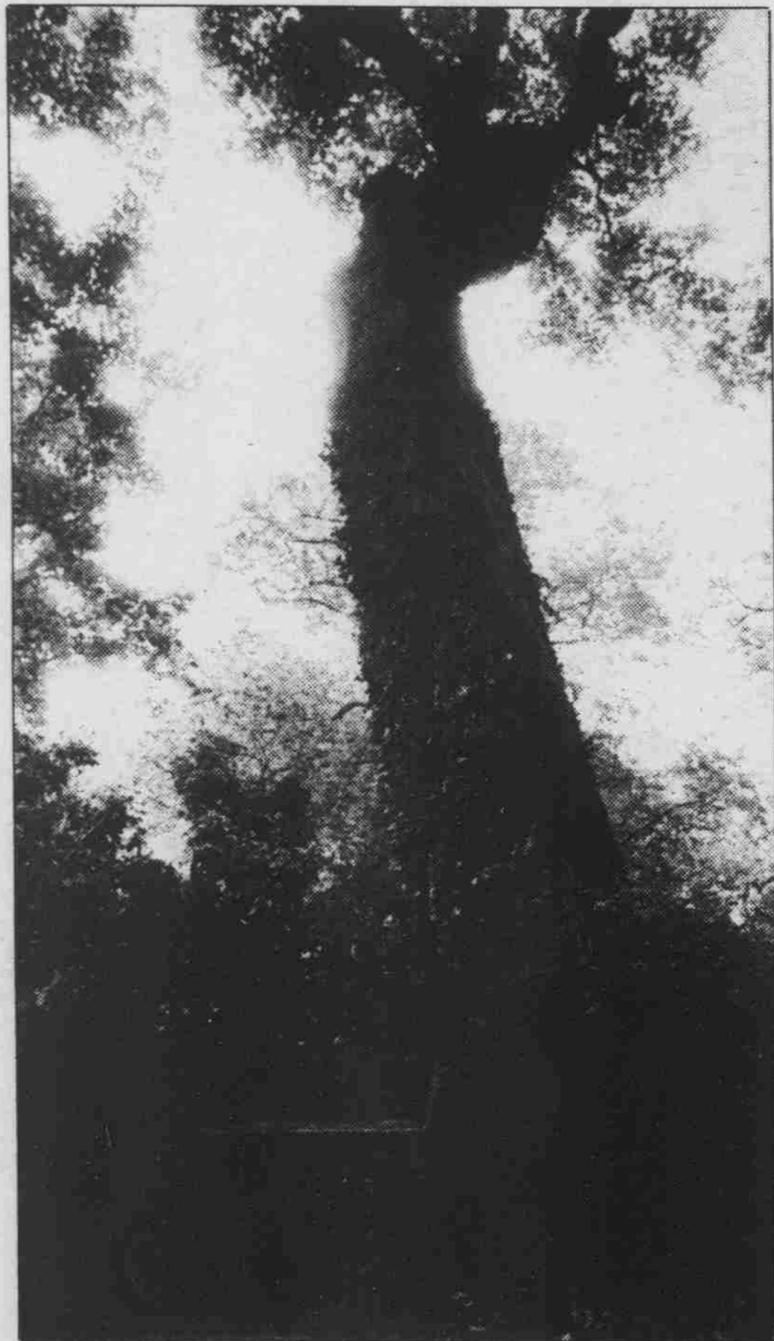
For stargazing, UNC offers the Morehead Planetarium, the first planetarium to be owned by an American university.

Regular planetarium programs are presented for tens of thousands of school children and general audiences each year, with the most popular offering occurring at Christmas.

Between 1960 and 1975, 43 American astronauts were trained here in celestial navigation.

The planetarium was presented to the University in 1969 by the John Motley Morehead Foundation.

To the north of the building rests a hybrid rose garden and sundial, one of the largest of its type, with a diameter of 35 feet.



