

State of North Carolina
Division of Archives and History

Iredell COUNTY

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

_____ QUAD

Iredell County

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR _____ THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Academy Hill Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION See Item 10 and attached map.

STREET & NUMBER

____ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Statesville

____ VICINITY OF

9th

STATE

CODE
037

COUNTY
Iredell

CODE
097

North Carolina

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

____ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple ownership. (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 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 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

Academy Hill Historic District, the smallest of Statesville's historic districts, is located southwest of the center of town. The 45 educational, industrial, and residential properties in this mixed-use neighborhood are arranged along either side of S. Mulberry Street from Bell Street on the north to Wise Street on the south and for brief distances along the cross streets in between. The district is centered on a hill which has its apex just west of the intersection of Mulberry and Armfield Streets. On this hill is located the former Statesville Male Academy, from which the neighborhood received its name. Although the Academy has long since been converted to a residence (412 Armfield Street), the Statesville Graded School which developed during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries across Mulberry Street from the Academy is still in active use as the Mulberry Street School and serves as the centerpiece of the district. Surrounding the school and to the north of Western Avenue is the residential segment of the district. South of Western Avenue the industrial area, composed of J. C. Steele and Sons Brick Machinery Plant, O. W. Slane Glass Company, and the former Ash Tobacco Factory, completes the district. These industries are located on the downhill side of the district, with the lowest point being punctuated by the multiple tracks of the former Western North Carolina Railroad, now Southern Railway. Although the industrial area may on first consideration appear incongruous with the quiet, residential and educational flavor of the rest of the district, it actually is closely tied by history to the other parts of the district. The strongest link between the two is the Steele complex, composed of J. C. Steele and Sons Brick Machinery Plant immediately south of Western Avenue and the J. C. and C. M. Steele Houses on South Mulberry Street north of Western Avenue and just uphill from the plant.

While the educational and industrial buildings are primarily brick, most of the houses are one and two-story frame structures. The houses are enframed by tree-shaded lots and are arranged along the streets in a generally uncrowded manner. Most houses display a 30-50 foot setback from the street, while a few exceptions--notably the J. C. and C. M. Steele Houses on Mulberry Street, the house on the southwest corner of Mulberry and Armfield, and the Clifford House on Armfield Street--have even more generous setbacks of 70-90 feet. The distance between houses varies from around 20-75 feet.

The majority of buildings in the Academy Hill district were built during a fairly narrow time period. While only around 10 percent of the existing buildings appear to have been built prior to 1885, more than 50 percent date from the years between 1886-1918, with more than 80 percent having been built before 1930. The resulting visual impression is of a late nineteenth-early twentieth century neighborhood. The architectural styles represented strengthen this feeling.

Most Academy Hill buildings do not exhibit full-blown styles, but instead show the influence of one or more styles. Generally the buildings are more modest than in the other historic districts in Statesville. The most predominant stylistic influence seen in the district is that of the late Victorian or simple Queen Anne style. Other influences seen include the Second Empire, Colonial Revival, Classical Revival, Elizabethan Revival, and Bungaloid styles. Classical influence frequently appears on early twentieth century front porches, many of them replacements for earlier, more Victorian porches. Only a very few buildings date from the post World War II period.

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Some of the earliest buildings in the district are the schools and industrial buildings, which follow fairly typical patterns of design for their particular uses. The schools are generally classical in feeling--reflecting the Georgian Revival. The former Statesville Male Academy is apparently the oldest building in the district, having been built in 1874. Originally this one-story brick building was oriented toward Mulberry Street. It was strongly Georgian in feeling--which must have been considered appropriate for a dignified school--with its total symmetry, projecting central pavilion with elliptical vent in gable end, and graceful two-stage octagonal cupola crowning the center of the building. In 1916 the academy was remodelled and converted to a residence, so that now it is oriented toward Armfield Street and has a wrap-around Doric porch, altered windows and other modifications. When the Statesville Graded School was constructed across Mulberry Street from the academy in 1892, it, too, exhibited a simple Georgian classical influence. This two-story brick building has a five-bay wide symmetrical facade. The central entrance is accented by a three-bay wide cross gable which projects from the hipped roof. The 1907 two-story brick building which was added to the Graded School continues this Georgian theme with its hipped roof, five-bay wide symmetrical facade with center bay entrance, string course between floors and 9/9 sash windows--those on the first floor headed by segmental arches.

The earliest industrial buildings in the district are typically brick. The oldest visible section of the J. C. Steele & Sons Brick Machinery Plant on South Mulberry Street dating from ca. 1905, is a long one-and-a-half story brick building with gable roof and segmentally arched windows. The Ash Tobacco Factory, a three-and-a-half story brick building located on the northeast corner of South Mulberry and Wise Streets, was built by 1895. With its segmentally arched doors and windows and front gable end concealed by a crow-stepped parapet, it is the epitome of tobacco factory architecture of the late nineteenth century in Piedmont North Carolina. Although not a tobacco building, the ca. 1906 O. W. Slane Glass Company across the street from the Ash Tobacco Factory reflects its industrial character through the very broad, crow-stepped parapet which accents the low, one-story Wise Street facade. Other decorative detailing on this simple building is achieved through segmentally arched windows and rows of darker headers forming a striated pattern in the brickwork.

