

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

Iredell County

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME

HISTORIC King-Flowers-Keaton House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
NE cor. of NC 115 and SR 1905

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF Central

9th

STATE
North Carolina

CODE
037

COUNTY
Iredell

CODE
097

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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 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. J. A. Hager c/o Mrs. G. Woodrow Carico

STREET & NUMBER
Route 2 Box 110A

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The King-Flowers-Keaton House sits high on a hill overlooking the intersection of SR 1905 and the heavily traveled NC 115, the Statesville-Wilkesboro Road. Although the front yard of the house has been somewhat diminished by the recent enlargement of the intersection, the house still appears comfortably settled among its surrounding trees and shrubbery.

The King-Flowers-Keaton House is remarkable for the quality and intactness of its architectural detailing and intriguing because of its mix of details from different periods. The house has traditionally been assigned an 1849 building date because a stone at the top of one of the chimneys clearly bears that date. However, the form and majority of detailing suggests a much earlier date when Georgian design was carried over into the Federal period. Perhaps one or both of the chimneys were rebuilt in 1849, along with the rebuilding of gable roof eaves. The present porch posts and stair newel indicate that some revisions were made during the late Victorian period. Additions to the rear ell were probably made during the early twentieth century. Otherwise, the earlier stylistic features of the house are those which dominate its appearance.

The two-story frame house is five bays wide and two deep with single shoulder brick chimneys at either end. A one-story ell, apparently original, projects from the right rear of the house. Windows have 9/6 sash in the first story, 6/6 in the second story, 4/4 in the gable ends and ell, and all have simple molded surrounds. Identical shed-roofed porches extend across the first story of both front and rear facades, and on the rear the porch turns the corner to include part of the ell. Wall surfaces of the porches are flush sheathed, in contrast to the weatherboarded surfaces of the rest of the house. Porch corner stiles reveal the location of original porch handrails. Front and rear entrances are treated in unusual and identical fashion with panelled door, three-light transom, four-pane sidelights. Only narrow, simple fluted pilasters separate the sidelights from the adjacent windows. These provide unusual light to the hall.

The interior features a three-room Quaker plan modified by a center hall. The side of the center hall stairway is sheathed in flat panels. On the right side of the hall, thirteen-pane doors with box locks lead to what were originally two rooms, though now the center partition between them has been removed. Walls and ceilings here as in all other rooms are flush sheath. The remarkable mantels and overmantels of the corner fireplaces remain. Though slightly different, both exhibit flat panel overmantels and deeply molded tripartite mantel shelves. Fireplaces in all other rooms, including the ell, are treated in similar fashion, though each varies slightly. The extra-large fireplace in the room to the left of the hall was rebuilt ca. 1940, but its panelled overmantel remains. Most doors are multi-panelled, and many retain their box locks, at least one with the carpenter's seal. One upstairs door which has not been over-painted shows evidence of painted graining. The rear ell is symmetrically planned and has batten doors on opposite sides leading to the outside. Window surrounds in the ell are identical to those in the rest of the house. The cumulative result of all this is that the interior presents a very coherent stylistic picture. The house as a whole has been well preserved.

To the right of the house is a small, one-story weatherboarded outbuilding with hand hewn pegged frame, gable roof and boxed eaves, pair of batten doors, and wood-louvered rear windows. Family tradition states that this was a slave quarter. Northeast of the house (which faces south) near the wooded area of the lot is a two-story frame outbuilding with gable roof and batten door and window opening on the gable end. It appears to date from the late nineteenth century.

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

The King-Flowers-Keaton House is a substantial frame dwelling, probably ca. 1800, of the two-story form characteristic of North Carolina from the eighteenth century on. The gable roof and exterior chimneys, as well as the shed porch and rear ell, are typical statewide, and the three-room ("Quaker") plan modified by a center hall, is representative of the Piedmont. The fine bay width is unusual, and the finish is remarkable for the quality and intactness of its architectural detailing which reflects primarily the Georgian period with some minor stylistic revisions dating from the late Victorian period.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

C. The King-Flowers-Keaton House is one of the best examples in Iredell County of a house which embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Georgian style while at the same time it displays some alterations from the late Victorian period.

