

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

Iredell County

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR _____ THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME

HISTORIC Feimster House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER End of 0.6 mile dirt lane, entrance on E side SR 1561,
0.8 mile N of jct. with SR 1554

____ NOT FOR PUBLICATION
____ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF Loray

STATE North Carolina COUNTY Iredell CODE _____

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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER empty

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. Harold A. Sharpe (house) Mr. C. Kenneth Sharpe (other land)

STREET & NUMBER Route 8, Box 361 Route 8, Box 96

CITY, TOWN Statesville _____ VICINITY OF _____ STATE North Carolina 28677

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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The William Feimster House was built ca. 1800 and exhibits the transitional stage from the Georgian to the Federal styles. Now located in an isolated rural setting, closely surrounded on three sides by woodlands and by open fields on the fourth, the house originally commanded a rather prominent position on the Island Ford-Shallow Ford Road (no longer visible) near where the road crossed the Cove Gap Road from Statesville to Wilkesboro. Although the Feimster House is in somewhat deteriorated condition at the present time, it is still highly significant, not only because it is one of the oldest houses remaining in the county, but also because it has been so little altered. It is a rare, intact survivor of the tiny but carefully finished dwellings once numerous in the 18th and early 19th centuries--now seldom intact. Although a kitchen wing and porches have been removed, the house as it now stands may be very close to its original appearance.

The Feimster House is a one-and-one-half story frame, 3 x 2 bay structure on high fieldstone foundation and with a steep gable roof. Georgian refinements include the wooden cove cornice and the molded siding. The batten doors and batten shutters covering the 9/6 sash windows use either wrought-iron strap or HL hinges. The large interior end 1 to 3 common bond brick chimney has a most unusual fireplace on the exterior face which presumably once served the adjoining kitchen wing, now removed. The molded clapboarding shows traces of red paint, while traces of blue paint can be seen on the trim. The cellar area, located at the south end of the house, was entered from the outside. Portions of overhead storage racks remain, and there is still one wooden grille in the fieldstone foundation.

The interior of the house is an unmodified three-room Quaker plan with loft above. Interior walls are covered with vertical beaded flush sheathing. The ceiling of the large room is also covered with flush sheathing, while in the smaller rooms beaded ceiling joists are exposed. The main room has a large fireplace with simple mantel shelf. The loft is also covered with beaded-edge sheathing and has an almost miniature plastered arch fireplace. The only entrance to the loft is by a stairway which leads from the exterior at the north end of the house. Only the top part of the stairway--that which is enclosed within the house--remains. On the west side of the house a small passageway which includes a pantry leads from the main room of the house to the exterior, or what was at one time the kitchen wing.

According to former residents and members of the Sharpe family who have owned the house since 1870, there was for many years a kitchen wing on the north end of the house which nearly equalled the main part of the house in size. Porches extended along the entire length of the east and west sides of the house (front and rear). The kitchen wing had a loft, and apparently a stairway led from the open porch on the east side to a landing, at which point doors opened on either side to the remaining steps, which led south and north to the lofts over the main house and over the kitchen wing. This would explain the unusual position of the batten door halfway up the north end of the house, to the left of the exterior fireplace, which leads to the loft stairs. It is possible that the kitchen wing was a very early addition to the house.

According to members of the Sharpe family, a covered breezeway led from the north end of the kitchen wing to the well. What may have been two servants' houses were situated about 30 feet from the south end of the house. These one-room log houses each had a large stone end chimney. A blacksmith shop was located by the stream which runs south of the house, and there were other log barns or outbuildings.

Now there are only three small log or frame outbuildings located to the north and east of the house, but they appear to date from a later period of construction than the house.

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 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Despite its neglected condition, the small frame Feimster House is among the most significant early houses in Iredell County. Its transitional Georgian-Federal finish, Quaker plan traditional form, and unaltered condition recall the early rural architecture of the county. Original paint and notable details survive, making the house an excellent candidate for restoration. It was built ca. 1790-1810 for William Feimster, Revolutionary War soldier.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- A. Associated with late 18th and early 19th century agrarian economy of Iredell County.
- B. Associated with locally prominent farmer and Revolutionary War veteran William Feimster.
- C. Embodies in very unaltered form early, traditional domestic form, plan (Quaker), and finish representative of Piedmont, North Carolina.

