

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina	
COUNTY: Iredell	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Mitchell College, Main Building

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Broad Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Statesville (Ninth Congressional District, The Hon. Charles R. Jonas)

STATE: North Carolina	CODE: 37	COUNTY: Iredell	CODE: 097
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3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Mitchell College Foundation

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Broad Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Statesville

STATE: North Carolina	CODE: 37
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Hall of Justice

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Water Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Statesville

STATE: North Carolina	CODE: 37
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:                     Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:                    STATE:                    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

Mitchell College Main Building is a three-story stuccoed brick edifice with a heroic hexastyle Doric portico. The second story is treated as a piano nobile. The building is set at the west head of Broad Street, the main street of the city of Statesville, and is approached by an oak-lined avenue which terminates in front of the structure in a circular drive.

The original building, T-shaped in plan, is thirteen bays in width and three bays in depth, with a five-bay-deep and three-bay-wide wing, also three stories in height, projecting from the center of the rear elevation. The three central bays of the northeast facade are recessed behind the portico. The smooth stucco wall surfaces, coursed to simulate ashlar, are capped by a wide plain stucco entablature. Within each bay at each level is a large six-over-six pane window with a molded architrave and a stuccoed sill. A shallow hip roof covers the structure.

The portico is set at the ground level on an arcaded base, each bay marked by a round-headed opening. The three center arches contain casement windows with casement transoms, and the outer arches are open, the east one leading to an entrance at this level, the west arch opening to a facade window. Flanking the portico base are two-flight wooden stairs, replacements of the originals, which ascend to the main level. The massive fluted columns of the entrance portico, constructed of stuccoed brick, support a full academic entablature and pediment. The portico is enclosed by a balustrade with plain balusters and an oval handrail. In the side walls of the central recess at this level are the main entrances, each consisting of a single door with four raised panels surrounded by a four-pane transom and flanking four-pane sidelights set within plain architraves. At the base of the sidelights on either side is a single panel.

An octagonal wooden cupola, set directly behind the portico at the roof apex, crowns the entire structure. In each face of the cupola is a square louvered opening. The molded cornice and eaves are surmounted by a plain balustrade. A smaller octagonal cupola is centered atop each flanking section of the building. Each has a six-over-six sash window in each face, and the deep molded eaves are surmounted by a small segmental dome. Six short interior brick chimneys, each with a recessed panel in each face and a molded and crenellated cap, project on each side of the portico.

The rear wing is pedimented, but the tympanum, unlike that of the south pediment, is stuccoed. Rear entrances to the structure, each a single door surmounted by a transom, are located on each inside corner at the first level, providing access to both the main block and the rear projection. Several doors served by fire escapes are located on the upper levels directly above these entrances.

An east wing, Shearer Music Hall, was added to the structure in 1907. This stuccoed brick addition is nearly identical in detail to the original structure, matching cornice and eaves, roof line and exterior trim. A three-bay projection on the main (south) facade of this addition is enclosed at the ground level and features an open-balustraded Doric porch at the second level. This wing contains music studios, faculty offices and an auditorium.

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The Mitchell College Main Building originally functioned as a self-contained girls' school, and the use of the interior space has changed now that the building is part of a complex of structures serving a small coeducational college. The original interior plan and finish, however, remain remarkably intact. Behind the central three bays of each story is a large communal room, with hallways radiating from either side and the rear. These halls are connected by L-shaped stair halls that occur at each north corner of the communal room on each floor. At the first and second levels, a stair rises in two flights within these spaces. On the ground level the communal room functioned originally as the dining hall but is now partitioned into classrooms. The kitchen and laundry were formerly located on the west side of this floor. This level is now occupied predominantly by classrooms.

The large room on the second level still functions as the main parlor, with the smaller rooms utilized as administrative offices and classrooms. The second story retains its original use as dormitory rooms, with the central room used as a students' lounge. The fireplaces which formerly heated the bedrooms have been closed up and the mantels removed.

