

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

Iredell County

MULTIPLE RESOURCE

OR  THEMATIC NOMINATION

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Henry Turner House and Caldwell-Turner Mill Site

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

E and W sides SR 2145 on banks of Fifth Creek

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Cool Spring

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

9th

STATE

North Carolina

CODE

037

COUNTY

Iredell

CODE

097

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES RESTRICTED
- YES UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Multiple owners (See attached list.)

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

**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

DATE

February 4, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

Survey and Planning Branch, Div. of 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		

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

The Henry Clay Turner House was built ca. 1860 on the site of the David Caldwell House which had earlier burned. Sitting on a raised terrace, the house is ringed by a dry-laid stone retaining wall.

The two-story, 3 x 2 bay frame house with gable roof and exterior end chimneys has a one-story left rear ell with central chimney and a two-story, pedimented front entrance porch. Both levels of the porch are supported by Doric posts which are connected by a heavy balustrade. (This treatment is repeated on the porch which runs across the back and down the side of the rear ell.) The front entrance consists of a double-leaf door of one panel each with sidelights but no transom. The balcony entrance is treated in the same way. The flush-sheathed pediment and side gables have wide soffits and cornice returns.

The well preserved interior features mantels which are bold and heavy in the Greek Revival manner while also retaining some influence from the Georgian period. The Greek Revival doors are framed by corner block surrounds as are the 6/6 windows. The basement is significant for its two sections--the main part which has earth walls and 12' ice pit and milk pit, and the section under the ell which has fieldstone and brick walls and a fireplace on either side of the central chimney.

The Henry Turner House is very similar to, though more simple, in form and detail than the Henry Eccles House just down the road. Examples of these similarities are the two-level, pedimented front portico with plain Doric posts and the cast-iron door lock with large eagle embossed below the knob which both houses exhibit.

To the left of the house stands a two-story frame structure with one-story wing. According to Turner Page, grandson of Henry Clay Turner, this was the mill office, originally located on the opposite side of Fifth Creek by the log dam. (The separate mill building has been demolished.) The present outward appearance of this structure suggests an early twentieth century construction date, though heavy timbering with vacant mortises found beneath the building indicate that it may either be an earlier, remodelled structure or that older materials were utilized in its construction.

Farther southwest from the house is a one-room log building with half-dovetail joints and a gable roof with rafters mortise and tenoned at the ridge. It was originally located across the road from the house. Beyond this is a low, gable-roofed twentieth century shed. To the right of the house is a small frame garage. Just south of the bridge over Fifth Creek can be seen the remains of a frame water race which led to the undershot wheel of the mill, no longer standing. On the opposite side of the creek behind the house is an early cemetery with unmarked fieldstones scattered around a large hardwood tree. Tradition relates that this was the Caldwell family cemetery.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

\_\_\_\_ NATIONAL

 X 

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 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 checked="" 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 dignified frame dwelling with its complement of outbuildings and nearby millsite represent the prosperity achieved by prominent farmers and early industrialists in antebellum Iredell County. The house is believed to have been built for Henry Turner in 1860 after an earlier house, built for the rich political leader David Caldwell, burned in 1859. The two-story frame house follows the traditional two-story height, gable roof form with exterior end chimneys, and central hall plan one room deep typical of the region. Here a one-story ell continues to the rear, and notable pits survive in the cellar for ice and milk storage. A two-story gabled entrance porch adds distinction to the facade, and throughout the house is well-preserved Greek Revival trim. A small structure near the house is described as a former mill house that served as office for a mill long associated with the property but now gone. Henry Turner, who bought the property in 1841, operated a thriving mill here for many years as well as a plantation.

## CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- A. Associated with the antebellum prosperity of Iredell County both in farming and in the operation of small industries (grist mills) dependent upon and vital to the agrarian economy.
- B. Associated with the locally prominent farmer and industrialist Henry Turner; and the land is associated with David Caldwell, powerful figure in 18th century Iredell.
- C. Exemplifies antebellum vernacular versions of the Greek Revival and functional farm and milling structures.
- D. Is likely to yield information about 18th and 19th century farming and milling operations.

