

NHL nom.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina
COUNTY: Chowan
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
James Iredell House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
107 East Church Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Edenton

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

STATE
North Carolina

CODE

COUNTY:
Chowan

CODE

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PUBLIC ACQUISITION: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered			
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ _____			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
State of North Carolina, State Department of Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER:
109 East Jones Street, Box 1181

CITY OR TOWN:
Raleigh

STATE:
North Carolina

CODE
27602

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Chowan County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
The Green

CITY OR TOWN:
Edenton

STATE
North Carolina

CODE

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey (4 photos)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1937, 1940 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress, Division of Prints and Photographs

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
D.C.

CODE

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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The earliest extant portion of the L-shaped two-story frame James Iredell House was built about 1776 as a rectangular two-story frame structure with its south gable end facing Church Street and an exterior chimney on the west facade. About 1816 a two-story frame addition was built perpendicular to the west facade, thus forming the present configuration. This addition enclosed the chimney and shifted the axis of the house from east-west to north-south.

On the east, the present main (south) facade incorporates the gable end of the eighteenth century section and on the west a full-length two-tier porch covering the five-bay addition ca. 1816. The gable end contains a single window at each level with nine-over-nine sash in the first story and nine-over-six above. On the west side of the eighteenth-century section there is a six-panel door on each floor, both of which open onto the porch. The porch is supported by six wooden pillars on each level. The first level is enclosed by simple square balusters while the upper tier has balusters set in a "sheaf of wheat" pattern.

There is a central entrance with transom in each story flanked by two windows on either side. The first entrance has a three-light transom above a reeded lintel ornamented with a Greek key motif. On the second level, a scalloped ogee band accents the lintel separating a four-light transom from the flat-paneled door.

The west end of the addition is dominated by a large concave shouldered chimney of brick laid in Flemish bond. The east side (the oldest section) is three-bays wide with large windows in all but the south bay on the first floor.

The rear facade (incorporating the end of the original section) features a two-tier porch similar to the one across the front but the two west bays have been enclosed on both levels with beaded weatherboards to form two rooms. The earlier section is two-bays wide with nine-over-six windows in the second story. The first level has been covered by a later addition but the original window and rear entrance remain intact within the addition.

The James Iredell House presents two separate floor plans on the interior. The east section contains a side hall across the south end with a large parlor to the north. A closed-string stair rises in three flights from the south side of the entrance hall and has a turned balustrade. An enclosed stair located under the main stair descends to a full basement. The parlor contains a late Georgian mantel on the west wall with a ramped entablature and molded shelf. To the left of the mantel is a doorway connecting the parlor to the west section. The second floor has a similar plan but the mantel in the upstairs parlor is a Federal one, possibly a replacement. It is adorned with sunbursts and a row of dentils under the molded shelf.

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James Iredell House (Continuation Sheet)

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The interior of the west section is a center hall plan. A stair with plain balusters square in section and a rounded handrail rises from the rear of the hall in one flight to the second floor. The parlor to the east of the hall contains the most elaborate finish in that section. It features an unadorned Federal mantel on the east wall flanked by a pair of high semicircular arches which are framed by flat-paneled architraves and feature fluted impostes and molded keystones. The arch to the left frames a closet door. The right arch is open and connects the parlor with the eighteenth-century section. The three remaining rooms in this section are quite similar, each having a Federal mantel and plaster walls above and below a molded chair rail. The mantel in the west downstairs room is adorned with a row of dentils and some fluting, while the mantels on the second floor feature incised diamond patterns.

There are several outbuildings in the yard including the kitchen, a necessary house, carriage house, and a school. The kitchen is a small frame building of beaded weatherboards with a gable roof. The main (south) facade is three-bays wide with a central entrance flanked by small two-over-two windows. The east gable has a step-shouldered common bond chimney. To the east of the kitchen is the tiny necessary house which has a pyramidal roof topped by a wooden pinnacle. The school, which was moved by water to its present site from nearby Bandon Plantation in 1964, is a small frame building with a chimney on its north gable. The south gable is three-bays wide with a central entrance and windows with six-over-six sash. There is another door in the gable which is reached by a closed-string stair rising from the left side of the gable.