The cupola is supported by a network of radiating members which spiral up to the base of the observatory, reached for lookout purposes by a ladder.

The original interior trim is simple and utilitarian, with plaster walls, high molded baseboards, and large openings, some surrounded by symmetrically molded architraves with corner blocks and rondels and some with a simple wide architrave. The doors, some raised-paneled, some flat-paneled, are usually surmounted by single-pane transoms. The balustrade of each stair consists of an oval handrail and bulbous turned balusters. Chamfered posts support the upper flights at each level.

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian;	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1854-1855

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input 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 checked="" 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

At a meeting of the Presbytery of Concord in 1852, the idea was put forward of establishing a female institution of learning under the care of the presbytery. The next year it was decided to establish such an institution in western North Carolina at Statesville. A board of trustees was formed and a building committee was appointed. The board selected the name Concord Presbyterian Female College for the school and petitioned the secretary of state of North Carolina for a charter on June 16, 1853. Thus was formed one of the oldest colleges in western North Carolina. Plans for the present building were readied at this time. The building committee located and purchased the site, a three-acre lot at the end of Broad Street in Statesville. The lot was purchased from J. F. Alexander for \$500. The committee then approved a contract for the making of 500,000 bricks at \$4.90 per thousand. J. W. Conrad contracted to build the college at a fee of \$25,000, and the cornerstone was laid October 24, 1854. Dr. R. H. Morrison stood upon the stone and asked God's blessing on the institution and all connected with it.

Construction progressed rapidly and the last brick completing the walls was to be laid on June 9, 1855. The seven months' work of building the walls, however, was brought to ruin when in one afternoon a great windstorm razed the building. After certain changes in the original plan, J. W. Conrad contracted to supervise personally the rebuilding for \$19,000. Commencement exercises for the first year of the college were to be held July 9, 1857, but because of an epidemic of measles, the session closed early. Despite these early setbacks an expanded curriculum was established and more teachers were hired, including the two daughters of the well-known geologist and botanist Dr. Elisha Mitchell. Dr. Mitchell, professor at the University of North Carolina in its early days, was an energetic explorer who measured Mount Mitchell in 1835 establishing it as the highest mountain in the eastern United States. He fell to his death in the mountains in 1857; his body is buried at the peak of the mountain that bears his name. It was for Mitchell and his daughters that the college was renamed in 1917.

In 1924 Mitchell College graduated the first student to have completed its newly instituted curriculum as a "standard Junior College." In 1932 men were admitted as day students. The Concord Presbytery kept control of Mitchell College until 1959, when it became an independent community college. The 1970-1971 enrollment was 643.

Main Building contains some classrooms and dormitory rooms as well as

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administrative offices. Shearer Music Hall--added to the Main Building in 1907--contains music studios, additional offices, and an auditorium seating 500.

Mitchell College Main Building is the original structure of one of the oldest colleges in western North Carolina. It is an imposing example of the monumentality achieved in civic and educational buildings during the height of the Greek Revival period.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Iredell County Records, Iredell County Courthouse, Statesville, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).  
 Iredell County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).  
 Mize, Richard. "History of Mitchell College" in the program of the Centennial celebration of Mitchell College, Statesville, North Carolina, 1956.  
 Mitchell College Catalog, 1971-1972. Statesville, North Carolina, 1971.