The majority of the buildings in the district is residential. Perhaps the oldest and certainly the most impressive house is the J. C. Steele House at 624 Mulberry Street, just uphill from Steele's brick machinery plant. With its three-story, center-bay mansard turret, it is the only domestic example of the Second Empire style in Iredell County. The house also exhibits other stylistic traits. Queen Anne-style playfulness is present in the clipped gable ends (which seem to be characteristic of the work of an as yet unknown architect patronized by several Statesville businessmen in the 1880s), shallow bay windows, abundant shingle work, original conservatory with floor-to-ceiling windows, bracketed eaves and German siding. Classical influence was introduced to the house between 1925-1930 when the

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main entrance and porch were remodelled with a Federal Revival style doorway and Doric columns. The porch was extended on the right side to form a porte-cochere. The interior was also partially remodelled in the Classical Revival style at this time. Adding to the architectural significance of this house are two original outbuildings-- probably a smokehouse and a well house--in the rear. The whole is appropriately situated on one of the highest points in the neighborhood, with generous, well landscaped lawn with fish pond and many large trees.

The most impressive example of the Queen Anne style in the Academy Hill Historic District is located next door at 612 Mulberry Street. This house was built in 1901 by C. M. Steele, son of J. C. Steele. W. E. Poovey may have been the builder, as his name and the date are carved in a brick on the house. The primary feature of this two-story brick house is the round corner tower with wide frieze decorated with S-shaped applied floral ornament. A more simple, polygonal tower is also found on the opposite corner at the rear of the house. The one-story Doric wrap-around porch adds classical influence. Other features which contribute variety to the design and texture of the house are the fleur-de-lis ornament above the front entrance, the stained glass in the front door transom and in the window to the right of the entrance, the stone window sills and lintels which contrast with the brick walls, and the steep brick chimneys with corbelled caps which project from the hipped roof. Sanborn Maps reveal that the conservatory and porte-cochere on the left side of the house, as well as the brick garage in the rear, were added between 1925-1930, probably at the same time that alterations were made on the J. C. Steele House.

Of much smaller scale and yet still quite impressive with its Queen Anne style detailing is the picturesque one-and-a-half story cottage located at 424 Western Avenue. The fanciful design includes a deep hipped roof with two front cross gables covered with round-cut wood shingles and edged with molded bargeboard with applied panel ornament. The small balcony which projects from the roof boasts a shingled skirt and pedimented canopy roof with spindle brackets and sunburst tympanum. Completing the design is a wrap-around porch with turned, bracketed posts and turned balustrade.

The other late Victorian houses in the district that show some Queen Anne influence are generally more simple than the C. M. Steele House and the house on Western Avenue. Yet they exhibit many of the same motifs, such as louvered pointed or round-arched gable end vents, shingle work, sunburst designs in gable ends, and front or wrap-around porches. A number of these porches were remodelled during the first quarter of the twentieth century, adding classical influence to the earlier designs.

Typical of the transition from late Victorian to Classical Revival styles is the J. T. Montgomery House, located on the southwest corner of Mulberry and Armfield Streets (606 South Mulberry). Although the plainness of detailing and the Doric porch relate to the Classical Revival trends popular during the early twentieth century,

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the form of the house owes much to the earlier Queen Anne style. While the main entrance to the house is actually on the Mulberry Street side, the house seems oriented toward the corner of Mulberry and Armfield Streets because of its corner projecting bay set at an angle to both sides of the house and the porch which follows this angle in wrapping around the corner. As a result, many projecting and receding planes are created, adding Victorian playfulness to the otherwise somewhat austere character of the house.

Other houses in the district reflect a variety of classical and other post-Victorian influences popular during the first quarter of the twentieth century. One of these is the H. Oscar Steele House (ca. 1907), located at 502 South Mulberry Street (the house of another of J. C. Steele's sons). This two-story brick house exhibits both Colonial and Elizabethan Revival influences in its deep hipped roof with widely overhanging bracketed eaves, stone window sills and lintels, front porch with quoined brick posts paired with wooden Ionic columns, leaded and beveled glass sidelights and transom, and Flemish bond brick retaining wall at the sidewalk. (It is interesting to note that the J. C. Steele House also has a Flemish bond brick retaining wall, which may have been added at the same time that the H. Oscar Steele House was built.)

Next door, at 510 South Mulberry Street, the two-story William E. Webb House (ca. 1917) shows a combination of influences vaguely related to the Classical/Colonial Revivals with its hipped roof with dormers and Doric porches and porte-cochere, but also bears a relationship to the Shingle style with its shingled second story. This house was designed by Statesville and Catawba County architect Charles H. Lester and has been little altered from its original plan.

A house reflecting the transition from Classical Revival to Bungalow style is located at 417 West Bell Street. This two-story frame house is weatherboarded on the first story and shingled on the second, has a gable roof with dormers and paired or tripled 3/1 sash windows. The front porch boasts fluted Doric columns, which are paired on the slightly projecting center bay.

The Bungalow style of 417 West Bell is more elaborate and complex than that seen in the several smaller, more typical bungalows also found in the neighborhood. The houses at 423 Armfield and 211 West Bell are representative of these simpler bungalows which are characterized by low gable roofs and off-set front porches with wood posts set on brick plinths.