Located near Cool Spring in east-central Iredell County, the Henry Turner House was apparently built on the eve of the Civil War (1860) upon the site of an earlier dwelling which had been destroyed by an 1859 fire. The two-story frame plantation house stands upon a tract of land along Fifth Creek which was initially taken up and occupied in the mid-1750s by David Caldwell, one of Iredell County's most prominent pioneering citizens. Apparently Caldwell was born in Virginia during the late 1720s and as a young man migrated into piedmont North Carolina, eventually settling upon land just above the fork of the South Yadkin River and Fifth Creek near the Salisbury to Wilkesboro Road. Here Caldwell constructed a large dwelling (thought to have been the structure destroyed by fire in 1859) and a valuable gristmill and prospered in the years prior to the American Revolution. Caldwell served as a captain of a Rowan County Militia unit during the Revolution and participated in the 1776 campaign against the Cherokee Indians and the 1780 Battle of Ramsour's Mill.

Following the Revolution, Caldwell, an avowed Federalist, helped to get the constitution ratified in North Carolina and served as Iredell County's first state senator. In 1795 Caldwell became involved in what Iredell County historian Homer Keever has called "the most grandiose land speculation scheme in Iredell's history," acquiring in partnership with William Sharpe, Abner Sharpe and Adlai Osborne title to 19,144 acres of land throughout the county. By 1800 Caldwell owned 14 slaves, and his mill was valued at \$500, highest in the county. Patriarch of a distinguished family--grandsons included Judge David Franklin Caldwell and Congressman Joseph Pearson Caldwell, and great-grandson Joseph Pearson Caldwell was one of North Carolina's most eminent newspapermen--David Caldwell died at his "seat" on May 9, 1808, bequeathing his Fifth Creek plantation and mill to his wife Rebecca and sons Andrew, John, Timothy, and David, Jr.

On April 6, 1823, Caldwell's heirs sold the 1,649-acre plantation and gristmill to Scarlet Glascock, an Iredell County planter of some pretension, for \$2,340. Glascock renamed the plantation "Garden Valley" and worked its fertile Fifth Creek bottom lands with twenty to thirty slaves. In December 1841 Glascock sold 651 acres of "Garden Valley," including the dwelling and gristmill, to Henry Turner for \$3,000. Turner apparently constructed the house which bears his name today after fire destroyed the Caldwell-Glascock dwelling in 1859.

Henry Turner was born in Maryland in 1817, a son of Samuel Turner, who brought his family to Iredell County the following year. Along with his brothers Wilfred and Chapman, Henry Turner played a significant role in the industrial development of east-central Iredell in the late antebellum period and in the dark years following the Civil War. Soon after his purchase of the Glascock plantation and mill in 1841, Henry Turner apparently renovated and enlarged the mill operations; later records of the industrial census of 1870 and 1880 show that the Henry Turner Mill operated year round and produced large quantities of flour, corn, meal, and feed. The mill

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Caldwell, Archibald Henderson. Descendants of Andrew Caldwell and Ruth Reese Sharpe. N.p.: Privately printed, 1975. Copy in the Genealogy Branch, State Library, Raleigh.

United States Census Records, 1790-1900, microfilm copy, State Archives.

Iredell County Records: Deeds, Estates Papers, Wills, etc., State Archives.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 13

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	5,2,4	8,0,0	3,9	6,8	3,7,0	B	1,7	5,2,4	5,2,0	3,9	6,8	3,7,0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			
C	1,7	5,2,4	5,2,0	3,9	6,8	6,8,0	D	1,7	5,2,4	8,0,0	3,9	6,8	6,8,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Those parts of Tracts 9, 10, 12, 13, 14 and 15, Block A, Map 11 K, Cool Spring Township, which lie within the red line as drawn on map.

The property being nominated includes the house and its outbuildings, the mill site, the cemetery and their immediate surroundings.

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Henry Turner House and Caldwell-Turner Mill Site  
Continuation sheet

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Historical Background (Cont'd)

was rated at a handling capacity of eighty to one hundred bushels of grain per day, and its water powered breast wheel (fourteen feet wide) produced ten to twenty horsepower in driving two runs of millstones.<sup>13</sup> Prior to the Civil War, the Turner plantation of 130 improved acres was worked by twelve slaves and produced primarily wheat, corn, and some tobacco; in all, the Henry Turner estate was valued at \$16,400 at the outbreak of hostilities between North and South.<sup>14</sup> While not exceptionally wealthy, Turner was sound financially; he emerged unscathed from the Civil War, and his estate was valued at \$16,500 at the time of his death in 1883.<sup>15</sup>

