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STRUCTURE	BOTH	_WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
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XGOOD

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CONDITION

_DETERIORATED __EXCELLENT RUINS __UNEXPOSED

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X_ORIGINAL SITE __MOVED DATE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The McClelland-Davis House, located several miles northwest of Statesville, is a two-story frame, 5 X 2 bay house with original one-story rear wing with ca. 1930 present kitchen extension. The house was built probably between 1830 and 1845 in the transitional Federal-Greek Revival style and is very similar in form and detail to Mt. Mourne and Wood Lawn in the southern end of the county. These three houses, some of the most stylistic in Iredell, may possibly have been built by the same builder.

The McClelland-Davis House has exterior end single-shoulder brick chimneys set on fieldstone bases, a gable roof, and fieldstone pier foundation. The 9/9, 9/6, 6/6, and 4/4 sash windows all have simple molded surrounds, except for those beneath the front porch, which have fluted surrounds with plain corner blocks. The present batten shutters are not original. The threebay wide front porch with hipped roof, finely fluted Doric columns and matching pilasters is the stylistic focal point of the exterior. Between the columns and roof cornice is a wide, flush-sheathed frieze. The main entrance has a double-leaf door, sidelights and transom, and fluted surround with fretwork corner blocks.

The interior of the house exhibits a center hall plan with 2/2 rooms. The rear ell was originally used as the dining room. All walls are covered with horizontal flush sheathing. Interior doors have six flat panels and doors and windows of both floors have fluted surrounds with plain corner blocks. Window surrounds extend to the floor, forming aprons. Doors have large box locks with Carpenter seals. The graceful center hall stairway has an oval, ramped handrail, slender plain balusters, a spiral newel, and is highlighted by tulip stair brackets of the type published by Owen Biddle in his 1810 book, Young Carpenter's Assistant. This bracket type is also found in Mt. Mourne, Wood Lawn and the Johnson-Neel House. First story mantels exhibit transitional stylistic details with molded pilasters and frieze and diamondfaceted corner blocks and center tablet. Those on the second story have symmetrically molded Doric pilasters and frieze. Rooms have deeply molded cornices.

Seven 19th and 20th century outbuildings are spread out across the rear of the house lot. Most interesting of these is the granary, probably contemporary with the house. It is a twostory structure with handhewn, pegged frame, and gable roof with front end overhang. The building measures approximately 41' by 23' and rests on a fieldstone foundation. The batten door with large wooden lock is set on wrought iron strap hinges, and one of the rear windows has vertical wooden shutters with butt hinges.

The smokehouse, which is probably also contemporary with the house, is a small half dovetail log structure with batten door set on wooden hinges and secured by a wooden lock. On the left side of the snokehouse is an attached frame woodshed and on the right side is an attached brick flower pit, both 20th century in date.

Far to the rear of the other outbuildings is the wellhouse. This board and batten structure with brick curbed well probably dates from the late 19th century. The original well crank with wrought iron handle remains intact.

Twentieth century outbuildings, all of frame construction, include a barn (ca. 1900), a small shed, a two-hole privy and a chicken house.

Additional outbuildings which no longer remain were the dairy, the detached kitchen and the harness shop.

The McClelland-Davis House and all outbuildings which do remain are well preserved.

8	SI	G	N	IF	Time di	CA	N	CE
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PERIOD	AF	IEAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	HECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC	_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	_COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	_SCULPTURE
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	_EDUCATION	MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	_ENGINEERING	MUSIC	_THEATER
X 1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)
		_INVENTION		
			·	
SPECIFIC DATE	ES 1830-1845	BUILDER/ARCH	HITECT	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The McClelland-Davis House is one of the most sophisticated and best preserved plantation houses in Iredell County, exhibiting refined detailing from the transitional Federal/Greek Revival period. Elegantly and generously proportioned, the house shows not only regional vernacular features but also the influence of popular builders' guides such as Owen Biddle's Young Carpenter's Assistant of 1810. Outbuildings contemporary with the house, along with surrounding farm and woodlands, provide a complementary setting for the McClelland-Davis House