William Feimster, a native of York District, South Carolina, served with the Whig forces during the Revolution and saw service at the battles of King's Mountain, Ramseur's Mill, and Musgrove Mill. He received a pension from South Carolina for his military service.¹ He was married on May 30, 1783, to Mary Sharpe in Rowan County, North Carolina.² Tradition states that Mary's brother, John Sharpe, was a military comrade of Feimster's.³ William and Mary Feimster settle in the Liberty Hill section of Iredell County before 1790, as they are recorded there in the 1790 Census.

Judging from available records and structural and stylistic evidence, the Feimster House probably dates from between 1790 and 1810, with the earlier date more likely. William Feimster was a significant figure in this area. He had a forge, said to have been located near the Yadkin River bank, as well as operated a gristmill, and had a large plantation and a number of slaves.⁴

William Feimster is said to have established a school at his home for the education of his daughters, though there are no known records of this school extant.⁵ The Feimster daughters were married into the most prominent local families.

Abner Feimster, son of William, was a partner with his father in a mercantile business called "Feimster and Feimster," and this business, which traded in cotton, woven goods, flaxseed, flaxseed oil, flour, honey, herbs, and bagging as well as other usual products, remained in operation and was prosperous until after the Civil War.⁶

In 1826, when a post office was established at Liberty Hill, Abner Feimster was named postmaster, and he remained in this post for the rest of his life.⁷

The Fourth Quarterly Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church met at the Feimster House in 1833,⁸ and the next year the Reverend Joshua Leigh, a Methodist circuit rider, recorded in his journal that he stayed the night at William Feimster's house.⁹

In 1841 William Feimster made his will in which he named his last wife, Jerusha, and specified that she was to have his washing machine, silver, and carriage. This indicates a progressive nature and financially successful life, as well as a taste for some elegance. Feimster went on to specify that his servant, Lindsey, have "one half of my smith tools." Feimster also mentioned his milldam near the old trading post (Feimster and Feimster). He then stipulated,¹⁰ that his slaves were to be freed, and he placed them in the care of his son, Abner Feimster.

William Feimster died in 1842. His first wife, Mary Sharpe, had died in 1810,¹¹ and he is said to have remarried Margaret King, who also predeceased him.¹² His last wife, Jerusha,

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Evans, Virginia Frazer. Compiler. Iredell County Landmarks. Statesville: Iredell County American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, 1976.

Interview conducted by Mildred J. Miller with Harold Sharpe, June 14, 1979.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 116

UTM REFERENCES

A	17	50,242.0	3,969,190	B	17	50,176.0	3,969,190
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	17	50,176.0	3,970,110	D	17	50,252.0	3,970,110

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Those parts of Tracts 8 and 9, Block A, Map 9 Q, Concord Township, lying east of a straight line which connects the northwest corner of Tract 18, Block A, Map 9 M, with the point of the southern tip of the north property line of Tract 8, as outlined in red on map.

The property being nominated consists of the house and the surrounding farmlands and woodlands which are necessary to preserve the relationship between the house and its natural environment which in turn contributes to its historical sense of place.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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date entered

Feimster House

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Historical Background (Cont'd)

he named in his will. William and Mary Sharpe Feimster are buried in the Snow Creek Cemetery, next to the original King's Methodist Episcopal Meeting House, which was established with William's help in 1806.¹³ This is near the Feimster House. A small graveyard nearer the house contains the bodies of a number of the Feimster family. Slaves are also thought to be buried here.¹⁴

In August, 1859, a notice appeared in the Iredell Express that Abner Feimster was filing a petition in the next Superior Court "praying for the emancipation of the following slaves, to wit: Lindsay, Walton and Louisa and her child, Lucy Adelaide."¹⁵

Under Abner Feimster the mercantile business expanded. The account books, now in the possession of the family, show the sale of food, dry goods, housewares, hardware, books, brandy, whiskey, wine, and medicines. The post office was located in the store building. One source also says that food and lodging was also available.¹⁶

As William Feimster was an early Methodist, his son Abner appears to have assisted the Associate Reform Presbyterian Church in establishing itself in the area. In 1847 members of this denomination gathered at Abner Feimster's house to hear the Reverend S. C. Millen preach, and in 1848 the Amity A.R.P. Church was organized, and a building erected about two miles from Liberty Hill on land owned by Abner Feimster.¹⁷

