

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON: Mount Mourne
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Junction of S.R. 1170, S.R. 1189 and N.C. 115			
CITY OR TOWN: Mount Mourne		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Ninth	
STATE North Carolina		The Hon. James G. Martin	
CODE 7	COUNTY: Iredell	CODE 1097	

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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 type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Crooks III		
STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 535		
CITY OR TOWN: Huntersville	STATE: North Carolina	CODE 37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Iredell County Courthouse		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN: Statesville	STATE: North Carolina	CODE 37

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1940	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> State	<input type="checkbox"/> County
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress			
STREET AND NUMBER: East Capitol and Independence Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D. C.	CODE	

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" 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

Mount Mourne is a two-story, five-bay frame house with pairs of Flemish bond chimneys at the three-bay gable ends. Simple molded architraves frame the nine-over-nine sash windows at both levels. A handsome Greek Revival porch with a hip roof protects the central entrance and two flanking bays of the main (east) facade. This classical porch was cited by T. T. Waterman in The Early Architecture of North Carolina. It has four fluted Tuscan columns with elongated neckings, carrying a full entablature. The porch has a simple balustrade with slender balusters square in section carrying a rounded handrail. The central entrance consists of a standard six-panel door with flat panels and Greek Revival moldings. It is surmounted by a three-light transom. The rear elevation has a similar but less elaborate three-bay porch which has had several alterations including a one-story, three-bay wing which extends west from the south bay of the rear facade.

The interior follows a center-hall plan two rooms deep, and the simple transitional Federal-Greek Revival finish has features characteristic of Jacob Stirewalt, an accomplished builder of the area. The architraves have the curious molded base or foot which is found at other houses attributed to Stirewalt. The fine, cantilevered, Federal-style stair rises along the north wall of the hall and turns gracefully above the rear door. The rounded handrail is supported by square balusters. The open string is adorned by tulip brackets that were evidently copied from Owen Biddle's Young Carpenter's Assistant, a design characteristic of buildings attributed to Stirewalt. The southeast chamber has a simple, well-proportioned three-part mantel with turned colonettes. This room is divided from the room to the rear by six large folding doors. The remainder of the mantels throughout the house are transitional Federal-Greek Revival in style, appropriate to a mid-1830s construction date in Piedmont North Carolina. The interior doors also reflect this transitional character, for they have traditional six flat panels with Greek Revival molding. Much original hardware exists throughout the house. Large closets in the second floor hall also remain and have Greek Revival moldings; they appear to be original in that the baseboard is interrupted by the cabinets and carries across their sides and fronts.

To the rear of the house is a log outbuilding with a gable roof; no other nineteenth century outbuildings remain intact.

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3. 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) ca. 1830

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/Philosophy  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |                                      |   |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mount Mourne is a handsome plantation house of transitional Federal-Greek Revival style. It is distinguished by its impressive Greek Revival porch, cited by Thomas T. Waterman in The Early Architecture of North Carolina. Its interior woodwork is of particular interest as having characteristics attributed to the hand of the Piedmont master builder Jacob Stirewalt, including a graceful curved stair with tulip brackets. Rufus Reid, for whom the house was built, was a wealthy and locally prominent planter.

Rufus Reid was one of six children of Captain John Reid, a native of Cecil County, Maryland, and a Revolutionary soldier who resided at Catawba Springs, Lincoln County, during the latter part of his life. The elder Reid was the "earliest known proprietor and probably the originator" of the noted resort known by the name "Catawba Springs." At his death in 1821, the resort property was advertised for sale in several regional newspapers with the notation that Rufus Reid would continue to conduct the business of the resort in the event no sale should be made. It is likely that the younger Reid acted as proprietor of this enterprise from 1821 to 1825, when a buyer was found. He then moved to Spring Grove in Rowan County, where he lived until late 1828 or 1829, at which time he became a resident of Iredell County.

