United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form  
See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections  

1. Name  

historic Terrell Historic District  

and or common  

2. Location  

street & number Junction of NC 150 and SR 1848  

city, town Terrell  

state North Carolina  

code 037  

county Catawba  

code 035  

3. Classification  

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4. Owner of Property  

name See continuation sheet  

street & number  

city, town  

state  

5. Location of Legal Description  

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds  

street & number Catawba County Justice Center  

state North Carolina  

city, town Newton  

6. Representation in Existing Surveys  

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| depository for survey records | Survey and Planning Branch, 109 E. Jones Street |

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet Terrell Historic District Item number 4

(Names and addresses of property owners keyed to district map)

1-2  R. Harold Gabriel
     P. O. Box 417
     Terrell, NC 28682

3-6  R. Harold Gabriel
     Mrs. Sallie Gabriel
     P. O. Box 417
     Terrell, NC 28682

7    Mrs. Sallie M. Gabriel
     P. O. Box 325
     Terrell, NC 28682

8    Jesse and Janice Stutts
     Rt. 2
     Sherrills Ford, NC 28673

9    Rehobeth Methodist Church
     c/o Rev. Donald Lloyd
     P. O. Box 356
     Terrell, NC 28682

10   Ernest Cornelius
     P. O. Box 332
     Terrell, NC 28682

11   Mrs. Violet Drum Cornelius
     Rt. 2, Box 206
     Sherrills Ford, NC 28673

12   Charles Franklin Connor, Jr.
     P. O. Box 537
     Claremont, NC 28610

13   Mrs. Eleonore M. Moore
     220 Fairway Dr.
     Shelby, NC 28150

14   Kermit Lee Howard
     Rt. 2, Box 16
     Terrell, NC 28682

15   Mrs. Vagie Sherrill Howard
     Rt. 2, Box 19
     Terrell, NC 28682
7. Description

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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Terrell Historic District is located in the rural southeastern corner of Catawba County and centers around the junction of Sherrills Ford Road (SR 1848) and NC 150. Originally located between Mountain Creek to the west and the Catawba River to the east, Terrell developed as a community that served the surrounding prosperous farms. Its role has taken on a new dimension since the 1960s, however, when Lake Norman was created from the Catawba River. Now the Terrell store provides supplies for vacationers as well as farmers and two of the corners of the crossroads (not included in the district) have been taken over by gas stations and a mobile home/camper business. Despite the surge in the area's population—at least seasonally—the historic fabric of Terrell has remained largely intact.

Most of the buildings in the district date from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century period, during which time Terrell developed into a thriving crossroads community. Located within the district are a variety of building types, the combination of which was typical of such rural communities. There are houses, a church and cemetery, a store, a post office, and several industrial buildings.

The oldest building is the Coleman-Caldwell-Gabriel House at the northwest corner of the district. Built ca. 1854, it is a typical vernacular farmhouse of the mid-nineteenth century, exhibiting simple details of Greek Revival influence. South of the Coleman-Caldwell-Gabriel House and bordering NC 150 is the commercial-industrial complex of the community. At the corner of NC 150 and Sherrills Ford Road is the Connor Store and Post Office, a two-story frame building dating from the early 1890s. It still serves its original functions. Arranged in a row behind the store/post office are the early twentieth century grist mill, the 1932 Gabriel Cotton Gin, and two buildings for cotton storage—a frame building probably built about 1932 when the new gin building was built, and a cinderblock structure dating from the mid-twentieth century.

In the southwest quadrant of the district is the Sherrill-Gabriel House, built during the 1880s and enlarged in 1906. It is a typical two-story frame late Victorian vernacular house with a decorative front porch. South of the Sherrill-Gabriel property is a ranch style house built during the 1960s and 1970s. Beyond it is Rehobeth Methodist Church, Cemetery, and Parsonage. Rehobeth Church was organized in the late eighteenth century, although the present building is a 1950s remodeling of an 1889 structure. The cemetery, which contains the graves of many of the prominent citizens of the Terrell community through the years, dates from the early nineteenth century and contains several hundred markers. Among these are markers representative of gravestone design and iconography of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Across the road, in the southeast quadrant of the district, are two early twentieth century frame houses—the Walter Gabriel House directly across from Rehobeth Church and the James Gillian House—forming the southern end of the district.

In the northeast quadrant are several houses and a wooded area. On the east side of Sherrills Ford Road, across from the Coleman-Caldwell-Gabriel Farm, is the T. F. Connor House, a significant Stick style house erected in 1886 and designed by Catawba County's earliest known architect, Charles H. Lester. It is one of only three houses remaining.
in the county known to have been built or remodeled according to designs by Lester. In this two-story house of asymmetrical plan displays a rich variety of period details on both exterior and interior. Behind the Connor House are approximately twenty acres of land--now wooded and overgrown--which connect the property to the Jason Sherrill property to the east. The Jason Sherrill House at the eastern end of the district is a simple vernacular frame farmhouse whose present appearance is the result of three periods of growth—the late nineteenth century, the early twentieth century, and 1930. Like the other houses in the district (excepting the two built during the mid-twentieth century), the Jason Sherrill House is accompanied by a collection of outbuildings. Completing the district is a brick veneer ranch style house just west of the Jason Sherrill House. It occupies land that was part of the Sherrill farm, and was built by the great-nephew of Jason Sherrill in the 1960s.

Inventory List

The following is a descriptive listing of all properties within the Terrell Historic District, keyed by number to the accompanying color-coded map.