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- A. The McClelland-Davis House is associated with the antebellum development of plantations in Iredell County, and in this case, is representative of those plantations which remained in the same family ownership for many years.
- B. The McClelland-Davis House is representative of the transitional Federal/Greek Revival stylist period, as found in some Iredell buildings which date from the 1830-1845 period. The house embodies the distinctive characteristics of a small group of plantation houses in Iredell which display the influence of Owen Biddle (Young Carpenter's Assistant, 1810) in their stairway design with tulip brackets. Including Mt. Mourne and Wood Lawn, the houses in the group are each two-stories, four or five bays wide, with gable roof, exterior end brick chimneys and a hipped-roof, Doric entrance porch of some sophistication. With the numerous similarities held by these houses, they may possibly have shared the same builder, name unknown.

The McClelland-Davis House is believed to have been built by John N. McClelland, probably ca. 1835. John N. McClelland came from a long line of McClellands who made their homes in the area between Fourth Creek and Morrison Creek, then known as the south fork of Fourth Creek. Nicholas McClelland was the progenitor of the family in Iredell, settling on Morrison Creek just a few miles north of the old Fourth Creek Meetinghouse in 1766. John N. McClelland his wife, three of his children, his brothers, sisters, parents and grandparents are all burie in Fourth Creek Cemetery.

John Nesbit McClelland was born October 27, 1806. From around 1830 to 1836 he both inherited and purchased land in the area of the present house. In 1834, he is believed to have married Martha Parker of Wilkes County. Judging from this set of circumstances and from the architectural character of the house, it seems likely that it was built either shortly before or shortly after McClelland's marriage, or ca. 1835.

In 1860 McClelland's property was valued at \$20,000. On March 3, 1868 he died, but it was not until after his wife's death in 1871 that the property was divided among three surviving children. Columbia N. McClelland Connelly, wife of J. B. Connelly, inherited 186 acres including the McClelland home.

J. B. Connelly was an educator who had moved to Statesville from Caldwell County. He was teaching at the Male Academy in 1874 when he was elected clerk of court in Iredell County, a position he held until 1889.

A prominent Methodist leader and member of Mt. Zion Church (now Broad Street Methodist), Connelly donated land and \$100 toward the building of a Methodist church north of Statesville, known as Connelly's Chapel.

Columbia and J. B. Connelly may have lived in the McClelland house for several years, but on February 5, 1876, they deeded 186 acres of land described as "lot #1 of the J. N. McClelland estate" to Jonathan A. Davis for \$2,000. For the first time in over 100 years, the farm was no longer in McClelland family ownership.

When Jonathan Davis died in 1918, one of his sons, Thomas W. Davis, inherited the house and 58 acres. After Thomas Davis' ownership, the property was held by various owners until finallit was purchased by Columbus W. and Mary Elizabeth Davis Watts, the granddaughter of Jonathan Davis and present owner of the house. The property now includes only approximately 41 acres, but it is still used for farmlands and woodlands.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The source of information for the general history of the McClelland-Davis House was Mildred J. Miller's "Historical Sketch on the McClelland-Davis Complex" (February 1979), an unpublished typescript which is part of the Survey and Research Report on the McClelland-Davis House and Property prepared for the Iredell County Historic Properties Commission.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 11 1/2 (Approx.)

UTM REFERENCES

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION That part of Tract 31, being within the following boundaries beginning at the southeast corner of Tract 31 and running 800 ft. north along the east property line, then running northwest 600 feet to a point 1000 feet north of SR 1551, then running south 1000 feet to the south property line on SR 1551, then running east along the south property line approximately 550 feet to the point of beginning. Located within Block A, Map 9A, Concord Township, Iredell County, as outlined in red on map.

Form No. 10-300a (Hev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

Iredell County

McClelland - Davis House
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

10

PAGE 2

Geographical Data (Cont'd)

Boundary Justification

The significance of this property today lies primarily with the architectural qualities of the house and several of its outbuildings. The property being nominated includes the house, outbuildings and immediate surroundings.



