

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received OCT 2 1980

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name** Iredell County Multiple Resource Area (Partial Inventory)

historic Historic Resources of Iredell County (Partial Inventory: Architectural and Historic Resources only, not Archaeological)

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number County limits of Iredell County not for publication

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 9th

state North Carolina code 037 county Iredell code 097

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Multiple ownership

street & number

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Iredell County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Statesville state North Carolina

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title An Inventory of Historic Architecture, has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no  
Iredell County, North Carolina

date 1978 ☐ federal ☒ state ☒ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Historic Iredell Foundation and Survey and Planning Branch  
Division of Archives and History  
Raleigh,

city, town Statesville, NC state North Carolina

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Representation in Existing  
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Other Inventories and Listings -

Properties included in North Carolina: An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites, sponsored by the North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Department of Cultural Resources and the Historic American Engineering Record, National Park Service and directed by Brent D. Glass, 1975.

Ash Tobacco Factory (#40 in Academy Hill Historic District, which is #23 in MRN)  
J. C. Steele & Sons (#38 in Academy Hill Historic District, which is #23 in MRN)

Properties in Iredell County already listed in National Register:

Johnson-Neel House (Individually)  
Mount Mourne (Individually)  
Farmville Plantation (Individually)  
Fort Dobbs (Individually)  
Mitchell College (Individually)  
Statesville City Hall (former U. S. Post Office, Courthouse and Customs House)  
(Individually)  
(Former) Iredell County Courthouse and Jail (as part of North Carolina Courthouses  
Thematic nomination)

## 7. Description

### Condition

☒ excellent  
☒ good  
☒ fair

☒ deteriorated  
ruins  
unexposed

### Check one

☒ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
moved date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

#### LAND

Iredell County, located in the middle Piedmont of North Carolina, exhibits the rolling country so typical of this region that occupies the midsection of the state.

#### TOWNS

The county is still largely rural, with its principal communities including the county seat town of Statesville (population 22,410), and southern Iredell the trading center of Mooresville (population 9,630). The metropolis of Charlotte, in neighboring Mecklenburg County, serves as the main urban center for shopping and business beyond Statesville.

#### STREAMS

The Catawba River, a broad stream that flows into the dammed up Lake Norman, forms of the western boundary of the county, and the South Yadkin River runs across the middle of the county. Dozens of small creeks water the county as well, feeding these larger streams and, for many years, powering grist mills, silting bottom lands, and stimulating settlements. From north to south, the largest of these creeks include Hunting, Rocky, Fourth Creek, and Third Creek, and their tiny tributaries are almost numberless.

#### ROADS

Now, two interstate highways bisect the county--I-77 and I-40-- into quadrants and link its citizens with the cities of Charlotte, Winston-Salem, and others. The Price Strother Map of 1808 shows the roads of past eras which shaped and reflected settlement patterns. Diagonally across the county from northeast to middle west ran a road composed of the Shallow Ford Road and the Island Ford Road, which joined at Simonton's ford on the South Yadkin River. Diagonally in the other direction ran the Cove Gap Road and Wilkesboro, Statesville, and the Salisbury Road, crossing the Yadkin at the same ford. At Statesville the Cove Gap-Statesville Road met the Charleston Road, a major thoroughfare reflecting the importance of trade to South Carolina. Beatties Ford Road, the Fayetteville Road, the Rockford Road, and others. Their names express either their destinations or the ford that permitted vehicles and people to cross watery obstacles.

In the mid-19th century Iredell like many other North Carolina counties witnessed the construction of rail lines and accompanying improvement in trade, morale, property values, and communication. The North Carolina Railroad was run across the county in 1858-1859, linking Salisbury to Morganton, and it was followed by the Atlantic, Tennessee and Ohio in 1871, and the North Carolina Midlands Railroad in 1899. These lines quickly stimulated growth in existing communities like Statesville, Salisbury and Charlotte, and spawned new settlements including Mooresville and Troutman.

#### CHURCHES

An important focus of rural life and an organizing framework for social interaction was the churches dotting the county throughout much of its history. A map of antebellum churches shows the distribution of more than fifty churches across the county and suggests their role in identifying communities. (See attached map.)

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Continuation sheet      Description - DENSITY      Item number      7      Page      1

These evenly distributed churches as well as the small crossroad communities across the county reflect an important aspect of the county's manmade historical environment: like so much of North Carolina, Iredell is a rural county that is rather densely settled. Small farms made up its economy, and its landscape features not vast open areas with occasional farmsteads but rather a series of fairly closely placed farmhouses. This density has increased in recent years as strip, roadside development of small brick-veneered ranch houses has increased. There are few areas of the county without a peppering of buildings--ranging from log houses to mid-19th century frame dwellings to modest tenant houses with hints of Gothic or Bungalow style, to present-day ranchers. In addition, small businesses--agrarian and otherwise--fill in the landscape as well. Pine and deciduous woodland competes with farmland and developed land, as relatively few farms have endless acres of agricultural land,

As noted earlier, the towns are modest in size but growing rather quickly about their edges, with suburban and commercial strip growth springing up like mushrooms after a rain--here as across the state.

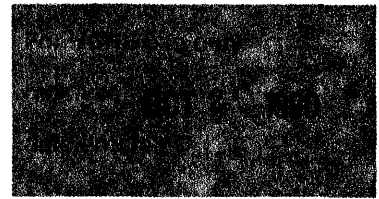
The density of the urban cores of Mooresville and Statesville is typical of small North Carolina towns: a dense, solid streetscape of commercial buildings ranging from one to perhaps five or more stories. There are no tall buildings. This urban core is flanked by mixed residential and commercial, then residential use. The residential areas exhibit the moderate density typical of the state's late 19th and early 20th century development. Lot sizes vary from tiny to spacious, depending upon the wealth of the owner, and occasionally it is obvious that once broad lots centering on luxurious dwellings have been reduced as the flanking property around the big house was subsequently sold off. Nevertheless in both Statesville and Mooresville's central residential sections, fairly broad yards extend back from the street, shaded by large trees, and creating a rhythmic pattern of open space and modest one and two-story houses. There are no row houses and relatively few massive dwellings or multiple family houses.

**PREDOMINANT TYPES OF RESOURCES**

Iredell's predominant resources are those of much of Piedmont North Carolina and much of the state as a whole. The most obvious generalization is this: the earliest buildings (i.e., 18th century and antebellum) are farmhouses and related building, reflecting the dominance of the agricultural economy in the antebellum period; and the later buildings and districts (post-Civil War and early twentieth century) are primarily urban, reflecting the development of industry and commerce in the late 19th century and the relative stagnation of the agrarian economy. The most substantial farmhouses are antebellum, with only a few ambitious postwar houses standing on farms but a great many small tenant houses and small farmhouses. There are, obviously, a number of ambitious antebellum urban structures, especially in Statesville, but by far the preponderance of town fabric dates from the postwar era.

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**Area in Periods of Significance**

The story of Iredell County can be divided into five periods, some of them overlapping, others fairly distinct. There was a Frontier period, from the first settlers about 1749 until the formation of Iredell as a separate county in 1788. There was the Back Country period, from the formation of the county until the coming of railroads in 1858. Then came the Trading period, when Statesville had a monopoly on railroad transportation in the years just after the Civil War, a period followed by manufacturing when newer railroads took the trade to other towns. Finally, during the 20th century, came the Livestock period, when the agriculture of the county shifted from row crops to feed and pasture. The Trading period applies mainly to Statesville, and the Manufacturing period primarily to Statesville and Mooresville. The other three periods have been largely rural.

The Frontier period began with the earliest settlers, just before 1750. Like other American frontiers, it was marked by its cowboys, homesteaders, Indians, and outlaws. During that period the section that has become Iredell was the western part of Rowan County, which was formed in 1753, soon after the settlers began moving in. By the time Iredell was formed in 1788, most of the frontier aspects had passed from the scene. Land was granted after that, but most of the grants were made to speculators rather than to homesteaders. The Indians had been quieted in two wars. Whatever outlaws there were had lost the political connotation the term had acquired during the Revolutionary War, and the dream of making this a cattle country that some of the early settlers had faded into the background.

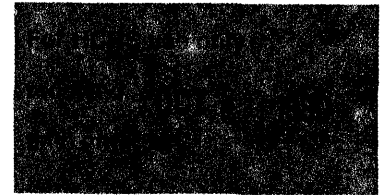
The Back Country period was a time of isolation and subsistence farming. Transportation was poor, and it was not economically feasible to ship out many of the commodities produced. Wagons were occasionally sent to Charleston and other South Carolina ports with distilled liquors and leather and a few other manufactured goods, and salt and a few luxuries were brought back; but most of the goods manufactured in the homes and small shops were used at home. Statesville was a county-seat town where county court met four times a year and after 1808 the Superior Court met twice a year, but it was by no means a large town. By the end of the Back Country period its population was not much more than 200 souls.

Statesville was lifted out of the rural back country suddenly in 1858, when the Western North Carolina Railroad came to town. The rest of the county felt the effects of improved transportation more slowly, but even then there was a wide difference between having to haul goods to market in Statesville and having to haul them to South Carolina. Statesville became a trading center where farmers from 17 counties brought their produce to trade it to the wholesalers for commodities which had been shipped in by rail.

The Trading period did not end as suddenly as it began. From the mid-1890s until well into the 1900s there was a gradual shift in Statesville from wholesale establishments to factories. Before 1890 a railroad had been built nearer the mountains at Taylorsville and another one was approaching Wilkesboro up from Winston to the Yadkin. The Statesville leaders saw the handwriting on the wall, that a railroad to the foot of the mountains on the Yadkin would bring an end to the hegemony that Statesville held over much of its back country, and they began to preach manufacturing as a way to economic salvation. At the same time the citizens of Mooresville began organizing for manufacturing, especially textiles.

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Manufacturing was not new to Iredell. Many of the settlers of the frontier had been artisans, but their sons tended to become farmers. Almost every home during the Back Country period made thread and cloth, and near the end of the period there were two water-driven cotton factories in north Iredell. At the same time every community had its distillery, often every farm, turning grain and fruit into a commodity that could economically be hauled out in wagons.

And there were wood-working shops that made furniture; wagon and coach shops; grist mills, making corn meal and wheat flour, and tanyards turning hides into leather.

During the Trading period the manufacture of tobacco and the blending of whisky by the wholesalers in Statesville played an important part in the economy of the town and county. There had been manufacturing from the first, but the movement that began in the 1890s, with its cotton mills, furniture factories, roller mills, and brick machines made manufacturing the main factor in the economic life of Statesville and Mooresville and had an impact on the county as a whole.

As Statesville shifted from a county-seat town, first to trading and then to manufacturing and Mooresville joined in the development of factories, the rural sections of the county gradually lost their back country aspects. Today better transportation and rural electrification have gone far toward erasing the differences between town and country. This is true of all rural North Carolina. In Iredell the change has been accompanied by a shift in agriculture from row crops such as cotton and tobacco to livestock and the grain to feed them, and Iredell has become the state's outstanding cattle county. Since the turn of the century farm agents and leaders had been insisting that cattle was a better way of farming, but the real shift to livestock began with the opening of the Carnation milk processing plant in 1939. That date can be used as the beginning of the fifth period in the story of Iredell.

