

35

State of North Carolina
Division of Archives and History

Iredell COUNTY

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

_____ QUAD

Iredell County

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR _____ THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME

HISTORIC Coddle Creek Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, Session House
and Cemetery

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

E side SR 1146, 0.2 mile N of Cabarrus County line NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN _____ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT _____

VICINITY OF Rocky River 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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" 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 Coddle Creek A. R. P. Church
c/o Rev. John J. Hoperich

STREET & NUMBER

Route 1 (Coddle Creek Road)

CITY, TOWN

Mooreville

_____ VICINITY OF

STATE
North Carolina 28115

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

Coddle Creek Church is located in the far southeastern corner of Iredell County, only a short distance north of the Cabarrus County line.

The present church was built in 1884 as the third church building on this site of the congregation that was established in 1753. Coddle Creek is a 3 x 5 bay frame church of simplified late Italianate design. The center bay of the gable end facade features an entrance tower with louvered vents, four cross-gables--each with a wooden finial at its peak--and bracketed eaves. The main entrance, with replacement doors, is at the base of the tower. The tower projects upward through a bold pediment formed by the gable end--a final trace of the Greek Revival style. The main roof has overhanging bracketed eaves matching those of the tower roof. The 9/9 segmental arched sash windows which surround the church are covered by louvered shutters. On the rear of the church are a small apse and two small additions. Although the interior of the church has been somewhat altered, the organ balcony at the rear (over the front door), which is supported on curvilinear brackets, is a special feature which remains intact.

On the north (left) side of the church, a twentieth century one-story frame education building is attached by a breezeway.

Southeast of the church building is the small, one-story frame session house, similar to those found at Bethesda and Centre Presbyterian Churches. The Coddle Creek session house is probably contemporary with the church building. It has a gable roof with overhanging boxed eaves, two small chimneys--one interior and one exterior--a single door on the west elevation, and a single louver-shuttered window on each of the other sides.

At the rear of the church is a large cemetery of approximately 250 markers, partially bounded by a very low, quarried granite wall. The most distinctive feature of the cemetery is the wrought-iron gate with granite posts. With its pickets ascending toward the center, cross rails and diagonal cross braces, it is quite similar to the gate at Centre Church, also at the south end of the county. The central picket of the Coddle Creek gate has added interest, for it is drawn at the tip into a delicately spiraled finial. According to local tradition, this gate was forged by a Mr. Freeze, a local blacksmith, and he may have been responsible for the one at Centre Church as well. The cemetery dates from the founding of the Coddle Creek congregation and contains numerous gravestones from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Many of these are imaginatively carved, exhibiting skills of local artisans.

Other structures on the property, located north of the church and cemetery, near the north boundary, include a one-and-one-half story Bungaloid style brick veneer manse and several shed structures.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

NATIONAL

STATE

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 checked="" 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 1884

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The first Presbyterian congregation in Iredell County was established ca. 1755 at Coddle Creek. Since the majority of Iredell's eighteenth century settlers were of Scotch-Irish background, the Presbyterian Church is the oldest denomination in the county. Coddle Creek was one of the earliest meeting houses west of the Yadkin River. Later in the century Coddle Creek Church became one of the first congregations of dissenting Presbyterians, known as Associate Reform Presbyterians, in North Carolina. The present church structure, built in 1884, is a notable local interpretation of a transitional late Greek Revival/Victorian country church in wood. The session house of about the same period follows the pattern set by those at both Centre Presbyterian Church and Bethesda Presbyterian Church during the mid-nineteenth century. Coddle Creek Cemetery, which dates from the founding of the congregation, contains numerous gravestones from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, many of which are among the most imaginatively carved in the county, exhibiting the skills of local artisans. The outstanding wrought-iron gate with granite posts is quite similar, only slightly more decorative, to the one at Centre Presbyterian Church and is believed to have been forged by a Mr. Freeze, a local blacksmith, who may also have been responsible for the one at Centre. These gates represent an important component of the history of artisanry in the county.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- A. Coddle Creek Church is associated with the early development of organized religion in Iredell County, having been the first known congregation established in the county about 1755. At the end of the eighteenth century Coddle Creek was again at the forefront of religious development by being one of the first congregations in north Carolina of the dissenting Associate Reform Presbyterians. These events took place in a county where churches have historically played a strong social as well as religious role.
- C. The 1884 Coddle Creek Church building embodies characteristics from both the late Greek Revival and late Italianate styles combined in an imaginative way for a frame country church. The session house embodies the distinctive characteristics of those built during the mid-nineteenth century in Iredell County, as exemplified by the session houses at Centre and Bethesda Presbyterian Churches. The session house is an important and distinctive feature of Presbyterian church complexes reflecting the government of the denomination. The cemetery displays numerous artistic expressions, both in its outstanding wrought iron gate, similar to the one at Centre Church and believed to have been forged by a blacksmith named Freeze, and in the imaginatively carved gravestones which date from the mid-eighteenth century.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The congregation at Coddle Creek was established ca. 1755.¹ On John Collet's map, published in 1771 though based largely on information gathered earlier by Francis Churton, a meeting house is shown on Coddle Creek just north of the Granville line. This was the only meeting house of any kind shown west of the Yadkin.² When Presbyterian missionary Hugh McAden passed through the southern part of Iredell County in 1755, he left a journal of his travels. He recorded that when he was in the southeastern section in October he preached at a meeting house near "Mr. Carruth's."³ Walter Carruth, mentioned in McAden's journal, was buried at Coddle Creek in 1769. It is almost certain that Coddle Creek was one of the meeting houses where McAden preached in 1755.