The King-Flowers-Keaton House is located in the northwestern portion of Iredell County, between the South Yadkin River and Snow Creek, on a portion of the land originally granted to Robert King in 1783, the Kings being among the early families to have settled this area.¹ On 5 July 1789 Robert King conveyed to William Black of Mecklenburg County 530 acres of this land including the land upon which the house is located. The recited consideration of £240 would not seem to indicate that the land was extensively improved, but it is quite possible that some improvements had been made.² Within the next few years, however, if not before, a residence was constructed on the property, for when the land was sold in July of 1800, following the death of William Black, his widow Rebeckah made reference to the fact that William Wallace Black (presumably a son) was currently living on the property.³ Moreover, the census of 1800 indicates the presence of a William Black household on the land.⁴

The man who purchased the property from William Wallace Black in 1800 was Samuel King, Esq., who was soon to achieve considerable prominence through his political activities. From 1809 to 1819 King served ten terms as an Iredell representative to the North Carolina House of Commons. Thereafter he ran unsuccessfully for the United States House of Representatives in 1825; served in the State Senate in 1826; and was a delegate to the North Carolina Constitutional Convention of 1835.⁵ On the land surrounding his home, King established a moderately prosperous plantation.⁶ In 1820 he was listed as the owner of seventeen slaves, and in 1830 as the owner of seven. In February of 1838 Samuel King conveyed ownership of his house and 635 acres of surrounding land to George Flowers for \$3,100--a price which indicates that the house had been greatly improved and enlarged since its purchase nearly four decades before. On 29 August 1840 King died in the sixty-fifth year of his age.⁷

George Flowers was also active in public life, though only on the local level. He was a magistrate and member of the county court; and in 1839 he was one of the original commissioners appointed to establish a public school system in Iredell County.⁸ As a planter, however, George Flowers operated on a relatively grand scale for the area. The records of his estate, compiled after his death in the early 1840s, reveal that he had owned about fifty slaves and had been engaged in the cultivation of considerable quantities of corn, wheat, oats, rye, flax, and cotton. Moreover, his furnishings included the sorts of things which would indicate a rather refined and elevated standard of living--fine furniture, books, silverware, china, and the like.¹⁰ At the time of his death, more than \$15,000 in loans were still outstanding, including small loans to two men who would subsequently be associated with his house, Joseph James and Silas Keaton.¹¹

Through several transactions during the summer of 1843, Joseph James acquired more than 700 acres of land between the South Yadkin and Snow Creek, including the house in which George

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cheney, John L., Jr., editor. North Carolina Government, 1585-1974: A Narrative and Statistical History. Raleigh: North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State, 1975.

Iredell County Records. North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh: Estates Papers, Maps, and microfilm copies of deeds and wills.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 9.25

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 7	5 0 4 4 6 0	3 9 7 1 9 3 5
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

C			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

D			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

That part of Tract 10, Block A, Map 14B, Sharpsburg Township lying north of SR 1905, as outlined in red on map.

The property being nominated includes the house, outbuildings and their immediate surroundings which consist of that part of the total tract which is not interrupted by SR 1905.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

King-Flowers-Keaton House

Continuation sheet

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Historical Background (Cont'd)

Flowers had lived. The date "1849" on one of the chimneys of the house indicates that the structure was remodeled or enlarged during the period of James's ownership, yet the house apparently continued to be occupied by Flowers's widow, Elizabeth, who remained in the house and carried on the operation of the plantation by virtue of her dower rights. It is doubtful that Joseph James even lived in the house. In 1850 Elizabeth Flowers, age 72, was still listed as head of household and owner of twenty-one slaves.¹² She died between 1850 and 1853, and he will indicate that life within the house had continued on a fairly high level since the death of her husband.¹³

On 24 June 1851 Joseph James sold to Silas Keaton 650 acres which included the former home of George Flowers; but the deed specifically stated that the transaction was "subject to the life time Dower right of widow Elizabeth Flowers."¹⁴ Probably within the next two years, following the death of Elizabeth Flowers, Keaton moved his family into the house and took over the operation of the plantation. By 1860 Keaton was the owner of twenty-two slaves, although the lands upon which they worked seem primarily to have been located just across the South Yadkin. Keaton was listed at this time as the owner of 1,214 acres of land, 400 of which were improved. He held considerable livestock and was engaged heavily in the cultivation of corn, together with some wheat and oats. The cash value of his farm was put at \$12,000.¹⁵ Within the Keaton household in 1860 were Keaton himself, age 44; his wife Nancy, age 48; their children, John W. Mary R., and Winslow S., ages 11, 9, and 7; one John W. Stone, an overseer, age 36; and Eliza Edwards, age 28, a school teacher from Illinois.¹⁶ It should also be noted that, according to tradition, Silas Keaton was in partnership with Joseph James in slave trading during this period, James residing a short distance to the east in a neighboring township.¹⁷