In its story Iredell is like many of its neighboring counties--typically Piedmont. And it has more neighbors than any other county in the United States--Rowan and Davie on the east, Cabarrus and Mecklenburg on the south, Lincoln, Catawba and Alexander on the west, and Wilkes and Yadkin on the north. In general the story is much like all of those and of other Piedmont counties further away. In detail it is different. The plot of the drama is the same; the cast of characters is different, as are their entrances and the lines they speak.

Note: This account is Homer Keever's introduction to his history of Iredell County.  
(See Bibliography)

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

A. The historic resources of Iredell County, North Carolina, comprise a wide variety of buildings, districts, and areas representative of the pattern of rural antebellum culture and postwar urbanization that shaped this and other Piedmont North Carolina counties. A predominantly rural county in a predominantly rural state for most of its history, Iredell still retains a rural landscape; its modest vernacular farmhouses reflect the small farming operations so vital to the county's economic and social history. Log houses and small timber frame dwellings, with their attendant outbuildings, recall these small farms and create an important record of the retention of traditional building forms and construction techniques. The nominated resources thus include a substantial number of these modest, gable roofed log or frame dwellings, usually with exterior end chimneys, hall-parlor or three-room "Quaker" plans, and simple interior and exterior finish.

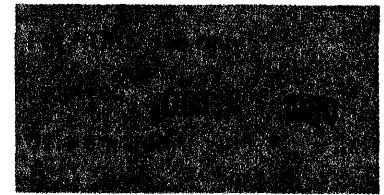
The agricultural economy, which improved in the late antebellum period, also supported the construction of a few imposing and even stylish farmhouses, where the impact of popular pattern books of the period--particularly Asher Benjamin's Practical House Carpenter--is evident. The sturdy, usually central hall-plan--frame and brick houses of the antebellum period, together with the notable Greek Revival churches of that era, are architecturally significant as their local versions of increasingly popular national styles and also as evidence of the increasing prosperity of the agrarian county in this period.

The churches are culturally significant as well, for they acted as focal points of the dispersed rural communities they served. The Presbyterian churches with their session houses reflecting their way of government, for example, reflect the Scots and Scotch-Irish heritage so important in Iredell and much of the Piedmont. Of cultural and religious significance, too, is the survival of a nineteenth century arbor, an open, roofed structure once a common type for religious observances, now rare--and a vital vestige of the eighteenth and nineteenth century great revival movement. The hand-forged iron cemetery gates and many old stones (gravestones) reflect the local artistic and crafts patterns.

The developments in industry, improved transportation (especially railroads), and industrialization that produced the renewal of the economy in the postwar era are reflected in the nominated districts in Statesville and Mooresville, the county's two main towns. As the agrarian antebellum life is illustrated by the farms and rural churches in their rural landscape, so in these districts is the rapid development of trading and commercial centers in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century clearly represented. Here compact and dense commercial streets are lined by boldly ornamented, brick commercial buildings, often with decorative metal fronts. The tightly packed streetscape with its fairly consistent and modest height, survives. A few imposing public or religious structures punctuate the districts. And in Mooresville the railroad station makes clear the importance of rail in the town's growth. Complementing the downtown area are the adjoining residential sections, whose generous lots, large trees, and

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modest buildings reflect the character of small-town North Carolina, here unusually well preserved. The houses, almost always frame, reflect again local versions of the Italianate, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Bungalow, and other popular current styles. They compose neighborhoods of unusual unity and completeness, communicating the character of small-town life and development that was so critical to North Carolina's pattern of urbanization in this period.

**B. Broad historical development of the area.**

The following account is by Gary Freeze, "Intangible Iredell," in An Inventory of Historic Architecture, Iredell County, N.C. Please note that the explanation of how the historic resources were chosen for inclusion in the nomination is given above in A.

When the Georges of England ruled North Carolina as a province, the first white men ventured into the forests between streams flowing eastward into the Yadkin River and westward into the Catawba. These stern Calvinists drifting south from Pennsylvania and Maryland in search of land, notched claims in what is today Iredell County.

These settlers of the late 1740s and early 1750s hewed timber for their first homes and in the clearings left around the stumps planted their first crops. Such cabins provided simple, sturdy shelter. None remains today, except for the two-storied log house on the South Yadkin River that family tradition says Robert Hill raised in 1763. The other log dwellings of the first generation of settlers have returned to the ground. Two early brick structures also remain, one erected on Fourth Creek by William Simonton and another built near Third Creek by James McElwraith.

Besides these dwellings, as yet undiscovered archaeological records, and a scattering of ornate and austere tombstones, few artifacts survive of this first generation. Traditions and records tell more. Early settlers like Walter Carruth, Alexander Osborne, and John Brevard are known to have been magistrates in Anson County, shortly after arriving on Coddle and Davidson creeks south of present-day Mooresville. Further north land deeds record that William Watts and John Oliphant settled near Fourth Creek, as did William Morrison on Third Creek. Morrison's marker claims he was "the first inhabitant in this country."

These Scotch-Irish, descendants of Scots transplanted in Ireland before coming to America, soon had to fight to stay where they settled. Cherokee warriors, fighting for the French in a struggle between England and France for mastery of the North American backcountry, attacked the cabins in the late 1750s. Many settlers sought safety at Fort Dobbs (NR), the outpost erected by the colony on a hill above Fourth Creek in 1756. Despite protection from Captain Hugh Waddell and provincial militia, more than one settler lost his life.

With the return to the mountains, more settlers came looking for land and filed claims with agents of the Earl of Granville, who still held title to much of the northern half of North Carolina.

Culture and community flowered with the thickening of settlement. Rev. Hugh McAden, an itinerant Presbyterian clergyman, recorded in his diary that in 1755 he preached at a meeting house near the homes of Walter Carruth and Alexander Osborne. Presbyterians in



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the same decade gathered outdoors near Fourth Creek to hear Rev. John Thompson preach. Coddle Creek, Centre, and Fourth Creek congregations grew out of these gatherings.

That area that is now Iredell became part of Rowan County in 1753, but by the American Revolution had become somewhat autonomous and gained the name "the western district." Whig leaders favoring independence and local rule often came from this western area.

Sons of the first generation grew powerful and influential during the war of independence. There was occasional war action. The British traversed south Rowan, scattering a band of militia at Torrence Tavern near today's Mt. Mourne and burning the home of Whig John Brevard because he had seven sons in the American army. After the British left, partisan warfare between Whig and Tory continued until peace was declared in 1783.

Education in the western district commenced during the 1760s when many young men learned the classics at Crowfield Academy just north of the Mecklenburg County line. Just before the Revolution Rev. James Hall started Clio's Nursery near Snow Creek, another academy which supplied educated men for community leadership. Rev. Hall also served as pastor of Fourth Creek Church and the new congregations of Bethany and Concord churches.

State politicians carved Iredell from Rowan County in 1788 as part of a compromise between representatives of the western counties, who were seeking more votes for their section, and Cape Fear Valley delegates who wanted votes for locating the new state capital in Fayetteville. The west gained a new county, but the capital was located in Raleigh. Iredell's name came from James Iredell of Edenton, a lawyer, judge, and later justice of the United States Supreme Court who had led the support of ratification by the state of the new Federal Constitution in 1788.

Like their ancestors, families in Iredell after 1800 generally farmed. Farming, for most, meant subsistence. Families grew what they had to eat; raised stock for meat, plowing, and transportation; and spun flax, cotton, and wool for cloth. Alexander Huggins, for example, a farmer near the site of Fort Dobbs, reported in the 1840 agricultural census that he produced one bale of cotton, cut 120 pounds of flax, and kept twenty-six sheep. Most of the 218 acres he cultivated brought forth grain and other foods for the twenty-six mouths he fed in his and his slaves' families. Corn and wheat took the most acreage.

Cash, when available, usually came from tobacco and cotton. Rufus Reid, who built Mount Mourne, the largest plantation house in the county, produced fifty bales of cotton in 1850. Large planters of cotton, which became a profitable crop after Eli Whitney patented the cotton gin in 1794, concentrated in the flatter lands of the southern part of the county. Tobacco grew better on the hills of northern Iredell. Most farmers could not adequately call themselves planters but instead belonged to the yeoman class of producers. Few yeomen owned slaves, and if they did, owner and slave generally worked in the fields side by side. Only a third of Iredell families owned slaves in 1850, and few of the 604 slaveholders had more than one. In contrast, Pinckney Chambers of Farmville Plantation owned 88, and Rufus Reid had 80.

Commerce, churches, and schools helped knit the fabric of community among rural folk in Iredell. William Feimster, and his son, Abner operated a mercantile center on the South Yadkin River called Liberty Hill. Mills like the one run by the Notley

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Tomlin family on Rocky Creek dotted the streams.

The religious revival spawned by the Great Awakening in America during the early 1800s filled Iredell with Methodist and Baptist churches. These denominations outdistanced the growth of the Presbyterians in the antebellum period. Camp meetings became popular gatherings for religious and social functions.

While new churches sprang from the enthusiasms of the converted, old congregations like Fourth Creek split during disputes about emotional religion. Methodists, founded congregations across the county. Baptists first formed a congregation in the shadow of Grassy Knob in northern Iredell in 1788. Other Baptists on the South Yadkin formed a church called New Hope in 1802. Lutherans came to the county by 1815, and Episcopalians formed one church in the antebellum period, St. James at Shinnville.

Schools also increased the sense of community, although the majority of residents attended little, if at all. After Clio's Nursery closed, Rev. James Hall started the Academy of the Arts and Sciences near his home at Bethany, where historians have claimed he became the first teacher in North Carolina of the natural sciences, preceding the courses at the University of North Carolina.

Soon after 1800 old field schools taught the basic "Rs"—and private academies like Hall's inaugurated the more gifted into the classics of Greek and Latin. Such schools depended upon the subscriptions of the parents of students. One academy, Ebenezer, built in 1822 near Bethany Church, retains the mottos painted on its walls by early students. Peter Stuart Ney, who may or may not have been the exiled Grand Marshall of the Emperor Napoleon, Michel Ney, taught at other Iredell schools.

Presbyterians led efforts to found academies in the early 1800s, and just before the Civil War Methodists founded a boarding school in northern Iredell which they hoped would grow into the Methodist College of North Carolina.

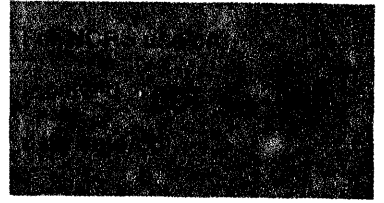
Efforts at female education in Iredell gained support during the antebellum period. Plans for a female college originated among the leaders of Concord Presbytery, and by 1856 John B. Tinsley served as president for the new Concord Female Institute at the end of Broad Street in Statesville. Today the building houses Mitchell Community College.

Entrepreneurs in antebellum Iredell foresaw that streams could provide power for doing more than grinding grain and cutting timber. Mills were continued on the sites past the turn of the 20th century.

