INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

Iredell County

X MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Morrison-Campbell House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

End of 0.4 mile dirt lane, entrance E side SR 2125, 0.2 mile S of jct. with SR 2124

CITY, TOWN

Harmony

STATE

North Carolina

X VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Iredell

CODE

037

047

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

X OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES RESTRICTED

YES UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

COMMERCIAL

PARK

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Miss Grace Campbell

STREET & NUMBER

Route 1, Box 36

CITY, TOWN

Harmony

STATE

North Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE

Registry of Deeds, etc.

Iredell County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Laura A. W. Phillips

ORGANIZATION

Consultant for Survey and Planning Branch

DATE

February 4, 1980

TELEPHONE

919/733-6545

CITY OR TOWN

Raleigh

STATE

North Carolina
DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
GOOD
FAIR

DETERIORATED
RUINS
UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
MOVED DATE

DESCRIPT THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located in a large clearing on a high rise above Hunting Creek about two-and-one-half miles downstream from Daltonia (#3 in MRN), the Morrison-Campbell House today, as in the past, commands an uninterrupted vista of the surrounding fields and woodlands of this rural countryside.

The overall appearance of the Morrison-Campbell House is that of a late Greek Revival Piedmont plantation house. The details of this two-story frame structure, three bays wide by two deep, with shallow gable roof, exterior end chimneys of brick on stone foundation, one-story hip-roofed front porch with lattice work posts (creating an effect similar to the porch posts at nearby Daltonia), and the one-story central chimney ell all in their own way contribute to this impression. The main entrance, which consists of a single door, transom and sidelights, as well as the porch windows are trimmed with fluted casings on plain bases at the porch floor. Corner blocks are constructed of four triangular pieces of this molding creating a block of concentric squares.

The flush sheathed interior—a modified Quaker plan with center passage and two-room ell at the left rear—sports striking Greek mantels in the main block of the house. The large room on the left has the finest of these—a deep shelf supported by fluted Doric colonnettes with marked entasis, and the same fluted casing with the addition of several beads enfaming the firebox. The two corner fireplaces across the hall have remarkable vernacular mantels. One has simple pilasters of the fluted casing (as on the front porch doors and windows) supporting similar corner blocks connected horizontally by more of the casing. Above this the frieze features two panels of fluted grounds set on opposite diagonals creating a chevron effect under the thin shelf. The other mantel, though plain in construction, has a richness of texture created by a broad frieze of concentric rectangles (created by fluted panels) resting on similarly treated pilasters. Interior doors of five raised panels occur throughout the main block of the house.

Sufficient anachronisms are present, however, to suggest earlier origins for this house. The most obvious of these is the fine Federal mantel of the fireplace in the ell. Its slender pilasters are fluted with five stop-flutes, and its frieze is banded with three progressively heavier moldings, each of which is blocked across the pilaster to support a molded shelf. The flush sheathing on that wall is random width, while the main block of the house is sheathed with constant-width boards. The door adjacent to this mantel displays casing which matches the exterior window casings (other than those on the front porch). It consists of a bead, a two-step ground and an ogee backband. These Federal style details are further enhanced by the 9/6 first floor sash and 6/6 second floor arrangement (although most windows now have replacement modern sash). In addition, the three-light transom of the main entrance (which matches that of the ell entrance) seems to clash with the entrance sidelights, in that the transom panes match the window lights and the sidelights are less than half that size, suggesting that they may have been an afterthought (a later alteration) despite the continuity of trim.

Although the Morrison-Campbell House has unfortunately been covered with ersatz stone sheets, the vitality and the imaginative quality of the details of this house shine through.

Several outbuildings are located to the north and east of the house. The most interesting of these is the log smokehouse, later sheathed with weatherboarding, which was constructed in 1880 on the day of Grace Campbell’s father’s birth. A barn, granary, sheds, chicken houses and a garage were all built during the twentieth century, according to the present owner.
The Morrison-Campbell House, built in the late antebellum period, combines the traditional two-story gable roof form so characteristic of 19th century domestic architecture of the Piedmont with unusually complex and interesting woodwork, exhibiting notable folk versions of the Greek Revival style. The entrance treatment is typical with its molding forming pilaster strips and cornerblocks, with a dense surface texture and repetitive intricacy suggestive almost of quilting or needlework. Similar motifs occur throughout the house. Also notable is the fieldstone foundation, modified Quaker plan, and other features characteristic of the vernacular domestic architecture of the region.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

A. Associated with antebellum prosperity of small farm complexes in Piedmont North Carolina and Iredell County.

B. Exhibits distinctive characteristics of vernacular domestic architecture, in the gable roof, modified Quaker plan, and intricate folk versions of Greek Revival detail.
The Morrison-Campbell House is believed to have been built for James E. Morrison around 1860, near the present day community of Harmony. Morrison died in the late 1860s, and in 1874 the house was sold to Columbus W. Campbell, who paid $1,000 for it and 187 1/2 acres.

Campbell was born in November of 1845 in Iredell County. His wife Martha was born in November of 1852. They had four children. Blanch was born in 1874, John in 1877, James Clay in 1880, and Cora in 1884. Census records indicate that the Campbell farm was a small one. In 1880 Campbell had 36 acres under cultivation, and the farm was valued at $1,000. Campbell grew 350 bushels of corn, and lesser amounts of wheat, oats, apples, and tomatoes. The farm had three cows, eight swine, and twelve chickens and seems altogether typical of a small, self-sufficient nineteenth century farm. Campbell augmented his income as a carpenter.

Columbus Campbell died in 1915, and the property was left to his son James Clay Campbell, who continued to farm it. He built most of the surviving outbuildings including the 1922 barn and the 1939 granary. Campbell's wife, the former Zeta Cooke of Davie County, died in January of 1964, while he died in December of 1966. The present owner of the house is their daughter Miss Grace Campbell, who continued to live there.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


Iredell County Records. Deed Books, Orders and Decrees. Microfilm copies, in State Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 83

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

That part of Tract 4, Block A, Map 17C, Eagle Mills Township, lying within the following boundaries: starting at a point where Hunting Creek intersects an east-west line 500 feet due north of the intersection of Eagle Mills Township line and Hunting Creek, then running due west 2,500 feet, then running due north 1,600 feet, then running due west 2,500 feet, then running due north 1,600 feet, then running due east approximately 1,800 feet to Hunting Creek, and then running southward along Hunting Creek to the point of origin, as outlined in red on map.
Bibliographical References (Cont'd)


FOOTNOTES

1 Iredell County Orders and Decrees, Book 1, pp. 6, 25, 107; Iredell County Deed Book D-17, p. 81.

2 Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, Iredell County, North Carolina, Population Schedule; Statesville Record and Landmark, April 14, 1915.


4 Tenth Census of the United States, 1880, Iredell County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule.


6 Statesville Record and Landmark, January 2, 1964; December 2, 1966.
Geographical Data (Cont'd)

The property being nominated consists of that part of the overall Campbell Tract which include the house, outbuildings, their immediate surroundings, and enough of the surrounding vista—including open fields and woodlands extending to Hunting Creek—to help preserve the integrity of this isolated rural site.