Henry Turner (1817-1883) married twice, and his two marriages produced a family of thirteen children, many of whom later distinguished themselves in a wide range of professions.<sup>16</sup> His first wife was Margaret M. Webb of Iredell, and following her death he took Mary Ann Mastin of Wilkes County as his second wife. Sons W. W. and John Chapman Turner continued the operation of the Turner Mill at Cool Spring into the first decades of the twentieth century, converting it to a roller mill in 1891.<sup>17</sup> Like many of North Carolina's small custom mills, however, its operation was discontinued in the mid-twentieth century as larger, incorporated merchant mills gained control of the commercial market.<sup>18</sup> Following the deaths of widow Mary Ann Mastin Turner in 1916 and later that of her son Henry Clay Turner, the dwelling and millsite passed out of the family whose name it bears today. The Henry Turner House is presently owned by Mr. and Mrs. Oland Macemore, and the handsome structure is in a state of good repair (although the original farms acreage has been disposed of). An early twentieth century millhouse stands near the dwelling, but only remnants of the mill exist today. Behind the house and across Fifth Creek lies an early cemetery with unmarked fieldstones thought to be the family graveyard of David Caldwell.<sup>19</sup> In all, the Caldwell-Turner millsite and the Henry Turner House mark an important site of Iredell's early agricultural and agriculturally related industrial development.

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Bibliographical References (Cont'd)

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

The (Statesville) Landmark; and Statesville Sentinel (newspapers), microfilm copy, State Archiv

Steen, Herman. Flour Milling in America. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1973.

Survey and Planning Branch files, Henry Turner House folder. Notes compiled by Ruth Little-Stokes and Laura A. W. Phillips. Lewis-Smith House, Raleigh.

FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>Ruth Little-Stokes interview with Turner Page, grandson of Henry Turner, December 31, 1976; Laura A. W. Phillips interview with Mildred Miller, June 14, 1979.

<sup>2</sup>Archibald Henderson Caldwell, Jr., Descendants of Andrew Caldwell and Ruth Reese Sharpe (N.p.: Privately printed, 1977), 10-12, hereinafter cited as Caldwell, Descendants of Andrew Caldwell; Homer Keever, Iredell-Piedmont County (Statesville: Iredell County American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, 1976), 167, hereinafter cited as Keever, Iredell County.

<sup>3</sup>Keever, Iredell County, 72-73.

<sup>4</sup>Keever, Iredell County, 111.

<sup>5</sup>Keever, Iredell County, 47-48.

<sup>6</sup>Keever, Iredell County, 130, 147.

<sup>7</sup>Caldwell, Descendants of Andrew Caldwell, 10-12; Raleigh Register, June 2, 1808; Iredell County Wills, Book 1, p. 23, microfilm copy, State Archives, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, hereinafter cited as Iredell County Wills.

<sup>8</sup>Iredell County Deeds, Book L, 572, microfilm copy, State Archives, hereinafter cited as Iredell County Deeds.

<sup>9</sup>Keever, Iredell County, 151; Fifth census, 1840: Iredell County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, 209, microfilm copy, State Archives, hereinafter cited as Fifth Census, 1840, with appropriate schedules and page numbers.

<sup>10</sup>Iredell County Deeds, Book 7, p. 339.

<sup>11</sup>Keever, Iredell County, 145.

<sup>12</sup>Keever, Iredell County, 145.

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Bibliographical References (Cont'd)

<sup>13</sup> Eighth Census, 1870: Iredell County, North Carolina, Industrial Schedule, Cool Springs Township, 1; Ninth Census, 1880: Iredell County, North Carolina, Industrial Schedule, Cool Springs Township, 1. In 1880 the Turner Mill produced 480 barrels of wheat flour; 132,000 lbs. of corn meal; and 65,500 lbs. of feed. These products were collectively valued at \$4,860.

<sup>14</sup> Seventh Census, 1860: Iredell County, North Carolina, Population, Slave, and Agricultural Schedules.