Statesville, the only true town in the county before the Civil War, grew slowly. Lawyers, doctors, merchants, tavern keepers, and tradesmen comprised the bulk of its citizens. Homes and businesses were erected on lots along Broad and Center streets leading from the square. Eventually homes reached the "suburban" area around Fourth Creek Church (near Mitchell College). Methodists started the town's second church, a congregation called Mt. Zion. Fourth Creek Church was used by several academies for teaching both boys and girls of the town.

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Some industry thrived in the village. Blacksmiths always found work, and carriage shops enjoyed steady business. Silas A. Sharpe operated the largest tanyard in town and built one of the town's finest houses. Cobblers, tailors, and hatmakers also plied their trades to fill demands from the surrounding farming communities.

Railroads closed a communications gap between Statesville and the outside world caused by poor roads. The western extension of the North Carolina Railroad from Salisbury reached Statesville in 1858, and an increase in commerce soon followed. A second railroad, the Atlantic, Tennessee & Ohio, was completed to town before the Civil War.

Iredell had voted conservatively since its formation, and been consistently Whig in politics during the antebellum period. The county's sole resident Congressman had been Joseph P. Caldwell in the 1850s. Although the county opposed secession of North Carolina from the Union local men answered a call to arms once the Confederacy was formed.

The drain of men and resources by the Civil War hindered growth. Back home, the local militia worked to control the deserters and other bushwhackers who operated out of the Brushy Mountains. Union troops under General George Stoneman captured Statesville in 1865 and burned a building loaded with cotton. After Stoneman left Governor Zebulon B. Vance fled Raleigh and made Statesville his headquarters before surrendering to Union officers.

After the war Statesville grew as a trading center. The Wallace Brothers ranked first among the mercantile families. In addition to operating a successful wholesale and retail general merchandise, the Wallaces also owned the largest herbarium in the United States. The Wallaces traded manufactured goods for produce from the countryside, for example, shipping 20 carloads of blackberries during 1890. Farmers from the Brushies in Iredell and other counties collect the desired medicinal herbs and roots, especially the prized ginseng, and bartered at local country stores for goods.

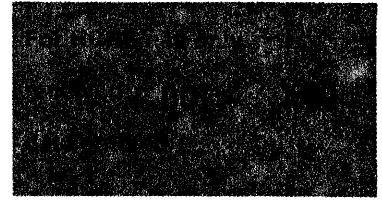
The local merchants in turn traded herbs and other products of the land to the Wallaces for wholesale goods. Other Statesville merchants, among them J. K. Morrison and N. B. Mills, also profited from this barter trade.

Cotton surpassed herbs and produce as a source of wealth. Rail facilities made Statesville a marketing center for the local cotton economy. J. J. Mott's marketing firm, which did business with firms in Liverpool and New England, gave him the wealth and influence to become prominent in Republican and Populist Party politics in the 1880s and 1890s. Banks were founded as commerce increased. The First National Bank moved into a building on the square in 1890. What later became First Savings and Loan had been formed in 1886.

Prosperity came from other industries. Statesville was the center of the distilling industry of North Carolina in the 1880s. Wholesalers like P. B. Key and Co. marketed liquor produced at small, government-licensed distilleries throughout the county.

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Tobacco remained a source of wealth. Chewing and smoking products were marketed from Statesville factories. James H. McElwee marketed the best-known brand, "Indian Girl." As many as eight factories and warehouses operated in town during the period. J. C. Steele, who abandoned other enterprises to make brick and brick-making machinery gained an international market for his products after the turn of the 20th century.

Mooresville in southern Iredell, formed in the 1870s at a railroad siding, for a few years rivaled Statesville as a cotton marketing center and captured the commerce of the southern region of the county. A smaller town, Troutman, grew up on the AT&O Railroad between Mooresville and Statesville.

While agriculture remained the basis for Iredell's economy farmers suffered in the postbellum period. Many freed slaves became sharecroppers on the lands of former planters, and hard times forced some white farmers into this form of economic bondage. Iredell had strong spokesmen for the grievances of farmers during the 1880s and 1890s, including J. L. Ramsey of the Dooley community who became editor of The Progressive Farmer. Tobacco production prospered best in northern Iredell, and cotton was concentrated on farms to the south end of the county.

As Statesville grew commercially, so did the urban environment. Neighborhoods grew up around Walnut and Mulberry streets and along Davie Avenue. Professor J. H. Hill provided a fine education for the young men of the town at the Statesville Male Academy beginning in the 1870s. Public schools for the town youth opened for blacks on Green Street and whites on Mulberry Street before the turn of the century. The building on Mulberry Street is still used by the city system. Street lights, firefighting, water pipes, fine hotels, and a variety of shops added to the urban Victorian atmosphere of the town.

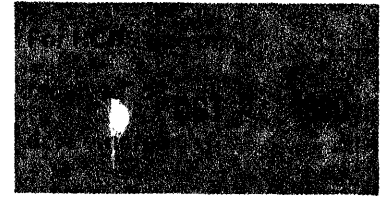
A shift in commercial emphasis from trading to manufacturing launched Iredell, Statesville, and Mooresville into the new century. As early as 1887 The Landmark, the town's first substantial newspaper, had declared manufacturing to be the hope of the community. By 1900 leading citizens initiated industrial development.

Cotton mills dominated early industrial development. The Statesville Land Development and Manufacturing Company made an aborted attempt in the 1890s to start a mill. Not until 1894 did a new company actually open the Statesville Cotton Mills. Leading merchants like the Wallaces, J. K. Morrison, and N. B. Mills held the principal stock. Two new cotton mills--Bloomfield and Paola--opened under the leadership of Mills by 1910. Mooresville also opened a cotton mill in 1894 and had opened two more by 1907.

Except for mill villages at Turnersburg, Eagle Mills and East Monbo on the Catawba River, the county remained devoted to agriculture. Churches, stores, and schools continued to be centers of community life.

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C. Major historical figures and events related to the MRA are described in B above.

D. Areas of significance with specific examples:

Agriculture: Farm complexes include the following properties:

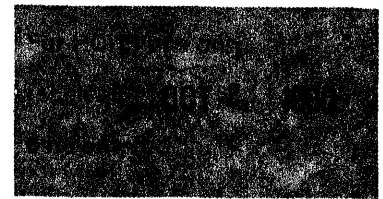
1. Henry Eccles House, c. 1861. Late Greek Revival center-hall plan with four rooms up and four down. This is unusual in the area—most are 2/2. Associated with the house is a two-story half dovetail log barn. The house is well-preserved and little altered.
2. Perciphull Campbell House, c. 1820. Transitional Georgian-Federal details. House is hall and parlor plan. With the associated 19th century outbuildings this makes up a farmstead of simple but well-preserved finish.
3. Waddle (Waddell)-Click Farm, c. 1830. House is of log construction with many fine Federal interior features. The exterior has been considerably altered. The farm contains the "finest and most intact collections of antebellum farm outbuildings (log) in Iredell County . . ." The outbuildings are primarily half-dovetail construction with shake roofs and wooden shutter and door hinges.

Architecture: As noted in A, above, and assessed in the description, the individually nominated properties exemplify various aspects of the county's architectural development. These include the following types:

1. Log houses, showing various types of notching and floor plans:
  - A. See Ebenezer Academy, Churches, #G.
  - B. Davidson House. House and farm outbuildings. Weatherboarded log (half dovetail) hall and parlor plan c. 1805. The house was enlarged and remodeled in the Federal style c. 1830. House has unaltered interior detailing and front porch is flush-sheathed and has a paneled wainscot which matches the interior wainscot. (Porch as extra room)
  - C. Walls-Houston House. Weatherboarded log. Two-story, flemish bond chimneys, hall and parlor plan.
2. Early frame houses, with hall-parlor, three-room, or central passage plans and notable simple woodwork.
  - A. Feimster House, c. 1790-1810. Traditional Georgian-Federal finish, three-room Quaker plan. The house is unaltered and still shows original paint and detailing. The interior is flush-sheathed still showing original paint.
  - B. King-Flowers-Keaton House, c. 1800. Two-story modified Quaker plan house which reflects primarily Georgian interiors with minor alterations in the late Victorian style.
  - C. Falls-Hobbs House, c. 1800. A two-and one-half story, three by two bay farm house. The house style spans the Georgian, Federal and Greek Revival periods with alterations made to it during each period. The interior is a modified center hall Quaker plan with corner fireplaces. The exterior is altered through additions but good flemish bond exterior end chimneys remain.

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- D. Welch-Nicholson House, c.?. Center hall "I" house, one room deep. The house is Georgian-Federal transition with good woodwork and some original paint.
- E. Cornelius House, c. 1820-1830. A rare example of the academic Palladian tripartite house in western North Carolina. The house has a two-story central block with one story flanking wings. The exterior is somewhat compromised by Victorian additions. The interiors are well-preserved Federal style typical of the area.
3. Ambitious antebellum houses, reflecting growing prosperity and popular style:
- A. Morrison-Campbell House, ca.?. Late antebellum house exhibiting ambitious Greek Revival woodwork. The house is two stories of the modified Quaker plan. The rear ell contains fine Federal mantels which suggest an earlier origin for the house. The vernacular Greek Revival detailing is distinctive.
- B. Gaither house c.?. The Gaither house is unpretentious in plan and style but it exhibits high quality of Greek Revival detail, both exterior and interior, which sets it apart.
- C. Holland-Summers House, 1850. A handsome brick Greek Revival house with bold pilasters which distinguish it from the common Greek Revival architecture found in this county.
- D. Henry Turner House and Caldwell-Turner Mill Site, c. 1860. This house represents a more substantial, utilitarian form of the Greek Revival style. The interiors are well-preserved and the bold Greek Revival mantels reflect a Georgian influence. Associated with the house is the site of the mill built by Henry Turner which operated successfully for many years.
- E. Daltonia, 1858. Daltonia is one of the most architecturally significant houses in the county. It exhibits a richness of detail, both interior and exterior unrivaled in the area. The house is associated with the Dalton family who were the largest tobacco-producers in the county, and were involved in the early tobacco industry of the area.
- F. Hargrave House, c. 1860. Impressive Greek Revival house with sophisticated detailing and design. The house was built by John Hargrave who was a successful cotton planter. The house is well-preserved and largely unaltered.
- G. McClelland-Davis House, 1830-1845. Distinctive Federal-Greek Revival transition house which borrows heavily from Owen Biddle's Young Carpenter's Assistant. Two-over-two; flush-sheathed walls, contemporary outbuildings.
- H. Woodlawn, c. 1840. A most sophisticated example of the Federal-Greek Revival transition architecture to the region. The house borrows from Owen Biddle's Young Carpenter's Assistant, as do several houses in the area. The house is associated with Dr. George Stinson who was a prominent local planter and a trustee of Davidson College.
4. Notable churches showing local versions of popular styles, fine local craftsmanship, etc.:
- A. Key Memorial Chapel-1898. First Roman Catholic church in county. "Fine example of the Gothic Revival style." Adaptive reuse as lawyer's offices.
- B. Center Street AME Zion Church-1903. Handsome brickwork and Late Gothic Revival style.