1. Coleman-Caldwell-Gabriel Farm

W side SR 1848, 0.1 mi N of jct w/NC 150
ca. 1854
Pivotal

Believed to have been built by Dr. Littleton T. Coleman shortly after he purchased the property in 1854, this house is the oldest in the district. Coleman was the son of Dr. Littleton T. Coleman and his wife Lucy Hawkins, the daughter of William Hawkins, governor of North Carolina from 1811 to 1814. In 1877 the house was purchased by Franklin Caldwell, a prosperous farmer and deputy sheriff of Catawba County. Remaining in Caldwell family ownership until 1914, the property was then sold to county commissioner R. E. Gabriel. His son, R. H. Gabriel, who for years operated the general store, post office and cotton gin in Terrell, as well as being a farmer, still owns and occupies the house.

Surrounded by oak, fir, holly, and other trees, and then by a broad expanse of cultivated fields, the Coleman-Caldwell-Gabriel House is located at the end of a long lane just north of the Terrell crossroads. The house is a two-story frame vernacular farmhouse of simple Greek Revival influence. Typically, the house has a stone pier foundation, weatherboard siding, a gable roof with overhanging boxed eaves, and exterior end brick chimneys, laid in common bond and with a single shoulder. Large six-over-six sash windows are found on the three-bay-wide facade, while four-over-four sash windows are
found on the sides of the house. Windows have louvered wood shutters. The double-leaf, paneled front door is surrounded by side lights and transom, and the flush boarded wall on either side of the entrance marks the location of the original front porch, a simple structure with square posts sheltering only the central entrance bay. Between 1915 and 1920 the porch was enlarged, so that now it is three bays wide and is characterized by a hipped roof and four square posts. The two-story rear ell with its central chimney is believed to have been added toward the end of the nineteenth century. A two-story porch lines the south side of the ell, continuing along the west wall of the house. Square posts are found on the first story, while lighter weight, latticework posts grace the second story. An exterior stair with curvilinear brackets connects the two levels of the porch.

The interior of the Coleman-Caldwell-Gabriel House follows a central hall plan. Walls are plastered, while ceilings are sheathed with flush boards. Door and window casings are molded and have corner blocks. Window casings continue to the floor, creating aprons beneath the windows. In the original part of the house, doors have two panels, while in the added ell, they have four panels. Mantels are characterized by side pilasters, a molded frieze and plain shelf in the front rooms, while in the ell the mantels have side pilasters, a three-part frieze and a plain shelf. In the central hall, the open string stair has plain, tapered newels, rounded handrail, rectangular balusters and curvilinear brackets. The steps above the intermediate landing are only half the height of those in the main room.

A. Garage--The garage is a modern structure with broad gable roof, vertical board sheathing, and two-car capacity. It is located southwest of the house, opposite the driveway.

B. Smokehouse--The smokehouse, located directly west of (behind) the house, is a small frame structure with weatherboard siding, gable roof, batten door on east side, and metal shed attached to the west side.

C. Well house--Located west of the garage, the well house is a weatherboarded structure with broad gable roof. A door is on the east wall. A shed supported by chamfered posts shelters the well on the east side of the structure.

D. Barn--Southwest of the house lot, and separated from it by a fence, is the barn, a large wood frame structure with sheet metal siding, gable roof, and sheds on north and south sides.

In the woods beyond the field west of the house is a banjo-shaped spring.
2. Connor Store and Post Office

NW cor, jct of SR 1848 and NC 150
ca. 1891
Pivotal

In 1885, Thomas Franklin Connor opened a general store at the Terrell crossroads. Several years later, he built the present store and post office. This building is still used for its original purposes.

Looking much as it always has, the store is a large two-story frame structure with weatherboard siding and gable roof disguised on the east side (facade) by a false front. The store is two bays wide and three deep, but local tradition claims the building was originally twice as long as it is at present. At the rear of the store is a small shed-roofed frame shed, and attached to it is a metal storage shed open on the south side. Attached to the north side of the store is a one-story shed-roofed wing running the length of the building which is used as the post office. It, too, has a false front. A shed-roofed porch runs across the entire facade, and while its configuration is like the original porch, its shingled roof and ironwork posts differ from the sheet metal roof and turned wood posts of the original. The shop front, with its large, four-light windows and recessed, double-leaf entrance has been little altered. The doors retain their original hardware.

While the interior of the store has been somewhat remodeled, it still gives the general feeling of an early twentieth-century country store. While the interior of the post office has also been remodeled, it retains a wood paneled wall with postmaster's window and bank of mail boxes.

3. Grist Mill

N side NC 150, just W of jct w/SR 1848
early 20th century
Contributing

The grist mill is believed to have been built during the early twentieth century by R. E. Gabriel, with James Gillin serving as the first miller. The building is now used for private storage.

The grist mill is a large, two-story frame structure with stone pier foundation, weatherboard siding, and metal-covered gable roof with gable facing the road. It is one bay wide and two deep, and the symmetrically-arranged windows are six-over-six sash. A plain, shed-roofed porch with wooden posts runs across the south facade, sheltering the large batten door. A smaller door is at the rear of the mill, and a metal chute projects from the east side of the building near the rear.
The interior features wood floors, three large wood posts supporting a center beam, and exposed ceiling joists. The mill machinery is gone and the building has been used for the last several decades for storage. The first floor consists of one large room. (The second floor was not inspected.)

A. Pump House—A small cinderblock pump house is located north of (behind) the mill.

4. Gabriel Cotton Gin

N side NC 150, just W of jct w/SR 1848
1932
Contributing

A cotton gin was established in Terrell ca 1869 by Miles Whitfield Sherrill. It was located just south of the Sherrill-Gabriel House (#7). It was rebuilt during the early twentieth century by R. E. Gabriel. A fire caused by lightning destroyed the mill in 1932 and the present one was built on the north side of NC 150 immediately thereafter. The gin continued in operation until 1960, and its machinery remains intact.

