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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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On a hill in northwest Kingsport is the Mount Ida complex which represents the history of the first century of Kingsport and its vicinity. Dominating the property is a two-story red brick house built in 1884 in a subdued Victorian style, with bracket trim on the cornice and on the one-story porch across the front. The main section of the house consists of a central hall flanked by one room on each side, the lower rooms having bay windows. To the rear is a one-story wing, surrounded by a porch, and housing the dining room and kitchen.

In 1884, the two-story log house, believed to have been built by the early 1790's, was moved slightly northwest of its original site to make way for the larger brick structure. At that time, a brick chimney replaced the stone one on the log house. Although other changes have been made to adapt the structure to year-round modern living, the family has attempted to maintain the integrity of the original log building.

Also on the property are several frame outbuildings, including a barn and well house. The grounds are simple with numerous handsome trees. The graves and tombstones of members of the Sevier family are in the yard.



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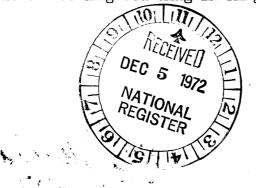
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Nearly one hundred years separate the building of the two houses on the Mount Ida complex. Together they reflect the settlement and development of the Kingsport area, not only through their architectural differences but also through their association with important families and a major industry.

The land was originally part of a 1280 acre land grant belonging to Christian Rhodes and James Menefee, who sold the property in 1790, along with other acreage, to David Ross of Carolina County, Virginia. Ross's agents immediately came to the area to establish the "Great Furnace" and forge on the North Fork of the Holston River. The land purchased by Ross became known as "the furnace tract," and by 1795, the furnace is indicated on a map of North Carolina. Ross's agents, who managed his furnace and other extensive business ventures, lived in the nearby log building at Mount Ida, named for Ross's Virginia home.

Ross's heirs owned the property until 1847, when it was sold to David Sevier. Sevier, a successful farmer, financier, and landholder, built the red brick house in 1884, at which time the log building was moved. His wife, Annis Netherland, was a member of another influential early family in the Kingsport area: the Netherland Inn, listed on the National Register, belonged to her grandfather. Mr. and Mrs. Sevier and other members of their family are buried at Mount Ida near the brick house. Sevier heirs still own the property, of which the log house is thought to be the oldest building standing in Kingsport.



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES															
A Map of the Tennessee Government formerly a part of North Carolina taken chiefly by Gen. D. Smith and others. Engraved by J. T. Scott. Philadelphia: M. Carey, 1795.															
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