

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

Iredell County

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR _____ THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Espy Watts Brawley House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 601 William Street (in loop of railroad tracks at NE corner of jct. of NC 115 & William Street)

____ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Mooresville

____ VICINITY OF

9th

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

North Carolina

037

Iredell

097

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Sarah Brawley McMurray (Mrs. E. L., Jr.)

STREET & NUMBER

145 Mt. Paran Road, NW

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta

____ VICINITY OF

STATE

Georgia 30327

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Laura A. W. Phillips (Winston-Salem)

ORGANIZATION

Consultant for Survey and Planning Branch

DATE

February 4, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

Archives and History

TELEPHONE

(919) 733-6545

CITY OR TOWN

Raleigh

STATE

North Carolina

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Espy Watts Brawley House is one of the finest Late Victorian houses in south Iredell County and is, perhaps, the largest house in Mooresville. It is located within the loop formed by Southern Railway at the junction of NC 115 and William Street at the northernmost edge of town. While the twenty-one acres of grounds surrounding the house protect its site integrity, the area beyond the property lines is becoming increasingly more industrial and commercial in nature.

According to Sarah Brawley McMurray, daughter of Espy Watts Brawley, the house was built in 1904 on part of the Brawley farm that has been in the family's possession since pre-Revolutionary years. Also, according to Mrs. McMurray, the house was designed, planned, and its construction personally supervised by her father.

The large, two-and-one-half story frame house is primarily Late Victorian in its massing and in much of its detailing, with hints of Neo-Classical Revival style. The form of the house is basically made up of a large rectangular block with two-story wing on the right side, two-story, three-sided bay projecting from the left front, and one one-and-one-half story room across the rear. The truncated-hip slate roof has boldly pedimented cross gables and front dormer, and the internal brick chimneys which punctuate the roof have large corbelled caps. The 1/1 windows have louvered shutters. The most prominent exterior feature is the one-story porch which wraps around the front and two sides of the house and extends outward on the right front corner to form an unusual porte-cochere with pyramidal slate roof. The porch features heavy turned posts, a turned balustrade, and a pedimented center entrance bay with decorative bargeboard. The only alteration to the exterior is the enclosure of a rear porch.

The well-preserved interior of the Brawley House has nine open fireplaces, each with a different ornamental mantel of the period. Many of the rooms are pine panelled.

There are two outbuildings of interest behind the house. One is a small, one-room shingled building with steep gable roof--which extends to form a wide overhang over the door--and brick end chimney. The other is an unusual common bond brick well house. The center bay forms an open passageway with well located in the center. One side of the passage probably served as the dairy, while the other side may have been a smokehouse. The well has a concrete trough which leads into a concrete storage bin in the dairy house in which milk crocks were stored. An open shed runs across the rear of this building. Other outbuildings behind the house include a small frame wood shed, a small shingled shed and a frame barn.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

_____ NATIONAL

_____ STATE

X

_____ LOCAL

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES 1904

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The grand scale of the 1904 classicized Queen Anne style Espy Watts Brawley House (perhaps the largest house in Mooresville) reflects the prominence of its original owner who as farmer, manufacturer and banker was a prime mover of business and industry in early 20th century Mooresville.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- A. Associated with the turn of the century expansion and development of the small railroad town of Mooresville as a local commercial and industrial center.
- B. The Brawley House is associated with the productive life of Espy Watts Brawley, who played a significant role in the industrial, business, and cultural life of early 20th century Mooresville. Brawley served as owner, president and/or director of two cotton mills, an oil mill, a flour mill, a fertilizer business and a bank, and as member of the local school board and deacon of his church.
- C. The Espy Watts Brawley House is a fine example of large-scale houses built just after the turn of the 20th century in Piedmont towns. The house exhibits sophisticated Late Victoria or Queen Anne, style massing and reflects the Neo-Classical Revival style with its strongly stated pedimented gable ends and dormers. The well-preserved Brawley House is the best of its type in south Iredell County.