The gin is a one-story, rectangular frame structure, sheathed in German siding, with a low-pitched gable roof. It is six bays wide and one deep. A gabled porch projects from the center of the south facade. Projecting from the east end of the south facade is an external feeder apparatus. A metal shed is attached to the rear of the structure. Window openings surround the building, but the sash have been removed. On the east end is a large sliding wood door, above which is a recently installed bay window and a large metal auger which projects from the building.

Although some remodeling has taken place at the east end of the larger interior space, much of the machinery remains intact. Some of the machinery was manufactured by the Lummus Cotton Gin Company of Columbus, Georgia.

5. Cotton Storage Building

N side NC 150, just W of jct w/SR 1848
ca. 1930
Contributing

This cotton storage building built by the Gabriel family is a one-story, rectangular frame structure with gable end facing the road. Resting on a stone pier foundation, the building is sheathed in weatherboard siding. The door and window openings on the south facade have been altered and now consist of a central shop window, an enclosed window, and a door. A frame shed runs the full length of the east side. On the west side of the building is one window enclosed with a batten shutter, and on the rear is a large sliding wood door flanked by windows. The interior has been remodeled for commercial use.
6. Cinderblock Warehouse

N side NC 150, 0.1 mi W of jct. w/SR 1848
Mid 20th century
Fill

This large, one-story cinderblock warehouse with stepped parapet facade was originally used for cotton storage.

7. Sherrill-Gabriel House

SW cor, jct of SR 1848 and NC 150
Early 1880s, 1906
Pivotal

In the early 1880s, Cebring Sherrill (1856-1927) built a one-story, three-room frame cottage at this site. In 1906, Sherrill's son-in-law, R. E. Gabriel, (1866-1940) turned the one-story house around so that it faced west and then added a two-story, late Victorian block facing east, which then became the main body of the house. The house has changed little since then.

The 1906 house is a three-bay-wide structure with gable roof and exterior end brick chimneys. The house is weatherboarded, except for the gable ends and the walls of the front porch and balcony, which are sheathed in narrow German siding. First story windows are one-over-one sash, while those on the second story are two-over-two sash. Most windows retain their louvered shutters. A one-story, hip-roofed porch with turned posts and balusters and sawnwork brackets runs nearly the full length of the east facade. The center bay of the porch is pedimented, and above the center bay is a second story, pedimented balcony with details that match those of the porch. A two-story rear ell on the 1906 structure joins with the ell of the 1880s structure, whose roof has been raised in a gambrel. The two main rooms with central chimney of the 1880s structure run across the rear of the house.

The interior of the 1906 house follows a center hall plan. Detailing is typical of the period. A beaded board wainscot decorates the hall and two front rooms. Doors are of the five-panel variety with plain surrounds. The parlor mantel on the north side of the hall is Colonial Revival in style, with side columns and a mirrored overmantel with flanking colonettes. In the bedroom on the south side of the hall, the mantel is a late Victorian creation with paneled pilasters, paneled frieze, and bracketed mantel shelf. In the center hall, the stair is characterized by a heavy square newel at the foot of the stair, heavily turned newels at the second floor (all topped by ball finials), turned balusters, and a molded handrail. The ell and porch of the 1880s structure have been converted to the dining room and sitting room of the present house. Above this section is the "relic room," where R. E. Gabriel collected a wide assortment of artifacts, still on display. The
remaining mantel of the 1880s portion of the house is found in the kitchen. It is a simple, late-Classical mantel with chamfered pilasters, wide plain frieze and ogee molding between the frieze and the plain shelf.

The Sherrill-Gabriel House occupies a prominent location on the southwest corner of Terrell crossroads. The house is surrounded by shrubbery, and there are numerous oak, pecan, and walnut trees throughout the large yard.

A. Sheds--Directly behind (west of) the house and joined to it by a breezeway are a pair of small connected sheds, one brick and the other frame.

B. Garage--West of the sheds is a frame garage.

C. Grain bin--Southwest of the garage, and opposite a fenced hedge, is a round metal grain bin.

D. Chicken coop--South of the grain bin is the former chicken coop, a German-sided structure now used for feeding horses.

E. Carpenter shop--South of the house and downhill from it is the small frame structure originally used as R. E. Gabriel's carpenter shop. Originally a one-room, weatherboarded structure with gable roof and shed-roofed entrance porch, it now has German-sided additions on south and west sides and is used as a four-room rental house.

8. Jesse Stutts House

W side SR 1848, just S of jct w/NC 150
ca. 1960, 1975
Fill

The Jesse Stutts House is a one-story, red brick veneer ranch-style house built ca. 1960 with a split-level addition built in 1975. It stands on land previously owned by the Gabriel family.

9. Rehobeth Methodist Church, Cemetery, and Parsonage

W side SR 1848, 0.1 mi S of jct w/NC 150
1791, 1889, ca. 1955
Fill

Rehobeth Methodist Church was organized prior to 1791. The present church building was erected in 1889, but was completely remodeled and brick veneered in the 1950s.
Judging from old photographs, the 1889 church was an unusually handsome frame structure. It appears to have been weatherboarded, with a hipped and gabled roof. On the east facade were two double-leaf, paneled doors, each with a decorative gabled hood with sawnwork detailing. Between the two entrances were three windows with louvered shutters. Above the windows, as part of a front projecting gable, was a triangular, traceryed window. Enframing this window was an elaborate sawnwork screenlike gable decoration. At the peak of the gable, a spire with bell-cast roof and sawnwork decoration projected upward. The sides of the church were lined with four windows.

The spire remains, in simplified form, while the rest of the church was completely remodeled in the 1950s. Now it is a brick veneer structure with steep gable roof, gabled portico, central entrance flanked by round-headed windows, and four round-headed windows down each side. The interior, with its front vestibule and center aisle plan, also dates from the 1950s. A two-story, hipped-roof Sunday School building has been added to the rear.

As a consequence of the severe remodeling of the 1950s, which is in itself undistinguished, the original architectural integrity of the 1889 building has been lost.