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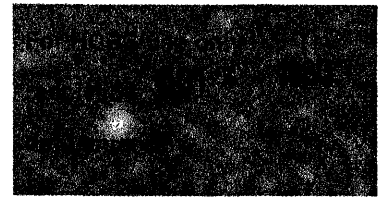
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- C. Bethesda Presbyterian Church, Session House, and Cemetery-1853. Oldest church in county. Design is unique in religious architecture in county. Basically Greek Revival with simple interiors. Exterior-recessed balcony and lattice-work posts above enclosed vestibule. Unusual in this area of the state.
- D. Snow Creek Methodist Church and Burying Ground, 1884-1885. Cemetery pre-dates church building. Church est. 1780, though most stones date after 1800. Many imaginative vernacular stones-two especially good ones: 1. Mary Feimster, 1810, Greek draped woman, seated; Col. Wm. Feimster, 1842, Man.
- E. Damascus Baptist Church Arbor-1855, 1907-1909. One of the oldest remaining religious structures in county. Specialized form of religious architecture. Cemetery associated with arbor.
- F. Centre Presbyterian Church, Session House and Cemetery-1854. Regional Greek Revival with bold brick work and pedimented gable ends. Another example of the imaginative stonecutters' work in the county in the cemetery.
- G. Bethany Presbyterian Church and Ebenezer Academy. Ebenezer Academy-1823. From 1823-1856 this log (half-dovetail) building served as an academy. From 1856-1903 it was a subscription school. It has been heavily "restored"-1913, 1945 and 1968. Bethany Presbyterian Church-1855. Simple frame Greek Revival Church.
- H. Coddle Creek ARP Church-1885. Late Greek Revival/late Italianate church with imaginative wrought iron fence and the imaginative stones found elsewhere in the county.
5. Postwar architecture, showing new picturesqueness and complexity, plus the work of local and regional mills decorative components:
- Mooresville District
  - E. W. Brawley House
  - South Broad Street Row, Mooresville
  - E. Broad/Davie Avenue District, Statesville
  - Academy Hill District
  - Statesville Commercial District
  - Mitchell College District
- A. Col. Silas Alexander Sharpe House, c. late 1860s. This house was begun in 1860 but was not completed until after the Civil War. It is a sophisticated example of the Classical Revival style. In the late 1930s the house was heavily remodeled inside in the Adamesque Revival style but the exterior retains its original integrity.
- B. Espy Watts Brawley House, 1904. A grand classical Queen Anne house which reflects the prominence of its builder, Espy Watts Brawley who was an industrialist in Mooresville at the turn of the twentieth century.
- C. Morrison-Mott House, c. 1905. An example of Neo-Classical style exterior with Colonial Revival interiors. The house has had several prominent owners all of whom have preserved the integrity and fine quality of the house.
- D. The McElwee Houses, early twentieth century. A group of four late 19th, early 20th century houses built by members of the John H. McElwee family. The houses at 122 and 126 Water Street are Neo-Classical in design with some Colonial Revival influence. The houses at 134 and 140 Water street

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were remodeled in the 1920s and exhibit a strong Neo-Classical influence although the house at 140 Water Street is more Bungalowoid in style.

Commerce: The Mooresville and Statesville districts exemplify in their several buildings the development of commerce as a result of the railroad and in correlation with urbanization and industrial growth.

Education: The Academy Hill District centers on an important early academy and the people associated with it.

Religion: The several modest rural churches exemplify the importance of churches as expressions of ethnic/cultural origins and as focal points of the social life of rural communities. The Center Street A.M.E. Zion Church represents the importance of separate black congregations as a focus and expression of the black co-munity after the Civil War and Emancipation.

Transportation: The Mooresville Depot (in the Mooresville District), the arrangement along the railroad of the Mooresville commercial buildings, and the existence and orientation of the South Broad Street Row in Mooresville clearly exemplify the critical role of rail transportation in the development of Mooresville as a trading center.



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The following description of Iredell County's architectural development and patterns comes from Ruth Little-Stokes's essay, "The Built Environment of Iredell County: Mid-Eighteenth Century to World War I," in An Inventory of Historic Architecture, Iredell County, N. C. (1978)--the publication produced by Ms. Little-Stokes's comprehensive inventory of the county upon which the multiple resource nomination is based. Those properties mentioned in her essay that are included in the multiple resource nomination are underlined here. Properties already listed in the National Register are marked with an asterisk. The references to other properties in the inventory are retained to suggest a context for the nominated properties.

The Iredell County inventory revealed a building tradition dominated by log as a building material until a century ago, and a social system dominated by the middle class, for the shacks and mansions comprise less than five percent of the total number of buildings surveyed in this 165 year period. It must be noted, however, that most of the shacks, by definition poorly constructed, have disappeared.

Twenty-eight percent of Iredell's population in 1850 were slaves, in contrast to neighboring Mecklenburg's 40 percent. Not surprisingly, the 1850 census listing of the twenty-five Iredell farmers who owned over twenty slaves and can be labeled "planters," includes many of the owners, or possible owners, of the plantation houses and stylish smaller houses. The list contains the names of Joseph Chambers (Farmville Plantation/Darshana)\*, Rufus Reid (Mount Mourne)\*, Alexander Huggins (Ft. Dobbs Plantation), J. H. Dalton (Daltonia), Perciphull Campbell (Campbell House on Hunting Creek), and Edwin Falls (Falls-Hobbs House). By far the majority of Iredell's citizens were small farmers and the prototypical Iredell County house is one and one-half or two-story house of five or six rooms with one exterior end chimney. This basic type remains consistent throughout the county, whether found in the fertile fields of south Iredell or the Brushy Mountains of north Iredell.

The following analysis of the rural buildings in the inventory is primarily concerned with houses, which constitute 95 percent of the total. The other 5 percent are churches, which are discussed in a separate section at the end of the essay. The houses are categorized by building materials and size rather than by the more usual stylistic classification. Stylistic labels are rarely applicable to the plain houses of Iredell County. The analysis proceeds from the small houses to the medium-sized houses and closes with the plantation houses. This unorthodox order reflects the fact that the small houses built by plain folks, whose names are forgotten, and who left no written records, are just as significant in the study of Iredell County's historic architecture as the plantation houses built by the aristocracy. The architectural beauty of the typical 19th century house in Iredell County lies not in grandeur or decorative accessories but in the quality of materials and construction such as the closely fitted, carefully notched log walls, and the texture and workmanship of the brick and stone chimney. Integral to this beauty is the neat logic of the floor plan consisting of a large living room

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with a fireplace and a winding stair in the chimney corner, two small rooms opposite the chimney wall, sturdy batten doors hung on long handmade iron hinges, and hand-smoothed ceiling beams.

LOG BUILDINGS

The most significant discovery of the inventory is the surprisingly high incidence of log construction. Eighty of the 179 houses included in the rural inventory - or approximately 50 percent - are of log construction. Seventy of the 127 houses built before 1865, or approximately 60 percent, are built of log. The use of log in dwelling construction during the 19th century was not an indication of lower socio-economic status. Log was simply a traditional and very functional construction method in a county with an abundance of timber (more than 40 percent of the county is still forested today) and relatively cold winters. Log houses are of comparable construction quality to their frame counterparts, and are just as likely to have some stylistic features. The only distinction between log and frame buildings, besides the method of wall construction, is size. The breakdown in log and frame construction is revealing: one and one-half story: 35 log, 13 frame; two-story: 45 log, 80 frame. Six of the houses are of brick. (A one story house has no windows in the attic.) Log was obviously the preferred construction material for smaller houses.

The floor plans of Iredell's log houses follow an almost unvarying pattern: the standard plan for one story houses is the Quaker plan, with the two small rooms serving as bedrooms. The name of this plan is derived from its endorsement as an ideal floor by William Penn, the Quaker founder of Philadelphia, in a tract published in 1684. Penn recommended that settlers build a rectangular house, divided near the middle by a partition, with a second partition dividing one end of the house into two small rooms. The large room should have a fireplace and a corner stair. The small rooms may or may not have fireplaces.

The standard plan for two-story Iredell houses is the hall and parlor plan, containing one large room and one small room on the first floor, leaving the second floor for bedrooms. None of the log houses has original center hall plans, although many of them have been converted to this arrangement. The log wall dimensions were prescribed by tree height, and there simply wasn't room for the luxury of hallways.

The six one-story log houses are particularly interesting, because they include both the supposed oldest log house and the youngest log house found during the inventory. The log house without a loft may represent an early stage in the evolution of domestic log construction, a simple frontier type constructed during the county's 18th century settlement period. Log buildings are extremely difficult to date, since technological evidence like saw marks and nails are almost totally lacking in their construction. Based on the relative size of the chimney and the full dovetail corner notching (the only example found in the entire county), it is likely that the Duke-Cornelius House, a one-

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story log house, was built in the late 18th century. It has one of the two largest chimneys relative to the size of the house found in Iredell County.

House (No. 151) a one-story log house on the northwest side of SR 1569 near Scotts may also be late 18th century, for its rear batten door is constructed with handmade "rosehead" nails which are characteristic of the 18th century. Two of the other one-story log buildings, Ebenezer Academy (1826), and the Thomas E. Templeton House (No. 238), ca. 1850, are said to have been built as schools, which may explain the absence of a sleeping loft. The youngest log house, the Arch Sloan House (No. 184) is a small hall-and-parlor plan structure with a ladder stair to the windowless loft, built ca. 1900. Of less substantial construction than the typical 19th century Iredell log house, it may have been built as temporary shelter.

The larger of the two Setzer Log Houses (No. 60) fig. 2 on Lake Norman was so representative that it can be considered the prototypical Iredell log house. (It burned recently). The one and one-half story rectangular building measured roughly 15 x 30 feet, with one exterior end chimney. It had a quaker (three-room) plan. The hand-hewn logs were joined at the corners with half-dovetail notches, Fig. 3. There was no evidence of clay chinking between the logs, and the house was and has probably always been weather-boarded.

Close versions of the south Setzer Log House are found from Coddle Creek to New Hope townships with only geographic variation: the ratio of fieldstone to brick in chimney construction rises gradually from south Iredell to north Iredell. This variation is strikingly consistent. South Iredell houses, such as the Setzer House, have brick chimneys set on low fieldstone bases. Central Iredell houses, roughly located between Third Creek and the South Yadkin River, have chimneys with high fieldstone bases and brick upper body and stack construction. North Iredell chimneys have stone bodies and brick stacks, and many of the small houses in the extreme north have chimneys built completely of fieldstone. Quarried stone is almost nonexistent in Iredell County. It was found only in south Iredell, at larger houses such as the Hargrave House, the Seigler House (No. 12), and Mt. Mourne\* (No. 30).

Log houses elsewhere in North Carolina demonstrate variations in corner-notching and in shape which, strangely enough, do not occur in Iredell's log house. Only four of the log houses whose corner notchings were visible are not half-dovetailed: the Duke-Cornelius House which has full dovetail notching, and the Robertson House (No. 210); the Samuel Hayes House (No. 211); and the Fait Cain House (No. 218) in the Houstonville vicinity, which have V-notching.