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
NW	° ' "	° ' "		35°	46'	53"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		80°	53'	51"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Survey and Planning Unit Staff

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History DATE: 7 June 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:  
109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 H. G. Jones

Title Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date 7 June 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

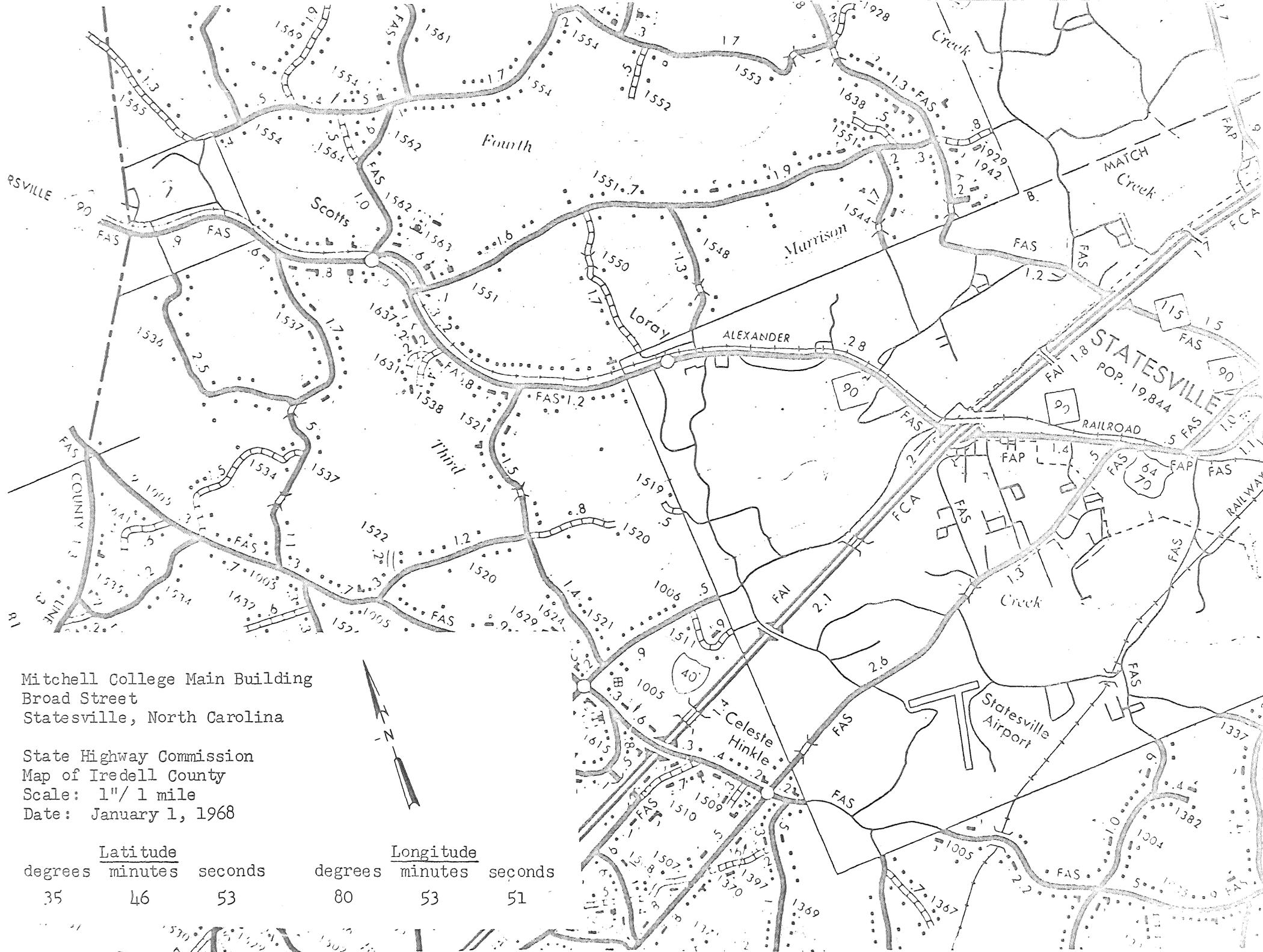
Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Mitchell College Main Building  
 Broad Street  
 Statesville, North Carolina

State Highway Commission  
 Map of Iredell County  
 Scale: 1" / 1 mile  
 Date: January 1, 1968

Latitude			Longitude		
degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
35	46	53	80	53	51