The Commissioners of Edenton deeded John Wilkins lot 81 in 1756 with the stipulation that he construct a house on the lot within two years. Thus the original house on the property was probably built by 1759. In 1773 Wilkins sold lot no. 81 to Joseph Whedbee, a silversmith. Whedbee apparently built what is now the east section of the existing house. This construction may have been in the nature of an addition to the ca. 1759 house, or it may have been a separate house. In 1778 Whedbee sold lot 81 to James Iredell and he resided here until his death in 1799. His widow, Hannah, occupied the house until her death in 1826. About 1816, during her ownership, the present west portion of the house was constructed. By this time the ca. 1759 building was no longer standing. The residence remained in the possession of the Iredell family until 1870 and was used during the 19th and 20th centuries as a dwelling.

The Iredell House was acquired by the Edenton Tea Party Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1949 and is now owned by the State of North Carolina. The house has been restored and is open to visitors as a historic house museum.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1778-1799

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

James Iredell, brilliant political writer and leader during the War for Independence lived in this house from 1778 until his death in 1799. Iredell came to America in 1768 as deputy controller of custom for Edenton, North Carolina. By 1772 he was engaged in politics and in 1776 was a member of the Provincial Congress.

In 1777 he served as a superior court judge and from 1779-1782 he was attorney general of North Carolina. He heartily approved of the Constitution and in January 1788 published "Answers to Mr. Mason's Objections to the New Constitution," which attracted national attention. At the convention held in Hillsborough, North Carolina, in 1788, he explained and defended each section of the Constitution.

On February 10, 1790, Washington appointed Iredell as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. As a constitutional lawyer he had no superior on the court and his opinions were notable for their force of expression.

The Joseph Iredell House is an L-shaped two-story frame structure. The earliest portion of the house was apparently built by Joseph Whedbee about 1773, and purchased by James Iredell in 1778. After his death, Iredell's widow occupied the house and about 1816 the present west portion of the house was constructed. The residence remained in possession of the Iredell family until 1870 and was used during the 19th and 20th centuries as a dwelling. In 1949 the house was acquired by the Edenton Tea Party Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and is now owned by the State of North Carolina. The Iredell House has been restored and is open to visitors as a historic house museum.

History

James Iredell was born in Sussex, England, on October 5, 1751, and came to America in 1768 as deputy controller of custom for Edenton, North Carolina, a position he held until 1774. From 1774 until June 1776 he was collector of the port. At Edenton he studied law and was licensed to practice in 1771. By 1772 Iredell was engaged in politics and taking an advance American position, wrote in a lucid style the Patriot arguments which others were to use. He was a member of the Provincial

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Congress in 1776 and was chosen one of the commissioners to draft and revise the laws necessary to meet the new status of the independent State of North Carolina.

In 1777 Iredell served as a superior court judge, and from 1779 to 1782 was attorney general of North Carolina. He was elected to the Council of State in 1787 and the same legislature appointed him to collect and revise all acts then in force. The resulting "Revisal" appeared in 1791.

Iredell constantly opposed the doctrine of constitutional restrictions enforced by the courts. On this subject he wrote a powerful public address to the people in 1786, advanced the doctrine to the highest court of the State, secured its approval of the principle and presented it to the consideration of his contemporaries in convincing letters. He heartily approved of the Constitution. After studying it closely he published in January 1788, "Answers to Mr. Mason's Objections to the New Constitution," which attracted national attention. Perhaps of more importance was his work in behalf of the Constitution in the convention held at Hillsborough, North Carolina, in 1788, where he represented the borough of Edenton and was the floor leader of the Federalists, explaining and defending each section of the Constitution. He and William R. Davie had the debates published and their wide circulation gave a powerful impetus to the reaction which secured ratification in 1789.

On February 10, 1790, Washington appointed Iredell an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. At 39 he was the youngest member on the bench. As a constitutional lawyer he had no superior on the court and his opinions were notable for their force of expression. Iredell died at his home in Edenton on October 20, 1799.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. IX, 492-493.
 Allan Nevins, The American States During and After the Revolution (New York, 1927), 131, 170, 359-60, 363, 364, 378, 385-87, 408-10.
 North Carolina, A Guide to the Old North State (American Guide Series) (Chapel Hill, 1944), 189.
 Clinton Rossiter, Seedtime of the Republic (New York, 1953), 327.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		36° 03' 38"	76° 36' 27"	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Charles W. Snell, Survey Historian

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

DATE

1/12/73

STREET AND NUMBER:

1100 L Street NW

CITY OR TOWN:

Washington

STATE

D.C.

CODE

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

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

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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