A. Education Building--Built ca. 1978, this is a modern, brick veneer, one-story structure with broad gable roof located south of the church.

B. Fellowship Hall--Probably built in the 1960s, the fellowship hall is a low, red brick veneer structure with broad gable roof, gable facing east. This plain building is located northwest of the church.

C. Picnic Shed--West of the fellowship hall is a long frame structure with metal siding on three sides. It houses picnic tables and barbecue pits.

D. Parsonage--Built ca. 1958, the parsonage is a one-story brick veneer house with hipped roof, located north of the church and across the church driveway and parking lot.

E. Cemetery--The cemetery spreads outward across the lawn southwest of the church and contains several hundred markers. Dating from the early nineteenth century, it contains the graves of members of most of the locally prominent families--Sherrill, Gabriel, Connor, etc. Most of the stones are quite simple, with square or rounded heads, although there are several obelisks. Several are interesting because they are cast iron and have rusted. No inscriptions were found on these. The oldest section of the cemetery appears to be the area at the western end. In recent years, the cemetery has expanded southward across SR 1843.
10. James Gillin House

E side SR 1848, 0.3 mi S of jct w/NC 150
1908
Contributing

James Gillin is believed to have been the first miller at R. E. Gabriel's grist mill in the early twentieth century. Local tradition claims that teachers used to board in one of the upstairs rooms of this house.

Carved on the stone steps of the Gillin House—the southernmost property in the district—are the dates Aug. 27, 1908 and Aug. 17, 1909. The house is a two-story frame, late Victorian dwelling with weatherboard siding, multi-gabled roof, right front projecting bay, left rear one-story ell, and interior chimneys. The first story of the west facade is sheltered by a porch with turned posts and balustrade with rectangular-cut balusters. The rear of the house had a shed-roofed porch, now enclosed.

On the interior there is a center hall stair with closed string, turned newel and turned balusters. While downstairs the walls and ceilings have been sheetrocked, upstairs walls are plastered and the ceilings and hall surfaces are of beaded boards. Mantels are of early twentieth century post-and-lintel design, except for one of the upstairs mantels which is somewhat fancier with Neo-Classical detailing.

The house is located in a handsome terraced setting surrounded by a variety of trees.

A. Granary—Southeast of the house is the former granary, a two-story board-and-batten structure with second floor overhang on the west side (front). It has been somewhat remodeled.

B. House trailers—South of the house, but far enough away not to intrude with the house setting, are two house trailers, occupied by the present owner's son and mother-in-law.

11. Walter Gabriel House

E side SR 1848, 0.1 mi S of jct w/NC 150
ca. 1902
Contributing

Walter Gabriel, who was the bookkeeper at the Connor Store, is believed to have built this house in 1902-1903. It was remodeled during the mid-twentieth century.
The house is a one-and-one-half-story frame structure, three bays wide, with cross gable roof and interior chimneys. The dominant feature of the west facade is the large, dormer-like gable end with its pair of windows. A plain, shed-roofed porch shelters the front entrance with its glass and wood-paneled door and single-light transom. A partially enclosed shed porch is on the rear of the house. The house is now covered with asbestos shingles. Located on a tree-shaded lot directly opposite Rehobeth Church, the house is accompanied by several outbuildings.

A. Pump house--On the north side of the house is a small cinderblock pump house.

B. Garage--Northeast of the house is a frame garage sheathed in German siding.

C. Tractor shed--South of the garage is a frame tractor and equipment shed, a weatherboarded structure.

D. Chicken coop--South of the tractor shed is a frame chicken coop.

E. Barn--In an overgrown field south of the house is a frame barn with weatherboard siding, low gable roof, and shed along the north side.

12. T. F. Connor House

E side SR 1848, 0.1 mi N of jct w/NC 150
1886, 1911
Pivotal

Thomas Franklin Connor (1860-1947), son of Charles T. Connor and Mary Jane Sherrill Connor and a grandson of Major Henry W. Connor (whose house just east of Terrell is also being nominated to the National Register) was a prominent merchant, postmaster, and farmer in Terrell, building the store/post office building in the early 1890s which still stands at Terrell crossroads. In 1886, he built an impressive Stick style house just north of the crossroads. It was designed by Charles H. Lester (1849-1940), Catawba County's first known architect. Lester, who moved to the county from New London, Connecticut in the 1870s, had offices in Statesville and at his home near Sherrills Ford. The Connor House is one of only three remaining houses in Catawba County known to have been designed or remodeled by Lester. The other two are the Miles Alexander Sherrill House and Lester's own home, the Neill-Turner-Lester House, both in the Sherrills Ford vicinity (and also to be nominated to the N.R.). Lester used Palliser's Model Homes (1878) in designing the Sherrill House, and the Connor House also reflects the influence of the Palliser brothers, architects practicing in Connecticut who published several design books. In 1911, the Connor House was enlarged with a kitchen wing and other small additions, and their appearance suggests that Lester was also responsible for their design. The house has remained little altered since 1911.
The T. F. Connor House is a large, two-story frame dwelling of asymmetrical design, richly ornamented with a variety of details. Exterior features include a stone pier foundation now infilled with brick, weatherboard siding, panels of fish-scale shingles, a multi-gabled roof with widely overhanging eaves supported by chamfered braces, shingled gables, fancy sawwork bargeboards and gable decorations, bay windows with shingled surfaces, a square tower with steep roof which was once headed by a balustrade, and porches on west and east sides with shed roofs, chamfered posts, curved chamfered braces and other sawnwork detailing. The alterations which came with the 1911 kitchen addition on the south side of the house continued the forms and decorative motifs of the 1886 structure. Windows are two-over-two sash, often paired, and with louvered wood shutters. The form and detailing of the house give it a definite vertical thrust. Although the house is currently painted a single color, an early photograph reveals that the shingled gables and shingled panels were once painted a darker color for emphasis.