This consistency of corner notching is remarkable. In Caswell, Guilford, and Franklin counties - the other North Carolina counties with a log heritage in which complete inventories have been conducted - a relatively even distribution of half-dovetail, V-notching, and square notching was found. A possible explanation for Iredell's unusual homogeneity is the fact that the county (as were the eastern Piedmont counties) was settled almost entirely from the north

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by Scotch-Irish and Germans who travelled the "Great Wagon Road" from Pennsylvania south through Virginia, rather than up the rivers from the east. Another reason might be the relative isolation of Iredell County in comparison to the counties to the east, with correspondingly less stimulus from diverse cultural sources.

This is reinforced by another difference in the log tradition of Iredell and other Piedmont counties: the lack of variation in the plan of Iredell's log houses. Not a single example of the "dog trot" log house (a pair of log units with an open center passageway) or of the "saddlebag" log house (a pair of log units with a center chimney) was found in the county. These two log house types are relatively common in other counties. Yet the double crib log barn found throughout Iredell is the dog trot without chimneys. Perhaps it was considered an animal form rather than a people form. Only two double "pen" or room log houses were found: the White House (No. 161) in the Harmony vicinity and the Holton House (No. 114) in the Statesville vicinity. Iredell's log houses merely repeat the basic rectangular shape of the small frame house. Perhaps the building traditions elsewhere responsible for these specialized log houses were not present in Iredell County.

A few isolated deviations from the Iredell County log norm occur. One example is the Watts House (No. 242), Union Grove vicinity, built ca. 1850, whose gable roof extends around the chimney stack. This is a standard log construction feature in some regions of the United States, but is quite rare in North Carolina. This is its only known occurrence in Iredell County. Another unique occurrence is the original rear Dutch door found in the Montgomery House (No. 117) fig. 5, Cool Spring vicinity, built ca. 1840. The upper and lower halves of the door are divided, each hung on a pair of iron strap hinges. The front door of the Sharpe Bros. Grist Mill (No. 188), built ca. 1880, is also a Dutch door, but is less remarkable since found in a commercial context. In the author's experience, the only other incidence in North Carolina of the residential Dutch door before the Civil War is at Old Salem, the Moravian village in Forsyth County. It is, therefore, quite possible that the Dutch door was imported to the county by German settlers.

#### SMALL STYLISH HOUSES

Iredell County's building tradition includes a group of small but stylish houses of both log and frame construction, built between ca. 1800 and ca. 1830 by the smaller planters. "Styles" in historic American architecture consist of revivals of past architectural modes, notably from the Greek, Roman (referred to jointly as classical), Gothic, and Renaissance periods, popularized by published pattern books which circulated throughout the United States. The stylish log houses are the Davidson House, ca. 1800 and ca. 1820; Falls-Hobbs House early-19th century; Allison House (No. 44) in Statesville, early 19th century; Walls-Houston House, ca. 1820; Waddell-Click House, ca. 1820; and the House on the east side of SR 1886, Olin vicinity (No. 179), ca. 1830. The stylish frame houses are the Feimster House, ca. 1800; the Holman-Adams House (No. 126), ca. 1800; the Mellon

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House (No. 2), ca. 1800; the Reese House (No. 131), ca. 1820; the Alexander Huggins House (No. 96), ca. 1825; the Bell-Guffy House (No. 120), ca. 1830; and the Robert Holmes House (No. 209), ca. 1840. The decorative finish of these houses includes mantelpieces; moldings around doors, windows, and ceilings; paneled doors and wainscots, paneled exterior shutters; beaded weatherboard; and front porches with chamfered posts, all derived from illustrations in the pattern books.

All of these houses, both frame and log, have apparently been weatherboarded since their construction. The only log house in the group whose logs were visible was the Davidson House, and its logs had apparently never been chinked, indicating that the weatherboard is original. All of the houses have interior flush boarding which seems to match the rest of the interior trim, perhaps another indication that they have always been weatherboarded. Only one of the group, the Holman-Adams House, has interior plastered walls, although the Davidson House may have original plaster beneath its fake paneling. Plaster was a refinement seldom seen in this area of western North Carolina during the Federal period.

Although the decoration of the frame houses is no more elaborate than that of the log houses in this group, the floor plans show much more variety, an indication of the greater flexibility of frame construction. Two of the earliest frame houses, the Holman-Adams House and the Feimster House, have unique floor plans. They apparently represent ancient building traditions and are the only known examples of these traditions in Iredell County, though heavily altered.

The kitchen of the Feimster House, fig. 8, a one and one-half story rectangular house of comparable design sophistication, was apparently located on the gable end also, although it has disappeared. The interior end chimney has a large fireplace on the outside face, and the only stair to the loft rises from the exterior gable end beside the chimney. It is likely that the exterior fireplace and stair were originally enclosed inside a shed kitchen on this end of the house. The Feimster House also has a unique example of a wooden coved roof cornice, which is typical 18th century feature in New England, and a sloping site which allows a partial fieldstone basement under the south end of the house.

#### PLANTATIONS

The large, very stylish houses built by the county's largest planters, usually known as "plantation houses," bear little resemblance to one another but differ substantially from the smaller log and frame houses, however stylish. The plantation houses differ most fundamentally in that their form is dictated by aesthetic and economic factors rather than by the limitation of the building materials as in log construction. The following houses are generally considered to rank as plantation houses: Joseph Chambers House (Farmville Plantation/Darshana)\*, ca. 1818; Cornelius House, ca. 1830; Johnson-Neel House\*, ca. 1830; Rufus Reid House (Mt. Mourne)\*, ca. 1835; Dr. Stinson House (Woodlawn), ca. 1840; McClelland House (No. 144), ca. 1845; J. H. Dalton House (Daltonia), ca. 1850; Holland-Summers House, ca. 1860. The Col. S. A. Sharpe House in Statesville,

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ca. 1860, was built as a town house but belongs to this group. These grand houses represent a number of architectural traditions.

The Joseph Chambers House\*, an elegant Federal style two-story brick house, stands alone as the only example in the county of the narrow rectangular brick houses native to the Delaware River Valley of Pennsylvania and New Jersey and brought south into western North Carolina in the late 18th century. This sturdy brick German tradition is strong in surrounding counties such as Guilford, Rowan, and Lincoln. Use of alternating glazed header bricks to form decorative brick patterns is a strong element in this Delaware River Valley tradition, and although it is not present at Farmville, it does appear in chimneys scattered throughout eastern Iredell County. The chimneys of the Reese House (No. 131), McClelland Log House, Elam Ettinger House (No. 86), the House on the east side of SR 1886 (No. 179) in the Olin vicinity, and the Christopher Houston House (No. 213) have decorative diamond patterns formed by glazed header bricks. The finest example of this Middle Atlantic tradition is the Houston House chimney.

The Cornelius House, a frame house situated on a knoll above Lake Norman, is highly significant. It is perhaps the westernmost example in North Carolina of the elegant Palladian plan, with a two-story central block and flanking one-story wings, which was popular in Virginia in the 18th century and spread throughout the South in the 19th century. The beauty of the exterior massing has been marred by late Victorian additions, but the original interior, of late Federal design, is well-preserved, fig. 11. Especially interesting is the transverse hall with an open stair located between the front parlor and rear bedroom. The house is in almost ruinous condition, however, and needs emergency stabilization.

The Johnson-Neel House\*, Mt. Mourne\* (No. 30), Woodlawn, and the McClelland House, all two-story structures built within the 1830-1845 period in the Greek Revival style, are closely related and were perhaps designed and built by the same architect-builder. Each of these houses has a center hall with a spiral staircase decorated with the delicate tulip brackets popularized by Asher Benjamin and published in 1810 by his imitator, Owen Biddle, in the book, Young Carpenter's Assistant, fig. 13. Each by contrast has sturdy, plain Greek Revival style mantelpieces, and, with the exception of the Johnson-Neel House, beautifully proportioned classical front porches. In addition to the refinement of the woodwork, these houses are also distinguished from other classical revival style houses in the county in their proportions, being more generous and elegant than any other dwellings in Iredell County.

A second group of Greek Revival houses, Daltonia, the Col. S. A. Sharpe House, and the Holland-Summers House were built during a later phase of the Greek Revival period, between ca. 1850 and 1865, and have no design features in common. Each is a maverick, although Daltonia does relate to a few smaller houses in the vicinity like the Morrison-Campbell House and the house on SR 2120 (No. 207), Harmony vicinity.

Built for tobacco manufacturer John Dalton, Daltonia is a two-story frame structure with a two-story pedimented front portico which combines classical and quite

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unclassical motifs, such as the juxtaposition of curvilinear wooden porch posts, (a translation of fancy porch ironwork into wood), with the elegant sheaf-of-wheat porch railing. Another amusing juxtaposition is the delicate semicircular window in the pediment of the portico with the strange, floral decoration in the corners of the rectangular window frame. Both of the simple Greek Revival houses which relate to Daltonia have latticework porch posts which are plain echoes of the delightfully lively floral porch woodwork of Daltonia. The anonymous architect-builder of these houses was aware of current architectural fashion, but was no slavish, provincial imitator.

The Holland-Summers House, a two-story brick house of Greek Revival design, has dramatic classical features which link it to the Helper Hotel in Davidson, Mecklenburg County, built ca. 1848. The facades of both brick buildings have two-story stuccoed Doric pilasters between each bay which exert a strong vertical rhythm. The Helper Hotel is believed to have been built by Lewis Dinkins, the builder of the Dialectic and Philanthropic Society Halls at Davidson College about 1835. Davidson is just south of Iredell County, and it is possible that Baker Holland, the wagon maker for whom the Holland-Summers House was built, came into contact with the classical design of Lewis Dinkins on one of his regular journeys to Atlanta to sell his wagons and commissioned Dinkins to design his own house.

The Col. Sharpe House in Statesville, fig. 16, a two-story frame Classical Revival style house with four exterior end chimneys and a front portico with a balcony, would be quite compatible in the Garden District of New Orleans or a suburb of Savannah, such is its Deep South flavor. Unfortunately, the builder or architect is unknown. The portico, has unusual delicate columns carved to resemble a sheaf of slender stalks, and a balcony with an elegant turned wooden balustrade. The crossetted entrance is similar to the published designs of the noted New York architect Asher Benjamin. The French doors which flank the center bay at both levels of the portico also have crossetted moldings but these may have been added when the house was remodelled in the 20th century. The only original interior decorative features which survived the remodelling is the main parlor mantel, on the south side, whose clustered stalk pilasters closely resemble the portico columns.

The Morrison-Campbell is the most interesting of a group of simpler Greek Revival style houses, built between ca. 1850 and ca. 1860 by builders with limited knowledge of the classical proportions upon which the earlier and more sophisticated group of Greek Revival style plantation houses were based. The group includes the Eccles House, and Vaughn's Mill Place in Cool Spring; the Dr. Bell Gaither House in the Harmony vicinity; and the Hargrave House, east of Mooresville. The woodwork of several of these houses, especially the Morrison-Campbell House, is a fascinating example of the translation of stylish, imported Greek Revival ornament into folk patterns. The front door framework, and the mantels of the Morrison-Campbell House are composed of dozens of narrow strips of wood arranged in geometrical patterns based on the Greek Revival moldings popular during the period. These patterns are almost a translation of needlework, perhaps

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quilting designs, into wood.