Between 1869 and 1871 a great deal of Keaton's land holdings between the South Yadkin and Snow Creek were sold at public auction to the prominent businessman and land speculator, Robert F. Simonton; but the Keaton homestead was exempted from these transactions and remained in the possession of Silas and Nancy Keaton until their deaths.¹⁸

On 17 October 1884, the heirs of Silas and Nancy Keaton conveyed to John M. Bailey 285 acres which included "all the Keaton homestead."¹⁹ For most of the next half century, the property remained in the Bailey family's possession and came to be known as the "Bailey Estate."²⁰ On 24 August 1933 the house and its associated lands were purchased²¹ by Mr. J. A. Hager; and his widow continues to own and occupy the house at the present time.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
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King-Flowers-Keaton House

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Bibliographical References (Cont'd)

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

United States Census Records. Iredell County, North Carolina. Agricultural, Population, and Slave schedules.

W.P.A. Pre-1914 Graves Index. North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, N.C.

FOOTNOTES

¹Iredell County Deeds, Book A, p. 292; and see 1779 Map of Iredell County inside back cover of Homer M. Keever, Iredell: Piedmont County (Statesville: Iredell County Bicentennial Commission, 1976).

²Iredell County Deeds, Book A, p. 292.

³Iredell County Deeds, Book D, p. 43.

⁴United States Census of 1800, Iredell County, North Carolina. Microfilm copy in North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, hereinafter census records cited by appropriate schedule and year.

⁵John L. Cheney, Jr. (editor), North Carolina Government, 1585-1974: A Narrative and Statistical History (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State, 1975), 257, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 269, 271, 273, 275, 287, and 817; and Keever, Iredell: Piedmont County, 111-112.

⁶Population schedules of censuses of 1820 and 1830.

⁷Iredell County Deeds, Book T, p. 234.

⁸W. P. A. Pre-1914 Graves Index. North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.

⁹Keever, Iredell: Piedmont County, 202, 203.

¹⁰Iredell County Estates Papers.

¹¹Iredell County Estates Papers.

¹²Population and Slave schedules of the census of 1850.

¹³Iredell County Wills, Book 3, p. 74.

¹⁴Iredell County Deeds, Book 3, p. 256.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

**National Register of Historic Places
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Footnotes (Cont'd)

¹⁵ Agricultural schedule of the census of 1860.

¹⁶ Population schedule of the census of 1860.