The interior of the Connor House is likewise well designed. A four-panel door with arched upper panels leads from the west (front) porch to the hallway. Above the entry at the foot of the stair is a circular plaster ceiling medallion. The handsome stair, which curves slightly at the bottom, features a paneled polygonal newel, turned balusters, and a heavily molded handrail. It rises along the south wall of the hall. A heavy plaster crown molding encircles the hall. North of the hall is the parlor. It displays the same crown molding as found in the hall, a fancy diamond-shaped plaster ceiling medallion, a boxed mantel with paneled sides, pilasters and frieze with bulls-eye details, and original wall paper in a floral pattern. Immediately south of the hall are the dining room and a bedroom (perhaps originally a sitting room). Similar mantels are found in these rooms, with paneled pilasters and frieze. They differ, however, in that the dining room mantel has hexagonal patterns within the panels, while the bedroom mantel displays a diamond motif. In the south ell, the original kitchen retains its late Classical post-and-lintel mantel with chamfered pilasters and frieze. The back hall and 1911 kitchen display a horizontal flush boarded wainscot. The three bedrooms of the second floor each contain a simple, but well-proportioned, Classical post-and-lintel mantel. General characteristics of the interior include wide board floors, plastered walls and ceilings, wide baseboards downstairs with plain baseboards upstairs, and four-paneled doors with heavily molded surrounds downstairs and plain surrounds upstairs.

A circular drive leads from the road to the Connor House. Oak, pine, and other trees, as well as various types of shrubs, surround the house. The house lot is surrounded on three sides by trees and heavy undergrowth. Three outbuildings remain with the house and appear to be contemporary with it.

A. Well house--Attached to the east porch of the house, near the kitchen door, is the well house. The well itself is sheltered by the roof between the well house and the porch. The well house is a small frame structure with stone foundation, weatherboard siding, gable roof with overhanging eaves, door in the west end, four-over-four sash window in the east end and diamond-shaped vent holes on the north and south sides. The upper plate extends beyond the east end of the building, ending in a console-like bracket, while the east end rafters of the gable are carved in a curvilinear fashion. The details, which are coordinated with those of the house, are also found on the smokehouse.
B. Smokehouse--Located northeast of the well house at the rear of the house lot is the smokehouse, a small rectangular frame structure with weatherboard siding, gable roof with widely overhanging eaves, four-panel door in the west end and the same plate and rafter details as found on the well house.

C. Carriage house--East of the smokehouse is the carriage house, a weatherboarded structure with gable roof, now overgrown and in a state of collapse.

13. Connor land

Between T. F. Connor House and Jason Sherrill House
Contributing

Between the T. F. Connor House and the Jason Sherrill House is a wooded and heavily overgrown parcel of land, part of which abuts NC 150. It was part of T. F. Connor's farm and is still in Connor family ownership.

14. Kermit Lee Howard House

N side NC 150, 0.2 mi E of jct w/SR 1848
1960s
Fill

Kermit Lee Howard, son of Vagie Sherrill Howard (owner of the Jason Sherrill House next door) lived on the south side of NC 150 until Duke Power Company lines cut across his property. He then built this house on property that had been part of the Jason Sherrill (his great-uncle) farm. The house is a brown brick veneer ranch style structure with low gable roof.

15. Jason Sherrill House

N side NC 150, 0.25 mi E of jct w/SR 1848
late 19th century, early 20th century
Contributing

In the late nineteenth century, farmer Jason Sherrill built a two-story frame farmhouse. During the early years of the twentieth century, Jason's brother, Isaac Early Sherrill, added the one-story kitchen and dining ell on the southeast side of the house. In 1930, Lucy Gabriel Sherrill, Isaac's wife, added the two-story ell on the northwest side of the house. The house is now owned by Vagie Sherrill Howard, the elderly daughter of Isaac and Lucy Sherrill.

The Jason Sherrill House originally faced an old road which ran northwest of the house. The road was closed when NC 150 was cut through, southeast of the house, ca. 1930.
The original two-story portion of the Jason Sherrill House had a center hall plan with two-over-two rooms, and a separate kitchen attached by a breezeway. This kitchen was replaced by the one-story kitchen/dining ell in the early twentieth century. When the two-story ell was added in 1930, the original center hall partition (on the southwest side) was removed and the direction of the stair was reversed. The interior of the original part of the house has a combination of flush boarded and sheetrocked walls on the first floor and celotex ceilings, while the second floor retains its unpainted flush boarded walls and ceilings. The stair features a heavily turned newel, simple turned balusters, and a heavy hand rail. The parlor mantel is an unusual vernacular interpretation of a Classical mantel, complete with skinny side "pillasters" and matching frieze. The remaining mantel on the second floor is a simple late Victorian mantel with chamfered pilasters and bracketed shelf. The two rooms of the one-story ell have flush boarded walls and ceilings, while the two-story ell is finished with beaded board walls and ceilings. Five-panel doors are found throughout most of the house, while batten doors are found on the original second floor. Both six-over-six and four-over-four sash windows are found in the house.

The exterior of the house has a stone foundation, weatherboard siding, brick and stone chimneys, and a gable roof with overhanging eaves. A one-story porch with chamfered posts wraps around the west, southwest, and south sides of the house, while another small porch has been added to the northeast side of the kitchen ell, attached to what was an earlier side porch, now enclosed.

The Sherrill House is located downhill from NC 150, at the end of a winding lane. Open fields separate it from the road. Various shrubs surround the house, and numerous walnut, oak, and other trees are found throughout the yard, providing a shady and attractive environment for the house and outbuildings. The outbuildings are located in a group northeast of the house. Behind the outbuildings is a small orchard.