**POSTBELLUM BUILDINGS**

In the country outside the towns, two late 19th century-early 20th century house types dominate the rural landscape. The first is a two-story gabled frame house with exterior or interior chimneys and a one-story front porch. This is a continuation of the dominant antebellum house type in a somewhat enlarged form. Well preserved examples of this type are the Jesse Lippard House (No. 67) fig. 20, and the house on SR 1575, Central vicinity, (No. 192). The front cross-gable and gingerbread, frequent decorative elements on this type, represent stripped-down echoes of the Gothic Revival style which was popular throughout the United States in the second half of the 19th century. Gothic Revival cottages were first designed in the 1840s by A. J. Downing, a New York architect, and popularized through the many books which he published, such as *The Architecture of Country Houses* of 1850. The only true Downing style cottages in rural Iredell County are the Mayhew House (No. 37) fig. 21, and the James Butler House (No. 162). Both were built about 1890 and are one and one-half story frame houses with gabled rooflines and delightfully ornate jigsawn woodwork.

The second dominant turn-of-the-century rural house type is a one and one-half story frame cottage with a pyramidal hip roof, interior chimneys, and the ever-present front porch. A good example is the Rimmer House (No. 89), once an East Monbo mill house, now in the Kyles Crossroads vicinity, fig. 22.



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**OUTBUILDINGS**

A remarkably large number of original farm outbuildings remain with Iredell's early houses, including barns, smokehouses, corncribs, well-houses, and tobacco barns. These outbuildings are invariably constructed of log, with the same corner notching techniques and quality of construction as the log houses. The prototypical 19th century house has either a barn or a smokehouse, and often both, a testament to the continuity of Iredell's agricultural economy.

Two basic barn types predominated in Iredell County in the 19th century. Type One is a rectangular log structure measuring approximately 15 x 25 feet, one or two stories in height, and consisting of two independent log units, or cribs, with an open passageway, called a runway, in the center, tied together by the roof structure. A well-preserved example of this type is the Fait Harmon Barn (No. 173), SR 1894 in the Charles vicinity, fig. 23. The Harmon Barn has a hollowed log trough which was built into the framework of the barn during construction and extends the depth of the left crib. A variation of Type One which occurs frequently is the single crib log barn which is simply half of the double crib barn. The single crib almost invariably has a shed porch along one of the flank sides. A well-preserved example of this subtype is at the Summers House (No. 107), Bradford Crossroads vicinity.

Barn Type Two is a single rectangular log unit, of approximately the same proportions, separated into a narrow center section and larger end sections by log partition walls. The center section generally has a front door, and one or both of the end sections will usually have doors. A well-preserved example of this type is the Calvin Shinn Barn, which faces the house on SR 2383, (No. 49), in Shinnville, fig. 24. One factor in the survival of such large numbers of 19th century barns is that many now have enclosed runways and multiple shed porch additions which enable them to function in the 20th century.

In the late 19th century, the log barn gave away to the frame barn. The most recent example of a log barn found during the inventory is the Robert Williams Barn (No. 245), a Type One Barn, constructed ca. 1900. At about the same time, a large frame barn of the type which became standard in the 20th century was being built for Bob Tomlinson (No. 166) on the north side of SR 1843 in the Harmony vicinity, fig. 25. Not only one of the earliest examples, this is one of the most architecturally distinctive of the type in the county. The rectangular structure has a gabled front, with two runways extending the length of the structure, unlike the log barn types in which the runways extended the depth of the structures. The typical 20th century frame barn served as hay storage, another as animal quarters, these larger frame barns functioned as combined storage cribs and stables. Such functional details as the raised roof ridge, which is a ventilator, and decorative frills such as the arched runway doors and the triangular louvered transoms over several of the front openings also distinguish the Tomlinson Barn from more typical examples of the type.

The other ubiquitous outbuilding in the county is the smokehouse, a small rectangular log structure with a gabled front. The front gable end often extends out over the front wall to shelter the front door, the only opening. Good examples of this outbuilding type, which brings back such pleasurable memories and occasionally a

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lingering scent of hickory-smoked meat, are found at the Templeton House (No. 33), the Waddell-Click Farm, and the Perciphull Campbell House.

The corncrib, an outbuilding type with a lower survival rate, is a small, quite narrow rectangular log building, the logs set widely apart, with a small opening in the gable end or in the flank. Here the corn was stored during the winter. An unusually large corncrib is located behind the Stimson House (No. 156), Harmony vicinity, fig. 26. The log crib, about 8 x 35 feet, has interior log partitions which form a narrow center section and wide end sections. The only exterior opening is a small door in the center section. Between the partition walls are interior doors. A corncrib which demonstrates that American ingenuity was alive and well in Iredell County in the 19th century is located beside the Holman-Adams House, Cool Spring vicinity. This single crib log structure, measuring approximately 6 x 15 feet, has a small door in the gable end. It has the ingenious feature of a gable roof hinged at the ridge so that one side of the roof can be raised to allow easy access to the interior storage space. The crib becomes, in effect, a huge corn bin. This common sense approach to building was surely not unique to the Holman-Adams Farm in Iredell County, although no other examples were found during the inventory.

The earliest wellhouses found in the county date from the late Victorian period. In the late 19th and early 20th century a combination wellhouse and dairy became popular in Iredell County. One of the finest examples is at the Espy Watt Brawley House on the outskirts of Mooresville. The small brick dairy has a gabled roof which extends out over the adjacent well. An interesting wellhouse sits between the two late 19th century houses on the east side of US 21 which are part of Turnersburg. The small frame structure is enclosed with horizontal, picket-shaped lattice-work, and in the side facing each house was a small door, allowing equal access from both houses.

Although the cultivation of tobacco in Iredell County began before the Civil War, the only tobacco barns found during the inventory are apparently late 19th and early 20th century. The only identifiable tobacco barns were in north Iredell, and were relatively rare even in this section. A typical example is the John Davis Tobacco Barn (No. 196), Central vicinity, built by John Davis in 1912. The small square log structure with a wood shingled gable roof is typical of log tobacco barns throughout Piedmont North Carolina.

Free-standing kitchens are quite rare. Only three known examples were identified in the county: the Setzer House Kitchen (No. 60) (lost) on Lake Norman; the Watts House Kitchen (No. 84), Elmwood vicinity; and the Knox House Kitchen, now a ruin, (No. 122), Cool Spring. Although the detached log kitchen was probably a standard outbuilding throughout the 19th century, it was replaced in the late 1800s by a one story wing added to the rear of the house.

The only identifiable slave quarters found in Iredell County are at the Waddell-Click Farm, which was the most complete collection in the county of antebellum outbuildings built between ca. 1820 and ca. 1860. The appearance and arrangement of the outbuildings is typical of antebellum Iredell farms, but this is the most complete collection remaining in the county. The outbuildings are arranged loosely behind and on the east side of the house. This loose scattering, typical of the county and the entire state, reflects the abundance of land, lack of concern for

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efficient land use, and absence of harsh weather conditions present in other areas of the United States. The building said to have been slave quarters, fig. 28, is a rectangular half-dovetailed log structure, measuring approximately 10 x 25 feet, with a center chimney, now removed, and a frame partition wall dividing the interior into two rooms. Each room contains a front batten door and a small side and rear window, and the interior walls are white-washed log. The logs have apparently always been exposed on the exterior.

The Waddell-Click Farm also contains a double crib barn, a stable, and a smokehouse, all of half-dovetailed log construction like the quarters. The crib barn and stable are of approximately equal size, about 20 x 32 feet. The barn is an unusual variation of Type One, with a third crib attached to one flanking crib, said to have functioned for cotton storage. The wooden hinges of the doors and shutters and the original shed enclosures on each gable end are also unusual features. The stable is divided into a large threshing floor and a smaller stall area for livestock, and has an original shed porch around all four sides. The smokehouse is a typical example of the type. Both the variety of outbuilding types and their unusually good state of preservation make this a notable antebellum farm which should be preserved, perhaps as a working farm museum.

#### CHURCHES

Thirty-three churches are listed in the Iredell County inventory of historic sites. These churches form an evenly spaced grid of historical reference points throughout the county. The church is the major social focus of rural life in North Carolina, and this is nowhere more true than in Iredell County.

Since the majority of Iredell's 18th century settlers were of Scottish background, the Presbyterian Church is the oldest denomination. The first Presbyterian congregation in the county was established at Coddle Creek in 1753. In the later 18th century, Coddle Creek Church became one of the first congregations of dissenting Presbyterians, known as Associate Reform Presbyterians, in North Carolina. The Presbyterian Synod of the Carolinas was organized at Centre Presbyterian Church in 1788. The earliest Presbyterian congregation in North Carolina to participate in the "Great Revival," the religious awakening in North Carolina and Tennessee in the early 19th century, was Bethany Presbyterian Church led by the Reverend James Hall.

The county was also one of the earlier areas of Lutheran settlement in the state, with German settlers in central Iredell establishing churches in the first half of the 19th century. Between the late 18th and mid-19th century, the Methodists and Baptists established themselves, primarily in north Iredell. One Episcopal congregation, St. James (No. 48), was founded during this period at Shinnville in southeast Iredell.

Iredell's religious architecture is typical of church construction throughout Piedmont North Carolina. None of the 18th and early 19th century church buildings, probably small log structures, has survived. The three oldest church buildings date

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from the 1850s: Bethesda Presbyterian Church, built ca. 1853; Centre Presbyterian Church, built in 1854; and St. James Episcopal Church, built in 1856. The arbor of Damascus Baptist Church is said to have been built in 1855. These first permanent church buildings are small rectangular structures with the entrance in the narrow end and very simple Classical Revival or Gothic Revival detail, depending upon the historical associations of the denomination. Architectural revival styles carried strong religious and political symbolism in the 19th century. The more strongly Protestant Presbyterians and others avoided any resemblance to medieval "Catholic" church forms, preferring the neutral symbolism of the Classical Revival.

Bethesda Church, the oldest church building in the county, has an unusual front recessed balcony with latticework posts and railing which links it to a group of vernacular Greek Revival style churches with similar decoration built by the Presbyterians of the Upper Cape Fear River Valley of southeastern North Carolina. Centre Church is a more conservatively designed brick building of more "Greek" proportions, with a low front pediment and large shuttered windows. The proportions of window void to solid wall of Centre Church are similar to those of ancient Greek temples of open post and lintel construction. Bethesda, Centre, and Coddle Creek churches each have session houses built during this period. Those at Bethesda and Centre are probably the same age as the church buildings. Each is a doll-sized, plain rectangular box with a hint of Greek styling.

