

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

Iredell County

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR _____ THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Daltonia (John H. Dalton House)

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

N & S sides SR 2115 at jct. with SR 2117

____ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

____ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF Houstonville

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input 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	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Dr. Amelia Kennedy Thompson
c/o Cecilia K. Conrad

STREET & NUMBER

Rt. 2

CITY, TOWN

Harmony

____ VICINITY OF

STATE

North Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Iredell County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Statesville

STATE

NC

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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

One of the most architecturally impressive houses in Iredell County is Daltonia, built for John Dalton in 1858. It is located in rural Eagle Mills township in the northeast corner of the county.

Daltonia is a two-story, frame building with generous proportions and gable roof. It is three bays wide and two deep. The building has a two-story pedimented portico richly adorned with well-preserved decorative detail, a late nineteenth century porch on the right end wall, and a two-story ell, ca. 1910, on the right rear. The ell has a one-story 1960s brick addition. Both the rear of the house and the side of the ell are lined with a two-story gallery supported on chamfered posts. The plan of Daltonia consists of two rooms on either side of a central passage with two internal chimneys.

Daltonia's exterior exhibits many significant features, with the overall effect reflecting primarily the Greek style.

The pierced sawwork posts and delicate balustrade are varied in pattern and demonstrate a local craftsman's versatility. The posts are made up of a series of tangential semi-circular scrolls in a pattern similar to cast-iron work of the period. The balustrade across the front of the portico features the sheaf of wheat pattern, while the sides have flat balusters whose profiles imitate a turned balustrade. The lunette in the portico is interesting, particularly for its rectangular surround with Greek influenced floral detailing in the corners and heavily molded perimeter.

Other details of interest on the portico are the tongue and groove flush siding--as opposed to the plain lapped exterior siding--and the impressive entry framed by large flat pilasters delicately fluted. Between the pilasters are a transom and sidelights, using a string of diamond panes down the center and small rectangular panes at the edges. These lights are frosted with the diamond panes being scored in a diaper pattern. The sidelights rest on a paneled base. The casing of the double-leaf, three-panel door is reeded and interrupted at the corners by corner blocks of descending concentric squares ending in a pyramidal center.

The windows are a unique double window arrangement. Each half consists of a 4/6 sash window covered by a single leaf exterior louvered shutter. The windows are separated by a mullion which incorporates the interior stop for the shutters. The casing enframes the pair of window joined by the mullion and consists of a bead outlining the shutter recesses, a flat ground and a backband molded with an applied agee.

The unusually elaborate upper gable windows repeat the details of the entry, omitting the pilasters and substituting a 6/9 sash window for the doors.

The interior details at Daltonia are again basically in the Greek style. The mantels and doors are treated with decorative painting--graining, marbling, and stippling. Doorways leading to the rooms from the halls have fixed transoms with lights following the pattern of the entry.

The mantels range from simple pilasters supporting a plain architrave and shelf, to engaged Doric fluted columns supporting an architrave incised with a banding of the Greek key motif, reflecting the influence of Asher Benjamin's Practical House Carpenter (1830). The hearths are consistently square brick pavers.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Iredell County

Daltonia (John H. Dalton House)

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Description (Cont'd)

The staircase is Federal in feeling due to its slender, graceful lines. The slender turned newel is capped with a downward-turning volute formed on the end of the round rail which curves gracefully upward to the top of the stair. The remaining balusters are slender rectangular sections resting three per tread above the open string. Below each tread is a simple scrolled bracket.

Several outbuildings and other secondary structures are found on the Daltonia property. To the left (west) of the house is a small, one-and-one-half story log house with V-notched joints and exterior single-shoulder brick chimney with fieldstone base. According to Amelia Kennedy Thompson, this log house was where John Dalton (her great-grandfather) and his wife lived before the big house was constructed. Originally it was located at the head of the drive, but was moved to its present location when Daltonia was built.

To the right (east) of the house is another one-and-one-half story log structure with half-dovetailed joints and a partially collapsed brick end chimney with fieldstone base. According to Mrs. Thompson, this was once used as a loom house and place to store dried lumber.

Southwest of Daltonia and across SR 2115 from it is a two-story, three-bay wide frame house (vacant) with gable roof, 6/6 sash windows, and two-panel front door with sidelight. Chimneys at either end of the house have disappeared. This nineteenth century house is believed by Mrs. Thompson to have been the home of a Dalton family member.