Completing the domestic architecture of the district are several post-World War II houses. Built of either wood or brick veneer, these one-story structures (generally "Colonial cottages" or ranch-style houses) neither actively contribute nor actively detract from the general architectural character of the district.

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Although a few buildings in the district are suffering from some neglect, the neighborhood as a whole is well preserved. The image conveyed is that of a mixed-use neighborhood which developed primarily during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Only one building constitutes a real intrusion to the character of the district, and that is the ca. 1970 metal-sheathed building which is part of the Mulberry Street School complex. Yet the impact of this intrusion is lessened by the fact that it is not the primary building on the lot, but rather is located behind the two main buildings on campus and is therefore less obtrusive. Historically the schools, industries and residential segments of Academy Hill were closely intertwined. Today, with the Mulberry Street School still in use, the Steele and Slane industries still active, and most of the houses occupied as dwellings, the Academy Hill area remains largely intact, so that its history can still be readily interpreted.

(Additional information on each of the 45 properties in the Academy Hill Historic District is included in the accompanying Inventory List.)

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 1874

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Academy Hill Historic District is a neighborhood of primarily late 19th and early 20th century buildings which include some of the most significant educational, industrial, and residential buildings in Statesville. At the north end of the district on either side of Mulberry Street are located two of the most historically significant schools in Statesville's educational development-- the Statesville Male Academy and the Statesville Graded School. The Statesville Male Academy (now a private residence) was built in 1874 and served for more than a quarter of a century as a private school for white male children. During many of its years the school operated under the direction of prominent Iredell educator Professor J. H. Hill. It was because of this school that the surrounding area quickly became known as Academy Hill. In 1892, soon after Statesville had begun a system of public graded schools, the Statesville Graded School was built on the opposite side of Mulberry Street from the Academy. Still in use today as the Mulberry Street School, this was the first building constructed specifically for the new school system and served as the only public graded school for white children in Statesville for twenty-three years -- until 1915. At the south end of the district is the industrial core, consisting of the J. C. Steele & Sons Brick Machinery Plant, one of Statesville's most important industries dating from the late 19th century; the O. W. Slane Glass Co., a ca. 1906 mirror manufacturing firm which grew along with the furniture industry in North Carolina; and the L. Ash Tobacco Factory, a well-preserved late 19th century tobacco factory typical of many built during that period in the Piedmont. Completing the district are the dwellings, dating primarily from 1885-1930, which surround the schools and form the bridge between them and the industrial buildings. The most architecturally significant of the dwellings are two of the Steele family houses, located just up the hill from the brick machine plant.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- A. The Academy Hill Historic District contains as one of its focal points the educational complex consisting of the (former) Statesville Male Academy and the (former) Statesville Graded School. Both of these were associated with, and made significant contributions to, the development of education in Statesville in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Another focal point of the district is the industrial complex, consisting of the J. C. Steele and Sons Brick Machinery Plant, the O. W. Slane Glass Co., and the L. Ash Tobacco Factory, all of which were associated with the rapidly expanding industrial development of Statesville during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.
- B. The development of the Academy Hill area is closely associated with the productive life of Professor James Henry Hill, a prominent Iredell educator who not only served as a long-time teacher and chairman of the Iredell County board of education, but also served during Reconstruction days as state senator from Iredell and later as clerk of the Iredell Superior Court. Also closely associated with the development of the Academy Hill area was J. C. Steele, perhaps Statesville's most prominent industrialist. During the 1880s Steele began to invent labor and cost-saving devices for making bricks, thus giving impetus to the brick and clay working industries in the state. He came to dominate the brick industry in North Carolina, making the state one of the leading brick producing sections in the country.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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Significance (Cont'd)

The J. C. Steele House represents the only domestic example of the Second Empire style in Iredell County, while the C. M. Steele House next door is one of the most colorful and sophisticated examples of the Queen Anne style in Statesville.

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Criteria Assessment (Cont'd)

- C. The Academy Hill Historic District is composed of a group of late 19th and early 20th century educational, industrial and domestic buildings which form a distinguishable entity as a whole. The structures within the district are interrelated not only historically, but also visually, due to their scale, materials and the architectural styles represented. In addition, several structures individually provide notable examples of particular building styles and types-- the J. C. Steele House being the only domestic example of the Second Empire or Mansard style in Iredell; the C. M. Steele House being one of the most colorful and sophisticated examples of the Queen Anne style in Statesville; and the Ash Tobacco Factory being the epitome of late 19th century tobacco factory architecture in North Carolina.

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The area known as Academy Hill in Statesville began to develop in the late nineteenth century after the Statesville Male Academy was constructed there in 1874. A male academy had been in operation at another location from at least the 1860s, but by 1874 the Statesville Male Academy had begun operation at the place where it would continue to function for more than a quarter of a century.¹ A newspaper article in July, 1874, announcing the upcoming school session described the building as "a large and commodious brick structure constructed expressly for the purpose."² It was not, however, until February 5, 1875 that "An Act to Incorporate Trustees of Statesville Academy" was ratified. This Act not only established the trustees of the Statesville Male Academy Association, but authorized them to take title to "the new academy lately erected"³ for the purpose of establishing and conducting a school for white male children.³ The school flourished, and by 1890 was being described thusly in the Statesville Landmark