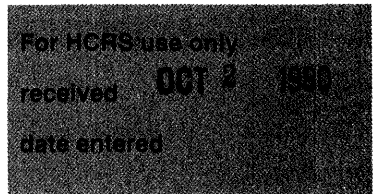
Bethany Presbyterian Church built ca. 1860, is a rectangular gabled front building with two front doors and a touch of the Greek Revival in the eave treatment. This vaguely Classical style remained popular until the end of the 19th century. Snow Creek Methodist Church and Moss Chapel Methodist Church (No. 185), built ca. 1880, and Clio Presbyterian Church (No. 187), built ca. 1890, are very similar in form to Bethany Church. Damascus Baptist Church Arbor, a heavy frame shelter open to the elements with a dirt floor, pews and a built-in pulpit, has no stylistic features. Believed to have been built in 1855, it is of great interest as the only known 19th century church arbor left in the county. These arbors served many congregations as their sole places of worship for many years.

Until the late 1800s, only the Episcopal church felt comfortable with a style derived from Gothic Catholicism, and the only even vaguely Gothic Revival style church building in Iredell County before the 1880s is St. James Episcopal Church, built in 1856. Its original appearance has been obscured by the recent addition of brick veneer, but is otherwise little-altered. To the basic gabled front rectangle of the Greek Revival churches, the builder added the token Gothic features of Gothic pointed arch windows.

A group of late 19th century church buildings, Coddle Creek Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, Elmwood Presbyterian Church (No. 78), Wesley's Methodist Chapel (No. 220), and Union Grove Methodist Church (No. 227), follow the design formula of St. James Church, for by the late Victorian period the symbolic association of the Gothic style had almost disappeared. The idea of an entrance tower obviously stimulated the imagination of the builders of these churches. Each tower is a fantasy of arched windows, louvered ventilators, polygonal shapes, and multi-gabled or turreted roofs. The towers of Wesley's Chapel, fig. 32, and Union Grove Church, so similar

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that they must have been constructed by the same architect-builder, are wooden "Wedding cakes." Each tower is composed of three polygonal, weatherboarded tiers, each one slightly smaller, with a Gothic louvered window in each facet of the upper tiers. A shingled shed roof smooths the transition between each tier.

**CEMETERY GATES**

The most interesting artistic feature connected with Iredell County's churches is not the architecture of the sanctuaries, but the design of the beautiful handwrought iron cemetery gates of some of the oldest congregations, fig. 33. Old iron gates remain at the cemeteries of Coddle Creek, Centre, Snow Creek, and Bethany Churches. Early iron gates are also found at the Troutman family graveyard beside the former Norwood Public School (No. 68) and at the Mills Family graveyard, now St. James Church Cemetery. This group of gates, apparently made by several local blacksmiths who worked throughout the 19th century, may be the largest collection of early, locally-produced wrought ironwork which has survived in North Carolina.

The gates of Coddle Creek, St. James, and Centre, all in southeast Iredell, are quite similar in design and may have been forged by the same artisan. Each is constructed of wide rails bolted flush against top and bottom cross rails. Two of them have diagonal cross-braces. Their most distinctive feature is the termination of the tops in pointed arch shapes. The center, and tallest rail of the Coddle Creek gate has added interest. It is drawn at the tip into a 'delicately spiraled finial. According to local tradition, this gate was forged by a Mr. Freeze, a local blacksmith, and it is quite likely that he made the other two also. Little is known about Mr. Freeze. It is possible that J. L. Freeze, a thirty-four year old blacksmith listed in the 1850 North Carolina census, is the craftsman responsible for these gates. With the exception of the St. James Cemetery gate, the gateposts are rough hewn granite blocks. The granite posts of St. James gate are smoothly finished in a rounded shape, and the front face of each post has a raised circular design, with the date of 1859 carved into the right circle.

The gates of Snow Creek and Bethany cemeteries, in central Iredell, are of similar design. They are considerably more decorative than the south Iredell gates, for each rail terminates in a decorative finial. The Bethany finials have a fleur de lis form, consisting of a diamond-shaped center with side spirals, while the Snow Creek finials have a flame or teardrop shape with the pointed tips all turned toward the center rail of the gate. Information regarding the identity of the Snow Creek gate maker is contradictory. The right granite gate post has a carved inscription "VELYN 1879," while a brass plaque on the stone cemetery wall states "Gates constructed by Allen and Ernest 'Billy' Journey as a contribution to Snow Creek Cemetery 1954." Bethany's stone cemetery wall beside the left gate post has the inscription "July 1825 W N."

The Troutman family cemetery gate is plainer and less sophisticated in design than the rest of the group. It is a round-arched gate made of slender rails with diagonal crossbraces. According to a 20th century historical marker in the cemetery, it was forged by John Jefferson Troutman. Troutman, the son of Jacob Troutman, was born in 1815 and died in 1884, and is listed in the 1880 Census as a blacksmith.

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## POST CIVIL WAR - URBANIZATION &amp; INDUSTRIALIZATION

Following the Civil War, with the coming of the railroad and industry, most of the building activity, and nearly all of the architectural ambition, moved to town. Town; Town in Iredell County means Statesville, Mooresville, Troutman, and Harmony. This story is told in the essays which follow.

The primary goal of the town inventory differed from that of the rural Iredell inventory, for in the urban areas groupings of significant buildings, rather than isolated historic buildings, were identified. These dense groupings of buildings related by age, architectural styles, scale, building materials, color, and texture are called historic districts, and they create a much more complete historic atmosphere than isolated historic landmarks. Iredell's districts in Statesville and Mooresville, contain residential, commercial and industrial buildings. Some of these buildings are outstanding landmarks, most are unpretentious but are vitally important as connective tissue. The landscape elements in a district--street paving materials, trees and other plantings, street furniture (signs, lighting, etc.), and the overall relationship of buildings to one another and to the street--are as important to a historic district as the architectural design of the buildings themselves. Most, but not all, of the architecturally and historically significant buildings in Iredell's towns are located within the boundaries of these historic districts. Some of the urban historic sites are located so far from the concentrations of historic buildings that they could not be included inside the district boundaries.

The evolution of architectural styles in Iredell County towns from the Civil War to the early 20th century (the urban inventory cut-off date) parallels national architectural development. The oldest remaining buildings are Greek Revival style houses built on the eve of the Civil War. The Greek Revival style, based on the Greek temple and popular in the United States from ca. 1820 to ca. 1860 continued to be built in a watered-down form in North Carolina until ca. 1880. Although these houses have molded roof eaves and classical porch columns, their general form indicates that the carpenter-builders who constructed them had little contact with national trends.

During the second architectural phase in Iredell County towns, ca. 1880 to ca. 1900, architecture entered the national mainstream. The popular Italianate, Romanesque, Gothic, and Queen Ann Revival styles, disseminated throughout the country during the late Victorian period, were built in Iredell towns. The Iredell examples reflect much local inventiveness and were apparently improvisations by local architect-builders on standardized architectural designs published in pattern books.

The third architectural phase in Iredell County towns, ca. 1900 to ca. 1915, reflects the national swing in nostalgia from the Middle Ages back to the classical Renaissance. The products of this period are interpretations of Renaissance villas and of the stereotypical white columned Southern plantation house (generally known as the Neo-Classical Revival) and revivals of 18th century American architecture (generally known as Colonial or Neo-Colonial Revival).

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The fourth architectural phase, ca. 1915 to ca. 1925, is characterized by several concurrent classical revivals and by the Bungalow style. Among the revival styles are the Elizabethan (based on the transition from medieval to Renaissance style in 16th century England) and the Regency (based on early 19th century classical architecture in England). The bungalow is a low cottage with a deep, umbrella-like roof, surrounded by a veranda, which was used in India for wayside shelters. In the late 1800s the style was introduced in California. Because of its suitability for the climate and practical size, it took firm hold, and by ca. 1915 the style had spread throughout the United States. The bungalow period coincided with the Arts and Crafts movement, a revival of such traditional handcrafts as carpentry, pottery, and glassmaking. The decorative detail of many Iredell county bungalows reflects this craftsmanship.

Note: The urban architectural character is described in more detail in the district nomination forms.

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The survey was conducted during eight months in 1976-1977. The principal investigator was Ruth Little-Stokes, architectural historian, previously a member of the Survey and Planning Branch of the Division of Archives and History, then an architectural historian consultant. She worked with Gary Freeze, Iredell County historian and photographer, and with Pat and Conrad Crooks and other members of the Historic Iredell Foundation. The team relied strongly on the excellent history of the county by local historian Homer Keever.

Every road in the county was driven, and all man-made structures were assessed from the eighteenth century through to a fifty-year limit. The team recorded 316 sites that included substantial town districts. No archaeological investigation was conducted.

The team, working with the Historic Iredell Foundation and members of the Survey and Planning Branch of the Division of Archives and History, recommended properties for nomination to the National Register, based on National Register criteria. Properties were included that illustrated important areas of the county's history; significant and unusual examples of architectural types; well-preserved and typical architectural examples; notable farm complexes, intact or nearly intact urban concentrations. The properties selected for nomination reflect the broad rural and later urban development of the county. A number of properties were identified as significant but not included for nomination because of their severely deteriorated condition. The properties that are nominated despite deterioration are those that possess unusual significance, have not lost their integrity, and may face more encouraging futures if the incentives of National Register listing are attached to them. During 1978 and 1979, Historic Iredell employed a second architectural historian consultant, Laura A. W. Phillips, to complete the Multiple Resource nomination. Some reassessment of significance was accomplished, especially reflecting changes to properties. Boundaries for districts were established. Research, mapping, additional photography, and identification of property owners were accomplished. Descriptions and statements of significance for most properties were completed, and during 1980 the remaining statements of significance were completed by Archives and History staff.



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and Needs in MRA

- by Ruth Little-Stokes, 1978

It is helpful to discuss property condition and preservation problems in three general environmental categories: rural, small town, and urban. Each of these categories has a different type of historic and architectural background and faces different types of preservation problems. For the purpose of this study, Statesville and Mooresville are considered urban areas; Troutman, Harmony, Mt. Mourne, Union Grove, and Love Valley are considered small towns; and all other areas are designated rural.

**A. Analysis of Inventory Data: Condition and Occupancy of Historic Structures**

The survey team has attempted to note the condition, occupancy, and stability of each property recorded in an effort to identify problem areas and assess the broad preservation potential of the region. Property condition was classified as excellent, good, fair, deteriorated, or ruin. These are somewhat subjective judgments on the part of the surveyor, but it is felt that the final result of such an analysis would give a fairly realistic picture of the condition of historic properties within the study area. Generally, a property is classified as in excellent or good condition when it is occupied and in no need of material repair. (A fresh coat of paint might help the appearance but is not critical here.) Properties in fair condition are those that may need minor repair but that are generally suitable for occupancy. Deteriorated structures are those that are leaking, losing weatherboarding or window sash, and that are at best only barely suitable for occupancy; most structures in this classification are vacant. Ruins are structures so badly deteriorated there is no realistic hope for their recovery.

Occupancy of properties was noted with the designations of owner, tenant, or vacant. As would certainly be expected, occupancy and condition are closely correlated; what might not be expected is the number and distribution of vacant properties. Properties were also rated as to their projected future. An occupied structure in good condition is considered "stable" unless there are known outside pressures for its demolition. An occupied structure with no immediate prospect of resumed use or an occupied structure that shows serious signs of deterioration is classified "uncertain." A badly deteriorated structure or any structure faced with the immediate prospect of demolition for whatever reason is considered "endangered."

