

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

\_\_\_\_\_ QUAD

Iredell County

\_\_\_\_\_ MULTIPLE RESOURCE

OR \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ THEMATIC NOMINATION

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Key Memorial Chapel

AND/OR COMMON

St. Philip's Roman Catholic Church

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

150 E. Sharpe Street

\_\_\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Statesville

\_\_\_\_\_ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

North Carolina

\_\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF  
CODE

COUNTY

Iredell County

CODE

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

\_\_\_DISTRICT

\_\_\_PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

\_\_\_AGRICULTURE

\_\_\_MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

\_\_\_UNOCCUPIED

\_\_\_COMMERCIAL

\_\_\_PARK

\_\_\_STRUCTURE

\_\_\_BOTH

\_\_\_WORK IN PROGRESS

\_\_\_EDUCATIONAL

\_\_\_PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_\_SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

\_\_\_ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_\_RELIGIOUS

\_\_\_OBJECT

\_\_\_IN PROCESS

YES RESTRICTED

\_\_\_GOVERNMENT

\_\_\_SCIENTIFIC

\_\_\_BEING CONSIDERED

\_\_\_YES UNRESTRICTED

\_\_\_INDUSTRIAL

\_\_\_TRANSPORTATION

\_\_\_NO

\_\_\_MILITARY

Owners' Office

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. Albert F. Walser, Attorney-at-Law

STREET & NUMBER

150 E. Sharpe Street

CITY, TOWN

Statesville

STATE

\_\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

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

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The former Key Memorial Chapel is a small, 2 x 4-bay brick Gothic Revival structure located on the southwest corner of S. Todd and E. Sharpe Streets in Statesville. Built in 1898, it was used for many years as a Catholic church, but by 1976 the building had been abandoned and was becoming overgrown with vines. Now, however, the exterior has been renovated, the interior carefully and imaginatively remodelled, the narrow and deep lot has been landscaped with rose gardens, and the structure is being adaptively re-used as a law office.

The front of former Key Memorial Chapel features a large, pointed arch window with arched brick drip mould. Above this is a square window - probably an earlier alteration - and in the peak of the gable a decorative wooden bargeboard with kingpost. (The rear gable also originally had this feature, though it has now been removed.) The northeast corner of the building features a two-story tower with decorative brick band between first and second levels round windows with radiating muntins in the second level with corbelled brick course above, a widely overhanging bracketed cornice, and a crenelated parapet. At the tower base is the main entrance with double-leaf replacement doors, pointed arch transom and gabled entrance porch with the same decorative wooden bargeboard and kingpost as is found in the facade gable. The flanks of the building have 1/1 pointed arch sash windows with arched drip moulds. The rear elevation exhibits two pointed arch doors with brick drip moulds, and between and above these, a broad, pointed arch stained glass alter window featuring a "Jesus in Gethsemane" scene.

On the interior, the original decorative detailing has been retained wherever possible, while the spaces have been altered to accommodate the needs of a law office. Materials from other old buildings have also been utilized in an imaginative way on the interior.

**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 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      1898

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Key Memorial Chapel (St. Philip's Roman Catholic Church), built in 1898, was the first Roman Catholic church in Iredell County and remains as one of the few nineteenth century religious structures in Statesville. A fine example of the Gothic Revival style, this diminutive chapel has been preserved and adaptively re-used as a law office.

## CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- A. As the first Roman Catholic church in the county, the former Key Memorial Chapel is associated with the broad pattern of religious diversification which took place during the second half of the nineteenth century in Iredell County, where the Presbyterian (especially), Methodist and Baptist churches had been most strongly represented during pre-Civil War years.
- C. The former Key Memorial Chapel embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Gothic Revival style - the style which became popular for religious architecture in Iredell County during the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Philip Barton Key was a native of Maryland and a grandnephew of Francis Scott Key. His wife<sup>1</sup> was Anna Maria Washington Thornton, a great granddaughter of the niece of Martha Washington. Before moving to North Carolina Key had been a prosperous planter in Louisiana and had served as an officer in the Confederate Army. During the late nineteenth century Key became a prominent figure in Statesville commerce and industry, where liquor and tobacco had begun to play a large role in the economy. Statesville, in fact, had become a major shipping point for liquor, and Key took on a large part of this trade when he opened his wholesale liquor business, P. B. Key and Company, on February 1, 1883.<sup>2</sup> In 1892 Key's company branched off into the tobacco business, and by 1896 the company had built one of Statesville's largest factories.<sup>3</sup>