A. Smokehouse--East of the house is a board-and-batten smokehouse, with gable roof which overhangs widely on the front and a set of wooden steps leading up the front to the loft level.

B. (former) Kitchen--Sheds connect the smokehouse with the former kitchen to the east. This is a pole frame structure with hewn sills, a combination of weatherboard and vertical board siding, a gable roof, batten doors and attached sheds on the northwest and southwest sides. It was moved from its location closer to the house when the one-story ell was added.

C. Shed--North of the smokehouse and former kitchen, to the rear of the other outbuildings, is a frame shed.
D. Shed--Northwest of the former kitchen is a frame shed with German siding. It was originally used as a gas station on NC 150. A smaller addition is attached to its northwest side.

E. Chicken coop--North of the gas station shed is a small frame chicken coop with weatherboard siding and shed roof. It dates from the 1930s.

F. Wood shed--Northwest of the gas station shed is the 1930s wood shed. It has weatherboard siding, a shed roof, and a large opening on the southwest side.

G. Garage--West of the wood shed (and north of the house) is the 1930s garage, a small frame structure with weatherboard siding, gable roof with overhang on the front (northwest) and opening for one vehicle on the northwest end.
The Terrell Historic District is a collection of buildings and landscape features which form the distinguishable entity of a rural crossroads community dating primarily from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It is the best remaining example of a crossroads community of this period in Catawba County and is representative of the once numerous crossroads settlements centered on a general store that dotted the rural landscape of North Carolina. Included among the properties which form the district are an 1850s farmhouse of vernacular Greek Revival influence, an outstanding 1880s Stick style house designed by the county’s earliest known architect, Charles H. Lester, several houses typical of the late nineteenth-early twentieth century period, a well-preserved country store and post office representative of those built during the late nineteenth century, a grist mill of typical early twentieth century form, and a rare surviving example of a cotton gin which dated from 1932.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT:

A. The Terrell Historic District is associated with the postbellum agricultural and commercial development which contributed to Catawba County’s turn-of-the-century prosperity.

B. The district is associated with the lives of several people who have been prominent in the history of the crossroads and the surrounding community in eastern Catawba County, including: Thomas Franklin Connor (1860-1947), founder of the Terrell general store in 1885 and the builder in 1886 of a handsome Stick style dwelling designed by local architect Charles H. Lester (1849-1940); Dr. Littleton T. Coleman who is accredited with the building of the oldest surviving house in the district, ca. 1854, the Coleman-Caldwell-Gabriel Farm; R. E. Gabriel who bought the former Coleman farm and who, with his son, operated a cotton gin here in the district; and other members of the Sherrill and Gabriel families.

C. The Terrell Historic District is the most intact crossroads community remaining in Catawba County and contains some fifteen major buildings, together with numerous outbuildings, which represent vernacular building traditions in Catawba County from the Greek Revival style of the mid-nineteenth century through the first decades of the twentieth century. The district also contains one of the major residential works—the Thomas Franklin Connor House—by the county’s first known architect, Charles H. Lester.

Criteria Exception:

D. The cemetery associated with the Rehobeth Methodist Church is the traditional cemetery for the town of Terrell. It is the resting place of most of the past residents of the community, is a good, typical, traditional example of a community cemetery, and is a significant landmark in and for Terrell.
The Terrell Historic District is a small crossroads community consisting of a church, several residences, a cotton gin and gristmill complex, and a general store and gas station housing the post office. Located in the extreme southeast corner of Catawba County, the community developed in the 1880s to serve the surrounding prosperous agricultural region. Terrell was situated between the waters of Mountain Creek to the southwest and the Catawba River to the east; but with the completion in 1963 of the Duke Power Company's Cowan's Ford Dam on the river, Terrell found itself on the northwest shore of Lake Norman. The Terrell Historic District is the most intact crossroads community remaining in Catawba County, and is representative of the once numerous and typical crossroad settlements centered on a general store that dotted the rural landscape of North Carolina. In addition, the district contains two houses of architectural significance: the Coleman-Caldwell-Gabriel House, one of the best examples of a Greek Revival dwelling in the county, and the T. F. Connor House, a handsome Queen Anne structure designed by local architect Charles H. Lester.

Terrell's Crossroads is situated at the intersection of the Beatties Ford Road and the Sherrill's Ford Road (NC 150 and SR 1848). This site, just north of Rehobeth Methodist Church, had been a county militia musterground in the antebellum period. Development at the crossroads began with the establishment of a cotton gin by Miles Whitfield Sherrill and with the opening in 1885 of a large general store by Thomas Franklin Connor, the nephew of Sherrill. Such family ties have played an important part in the growth of Terrell. Apparently the improving economic conditions of the postwar period in Catawba County resulted in a demand for the gin and store; prior to their establishment, the surrounding agricultural community had been served by the store, post office, and gin at Sherrill's Ford, a community about one mile north of Terrell. By 1893, a post office was established in T. F. Connor's store, and the crossroads community, with a population of twenty-five, was named Terrell after a minister of Rehobeth Methodist Church. Supposedly the Reverend Mr. Terrell was the area's "first Methodist minister who left his church and community with all his bills paid."

Rehobeth Church, organized prior to 1791, is considered the oldest Methodist congregation west of the Catawba River in North Carolina. Situated just south of the crossroads, the present church building is a drastic overbuilding and remodeling of a frame church erected in 1889. These unfortunate alterations to both the exterior and interior of the church were made in the 1950s and can be said to represent a decline in the fortunes of the district. Since its organization here in the eighteenth century, Rehobeth Church has been the only church congregation in the Terrell community and it is the only church building in or near the bounds of the district. Thus it (the present building) and its predecessors have been the single place of worship for the residents of the community during the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries.