"Statesville Male Academy is a school of high grade, conducted by scholars . . . an average attendance of 60 pupils--as large as they can conveniently without assistance care for. . . . They occupy a spacious building, erected for school purposes, on a commanding elevation, which is known locally as Academy Hill, on the southern side of the city. . . ."⁴

Prominent Iredell educator James Henry Hill was the most widely known of the school's principals. Hill attended Snow Creek Academy and Ebenezer Academy and graduated from Davidson College in 1854 as valedictorian of his class. During other periods in his career, Hill served in the state senate and as Clerk of the Iredell Superior Court.⁵ However, it was as a teacher and perennial chairman of the Iredell County Board of Education that he is best remembered. For a time he taught at the Concord Female Seminary (now Mitchell College) but was most strongly associated with the Statesville Male Academy, to the point that it was more commonly known as Professor Hill's Academy--no matter who was teacher at the time. In addition, Hill served as the first chairman of the county board of education in 1885 and again from 1900 until he retired in 1917.⁶ In 1905 Hill retired from teaching and the session of First Presbyterian Church rented the academy, continuing its operation for several years with A. S. Paxton as teacher.⁷ By 1910, however, the Statesville Graded School had taken over high school work and the academy faded into the background.⁸ The 1911 Sanborn Map shows that the building was no longer functioning as an academy and that it was, in fact, vacant.⁹ (Around 1916 the academy was remodelled by the B. A. Cowans for a residence, which use it retains today.¹⁰)

The Statesville graded school system which was partially responsible for the demise of the male academy began operation in 1891 after a long hard fight that took up the entire decade of the 1880s. Before 1891 there had been several public schools in Statesville, but they were not a part of a graded school system.¹¹ In 1891 the townspeople voted to allow the town commissioners to tax them in order to provide for

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the establishment of the system of graded schools. The schools in this system opened for the first time on September 9, 1891, with Professor D. Matt Thompson as superintendent. (He remained as superintendent for nearly thirty years.) During that first year there was no satisfactory building in town which could be used as a centralized school, so the school had to be spread out in several of the earlier school buildings in Statesville. One of these was a building on Bell Street, where the L. K. Lazenby House at 312 West Bell Street now stands. At first, attendance in the school system consisted of less than 200 white children and only about 75 blacks, but before the first year was over, some 500 children had enrolled in the white and black schools. At the same time the school system was beginning, the townspeople voted \$10,000 in bonds for the construction of a new building. By the end of the school year (1892), a contract had been signed for the new building, which was to be just across Bell Street from the old school-house (312 West Bell Street) and across Mulberry Street from the academy building. The new school was to be built by D. A. Morrison and W. F. Munday for \$7,970.00. By early 1893 the school had been completed and was opened for operation. The first issue of the Landmark in that year noted that:

The building is of brick and contains two stories and a basement. It is heated by a furnace and is fitted up with all the modern conveniences. . . . On the first floor are rooms of the first, second, third, sixth and seventh grades, the office and the library. The second floor contains rooms for the fourth and fifth grades and the chapel or auditorium. The seventh grade will recite on the second floor. . . . The building and one for the colored people (by the way a very good frame building) will cost, complete, about \$12,000.¹²

In 1907 a two-story brick structure was built as an addition to the Statesville Graded School.¹³ This was necessitated by an increased enrollment and by the addition of a ninth grade (an eighth grade had previously been added), with Latin and Algebra to be taught. An interesting note is that the Statesville Landmark commented editorially that it was not sure that it was the obligation of the public schools to teach high school subjects, since they were a luxury rather than a necessity!¹⁴ In 1910 a tenth grade was added and in 1915 an eleventh grade, but the twelfth grade did not come until the late 1940s. What is now known as the Mulberry Street School was the only public white graded school in Statesville for the first twenty-three years of the graded school system, until the Davie Avenue school was built in 1915.¹⁵

At about the same time that the schools were developing at the north end of the district, important industrial development was occurring at the south end. The most significant of these industries was the brick machinery firm of J. C. Steele & Sons, still in operation today. James C. Steele had been in the lumber business in Troutman from 1876-1884, at which time he decided to change from lumber to bricks.¹⁶ Steele moved to Statesville and bought a Sword brick-making machine from W. M. Cooper.

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He became agent for the machine, selling them around the state. By 1888 Steele had invented and patented a low-swung truck to haul pallets of bricks and was manufacturing them in a machine shop and foundry on Mulberry Street. By 1892 he had invented a simpler, more cost-efficient brick-making machine.¹⁷ As Steele's business grew in the late nineteenth century, so did his facilities, and by the turn of the century he had expanded from the east to the west side of Mulberry Street, where his plant continued to expand during this century.