The first reference to Reid's landholdings in Iredell is a deed dated March 10, 1828, which recorded his purchase of fifty acres of land "lying . . . on the waters of Coddle Creek." Reid paid \$250 for this tract. During the remainder of his lifetime, he bought and sold hundreds of acres of land in Iredell and Lincoln Counties, but retained a conglomeration of tracts totalling 1,800 acres in southern Iredell, upon which his house, named "Mount Mourne," was probably built in the 1830s. William S. Powell's North Carolina Gazeteer notes that the town of Mount Mourne "took its name from the home of Rufus Reid which he had named . . . for the mountain in Ireland." The Rufus Reid Papers in the Southern Historical Collection include a letter dated June 20, 1831, addressed to Reid at "Mount Mourne/Iredell Co/N. Carolina," indicating Reid's being established there, and suggesting the existence of the house at least as early as this date. The 1833 McRae-Brazier map shows "Mount Mourne P.O." Unfortunately no evidence could be found to establish the exact date of completion.

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8.

Reid remained at Mount Mourne until his death in 1854. He was married three times and was the father of three sons and seven daughters. He apparently enjoyed great prosperity and a degree of fame. A handwritten obituary, probably prepared by one of his children, noted that "his life has been one of constant action and exertion, by which he has been enabled to leave his . . . family surrounded with ample means to secure their comforts." The Census of 1850 listed Reid as a "farmer" and credited him with the ownership of land worth \$12,000. At the time of his death, Reid owned 3,625 acres of land and fifty-two slaves. The administrator of his estate reported collections totalling nearly \$35,000 and disbursements of nearly \$16,000 during the two-year period immediately following Reid's death.

Reid served as one of Iredell's representatives in the North Carolina House of Commons in 1844 and 1846. In 1850 he took one of his daughters with him on a trip to Raleigh and the North. While in the state capital, the Reids were accompanied by Governor Charles Manly on a visit to the State House. Later, while in Washington, Reid and his daughter were received by President Millard Fillmore and ex-governor (then secretary of the navy) William A. Graham.

Reid died of apoplexy on July 15, 1854, at the age of fifty-seven. He left no will. Although never a formal member of any religious sect, he was buried in the graveyard of nearby Centre Presbyterian Church. His third wife and widow, Isabella, was awarded her rightful "Dower and Thirds" in the estate and received lands "Including the Dwelling house in which the . . . Deceas<sup>d</sup> was accustomed Most to Dwell . . . Before his Death commonly called the Mansion house. . . ."

Isabella Reid apparently continued to reside at Mount Mourne for approximately the next twenty years, and died in 1893 at the age of seventy-five. Between 1872 and 1881, John Hugh Reid, second oldest son of Rufus and Isabella Reid, obtained the interests of the various heirs-at-law in the reversionary dower lands of his mother. The property remained in John H. Reid's possession until 1912, when it was sold at public auction to satisfy an indebtedness. From that time to the present, the property exchanged hands eight times. The present owners are Mr. and Mrs. J. Conrad Crooks III of Huntersville.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Research by Robert Topkins, survey specialist; architectural description by Charles Greer Suttlemyre, Jr., survey specialist.  
 Carolina Watchman (Salisbury). Advertisement, August 3, 1854.  
 Census of 1850: North Carolina. Originals in State Archives, Division of Archives and History.  
 Davidson, Chalmers C. "Catawba Springs--Carolina's Spa," North Carolina Historical Review, XXVIII (October, 1951), 414-420.  
 George F. Davidson Papers. Manuscript Department, Duke University Library, Durham.

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	° ' "	° ' "		35° 32' 19"	80° 50' 57"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 9 acres

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:  
 Survey and Planning Unit

ORGANIZATION: Division of Archives and History DATE: 21 June 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 109 East Jones Street

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

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 Thornton W. Mitchell  
 Thornton W. Mitchell

Title Acting Director, Division of Archives and History

Date 21 June 1974

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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9.

Iredell County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions. Record Book, Iredell County Courthouse, Statesville.

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

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

Rufus Reid Papers. Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Wheeler, John Hill. Historical Sketches of North Carolina From 1584 to 1851. Two volumes in 1; Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1964.