Espy Watts Brawley, the man connected with numerous early 20th century Mooresville industries and businesses, was born on February 15, 1867.¹ After attending Bingham Military School in Mebane, he went to the University of North Carolina, graduating in 1894. Brawley married Katie Patterson of a prominent Rowan County family, and they had five daughters. It was when the first daughter, Sarah, was born in 1904 that Brawley built his large house on the outskirts of Mooresville, designing, planning and personally supervising its construction himself. The house was built on part of the Brawley farm that had been in the family since pre-Revolutionary War days. Under his ownership the property included several hundred acres and Brawley utilized the land for his primary interest--farming. Cotton was his major crop, and Brawley practiced a program of crop rotation and introduced other scientific practices in his farming.

Brawley soon became involved in other ventures. This was a fairly natural course of events, as his father had also been involved in industry. When the Mooresville Cotton Mill--the first in town--was chartered in 1893, Daniel Carmi Brawley, Espy's father, was one of the² original shareholders. This mill was built at the same time as the Statesville Cotton Mill.

At the same time that the Mooresville Cotton Mill--of which Espy Watts Brawley himself eventually became a director--was expanding, Brawley organized and built the Dixie Cotton Mill in 1906 on part of his property near his home, with capital stock of \$100,000. In 1907 the mill began operations with the manufacturing of yarns. Thus Brawley had supplied a manufacturing facility handy to the raw materials which were grown on his farm. The plant was later bought out by Burlington Industries and became known as Cascade Mills.

Brawley's business interest went beyond the cotton industry. In time he owned and/or was president of the Mooresville Flour Mill, Mooresville Oil Mill, a fertilizer business, and the Merchants and Farmers Bank. (Although this bank is no longer in operation, its well-preserved building still stands at the southwest corner of North Main Street and West Moore Avenue within the Mooresville Historic District.)

Brawley was involved in other aspects of community life as well. He served as member of the local school board and as deacon at the First Presbyterian Church. He belonged to no clubs or lodges, however, as this was not something he believed in.

Throughout his life, Brawley traveled extensively--both in the United States and in Europe--and often took his family with him. Espy Watts Brawley died on September 10, 1939, but the fine home which he built has remained in the Brawley family, now being in the ownership of his eldest daughter, Sarah Brawley McMurray.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

¹Except as otherwise specified by footnotes 2 and 3, information on the general history of Espy Watts Brawley and his house was obtained from Sarah Brawley McMurray of Atlanta, Brawley's eldest daughter, who was born in 1904 at the time the house was built. Information was gathered through a letter written by Mrs. McMurray to Laura A. W. Phillips on March 26, 1979, and through a telephone interview by Laura A. W. Phillips on March 26, 1979, and through a telephone interview by Laura A. W. Phillips with Mrs. McMurray on September 19, 1979.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY

21

E. 17/517340/3939390

F. 17/517340/3939560

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1, 7 | 5 | 1, 7 | 5, 4 | 0 | 3 | 9 | 3 | 9 | 1, 4 | 5 |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B | 1, 7 | 5 | 1, 7 | 4, 9 | 5 | 3, 9 | 3, 9 | 1, 6 | 0 |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | 1, 7 | 5 | 1, 7 | 3, 1 | 5 | 3, 9 | 3, 9 | 1, 4 | 5 |

D | 1, 7 | 5 | 1, 7 | 2, 1 | 0 | 3, 9 | 3, 9 | 3, 1 | 0 |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION All of Tract 16, Block A, Map 1M, Coddle Creek Township, as outlined in red on map.

This acreage provides the grounds for the house and outbuildings and is needed in order to protect the site integrity from encroaching commercial and industrial development. This tract is all that remains intact (with the house) of the several hundred acres that were part of the original Brawley farm.

MAPQUEST.