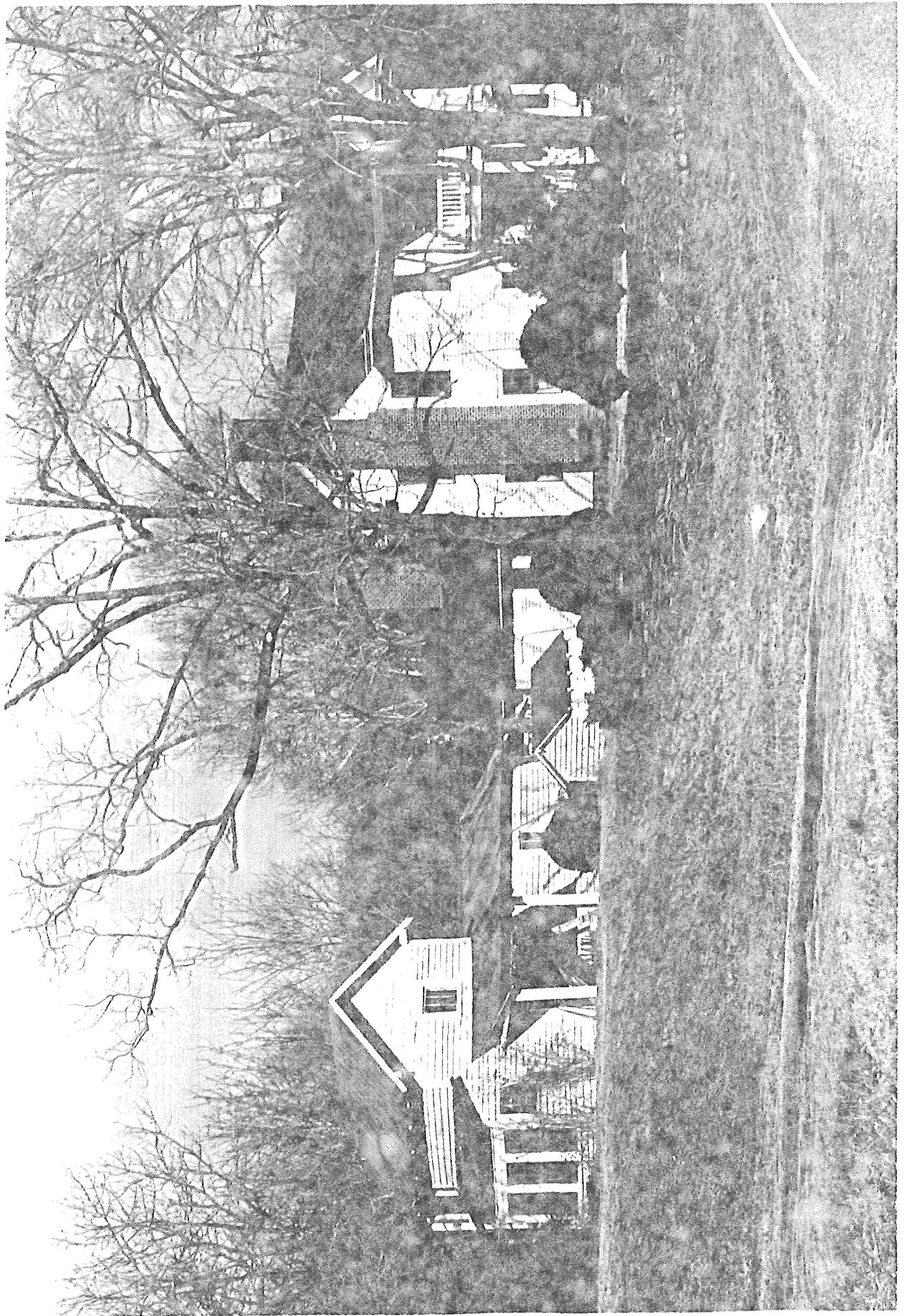
<sup>15</sup> Iredell County Estates Papers, Henry Turner folders, State Archives; The (Statesville) Landmark, May 18, 1883.

<sup>16</sup> Statesville Sentinel, December 7, 1916.

<sup>17</sup> Kever, Iredell County, 145.

<sup>18</sup> Between 1900 and 1958, the milling industry progressed from a business that directly produced goods for the consumer to a business that is currently devoted primarily to producing goods for the baking industry, which now fabricates the consumer goods. Thus milling evolved during the period from an industry of several thousand plants, most of them small, to an industry of only 400 considerably larger plants. In North Carolina, there were 975 mills in 1900; by 1958, that number had been reduced to 81. See Herman Steen, Flour Milling in America (Westport Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1973), 354-355.

<sup>19</sup> Caldwell, Descendants of Andrew Caldwell, 10-12; the Graveyard is mentioned in David Caldwell's 1808 will (see footnote #7).



ID 38

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

80° 45'  
35° 52' 30"

923000m E.