DTH file photo

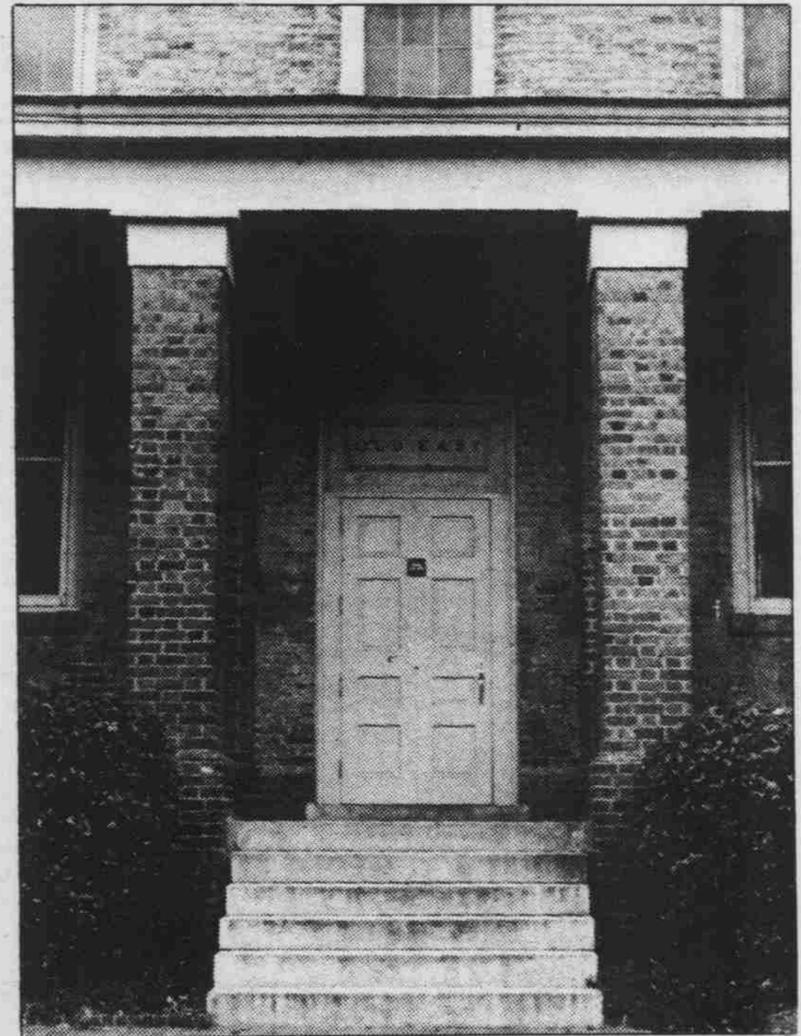
## The Davie Poplar

The Davie Poplar is a landmark older than UNC itself.

Many legends surround this ivy-clad tree, which is over 200 years old. Many stories suggest that William Richardson Davie, author and introducer of the bill that established the University, personally located the University lands around the tree. Although this is doubtful, the name Davie was assigned to the tree almost a century later by Cornelia Phillips Spencer to commemorate one of these tales.

Another legend about the poplar is that while on a picnic in the spring of 1792, Davie and the site-selection committee for the University met, and after drinking and making merry, Davie thrust a poplar branch into the ground to mark the new site, announcing, "This is it." The switch supposedly grew into the Davie Poplar. (This was proven untrue, as Davie was not on the committee).

Standing beside the Davie Poplar is the Davie Poplar Jr., a shoot grafted from the big tulip poplar when it was thought that the older tree would not survive after being struck by lightning. The second tree was planted by the class of 1918.



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## Old East

The oldest state university building is also located on the UNC campus.

Old East's cornerstone was laid October 12, 1793, and nearly a century later its date was honored as University Day, a celebration in which professors don the traditional caps and long gowns of scholars.

In the late 1700s, both the residential and instructional life of the University was centered in Old East. Students would erect huts in the "forest" beside it and in the unfinished shell of South Building to escape their fellowmen. When

the weather was too bad for students to study in their huts, it was considered a valid excuse for unprepared lessons.

Old East was honored by the National Historic Society as a national landmark for possessing "exceptional value in commemorating the history of the United States."

Today, the structure operates as a male dormitory. Recently, University administrators decided to turn Old East into offices but reversed their decision after students and alumni protested the break in tradition.