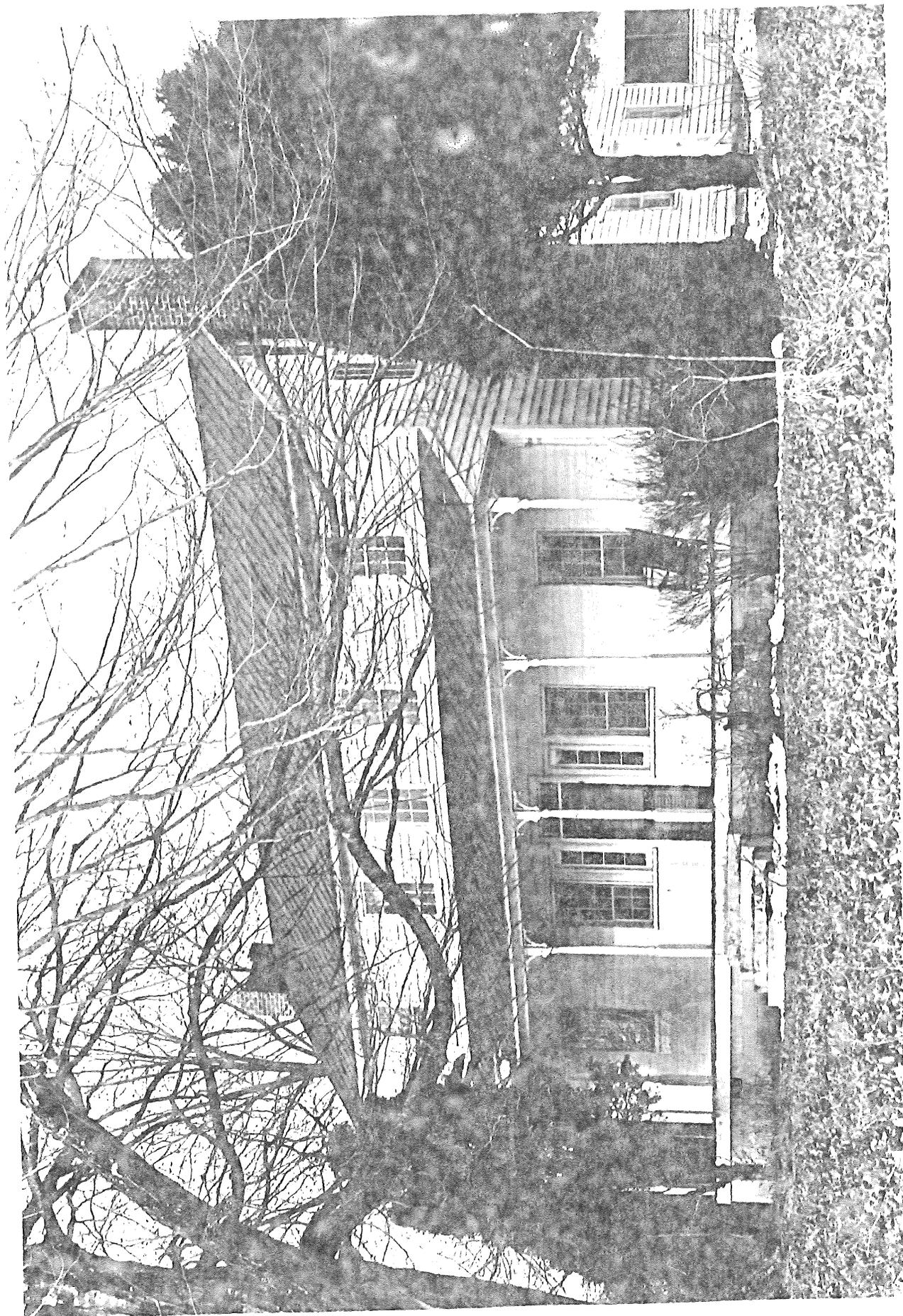
¹⁷ Keever, Iredell: Piedmont County, 132-133.