Directly across SR 2115 from the house is an interesting one-story, dry-laid stone building with gable roof and door on the end facing the road. According to Mrs. Thompson, this small mid-nineteenth century structure was used to season tobacco and was a part of Dalton's tobacco factory, the main building of which stood next to this. To the south and east of the stone building are two large twentieth century dairy barns with gambrel roofs.

Behind Daltonia are a frame garage, sheds, barns and other farm buildings which appear to date from the twentieth century and which are associated with the continued farm use of this property.

Daltonia is situated in the center of a well-kept lawn with numerous trees. Beyond the house and outbuildings are open, rolling farmlands edged with woodlands.

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 checked="" 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 1858

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Daltonia is an imposing Greek Revival house whose richness and diversity of detail make it one of the most architecturally outstanding houses in all of Iredell County. It was built in 1858 for the locally prominent Dalton family. The lands which accompany Daltonia were the scene of significant early tobacco culture and manufacturing in Iredell County during the mid-nineteenth century under the supervision of owner John Hunter Dalton.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- A. Daltonia is associated with the development of tobacco culture and industry in Iredell County. During the mid-nineteenth century the plantation at Daltonia was the largest tobacco producer in the county and was also the scene of early tobacco manufacturing efforts.
- B. John Hunter Dalton, original owner of Daltonia, was the leading tobacco grower and manufacturer in Iredell County during the mid-nineteenth century and, as such, played a significant role in the development of Iredell agriculture and industry during that period.
- C. Daltonia is one of the most architecturally significant houses remaining from any period in Iredell County's history. Built in 1858, it embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Greek Revival style, while at the same time its rich and varied detailing--especially on the front portico and interior--ranks among the most delightfully imaginative in the county.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

When John Hunter Dalton married Mary Cecelia Houston, he married into a family of considerable wealth and prominence in northeast Iredell County. Mary Cecelia was the granddaughter of Christopher Houston, who owned several thousand acres and served as one of five commissioners in 1789 to select the location of the county seat for Iredell.

John H. Dalton began manufacturing plug chewing tobacco in the Houstonville vicinity during the 1840s. At first he had to purchase most of his leaf from Rockingham County and other tobacco-growing areas, and to help alleviate this situation he began to grow his own. In 1850 and especially by 1860 Dalton was growing a considerable amount with a labor force of slaves.² The U.S. Census reported that during this period Dalton owned 24 slaves, placing him in the category of middle-range slave holders--i.e. small planters--in Iredell County.

At about this time (1858) Dalton built a substantial two-story frame dwelling which replaced as his family's home the small log house which still stands west of the big house.⁴ Dalton's impressive new house, rich in detail and befitting a man of his growing stature in the county, was named Daltonia.

Across the road from Daltonia stood Dalton's tobacco factory. A small stone⁵ building used for seasoning the tobacco represents the only physical remains of this industry.⁵ In 1860 Dalton was manufacturing 50,000 pounds of plug tobacco with the help of nine men and thirteen women employees. This was one of perhaps only four small tobacco factories in the county at that time.

The September 13, 1875, issue of the Landmark (Statesville) carried the note:

We were glad to have a call last week from Mr. John Dalton, the largest tobacco grower in this county, and likewise the manufacturer of the weed. Mr. Dalton informs us that the tobacco in this section is the most promising that has ever been grown there. The quality and acreage has largely been increased over any past year, and its condition is excellent. On his farm, where he⁷ has heretofore raised about 15,000 pounds will this year be grown 40,000 pounds.

John Dalton died in 1888,⁸ but Daltonia has remained with his descendants to the present day. The well-preserved and little altered house that Dalton built is now owned by his great-granddaughters, Dr. Amelia Kennedy Thompson and Mrs. Cecelia Kennedy Conrad.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

¹Iredell County Landmarks, compiled by Virginia Frazer Evans (Statesville: The Iredell County American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, 1976), p. 36; Homer M. Keever, Iredell Piedmont County (Iredell County Bicentennial Commission, 1976), pp. 46, 91.

²Keever, pp. 120-121.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 57

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1, 7 | 5 | 2, 2 | 9, 1, 0 | 3, 9 | 8, 3 | 5, 1, 5 |

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B | 1, 7 | 5 | 2, 2 | 2, 8, 0 | 3, 9 | 8, 3 | 5, 1, 5 |

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | 1, 7 | 5 | 2, 2 | 2, 8, 0 | 3, 9 | 8, 4 | 1, 4, 0 |

D | 1, 7 | 5 | 2, 2 | 9, 1, 0 | 3, 9 | 8, 4 | 1, 4, 0 |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All of Tract 4, Block A, Map 17G, Eagle Mills Township, as outlined in red on map.

