

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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  
Johnson-Neel House

AND/OR COMMON

Same

**2** LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

N.C. 150, 0.4 mi. west of junction with S.R. 1304

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Mooreville

VICINITY OF

9th

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

North Carolina

37

Iredell

097

**3** CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Part time residence

**4** OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph C. Robinson

STREET & NUMBER

Route 2, Box 398

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Denver

VICINITY OF

North Carolina

**5** LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Iredell County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Statesville

North Carolina

**6** REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Johnson-Neel House is a two-story, three-bay brick house with a hip roof. The excellent brick work is in Flemish bond and includes two narrow, interior end chimneys. The windows have six-over-six sash at both levels and are set in molded frames which are surmounted by flat arches. The movable louvered blinds are held in place by strap hinges. The house has suffered a road change which led subsequent owners to treat the original rear (east) as the front and to brick in the one-story front porch. The two-bay north and south ends are similar except for a door in the southeast bay which probably opened from the dining room to the kitchen.

The interior plan consists of a central hall with double doors at the original front and one large chamber to the north with two equal-sized rooms to the south. The bold three-part door and window frames have an interesting molded baseboard "foot" which is also found at nearby Mount Mourne, Maxwell Chambers House, and Mill Hill, each attributed to and the latter the home of Jacob Stirewalt, an accomplished and prolific builder of the area. Each leaf of the double front door has five equal-sized, rectangular panels with broad moldings which are repeated in the deep, exterior reveals. The door is surmounted by a transom containing a tracery pattern. At the rear of the hall is a standard six-panel door with Federal moldings. This door is set in an interior paneled reveal which reflects the panel arrangement of this door.

An impressive cantilevered Federal style stair rises near the north chamber entrance and turns in a sharp, graceful sweep over the rear door. The rounded handrail, which is supported by square balusters, concludes with a volute over a turned newel which rests on the curtail of the first step. The open-string stair is decorated with wood graining on the risers and baseboard, and with tulip brackets as found in Owen Biddle's Young Carpenters Assistant and often used in the buildings attributed to Jacob Stirewalt. Interlocking, vine-like scrolls continue from the top most bracket across the fascia. The hall contains the plain Federal chair rail which is found throughout the house.

The north chamber is the most elaborate in the house. The ceiling has a five-part circular medallion with a wide, molded plaster cornice. A large, three-part Federal style mantel has cable molding around the fire opening and engaged, reeded colonnettes. A molded shelf with a dentil course breaks over the unadorned center tablet and end blocks. The open wainscot is broken by the paneled, splayed reveals which frame the flat panels below the window. The two rooms to the south have identical mantels. A molded surround frames the square opening and is surmounted by an open frieze and molded shelf. The mantel form is Georgian but the moldings are Greek Revival. (The mantel is like one found at Mill Hill.)

The floor plan repeats itself at the second level, as do the south room mantels. The second floor main chamber is only slightly less elaborate than its corresponding room below; it lacks the ornamental plaster work.

In the yard is an outbuilding of sawn logs joined in a dovetail notch at the corners.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Ca. 1830

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Johnson-Neel House, a ca. 1830 brick plantation house, embodies distinctive characteristics attributed to the hand of the Piedmont master builder, Jacob Stirewalt. It is distinguished by a graceful curving Federal-style stair featuring "tulip brackets," and a mantel which closely resembles one at Mill Hill, Stirewalt's home. Though little can be documented concerning Stirewalt's work, there is a strong tie between the interior finish of the Johnson-Neel House and the other buildings attributed to Stirewalt.

The Johnson-Neel House appears to have been built sometime between 1826 and 1835 on land acquired by William Cook Johnson from John Johnson and from three other individuals. The census of 1830 reveals that Johnson was at that time married and the owner of four slaves, suggesting completion of his homeplace before that date. The 1850 census lists him as a farmer and the father of seven children, and credits him with the ownership of 320 acres of farmland.

Johnson apparently died intestate in 1855 at about the age of fifty. In December of that year his widow Margaret M. Johnson was awarded dower in a 728-acre tract "Including the Dwelling house in which the . . . Deseased [sic] was accustomed most to Dwell . . . Commonly Called the mansion house. . . ." The following year the remainder of William Johnson's land was divided by the Iredell County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions into nine parcels of nearly-equal size. Each of his children received one of these parcels.

During the ensuing sixteen-year period one of Johnson's sons, Cyrus A. Johnson, acquired from various brothers and sisters additional parcels totaling 205 acres. Margaret Johnson continued to reside on her dower tract until her death about 1863. Specific disposition of the dower land at her death could not be ascertained, but it is likely that Cyrus Johnson acquired it also.

Cyrus Johnson operated a cattle and dairy farm at his father's former homeplace during the 1870s and 1880s. Census data reveal that the size of the farm was 237 acres valued at \$5,000. In 1906 he sold a 291-acre tract (including the House) to A. Y. and G. F. Neel for \$5,275.83. In 1923 G. F. Neel conveyed his interest in the tract to A. Y. Neel, who in 1944 sold a one-acre portion of it (including the house) to his son James L. Neel, the present owner.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Iredell County Records, Iredell County Courthouse, Statesville, North Carolina  
(Subgroups: Deeds, Estate Papers).

Iredell County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina  
(Subgroups: Deeds, Estate Papers).

U. S. Census Office, Fifth Census of the United States, 1830: Iredell County, North Carolina, Population Schedule; Seventh Census of the United States, 1850:

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 9.9 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	1	7
---	---	---

5	1	1	0	2	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

3	9	3	8	9	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B 

--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Research by Robert Topkins; architectural description by Ruth Little-Stokes, Survey Specialist

ORGANIZATION

Division of Archives and History

DATE

15 May 1975

STREET & NUMBER

109 East Jones Street

TELEPHONE

919/829-7862

CITY OR TOWN

Raleigh

STATE

North Carolina

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

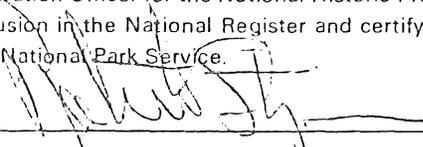
NATIONAL

STATE

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE



TITLE North Carolina State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 15 May 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE one

---

Iredell County, Population and Agricultural Schedules; Tenth Census of the United States, 1880: Iredell County, Agricultural Schedule, microfilm of National Archives manuscript copies, State Archives.