Steele sent his four sons to college to study engineering, and by 1899 the firm had become J. C. Steele & Sons. Not only did the company ship brick machines all over the south, it also analyzed clay in order to advise people which type of machine would be best for a particular type of clay. After a brief period during which time the Steeles apparently concentrated totally on brick machinery, they began again to manufacture bricks as well as the machinery, although after 1916 their brick-making companies were located elsewhere. J. C. Steele came to dominate the brick industry in North Carolina, making the state one of the leading brick producing areas of the country and shipping machinery all over the world.¹⁸

South of J. C. Steele & Co., on the northeast corner of Wise and Mulberry Streets, a tobacco factory was built in the late nineteenth century, one of many which flourished during that period in Statesville. On the 1895 Sanborn Map it was shown as the Rankin Brothers Tobacco Factory, but by 1900 it was being listed as the L. Ash Tobacco Factory.¹⁹ Ludwig Ash was the son of Benjamin Ash, who had been in the tobacco business in Statesville since the early 1880s. Ludwig Ash remained in the chewing tobacco business longer than anyone else in Statesville.²⁰ His factory on the corner of Wise and Mulberry Streets manufactured tobacco on a seasonal basis from five to seven months a year, producing several brands, among them Full Bloom, Choice, Select, and Good Chew.²¹ The factory building, now used as a warehouse, is well preserved and appears to be almost totally unaltered. The three-and-a-half-story brick building, with segmentally arched doors and windows, and front gable end concealed by a crow-stepped parapet, is the epitome of tobacco factory architecture of the late nineteenth century in Piedmont North Carolina.

The third industry to develop within the area of the Academy Hill Historic District was the O. W. Slane Glass Company, located on Mulberry Street just south and across the railroad tracks from J. C. Steele & Co. and across Mulberry Street from the Ash Tobacco Factory. The company was started in 1906 when O. W. Slane came to Statesville from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and organized the glass company for the manufacture of mirrors. The main product has always been mirrors, complementing the growth of the furniture industry in North Carolina. Like J. C. Steele & Co., the O. W. Slane Glass Company became a family venture, in association with O. W. Slane's brother, Fred.²²

Completing the district is a group of forty dwellings. The majority of these

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were built between 1886 and 1918, and most are either one or two-story frame dwellings. While most of the houses from this period do not exhibit clear-cut styles, they do, nevertheless, generally reflect Queen Anne, or late Victorian, and various classical revival tendencies. Related by period of construction, style, scale, use of materials, and in some cases by family connections, the houses along with the educational and industrial buildings present a unified whole.

Although the dwellings as a group present a more modest picture than that seen in the Mitchell College Historic District, there are several exceptions, most notably the houses of J. C. Steele and his family. Steele built his house on the northwest corner of Mulberry Street and Western Avenue on the uphill side of his brick machinery plant, toward the schools. Built during the last quarter of the nineteenth century, the house is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, house in the district.²³ Certainly it is the most impressive, appropriate for a man who was not only a prominent industrialist but also served a four-year term as mayor of Statesville during the first decade of the twentieth century.²⁴ In 1901 one of J. C. Steele's sons, C. M. Steele, built a Queen Anne style, two-story brick house at 612 Mulberry Street, just north of his father's house.²⁶ Farther up the hill on Mulberry Street and across from the graded school, another of J. C. Steele's sons, H. Oscar Steele, built a house around 1907.²⁷

Other houses, not as impressive architecturally, but joined by family ties are the houses at 210 and 220 West Bell Street where members of the Troutman family lived, the Leander Knox Lazenby and Laura A. Lazenby Houses at 312 and 322 West Bell Street, and the Henry W. Miller and Kerry L. Miller Houses at 428 and 444 Armfield Street.²⁸

The Academy Hill Historic District is generally in a well-preserved state due to years of continued use, and provides a unified picture of a segment of Statesville's educational, industrial and residential life in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Footnotes:

¹Homer M. Keever, Iredell-Piedmont County (Iredell Bicentennial Commission, 1976), p. 344, hereinafter cited as Keever, Iredell.

²Statesville Landmark, July 18, 1874.

³An Act to Incorporate Trustees of Statesville Academy, 1874-75.

⁴Statesville Landmark, May 22, 1890.

⁵Obituary notice, Statesville Record & Landmark, December 23, 1919.

⁶Keever, Iredell, p. 340.

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- ⁷ Statesville Landmark, May 23, 1905.
- ⁸ Kever, Iredell, p. 345.
- ⁹ Sanborn Insurance Company Maps, 1911.
- ¹⁰ Data sheet for 412 Armfield Street, Academy Hill Historic District, Iredell County Historic Inventory.
- ¹¹ Kever, Iredell, p. 342.
- ¹² Homer Kever, "City's First Graded School in 1891," Statesville Record & Landmark, November 4, 1955.
- ¹³ Statesville Landmark, August 30, 1907.
- ¹⁴ Ibid., September 6, 1907.
- ¹⁵ Kever, Iredell, p. 485.
- ¹⁶ Ibid., p. 262.
- ¹⁷ Ibid., p. 350.
- ¹⁸ Ibid., p. 351, and Homer Kever, "Statesville's Early 'Industrial Revolution' Saw Banning of Several Local Businesses," Statesville Record & Landmark, February 2, 1956.
- ¹⁹ Sanborn Insurance Company Maps, 1895 & 1900.
- ²⁰ Kever, Iredell, p. 259.
- ²¹ HAER inventory data sheet for Ash Tobacco Factory, North Carolina Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites, 1974.
- ²² Kever, Iredell, p. 358.
- ²³ Data sheet for 624 S. Mulberry St., Academy Hill Historic District, Iredell County Historic Inventory.
- ²⁴ Kever, Iredell, p. 425.
- ²⁵ Ruth Little-Stokes, An Inventory of Historic Architecture, Iredell County, N.C.