The property being nominated includes the house, outbuildings and other structures, and surrounding farm and woodlands which are all that remain intact with the house of John Dalton's once huge estate.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

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Iredell County

Daltonia (John H. Dalton House)

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Footnotes (Cont'd)

²Keever, pp. 120-121.

³Ibid., p. 130.

⁴Iredell County Landmarks, p. 36.

⁵Laura A. W. Phillips, telephone interview with Dr. Amelia Kennedy Thompson,
September 23, 1979.

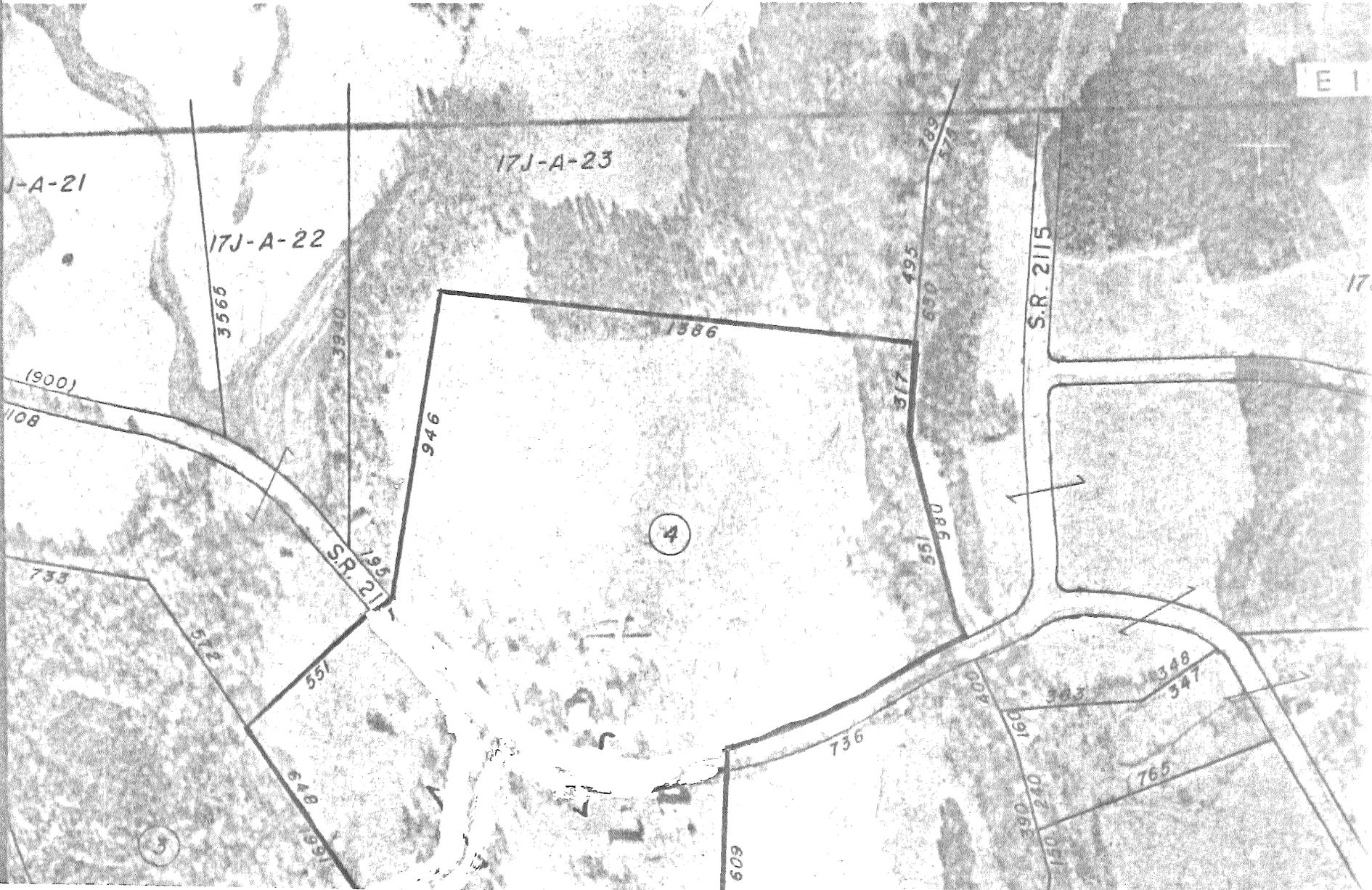
⁶Keever, p. 121.