SOUTHWESTERN TWISTED CHIPS

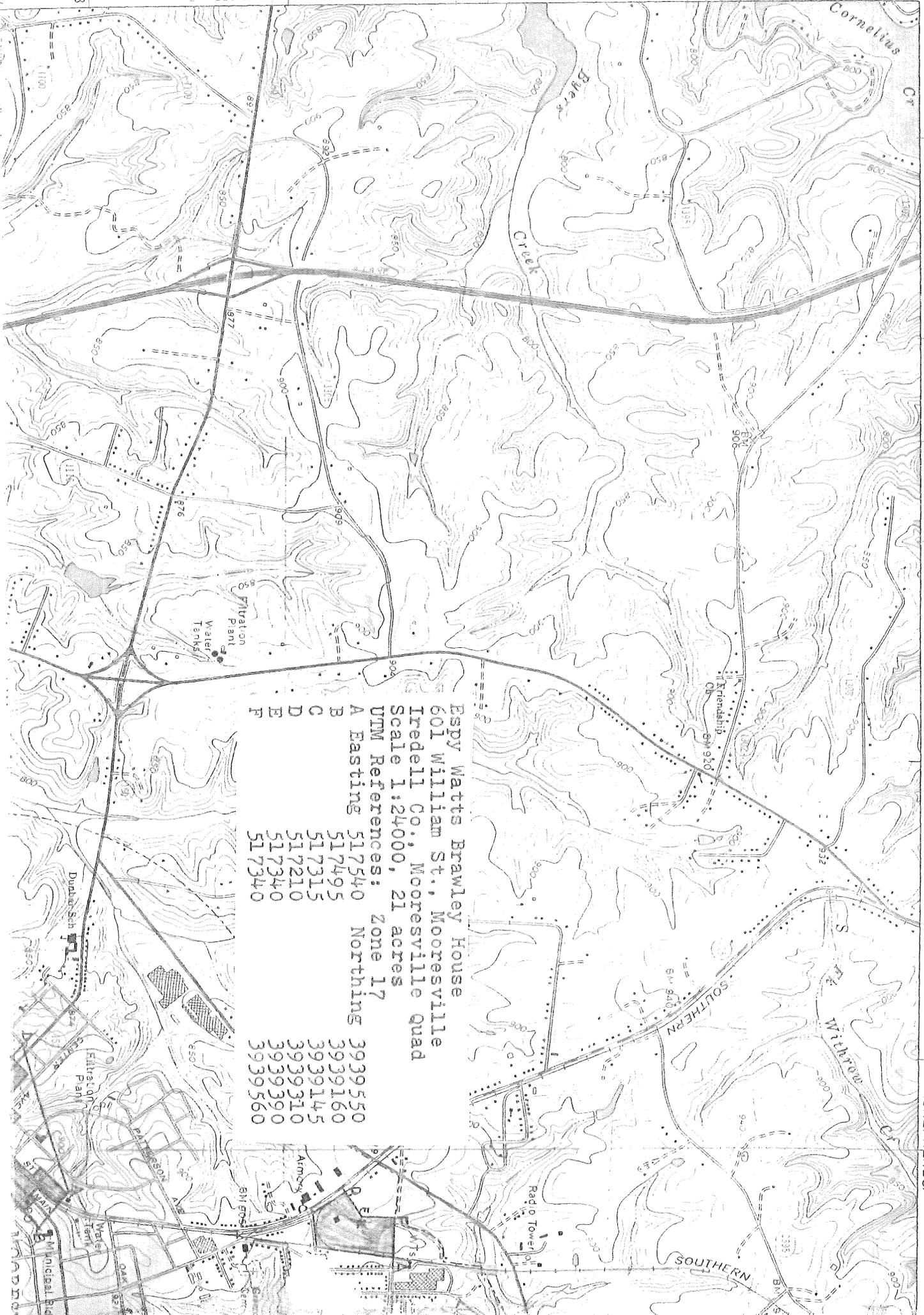
LIMITED TIME OFFER
CLICK HERE!

Charley's
THE FINE, BOLD TASTE

A: 601 Williams St, Mooresville, NC 28115-3033



5230' 512000E 2 MI TO INTERSTATE 40 514 515 50' 517500E 13 MI (SHEPHERDS) 4855 (11 NE)



Espy Watts Brawley House
601 William St., Mooresville
Iredell Co., Mooresville quad
Scale 1:24000, 21 acres
UTM References: Zone 17
A Easting 517540 Northing 3939550
B 517495 3939160
C 517315 3939145
D 517210 3939310
E 517340 3939390
F 517340 3939560