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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(Statesville: N. C. Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History and Iredell County Historic Properties Commission, 1978), p. 86.

²⁶Data sheet for 612 S. Mulberry St., Academy Hill Historic District, Iredell County Historic Inventory.

²⁷Data sheet for 502 S. Mulberry St., Academy Hill Historic District, Iredell County Historic Inventory.

²⁸Data sheets for Academy Hill Historic District, Iredell County Historic Inventory.

See continuation sheet item #8.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 35

UTM REFERENCES

A	17	510140	3959380	B	17	510140	3958720
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	17	509730	3958720	D	17	509730	3959380

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet.

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Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at a point on the center line of Armfield St. 181 feet northeast of the intersection with S. Mulberry St., then running northeast along the centerline of Armfield St. 189 feet, then running northwest along the east property line of Mulberry Street School 154 feet, then running northeast approximately 93 feet to the center line of Highland St., then continuing northeast along the rear property lines of properties on the south side of West Bell St. to the southeast corner of 211 West Bell St., then running northwest along the east property line of 211 West Bell St. to the center of West Bell St., then running northeast along the center line of West Bell St. to the east property line of 210 West Bell St., then running northwest along the east property line of 210 West Bell St. to the northeast corner of the lot, then running southwest along the rear property lines of properties on the north side of West Bell St. up to and including 322 West Bell St., then continuing this line across the vacant lot on the northeast corner of West Bell St. and South Mulberry St. to the center line of South Mulberry St., then running southeast along the center line of South Mulberry St. to the rear property line of 408 West Bell St., then running southwest along the rear property lines of 408 West Bell St. and 418 West Bell St. to the northwest corner of 418 West Bell St., then running southeast along the west property lines of 418 West Bell St. and 417 West Bell St. to the point where the line intersects the north (rear) property line of 422 Armfield St., then running southwest along the rear property lines of properties on the north side of Armfield St. to the northwest corner of 444 Armfield St., then running southeast along the west property lines of 444 Armfield St. and 445 Armfield St. to the southwest corner of 445 Armfield St., then running northeast along the rear property lines of properties on the south side of Armfield St. to the point where the line intersects the west property line of 424 Western Avenue, then running southeast along the west property line of 424 Western Avenue and continuing along an extension of this line (the line being parallel to South Mulberry St.) to the point where it intersects the center line of Wise St. (approximately 390 feet west of intersection with South Mulberry), then running east along the center line of Wise St. to the southeast corner of 374 Wise St. (Ash Tobacco Factory), then running northwest along the east property line of 374 Wise St. to the northernmost track of Southern Railway, then running west along this track to the center line of South Mulberry St., then running northwest along the center line of South Mulberry St. to the southwest corner of 627 South Mulberry St., then running northeast along the south property line of 627 South Mulberry St. to the southeast corner of 627 South Mulberry St., then running northwest along the rear property line of properties on the east side of South Mulberry St. to the northeast corner of 613 South Mulberry St., then running southwest along the north property line of 613 South Mulberry St. to the point of intersection with the east property line of 325 Armfield St., then running northwest along the east property line of 325 Armfield St. to the center line of Armfield St., the point of beginning.

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Boundary Justification:

The boundaries of the Academy Hill Historic District were chosen with the aim of including the schools and industries and the dwellings which seemed most closely associated with them historically or visually. The boundaries were not extended beyond those properties which are vital to the understanding of the district in an effort to keep the district as compact as possible. The housing and other buildings beyond the southern and western boundaries of the district relate more closely to the industries in those areas than to Academy Hill. The housing beyond the east boundary (the Armfield/Highland area) and beyond the west boundary (Armfield/Bell) is generally of a lower quality than that within the district and/or relates more strongly to focal areas other than that formed by the schools and industries or Academy Hill. Although the north boundary of the district is only a block away from one boundary of the Mitchell College Historic District, there is a distinguishable separation between the two districts. First of all, the land between the two districts is primarily vacant, but the housing that does exist dates generally from a later period and does not appear to relate strongly to either district. Secondly, north of Bell Street the land slopes sharply down to Sharpe Street. Under the low point in this little valley is a containerized stream, a stream which is illustrated on the 1905 Sanborn Map and which apparently caused, along with the contour of the land, great difficulty in crossing back and forth during the late nineteenth century. According to Homer Kever, when the new graded school was opened in 1893, there was renewed agitation for straightening out Mulberry Street. With many of the school children passing over this area between West Front and West Bell, the aldermen were requested to straighten out the street and provide a culvert for crossing the branch. The 1907 Bird's Eye View of Statesville shows a fairly definite break between the Academy Hill area and the Mitchell College area in terms of concentration of housing. This topographic feature (the contour of the land with the stream) therefore provides a natural boundary separating the two districts. Historically and architecturally the two districts also differ. The Mitchell College area was generally more affluent and related more to the girls' school (now Mitchell College), while the Academy Hill area was generally more modest and related more to the boys' school (Statesville Male Academy), the public graded school and the industries. The stretch along the east side of South Mulberry Street from the railroad tracks north to Western Avenue was not included in the district because only modern industrial-related buildings and parking lots exist there now, so that the present characteristics of this stretch added neither architecturally nor historically to the district.

INVENTORY LIST - ACADEMY HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT, STATESVILLE

The following inventory list includes all properties located within the Academy Hill Historic District, keyed by number to the inventory maps.