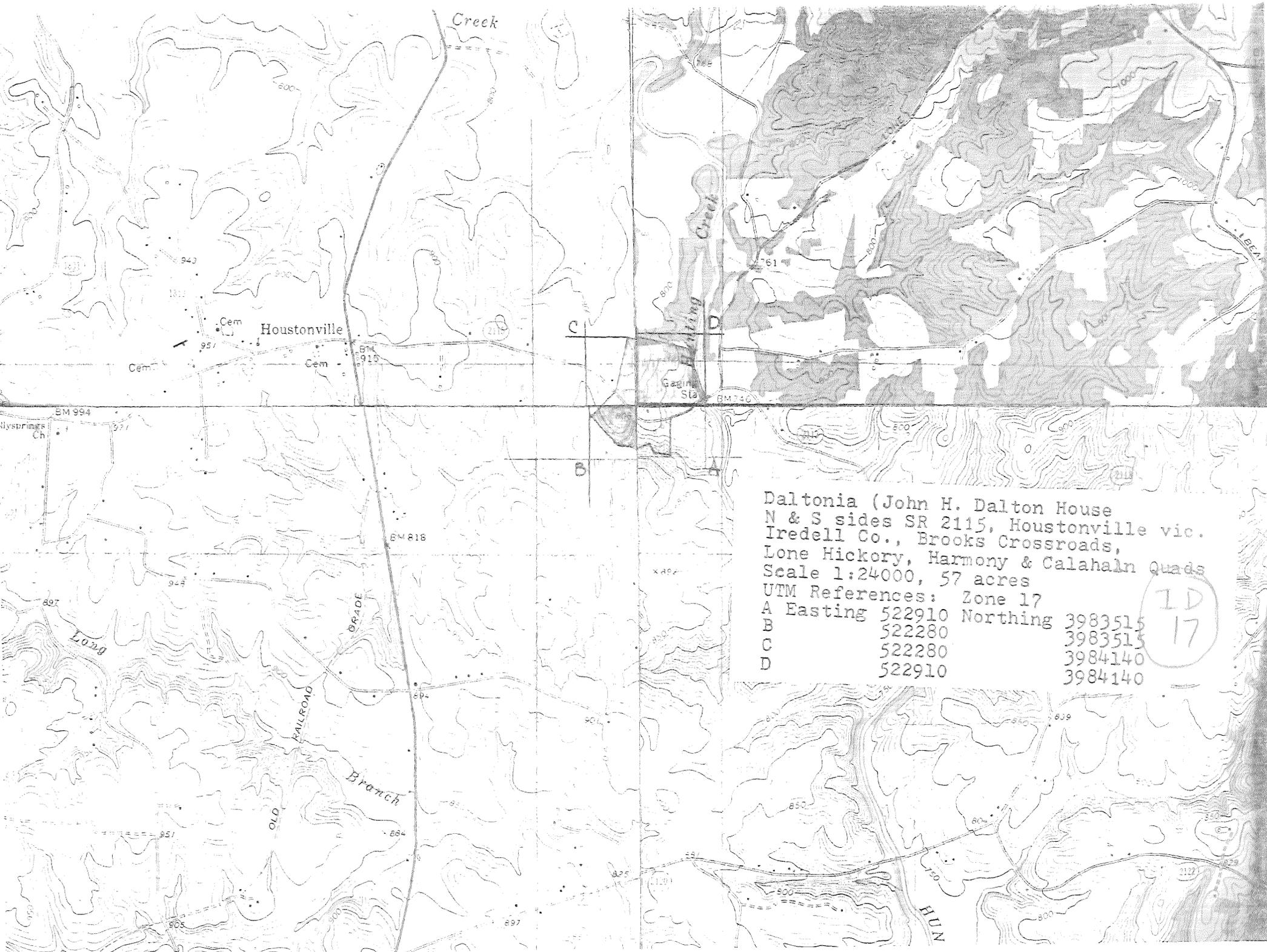
⁷Ibid., p. 267.

⁸Iredell County Landmarks, p. 61.

#3 Daltonia

SEE
E 1





Daltonia (John H. Dalton House
 N & S sides SR 2115, Houstonville vic.
 Iredell Co., Brooks Crossroads,
 Lone Hickory, Harmony & Calahahn Quada
 Scale 1:24000, 57 acres
 UTM References: Zone 17
 A Easting 522910 Northing 3983515
 B 522280 3983515
 C 522280 3984140
 D 522910 3984140

ID
 17

