**State of North Carolina**
**Division of Archives and History**

**INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR**
Iredell County

| X | MULTIPLE RESOURCE | OR | THEMATIC NOMINATION |

**NAME**
HISTORIC: Coddle Creek Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, Session House and Cemetery

**LOCATION**
STREET & NUMBER: E side SR 1146, 0.2 mile N of Cabarrus County line
CITY, TOWN: North Carolina
STATE: North Carolina

| X | VICINITY OF | Rocky River |

**CLASSIFICATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
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<td>AGRICULTURE</td>
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**OWNER OF PROPERTY**
NAME: Coddle Creek A. R. P. Church
c/o Rev. John J. Hopperich
STREET & NUMBER: Route 1 (Coddle Creek Road)
CITY, TOWN: Mooresville
STATE: North Carolina 28115

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**
COURTHOUSE REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN

**FORM PREPARED BY**
NAME: Laura A. W. Phillips (Winston-Salem)
ORGANIZATION: Consultant for Survey and Planning Branch
STREET & NUMBER: Archives and History
CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh
STATE: North Carolina
DATE: February 4, 1980
TELEPHONE: (919) 733-6545
STATE: North Carolina
Coddle Creek Church is located in the far southeastern corner of Iredell County, only a short distance north of the Cabarrus County line.

The present church was built in 1884 as the third church building on this site of the congregation that was established in 1753. Coddle Creek is a 3 x 5 bay frame church of simplified late Italianate design. The center bay of the gable end facade features an entrance tower with louvered vents, four cross-gables—each with a wooden finial at its peak—and bracketed eaves. The main entrance, with replacement doors, is at the base of the tower. The tower projects upward through a bold pediment formed by the gable end—a final trace of the Greek Revival style. The main roof has overhanging bracketed eaves matching those of the tower roof. The 9/9 segmental arched sash windows which surround the church are covered by louvered shutters. On the rear of the church are a small apse and two small additions. Although the interior of the church has been somewhat altered, the organ balcony at the rear (over the front door), which is supported on curvilinear brackets, is a special feature which remains intact.

On the north (left) side of the church, a twentieth century one-story frame education building is attached by a breezeway.

Southeast of the church building is the small, one-story frame session house, similar to those found at Bethesda and Centre Presbyterian Churches. The Coddle Creek session house is probably contemporary with the church building. It has a gable roof with overhanging boxed eaves, two small chimneys—one interior and one exterior—a single door on the west elevation, and a single louver-shuttered window on each of the other sides.

At the rear of the church is a large cemetery of approximately 250 markers, partially bounded by a very low, quarried granite wall. The most distinctive feature of the cemetery is the wrought-iron gate with granite posts. With its pickets ascending toward the center, cross rails and diagonal cross braces, it is quite similar to the gate at Centre Church, also at the south end of the county. The central picket of the Coddle Creek gate has added interest, for 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 he may have been responsible for the one at Centre Church as well. The cemetery dates from the founding of the Coddle Creek congregation and contains numerous gravestones from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Many of these are imaginatively carved, exhibiting skills of local artisans.

Other structures on the property, located north of the church and cemetery, near the north boundary, include a one-and-one-half story Bungalow style brick veneer manse and several shed structures.
The first Presbyterian congregation in Iredell County was established ca. 1755 at Coddle Creek. Since the majority of Iredell's eighteenth century settlers were of Scotch-Irish background, the Presbyterian Church is the oldest denomination in the county. Coddle Creek was one of the earliest meeting houses west of the Yadkin River. Later in the century Coddle Creek Church became one of the first congregations of dissenting Presbyterians, known as Associate Reform Presbyterians, in North Carolina. The present church structure, built in 1884, is a notable local interpretation of a transitional late Greek Revival/Victorian country church in wood. The session house of about the same period follows the pattern set by those at both Centre Presbyterian Church and Bethesda Presbyterian Church during the mid-nineteenth century. Coddle Creek Cemetery, which dates from the founding of the congregation, contains numerous gravestones from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, many of which are among the most imaginatively carved in the county, exhibiting the skills of local artisans. The outstanding wrought-iron gate with granite posts is quite similar, only slightly more decorative, to the one at Centre Presbyterian Church and is believed to have been forged by a Mr. Freeze, a local blacksmith, who may also have been responsible for the one at Centre. These gates represent an important component of the history of artisanry in the county.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

A. Coddle Creek Church is associated with the early development of organized religion in Iredell County, having been the first known congregation established in the county about 1755. At the end of the eighteenth century Coddle Creek was again at the forefront of religious development by being one of the first congregations in North Carolina of the dissenting Associate Reform Presbyterians. These events took place in a county where churches have historically played a strong social as well as religious role.

C. The 1884 Coddle Creek Church building embodies characteristics from both the late Greek Revival and late Italianate styles combined in an imaginative way for a frame country church. The session house embodies the distinctive characteristics of those built during the mid-nineteenth century in Iredell County, as exemplified by the session houses at Centre and Bethesda Presbyterian Churches. The session house is an important and distinctive feature of Presbyterian church complexes reflecting the government of the denomination. The cemetery displays numerous artistic expressions, both in its outstanding wrought iron gate, similar to the one at Centre Church and believed to have been forged by a blacksmith named Freeze, and in the imaginatively carved gravestones which date from the mid-eighteenth century.
The congregation at Coddle Creek was established ca. 1755. On John Collet's map, published in 1771 though based largely on information gathered earlier by Francis Churton, a meeting house is shown on Coddle Creek just north of the Granville line. This was the only meeting house of any kind shown west of the Yadkin. When Presbyterian missionary Hugh McAden passed through the southern part of Iredell County in 1755, he left a journal of his travels. He recorded that when he was in the southeastern section in October he preached at a meeting house near "Mr. Carruth's." Walter Carruth, mentioned in McAden's journal, was buried at Coddle Creek in 1769. It is almost certain that Coddle Creek was one of the meeting houses where McAden preached in 1755.

For almost 36 years the congregation relied on itinerate ministers, the first resident pastor, Rev. John Boyce, being installed in 1789. In 1790 an Associate Reformed Presbytery of the Carolinas was organized, and Coddle Creek was one of the first to dissent from the Presbyterian Church and join this new group. Therefore, the congregation is now called Coddle Creek A. R. P. Church.

In 1884 the present church was built as the third Coddle Creek church structure on this site. At about the same time the session house was built. Both structures have been well-maintained through the years.

### Major Bibliographical References


### Geographical Data

**Acreage of Nominated Property:** 14 1/2 (Approx.)

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

All of Tract 24, Block A, Map 1A (as shown on Map 1B), Coddle Creek Township, as outlined in red on map.

The property being nominated includes the church-owned tract which consists of the church, session house, cemetery and their immediate surroundings.
South Broad Street Row
251-311 S. Broad Street, Mooresville
Iredell Co., Mooresville Quad
Scale 1:24000, 3½ acres
UTM References: Zone 17
Easting 516590 Northing 3937240

Centre Presbyterian Church, Session House and Cemetery
N & S sides SR 1245, Mt. Mourne