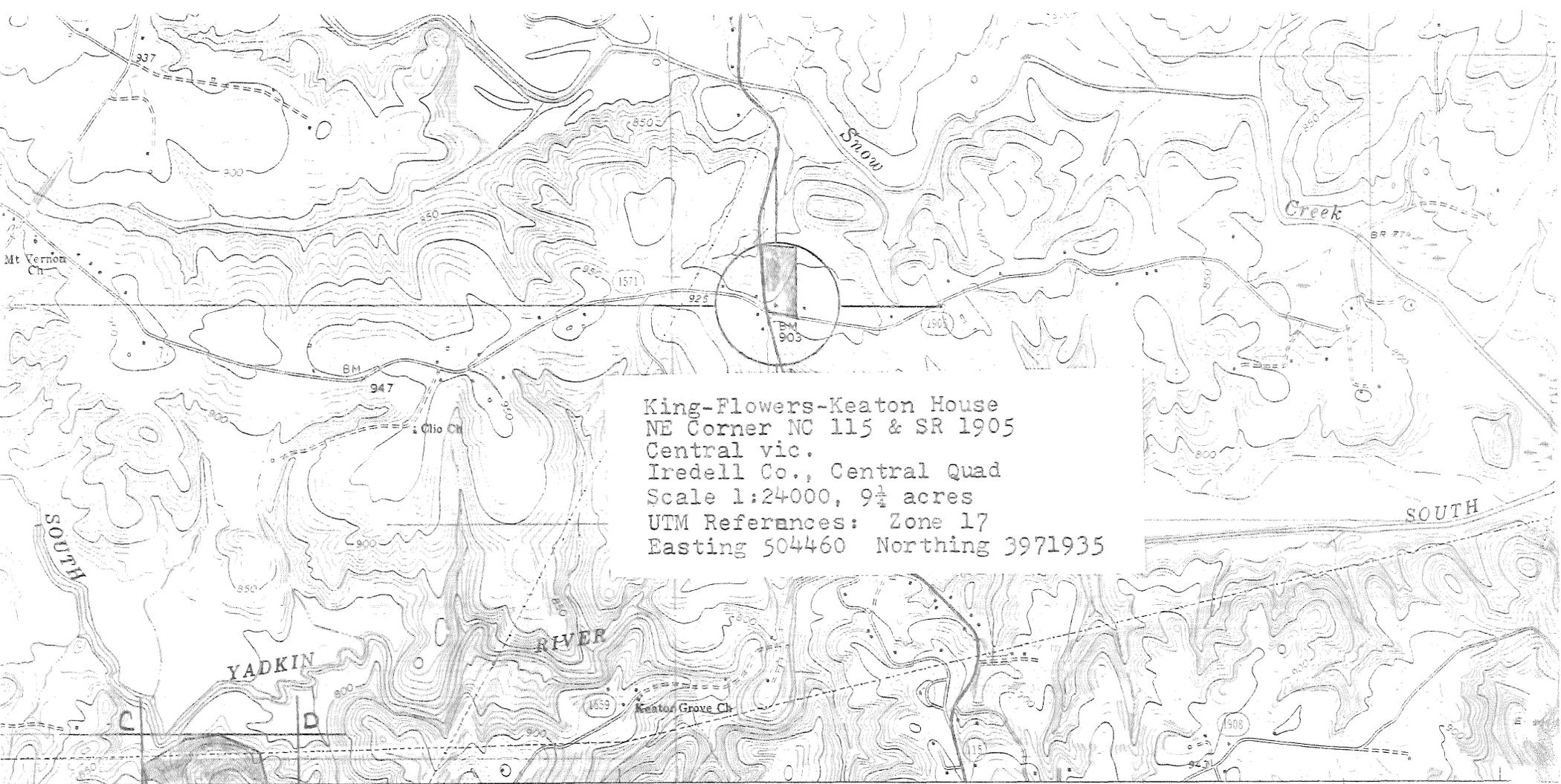
¹⁸ For Simonton's purchases, see Iredell County Deeds, Book 4, pp. 563 and 564.

¹⁹ Iredell County Deeds, Book 9, p. 410.

²⁰ For conveyances within the Bailey family, see Iredell County Deeds, Book 31, p. 76; Book 64, p. 108; and Book 90, p. 587; and Iredell County Wills, Book 11, p. 591. John M. Bailey died in 1897. In the 1920s the property was owned briefly by J. A. Summers.

²¹ Iredell County Deeds, Book 111, p. 57.





King-Flowers-Keaton House
 NE Corner NC 115 & SR 1905
 Central vic.
 Iredell Co., Central Quad
 Scale 1:24000, 9¼ acres
 UTM Referances: Zone 17
 Easting 504460 Northing 3971935

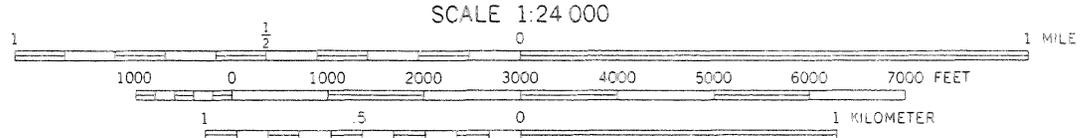
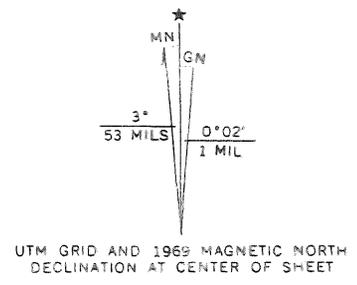
902 903 57'30" 904 STATESVILLE 7 MI. (STATESVILLE WEST) 4855 IV SW 907 908

by the Geological Survey

ethods from aerial photographs

American datum
 carolina coordinate system
 mercator grid ticks,

cted fence and field lines where
 phs. This information is unchecked



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