Inasmuch as Rehobeth Church was the only church in the community and the location of a burying ground adjacent to a church is a long custom and practice in the North Carolina Piedmont, the cemetery adjoining the church contains the graves of the buildings and subsequent owners of the houses, stores, mill and gin, and farms identified and described in this nomination. The oldest gravestones in the cemetery date from the first decade of the nineteenth century. Among the early stones is that of the Reverend Daniel Asbury
(1762-1825) and his wife, Nancy L. Morris (d. 1862), the parents of the Reverend Henry Asbury. The elder Reverend Asbury is identified as the founder of the church. Prominent among the several hundred stones in the cemetery are those marking the graves of members of the Gabriel, Connor, Cornelius, and Sherrill families, including the gravestones of Major Henry W. Connor (1793-1866) and the handsome marble obelisk of his son, Henry Connor, Jr. (d. 1873). There are also several unusual cast iron gravemarkers in the cemetery. As the burying ground of the community's citizens now for 185 years, the cemetery is inextricably linked historically and physically to the significance of the district.

Major Connor, whose house still stands a mile east of the crossroads, was the community's leading citizen in the antebellum period. Connor was the largest slaveholder in Catawba County in 1850 with 77 slaves, and at his death he owned 5,329 acres stretching from the Catawba River to Mountain Creek west of the crossroads. Connor represented North Carolina in Congress from 1821 to 1841; in 1842 he was elected a councilor of state and from 1848 to 1850 he served in the state senate. In 1839 Connor married Lucy Hawkins Coleman (1802-1849/50), the widow of Dr. Littleton T. Coleman of Warren County and the daughter of William Hawkins, governor of North Carolina from 1811 to 1814. The subsequent development of Terrell's Crossroads was closely tied to members of Connor's family.

Major Connor's stepson, Dr. Littleton T. Coleman, is thought to have built the oldest structure in the district, his house being the large frame Greek Revival dwelling on the west side of the Sherrill's Ford Road. In 1854 Dr. Coleman purchased 519 acres and probably constructed the house soon thereafter. Little is known of Dr. Coleman or his occupancy of the house. There is no recorded deed of Coleman ever selling the property, but local tradition claims the house was purchased from Coleman by Dr. John J. Mott, a locally prominent physician, planter, mill owner, and donor of the Mott's Grove camp­ground. At some point, the house came into the possession of J. W. Long who sold the house and 318 acres to Franklin Caldwell in 1887. Caldwell was a prosperous farmer and deputy sheriff of Catawba County who had served as assistant marshal in enumerating the citizens of Mountain Creek township for the 1870 census. The house remained in the Caldwell family until 1914.

The property immediately to the south of the Coleman-Caldwell House belonged to various members of the Sherrill family, a prominent family that had been among the first to settle in the area in the mid-eighteenth century. Hiram Sherrill (d. 1860), a prosperous farmer and a small slaveholder, owned a 380-acre farm near the crossroads. His daughter, Mary Jane (1836-1889), married Charles T. Connor, the son of Major Henry Connor, and they established their home on a 600-acre plantation near the crossroads where they became the parents of Thomas Franklin, Lucy Anne, Charley, and Luettia. Charles Connor was killed in the Civil War in 1865, a year before his father died. It was Mrs. Connor's brother, Miles Whitfield Sherrill (1834-1918), who established a cotton gin at the crossroads around 1869. Another brother, Miles O. Sherrill, served as clerk of the Catawba County Superior Court, represented the county in the general assembly in 1883, 1885, and 1893, and was state librarian from 1900 to 1917.
In 1885 Thomas Franklin Connor (1860-1947), the son of Charles and Mary Jane Sherrill Connor, opened a general store at the crossroads opposite the cotton gin operated by his uncle, Miles Whitfield Sherrill; a few years later Connor replaced this store with the large frame store which is still in use. After opening his store, Connor married Ellen Caldwell, the daughter of Frank Caldwell who lived in the Dr. Coleman house. In 1886, Connor built a handsome Stick style house across the road from his father-in-law. The house was designed and built by Charles H. Lester, the first architect known to have practiced in Catawba County. Lester (1849-1940), a native of New London, Connecticut, settled in Catawba County around 1870 and eventually opened offices as a builder-architect in Hickory and in Statesville, Iredell County. According to the recollections of T. F. Connor's daughter, all of the materials used in building the house were brought from Statesville. Lester was also responsible for designing and building the Miles Alexander Sherrill House, ca. 1885, which is located only four miles north of Terrell. The Connor house and the Sherrill house are very similar in style and detail and it is known that Lester used Palliser's Model Homes (1878) in designing the Sherrill house.

Shortly before T. F. Connor built his house, Cebring Sherrill (1856-1927), son of Miles Whitfield Sherrill, built a small frame house next to his father's cotton gin. In 1906, Cebring Sherrill's son-in-law, R. E. Gabriel (1866-1950), added a large addition to the house, bringing it to its present appearance. About this time, Gabriel rebuilt the Sherrill cotton gin and built a gristmill across the road behind T. F. Connor's store. A Mr. Gillin was the first miller at the gristmill and he built the small frame house which stands across the road from Rehobeth Church. In 1914, R. E. Gabriel purchased the Dr. Coleman house from the Caldwell family; after his move into the Coleman house, Gabriel's son Thad lived in the Cebring Sherrill House next to the cotton gin.

In 1932, the cotton gin burned and the Gabriel's rebuilt the gin and the gin storage building across the road between their gristmill and T. F. Connor's store. The gristmill, evidently not prospering, was eventually converted into a storage building. The gin, powered by electricity, sometimes ginned as many as fifty bales of cotton a day, and continued in operation until 1960 when the boll weevil ended cotton production in the county; the gin remains with its equipment intact. In 1933, Harold Gabriel, another son of R. E. Gabriel, purchased the T. F. Connor store; Gabriel ran the store and served as the Terrell postmaster until 1968.