Dating:

Most dates given are those revealed by the Sanborn Maps and indicated by the (SM) after the date. Dates given as, for example, "by 1905" mean that the 1905 map was the first one to illustrate this area and that in that year the building was already present. Dates given as, for example, "1911-1918" mean that the building was not present on the 1911 map but was on the 1918 map, so that it must have been built between those years. More than one dating period given for a particular property indicates several known phases of building. Dates which are not listed as being based on the Sanborn Maps are either based on other types of documentation or are mid-20th century in date.

Assessment:

All properties are coded by letter as to their relative value within the district, and these assessments are, in turn, color-coded on the inventory map. The following is an assessment key:

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| P - Pivotal | Those properties which, because of their historical, architectural and/or cultural characteristics, play a primary, central or "pivotal" role in establishing the qualities for which the district is significant. |
| C - Contributing | Those properties which, while not pivotal, are supportive of, and contribute to, the historical, architectural and/or cultural characteristics for which the district is significant. |
| F - Fill | Those properties which have neither an especially positive nor an especially negative impact on the general characteristics of the district. |
| I - Intrusive | Those properties which have a definite negative impact on the historical, architectural and/or cultural characteristics for which the district is significant. |
| VL - Vacant Lot | Grass or dirt-covered area, not used as parking lot, but also not intended as a planned green space or park. |

Inventory Number, Name,
Address, Date, Assessment

Description

- ✓1. Statesville Graded School
(now Mulberry Street School)
501 S. Mulberry St.
1892, 1907, C. 1970
P, I.

The main building of this school (A) was built in 1892, not long after the system of Statesville graded schools began in 1891. It then served as the only public grade school for white children in Statesville for twenty-three years. The two-story, five-bay wide brick building with hipped roof and cross gables was built by D. A. Morrison and W. F. Munday. In 1907, when the school system added a ninth grade, the second two-story brick building (B) was constructed just south of the original structure. It is five bays wide with hipped roof, 9/9 sash with segmentally arched heads on the first story and is of similar design to the original building. It provided additional classroom space and an auditorium. Behind this auditorium, a metal-sheathed building (C) was constructed ca. 1970. It is the only intrusion in the district.
- no 2. House
305 W. Bell St.
ca. 1950
F

One-story frame ranch-style house.
3. House
225 W. Bell St.
by 1905 (SM)
C

This late Victorian one-story frame dwelling has a porch with turned posts and curvilinear brackets across the left two bays on the front. The right bay projects with a pointed-arch, louvered vent in the gable end.
4. House
223 W. Bell St.
ca. 1945
F

One-story frame cottage with porch across recessed left two bays.
5. John M. Sharpe House
219 W. Bell St.
by 1885 (SM)
C

A two-story frame house with the same general configuration is shown on the 1885 Sanborn Map, but the present porch configuration is shown for the first time on the 1900 map. This 3 X 2 bay late Victorian house has a projecting center bay with shingled cross gable. The one-story front porch has a center cross gable decorated with bargeboard of sunburst design. As were apparently several other houses on Bell St., this house was constructed by V. B. Moore.

- W^o 6. House
211 W. Bell St.
1925-1935 (SM)
C
7. C. A. Kyles House
210 W. Bell St.
1911-1918 (SM)
C
8. ✓ T. A. Rimmer House
220 W. Bell St.
by 1885(SM), 1905-1911(SM)
C
9. ✓ J. W. Ward House
228 W. Bell St.
by 1905 (SM)
C
10. ✓ J. S. Miller House
302 W. Bell St.
1918-1925 (SM)
C
- One-and-a-half-story brick-veneered bungalow with shingle trim, paired and tripled windows. Front porch has paired Doric posts set on brick plinths. Garage in rear.
- This two-story frame, 3 X 3 bay house with truncated hip roof and bracketed eaves was constructed in 1911, according to Mrs. Kyles, the original and present owner. V. B. Moore was the builder. Between 1925-1930(SM) the present porch and porte-cochere, with paired Doric posts set on brick plinths, was added. C. A. Kyles was a Singer Sewing Machine salesman and later on an automobile salesman.
- A two-story frame house of related configuration is shown on the Sanborn Maps of 1885-1905, and is likely the original part of this house. However, the house took on its present form between 1905-1911(SM) when it was greatly enlarged. The one-story wrap-around Doric porch nearly encircles the house, and the gable ends of the roof have pointed arch, louvered vents. Three frame garage and shed outbuildings are in the rear. The house was constructed (or perhaps remodelled in the early 20th century) by V. B. Moore. Previous owners were the Troutmans, of the same family as Catherine Troutman Kyles, the owner of 210 W. Bell, next door.
- The original owner of this house was once the Sheriff of Iredell County. The two-story, 3 X 1 bay frame house has a gable roof with center bay shingle cross gable and one-story porch with turned posts and balustrade and sawn-work brackets with fleur-de-lis pattern. Although the house is shown on the 1905 Sanborn Map, the porch is not illustrated until the 1911 map. This is another house on the street built by V. B. Moore.
- One-and-a-half-story frame bungalow with gable roof and shed dormer across front. The integral front porch has paired Doric posts set on brick plinths. The center bay door has side lights and transom. J. S. Miller was a merchant and real estate broker.