In 1847 Abner Feimster advertised 1,400 acres of land for sale, which was located in eleven different tracts.¹⁸ It seems that he did not sell out, for in February, 1859, the Iredell Express carried the following notice: "We have Land, Wagons, Horses, Mules, Buggies, Carriage Shingles, etc., which we wish to sell. Also, we have a great many unsettled accounts and note which we wish to be closed by Cash or otherwise, soon or they will be found in the hands of an office for collection. Feimster and Feimster."¹⁹

The will of Abner Feimster in 1864 disclosed that his land was in twelve different tracts, which indicates that he did not sell the land he advertised in 1847.²⁰

The Civil War brought a decline in business, and the Reconstruction period almost brought complete ruin. The post office was closed, and a fire swept the Liberty Hill community.²¹ Abner Feimster died in 1864.²² His son, Rufus W. H. Feimster removed his family to Scott's Crossroads where his wife had property. He became postmaster at that place when it was established on March 21, 1873.²³

The Feimster House appears to have been sold to Calvin Sharpe about 1870.²⁴ Sharpe was a cousin to the Feimsters. The property is now in the possession of Harold Sharpe, a grandson of Calvin Sharpe.²⁵

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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received

data entered

Feimster House

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Bibliography (Cont'd)

Keever, Homer M. Iredell Piedmont County. Statesville: Iredell County American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, 1976.

Miller, Mildred J. "Liberty Hill, Iredell County, N.C." Unpublished Manuscript, 1976.

White, Katherine Keogh. The King's Mountain Men. Baltimore: N.P., 1976.

FOOTNOTES

¹Katherine Keogh White, The King's Mountain Men (Baltimore: n.p., 1966), 238.

²Mildred J. Miller, "Liberty Hill, Iredell County, N.C." (Unpublished manuscript, 1976), 4.

³Ibid, 4; also Virginia Frazer Evans (compiler), Iredell County Landmarks (Statesville: Iredell County American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, 1976), 99.

⁴Ibid., 22.

⁵Ibid., 30.

⁶Ibid., 24.

⁷Homer M. Keever, Iredell, Piedmont County (Statesville, Iredell County American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, 1976), 180.

⁸Miller, "Liberty Hill, Iredell County, N.C.," 34.

⁹Ibid.

¹⁰Ibid., 7.

¹¹Gravestones, Snow Creek Cemetery, Iredell County, North Carolina.

¹²White, The King's Mountain Men, 238.

¹³Keever, Iredell County, 190.

¹⁴Evans (compiler), Iredell County Landmarks, 103.

¹⁵Miller, "Liberty Hill, Iredell County, N.C.," 22.

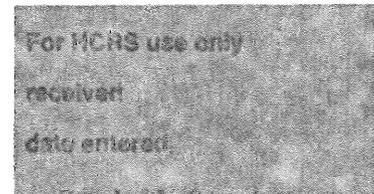
¹⁶Ibid.

¹⁷Ibid., 34.

¹⁸Ibid., 23.

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Footnotes (Cont'd)

¹⁹Ibid., 22.

²⁰Ibid., 23; also Gravestones, Snow Creek Cemetery.

²¹Ibid., 5.

²²Gravestones, Snow Creek Cemetery.

²³Ibid.

²⁴Interview with Harold Sharpe, June 14, 1979, by Mildred Miller.

²⁵Ibid.

#10
KEATON HOUSE

#10
FEIMSTER HOUSE
SEE ADJACENT QUAD FEET

#10
FEIMSTER HOUSE
SEE ADJACENT QUAD

386900m N

King-Flowers-Keaton House
NE Corner NC 115 & SR 1905
Central vic.
Iredell Co., Central Quad
Scale 1:24000, 9 1/4 acres
UTM References: Zone 17
Easting 504460 Northing 3971

Feimster House
E side SR 1561, Lora vic.
Iredell Co., Central & Statesville West Quads
Scale 1:24000, 116 acres
UTM References: Zone 17
A Easting 502420 Northing 3969190
B 501760 3969190
C 501760 3970110
D 502520 3970110

ID 22

ID 28