Terrell's Crossroads continued to serve the surrounding rural populace without much change in its physical appearance from the turn of the century until the early 1960s when several brick-veneered ranch houses, including the parsonage for Rehobeth Church, were built at the crossroads, as was a large brick furniture store. In 1963, Duke Power Company completed a massive hydroelectric project on the Catawba River which resulted in the building of the Marshall power plant on the river only a mile east of the crossroads. The Cowan's Ford Dam, several miles downriver, created Lake Norman, 32,510 acres in area, whose branches surround Terrell on the west, south, and east. The store-gas station-post office complex at the crossroads continues to flourish as it serves not only the local farm families but also the many non-farm families which have built vacation and year-round residences along the shores of Lake Norman.
Despite such twentieth-century developments as nearby Lake Norman and Duke Power Company's Marshall plant, Terrell Crossroads still maintains an undisturbed rural setting. The general store, in operation since 1883, and the post office, established in 1893, continue their original purposes of serving the surrounding countryside as does Rehobeth Methodist Church, founded in 1791. The Dr. Coleman-Caldwell House, owned by the Gabriel family since 1914, and the Stick-style T. F. Connor House, built in 1886 and still owned by Connor's daughter, are two of Catawba County's best preserved dwellings of architectural significance. With its various components, the Terrell Historic District is the most intact crossroads community remaining in the county.

2 Preslar, Catawba County, 365; Observer-News Enterprise (Newton), 27 November 1968.

3 Preslar, Catawba County, 365.


5 Land division of Henry W. Connor, 12 January 1867, Catawba County Deeds, Book 6, p. 73, microfilm copy, Archives, Division of Archives and History, hereinafter cited as Catawba County Deeds and as Archives; Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: Catawba County, North Carolina, slave schedule, 197, manuscript copy, Archives, hereinafter cited as 1850 Census.


7 Charlotte Journal, 28 March 1839; Beth G. Crabtree, North Carolina Governors, 1585-1974 (Raleigh: Department of Cultural Resources, 1974), 64.


9 Newton Observer, 7 April 1952; The Heritage of Iredell County (Statesville, N.C.: Genealogical Society of Iredell County, 1980), 424; see National Register nomination for Motts Grove Camp Ground, Catawba County, in files of Survey and Planning Branch, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

10 J. W. Long of Mecklenburg County to F. Caldwell, 2 March 1877, Catawba County Deeds, Book 10, p. 534. Long had purchased land from Dr. Mott but it does not appear to have been the Coleman House property, see J. J. Mott to J. W. Long, Catawba County Deeds, Book 15, p. 161.

11 Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: Catawba County, North Carolina, population schedule, 195, microfilm copy, Archives, hereinafter cited as 1860 Census; Ninth Census of the United States, 1870: Catawba County, North Carolina, population schedule, 561, 593, manuscript copy, Archives, hereinafter cited as 1870 Census.

13 Kitchens, Sherrill Family, 17-18; 1860 Census, Catawba County, agricultural schedule, 43, microfilm copy, Archives.

14 Information provided by Mrs. Norman Young and Mrs. Rodney Bradford, long-time residents of the area, see Terrell Cotton Gin file, Survey and Planning Branch, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh; Sherrill's Mill is shown on the 1886 Yoder Map of Catawba County as M. W. Sherrill and Co. Mills, R. A. Yoder, Map of Catawba County, North Carolina (Newton, N.C.: R. A. Yoder, 1886).


19 See National Register nomination for Miles Alexander Sherrill House, Survey and Planning Branch, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

20 Unless otherwise noted, the following information on names, dates, family relationships, and buildings comes from the notes of Bogue Wallin taken from interviews with local Terrell residents in 1979; these notes are in the files of the respective properties in the Survey and Planning Branch, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

21 Observer-News Enterprise (Newton), 27 November 1968.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property: 150 acres

Quadrangle name: Lake Norman North

UTM References

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Verbal boundary description and justification:
The property being nominated is shown on the accompanying tax maps 12MC and 13MC; district is outlined in red. The scale is 1"=400'.

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

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Marshall Bullock

organization: N. C. Division of Archives and History
date: June 27, 1983

street & number: 109 E. Jones St.
telephone: (919) 733-6545

city or town: Raleigh
state: North Carolina 27611

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

- [ ] national
- [ ] state
- [x] 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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature: [Signature]
date: July 12, 1985

For NPS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register: [Signature] date

Keeper of the National Register: [Signature] date

Attest: [Signature] date

Chief of Registration: [Signature] date
Catawba County Records (subgroups: deeds, wills, estates papers), Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

Charlotte Journal, 28 March 1839.


Daily News (Greensboro), 4 August 1935.

Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: Catawba County, North Carolina, microfilm copy, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.


Newton Observer, 7 April 1952.

Ninth Census of the United States, 1870: Catawba County, North Carolina, manuscript copy, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

Observer-News Enterprise (Newton), 27 November 1968.


Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: Catawba County, North Carolina, manuscript copy, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

Tenth Census of the United States, 1870: Catawba County, North Carolina, manuscript copy, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.


Verbal Boundary Description

Included in the district are the properties associated with the 1850s Coleman-Caldwell-Gabriel Farm; the Sherrill-Gabriel, James Gillin, Walter Gabriel, T. F. Connor, and Jason Sherrill houses—all from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; the late nineteenth century Connor Store and Post Office; the early twentieth century industrial complex, including a grist mill, a cotton gin and cotton warehouses; and the Rehobeth Methodist Church and Cemetery whose history dates from the late eighteenth century. Also within the district are additional undisturbed lands associated with the T. F. Connor House and two twentieth century ranch-style houses included because of their locations between other significant properties. Not included are the mid-twentieth century gas stations and other non-contributing commercial structures on the northeast and southeast corners of the intersection.