The analysis works best in a study of rural properties; most sites recorded are individual plantations, farmsteads, churches, or mills, and lend themselves easily to this type of comparative examination. In towns and cities there is a greater variety of types of structures, and in some cases entire neighborhoods or groups of structures are recorded as individual entries. For this reason the analysis of rural condition and problems will be approached with a more general discussion.

One must emphasize that this type of analysis is crude at best, architectural historians are not housing inspectors or statisticians. The analysis involves much subjective judgement and applies only to those sites recorded as of June 1977. The results in no way reflect the general housing condition of all structures within the study area.

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A-1. Rural Property: Forty-five percent (90) of the rural properties recorded were owner-occupied, twelve percent (20) were inhabited by tenants, and forty-three percent (85) were vacant. The breakdown by condition roughly corresponds to occupancy, with owner-occupied structures being generally in good condition, vacant structures deteriorated or ruinous, and tenant-occupied structures running the whole spectrum. Thirty-five percent (64) were rated excellent or good condition, thirty-two percent (62) fair condition, and thirty-three percent (63) deteriorated or ruinous. Considering that many tenant-occupied structures - and some owner-occupied - are slowly being abandoned or are beginning to deteriorate, the total preservation outlook for rural areas is not good: only 60 percent of the recorded properties are considered stable with no immediate concern for their future. Thirty-two percent are judged to be in an uncertain status. These are vacant and deteriorating buildings scattered evenly through the entire county. A large number of these are log houses, many situated adjacent to newer houses and now being used for storage. Eight percent of the rural properties are rated endangered and unlikely to survive but a short while longer. These are the William Hardy Williford House (No. 6); Gabriel House (No. 17); Davidson Family House (No. 38); Ritchie House (No. 54); McNeely House (No. 76); Elam-Ettinger House (No. 86); Alexander Huggins House (No. 96); log house built ca. 1840 (No. 106); Holton House (No. 114); Olin Institute Dormitory (No. 180); and the house built ca. 1860 (No. 207). The McNeely House is threatened by destructive vandalism. The threat to the remaining endangered buildings is from the owners themselves: these houses are being altered beyond recognition or are awaiting demolition by their owners. Some of them have probably already been destroyed.

A-2. Small Towns: With the exception of Mt. Mourne, Iredell's small towns were not established until the late 19th century. Most of the buildings post-date 1900, the general cut-off date of the inventory; therefore, few small town structures are included in the catalogue. Since the catalogue entries for Troutman and Harmony represent districts containing groups of structures, it is not possible to give a structure by structure accounting of condition and occupancy. In general, however, small towns fare much more favorably than rural areas regarding preservation potential. About 95 percent of the recorded structures are considered stable, and the remaining are uncertain rather than endangered. However, the inventory does not account for previously demolished structures. An empty structure in a town is much more likely to be quickly cleared away than in the countryside where an abandoned building might stand for decades. In general, the preservation outlook in Iredell's small towns appears to be stable.

A-3. Urban Areas: About 450 individual buildings were inventoried within the incorporated limits of Iredell's two urban areas: Statesville and Mooresville. Mooresville's breakdown consists of a commercial historic district containing 45 buildings, a residential historic district containing 48 buildings, and 8 individual historic buildings outside the districts. Statesville's breakdown consists of a commercial historic district containing 39 buildings, the Mitchell College Historic District containing 170 buildings, the East Broad Street-Davie Avenue Historic District containing 60 buildings, the Academy Hill Historic District containing 44 buildings, and 40 individual buildings located outside these districts, throughout the city. As in small towns, condition and occupancy of these structures rates high; most of the structures are in at least fair condition. But the figures hide the fact that structures do not remain empty or deteriorate long before they are demolished and are sometimes destroyed while still perfectly functional.

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In Statesville the preservation outlook is difficult to predict. The city has grown so slowly since World War II that the commercial district and the three surrounding 19th century neighborhoods which contain 80 percent of Statesville's historic resources have remained stable. Downtown still offers well-rounded shopping, and it is still acceptable to live close to downtown. But danger signs are appearing. County government is moving its headquarters, leaving the handsome turn-of-the-century courthouse and jail idle. City government appears likely to follow suit, thereby leaving one of the most architecturally significant city halls in North Carolina. In 1975 Signal Hill Mall, the first large suburban shopping center, was built east of the city adjacent to the north-south interstate, I-77. Its success now threatens downtown businesses. Lake Norman, the huge Duke Power recreational lake has transformed southwest Iredell County into a year-round playground. The lake coastline is the fastest growing residential area in the county. This shifting of population into southwest Iredell will place ever-greater pressures on the stability of old Statesville. The presence of Mitchell Community College on the west side of the central business district in Statesville, in the heart of the most architecturally significant Victorian neighborhood in the city, may in the long run be a stabilizing factor in downtown Statesville. Presently it is viewed by many as a preservation threat, for Mitchell College is experiencing a period of rapid growth, necessitating the acquisition and demolition of adjacent buildings.

**Rural Areas:** Preservation outlook for the broad range of historic structures in rural areas is rather bleak. Almost one-half of the recorded structures are vacant and many occupied buildings are deteriorated. Unless a new economic base is found to support these structures, in another generation the vestiges of early plantations, farmsteads, and mills will be severely and irrevocably depleted. The best and most likely to succeed method of preservation is restoration as residences. Fortunately, the two interstate highways, I-40, and I-77, divide the county into quadrants providing easy access to the urban centers of Statesville and Mooresville. All historic properties but those along the northern border of the county are within easy commuting distance of the major job markets. The urban centers are lively, growing metropolitan areas, and the citizens brought in by new industry might be delighted to live in the historic houses with wonderful vistas overlooking the rolling Iredell hills, plenty of elbow room, and unique, handcrafted architecture. Matching families with the available historic buildings would require a great deal of planning and promotion on the part of the local agencies and the cooperation of landowners who have generally shown an unwillingness to sell. Another, if less desirable, alternative is to move numbers of these structures to other sites. A building moved from its historical context in some sense loses its reason to exist, but this is no doubt a better solution than the total disappearance from the landscape of so much of early Iredell County.

**Small Towns:** In another generation or two, the small towns of Iredell County may be the only places where the quality and character of 19th century architecture and life can be observed in any degree of concentration. As we begin America's third century, these towns will find that their greatest asset - both for the quality of life of their citizens and not for their attractiveness to outsiders - is in the old structures, neighborhoods, and commercial districts that give them a

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quality unique in North Carolina.

Recent Developments: A few hardy individuals in Iredell County have undertaken restoration projects of old farms and plantations. The bicentennial celebration aroused the interest of many people in the material history of their localities. Mr. Homer Keever and Mrs. Mildred Miller have published studies of Iredell County's history and physical heritage.

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The results of the inventory have been published, with the Historic Iredell Foundation seeking wide distribution of the publication. The Iredell Historic Properties Commission, in addition, uses the inventory as a basis upon which to make decisions concerning designation of local historic properties. Also, the Iredell County Historic Properties Commission was organized in 1978 and has actively pursued the inventory and designation process on a county-wide basis. The Commission applied for and received the survey and planning matching grant from the Department of the Interior to create a comprehensive inventory of historical and architectural resources in Iredell County. The information gathered for that inventory has been expanded and translated into this multiple resource nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Working from the inventory and concentrating on property that is endangered in some way, the Commission to date has designated seven local historic properties. These designations include: the William Feimster House, Fort Dobbs, the George W. Wilson Blacksmith Shop, the Loreen Cotton and Seed Oil Mill, the Mooresville Public Library, the Waddell-Click Complex, and the McClelland-Davis House. These properties represent a wide range of building types and periods of construction, and are located throughout the county.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Keever, Homer M. Iredell Piedmont County. Iredell County Bicentennial Commission, 1976.

Haselden, W. J. Mooreville, North Carolina the Early Years. Mooreville Chamber of Commerce, 1967.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

See individual forms.

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UMT References

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The Multiple Resource Area is simply the entire county of Iredell, including its towns, Statesville and Mooreville, and as seen on the enclosed map of Iredell County, North Carolina.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

Individual forms were prepared by Ms. Phillips and members of Research Branch, as cited on individual forms.

name/title Laura A. W. Phillips, 637 N. Spring Street, Winston-Salem, NC, Consultant  
Catherine W. Bishir, Head, Survey and Planning Branch  
Renee Gledhill-Early, Survey Specialist, Survey and Planning Branch  
organization Division of Archives and History date May 19, 1980

street & number 109 E. Jones Street

telephone 733-6545

city or town Raleigh,

state North Carolina

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

See individual forms

\_\_\_\_ national \_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date September 18, 1980

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

Keeper of the National Register

date

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

address: 102.3.11 + 26 — Carol Dubois 1/12/80

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**  
**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Inventory—Nomination Form**

Iredell MRN

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Miller, Mildred J. Liberty Hill. 1976.

Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles. M. I. T. Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1969.

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Sanborn Insurance Maps of Statesville, Mooresville 1885-1925. University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Iredell County

Snow Creek Methodist Church and Burying Ground

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Keever, Homer M. Iredell Piedmont County. Statesville: Iredell County American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, 1976.

"William Sharpe File." Research Branch, Archaeology and Historic Preservation Section, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

### Statesville Record and Landmark.

The Landmark. Statesville.

### FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>Homer M. Keever, Iredell Piedmont County (Statesville: Iredell County American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, 1976), 190, hereinafter cited as Keever, Iredell County.

<sup>2</sup>"Great Revival in Iredell," typewritten manuscript in Homer Keever files, James Iredell Room, Iredell County Public Library, Statesville, N.C.; Virginia Fraser Evans (compiler), Iredell County Landmarks (Statesville: Iredell County American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, 1976), 38.

<sup>3</sup>William Sharpe (1742-1818) was one of western North Carolina's most outstanding revolutionary leaders. He served in the state legislature and in Continental Congress. He is buried at Snow Creek. "William Sharpe File," Research Branch, Archaeology and Historic Preservation Section, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, N.C.

<sup>4</sup>Keever, Iredell County, 189.

<sup>5</sup>*Ibid.*, 189-190. The first deed citation mentioning a proposed meeting house is dated July 8, 1805. Iredell County Deed Book F, p. 86.

<sup>6</sup>Keever, Iredell County, 329.

<sup>7</sup>*Ibid.*, 188, 190.



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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Iredell County Multiple Resource Area (Additions)  
State North Carolina

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Feimster House Substantive Review

Keeper

William H. Brannon 6.24.82

Attest

Carl Duke 6/23/82

2. Waddle-Click Farm Substantive Review

Keeper

William H. Brannon 6.24.82

Attest

Carl Duke 6/23/82

3. Falls-Hobbs House Substantive Review

Keeper

William H. Brannon 6.24.82

Attest

Carl Duke 6/23/82

4. Hargrave House Substantive Review

Keeper

William H. Brannon 6.24.82

Attest

Carl Duke 6/23/82

5.

Keeper

Attest

6.

Keeper

Attest

7.

Keeper

Attest

8.

Keeper

Attest

9.

Keeper

Attest

10.

Keeper

Attest