924

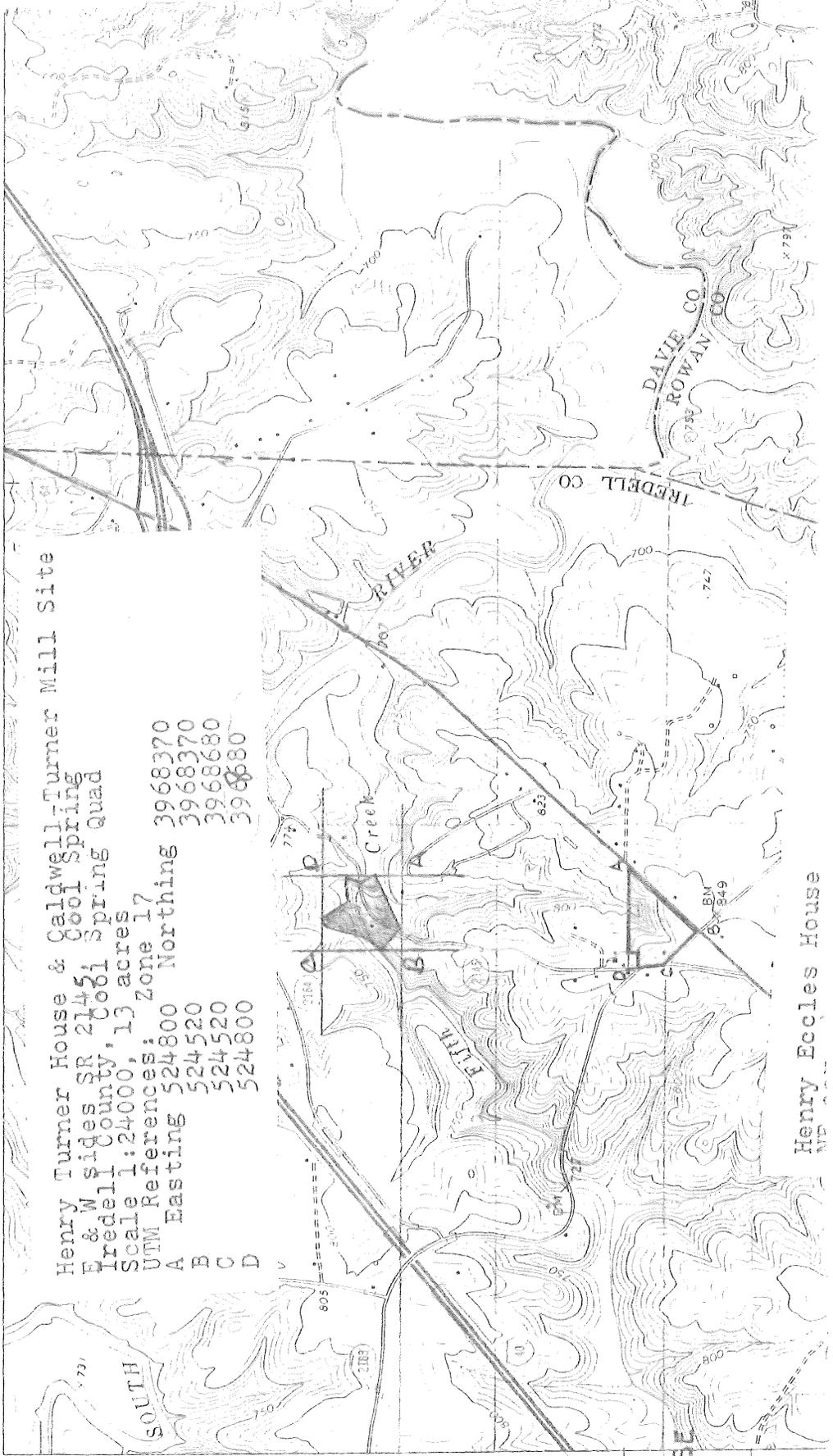
925

926

42° 30' 00" W  
42° 30' 00" W

Henry Turner House & Caldwell-Turner Mill Site  
 F & W sides SR 2145, Cool Spring  
 Fredell County, 13 acres  
 Scale 1:24000, Zone 17  
 UTM References:

	Easting	Northing
A	524800	3968370
B	524520	3968370
C	524520	3968680
D	524800	3968680



4855 IV NE  
(HARMONY)

3969000m N.

#12  
TURNER HOUSE  
CALDWELL  
TURNER MILL SITE

#13

HENRY ECCLES HOUSE

3967

Henry Eccles House  
NE

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Owner list:

1. Mr. & Mrs. Oland Macemore  
Rt. 4 Box 178  
Statesville, NC 28677
2. Mr. Brown Porter  
Rt. 4  
Statesville, NC 28677
3. Mr. Lee Elmore  
Rt. 4 Box 174  
Statesville, NC 28677
4. Mr. Thomas L. Williams  
Rt. 9  
Statesville, NC 28677
5. Vance E, Adams  
Rt. 4 Box 177  
Statesville, NC 28677
6. E.R. & C.D. Pope  
PO Box 1266  
Statesville, NC 28677
7. Mr. & Mrs. George Mundle  
Rt. 1 Box 242  
Mooresville, NC 28115