For almost 36 years the congregation relied on itinerate ministers, the first resident pastor, Rev. John Boyce, being installed in 1789.⁴ In 1790 an Associate Reformed Presbytery of the Carolinas was organized, and Coddle Creek was one of the first to dissent from the Presbyterian Church and join this new group.⁵ Therefore, the congregation is now called Coddle Creek A. R. P. Church.

In 1884 the present church was built as the third Coddle Creek church structure on this site. At about the same time the session house was built.⁶ Both structures have been well-maintained through the years.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

¹Iredell County Landmarks, compiled by Virginia Fraser Evans (Statesville: The Iredell County American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, 1976), p. 39. Hereinafter referred to as Landmarks.

²Homer M. Keever, Iredell Piedmont County (Iredell County Bicentennial Commission, 1976), p. 78.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 14 1/2 (Approx.)

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	5	2,1	2,2,0	3,9	2,9	3,0,0	B	1,7	5	2,0	9,4,0	3,9	2,9	3,0,0	
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING						ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING					
C	1,7	5	2,0	9,4,0	3,9	2,9	6,1,0	D	1,7	5	2,1	2,2,0	3,9	2,9	6,1,0	

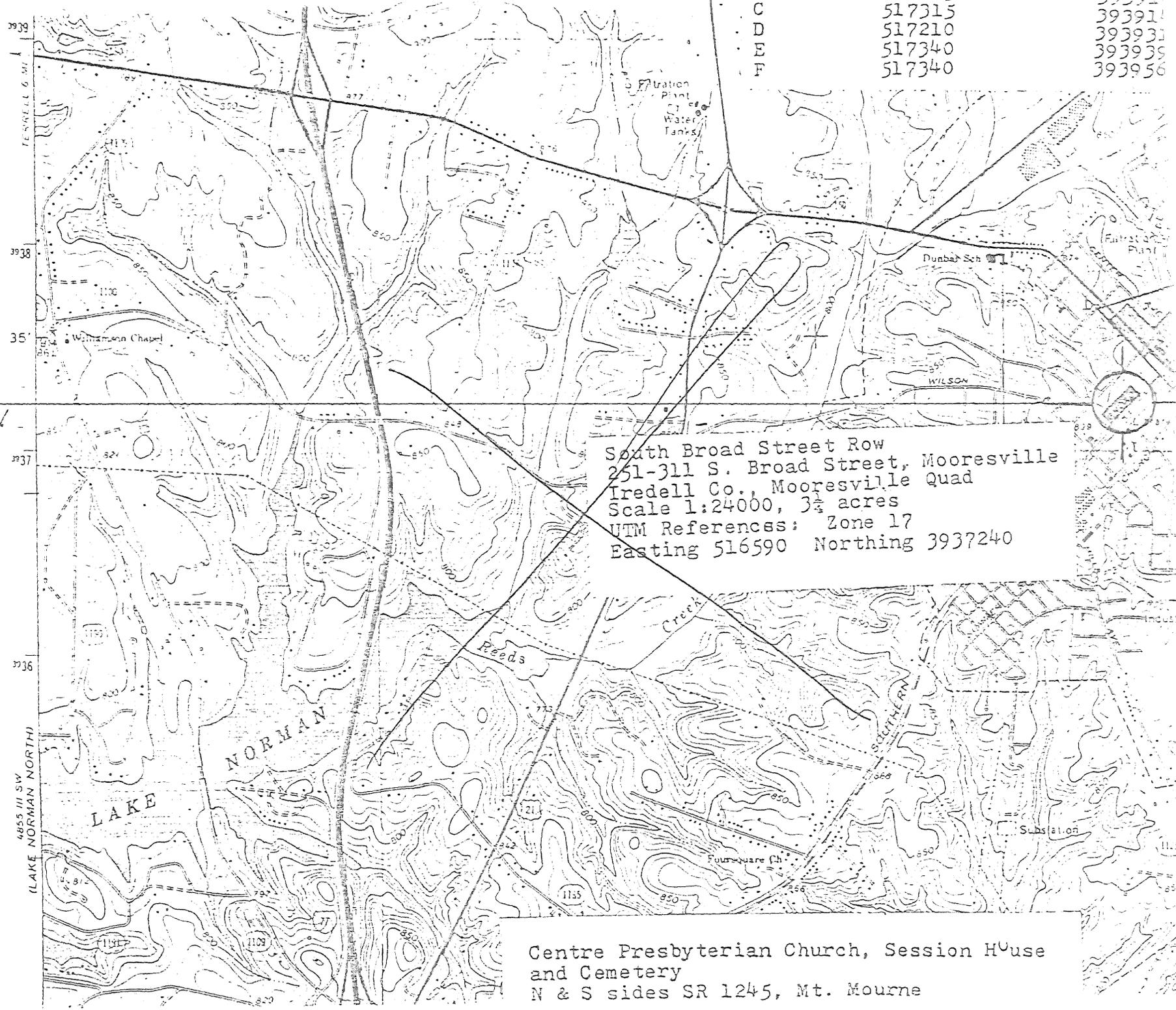
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All of Tract 24, Block A, Map 1A (as shown on Map 1B), Coddle Creek Township, as outlined in red on map.

The property being nominated includes the church-owned tract which consists of the church, session house, cemetery and their immediate surroundings.

C
D
E
F

517315 393911
517210 393931
517340 393939
517340 393956



FS
SOUTH BROAD
STREET ROW

South Broad Street Row
251-311 S. Broad Street, Mooresville
Iredell Co., Mooresville Quad
Scale 1:24000, 3 1/4 acres
UTM Referencss: Zone 17
Easting 516590 Northing 3937240

4855 III SW
(LAKE NORMAN NORTH)

Centre Presbyterian Church, Session H^ouse
and Cemetery
N & S sides SR 1245, Mt. Mourne