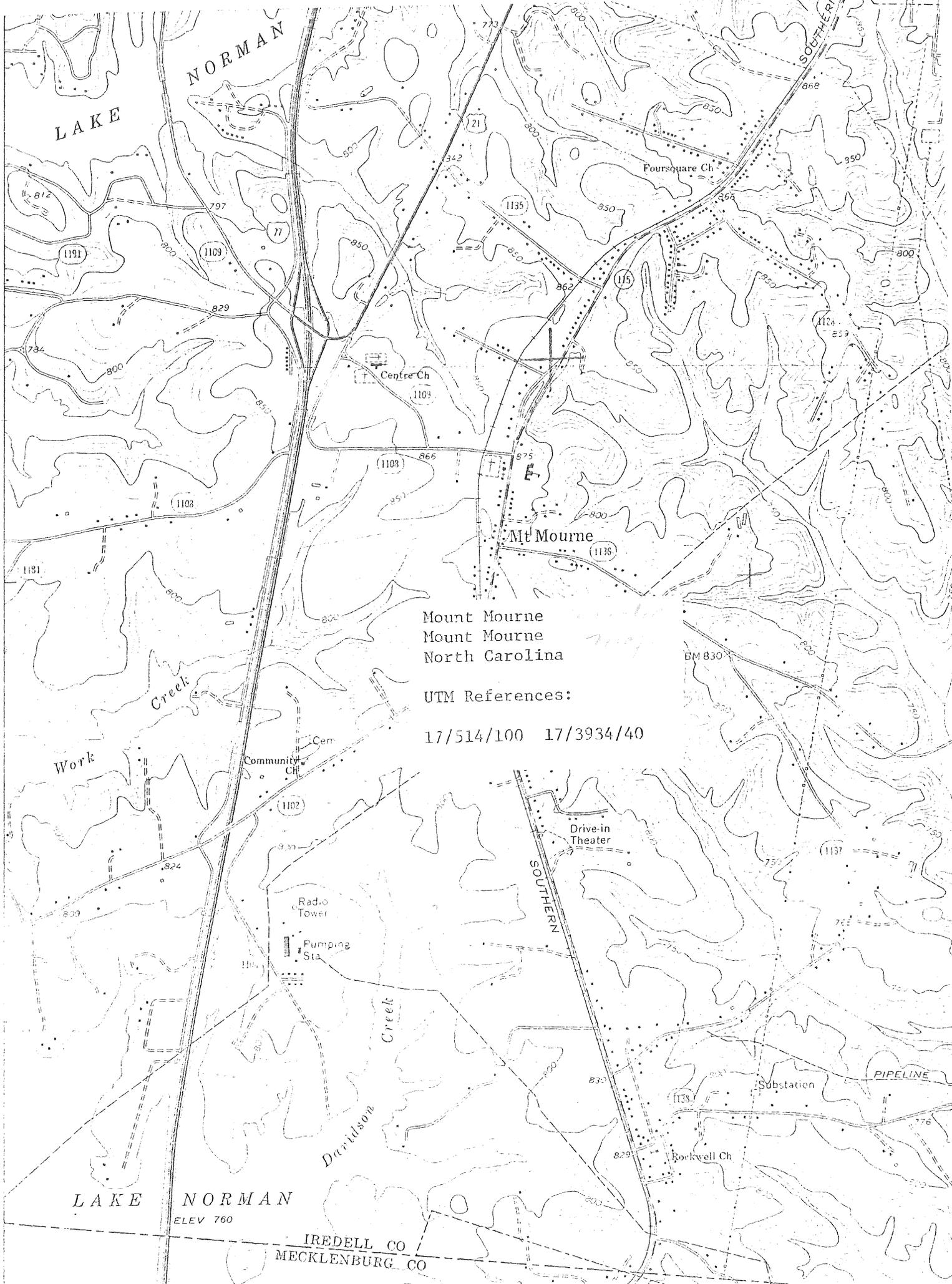
4655 11 SW  
(LAKE NORMAN NORTH)

34

33

32

31



Mount Mourne  
Mount Mourne  
North Carolina

UTM References:  
17/514/100 17/3934/40

LAKE NORMAN  
ELEV 760

IREDELL CO  
MECKLENBURG CO