Key died in 1896.<sup>4</sup> His wife, who at this time was a communicant of the Protestant Episcopal Church and who had earlier donated a memorial window above the altar at Trinity Episcopal Church (Mitchell College Historic District M.R.N.), sponsored the building of a small Roman Catholic Chapel in memory of her husband.<sup>5</sup> Key had been raised in the Catholic faith. A lot was purchased on the southwest corner of Tradd and Sharpe streets across Sharpe Street from "Esperanza," the Key's home. In addition to the widow, others who contributed funds for the construction of the chapel included: Mrs. Key's brother, J. R. Thornton, a United States Senator from Louisiana; the widow of S. P. White, an Associate Justice of the United States; Mrs. E. Hayne Davis, daughter of a chief justice of North Carolina; Cardinal J. C. Gibbons, Archbishop of Baltimore; and the Right Reverend Leo M. Haid, Abbot of Belmont Abbey.<sup>6</sup> The November 1, 1898, issue of The Landmark carried a notice that "Messrs Lazenby Bros. have been awarded the contract to build a Roman Catholic Church in Statesville. The building which will be about 22x42 . . . will cost from \$1,200 to \$1,500."<sup>7</sup> In 1901 the chapel was dedicated.<sup>8</sup>

From the mid-nineteenth century there had been a few Catholic families in Statesville, but for many years they had to travel to Salisbury for mass. Later in the nineteenth century and well into the twentieth century, priests came to Statesville once or twice a month from Salisbury, Greensboro, and other places to celebrate mass, first at private homes and then at the chapel.<sup>9</sup> Throughout its existence as a place of worship, the structure was known as St. Philip's. By mid-twentieth century the Roman Catholic population had grown to the point that a larger sanctuary was needed, and in 1956 the congregation left the chapel and moved to the former St. John's Lutheran Church on South Mulberry Street (Mitchell College Historic District, Building No. 38), renaming it St. Pius X.<sup>10</sup>

After the departure of the congregation, Key Memorial Chapel (St. Philip's) fell into disuse, and by the 1970s it was becoming overgrown with vines. In 1977 the former chapel was renovated for adaptive re-use as a law office and is now once again well maintained.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Blood, Don D. "A History of St. Philip's Roman Catholic Church, The Key Memorial." Typescript copy located in the files of the Survey and Planning Branch, Archaeology and Historic Preservation Section, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

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

The Landmark, Statesville.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

UTM REFERENCES

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

East Broad Street-Davie Ave. Hist Dist.  
 Statesville  
 Iredell Co., Statesville West  
 Scale 1:24000  
 UTM References: Zone 17  
 A Easting 3960640  
 B 3960060  
 C 3959940  
 D 3960210  
 E 3960730  
 510880

Morrison Mott House  
 332 N. Center Street, Statesville  
 Iredell Co., Statesville West quad  
 Scale 1:24000, less than one acre  
 UTM References: Zone 17  
 Easting 509915 Northing 3960355

McFlwee Houses  
 122, 126, 134, & 140 Water St., Statesville  
 Iredell Co., Statesville West quad  
 Scale 1:24000, Approx. 1 1/2 acres  
 Easting 510160 Northing 3960060

Mitchell College Hist. Dist.  
 Statesville  
 Iredell Co., Statesville West  
 Scale 1:24000  
 UTM References: Zone 17  
 A Easting 508840 Northing 3960600  
 B 508950 3959400  
 C 508950 3959110  
 D 508110 3959790

Key Memorial Chapel  
 150 E. Sharpe St., Statesville  
 Iredell Co., Statesville West quad  
 Scale 1:24000, less than one acre  
 UTM References: Zone 17  
 Easting 509390 Northing 3959560



#15  
 MORRISON-MOTT  
 HOUSE  
 #19  
 McFLEE HOUSES

#22  
 EAST BROAD ST-  
 DAVIE AVE  
 HISTORIC DIST

#17  
 KEY MEMORIAL  
 CHAPEL

#21  
 MITCHELL  
 COLLEGE HISTORIC DIST.