11. ✓ Leander Knox Lazenby House
312 W. Bell St.
1905-1911 (SM)
C

This was the site of one of the small public schools (shown on the 1905 Sanborn Map) operating in Statesville in the late 19th century before the large, two-story brick graded school was opened on Mulberry Street in 1893. The school on this site was again used in the early 20th century when in 1902 it was remodelled to provide two additional classrooms for the graded school. On December 10, 1909 L. K. Lazenby purchased the property and soon thereafter (1910) built the present house for his family. The two-story frame house has a hipped roof with hipped dormer, right front projecting bay at second-story level, and one-story wrap-around Doric porch with bowed corner on the right side. On the right side of the house is a conservatory with Queen Anne style casement windows and paneled dado. A two-story frame outbuilding with pyramidal roof is located at the rear of the lot. L. K. Lazenby came to Statesville from Turnersburg and together with his partner, J. T. Montgomery, established the Lazenby-Montgomery Hardware Store, a prominent early 20th century store which still operates in downtown Statesville. Lazenby's wife, Elizabeth, taught art at Mitchell College and examples of her talent are found on a border mural in the living room and on an upstairs bedroom fireplace. The present owner, William Thomas Gill, is a distant relative of the original owner. He was twice elected to the City Council and served as Mayor Pro Tem.

12. Laura A. Lazenby House
322 W. Bell St.
by 1905 (SM)
C

*taught at
Evening Academy
in 1888 and later
operated*

According to the present owner, this house was built in 1901 by builder V. B. Moore for Laura A. Lazenby, the sister of Leander Knox Lazenby. Laura Lazenby was a teacher and ran the first kindergarten in Statesville. The house is a one-and-a-half-story, late Victorian frame cottage (now covered with asbestos shingles) with deep hip roof, hipped dormer and projecting gable end on left front. The wrap-around porch is supported by a high brick foundation. Behind the house is a small frame garage

13. NE corner of S. Mulberry & W. Bell Sts.
VL
Grass-covered vacant lot.
14. House
408 W. Bell St.
1905-1911(SM)
C
This two-story frame, late Victorian house has a deep hip roof with two front cross gables. Although the Sanborn Maps show that the house was built between 1905-1911, they also reveal that between 1918-1925 the present porch with tapered wood posts set on stone plinths, the second-story center bay balcony, and casement-windowed sun porch on the right side were added.
15. House
418 W. Bell St.
by 1911 (SM)
C
This two-story frame, 3 X 2 bay late Victorian house has a one-story wrap-around porch with replacement iron posts. The left front, gable-end projection has a one-story bay window with paneled dado and frieze but with replacement window. A small metal outbuilding is behind the house.
16. House
417 W. Bell St.
1918-1925(SM)
C
This two-story frame, Bungalow style house shows some classical influences. Weatherboarded on the first story and shingled on the second, the house has a gable roof with two gabled dormers and paired or tripled windows with 3/1 sash. The one-story front porch boasts fluted Doric columns, which are paired on the slightly projecting center bay. Behind the house is a one-story frame garage of matching design.
17. H. Oscar Steele House
502 S. Mulberry St.
1905-1911(SM)
C
According to the present owner, this house was constructed in 1907 or 1908 by builder Lee Steele for the original owner H. Oscar Steele (no relation). Oscar Steele was a son of J. C. Steele and was in charge of advertising and sales for the J. C. Steele and Sons Foundry down the street. The two-story brick house with both Elizabethan and classical influences has a deep hip roof with widely overhanging bracketed eaves and 1/1 sash with stone lintels and sills. The one-story front porch has quoined brick posts, wooden Ionic columns and turned balustrade. The sidelights and transom of the main entrance as well as some of the windows have leaded and beveled glass. A one-story brick garage is behind the house. The yard is separated from the sidewalk by a low, Flemish bond brick retaining wall.

- ✓ 18. William E. Webb House
510 S. Mulberry St.
1911-1918(SM)
C

It was designed by...

Sketching of blueprints as well as an
An early photograph of this two-story house indicates that it has undergone almost no alterations on the exterior. The first story is weatherboarded, while the second story is shingled. The hipped roof has hipped dormers and widely overhanging eaves. The windows have 16/1 sash. The main entrance on the right front side of the house has a one-bay wide Doric porch, from which a brick piazza extends across the rest of the front. On the left side of the house is a matching porte-cochere, behind which is a one-story shingled garage. W. E. Webb was in the insurance business.

- ✓ 19. Luther G. Hunter House
516 S. Mulberry St.
1955
F

One-story, brick veneer ranch-style house.

- ✓ 20. Dalton Kennedy House
522 S. Mulberry St.
1911-1918(SM)
C

Although this house was actually built during R. E. Clapp's ownership, the Dalton Kennedy family was the first to live in the house, which Kennedy had purchased soon after its completion. Kennedy was president of both the Kennedy Veneer Co. and the Kennedy Plywood Co. His one-and-a-half to two-story Bungalow style house has a gable roof with cross gable and gabled dormer and front porch with tapered wood posts set on brick plinths.

- ✓ 21. ^(Former) Statesville Male Academy/
B. A. Cowan House
412 Armfield St.
1874, 1911-1918 (SM)
P

Although the Statesville Male Academy apparently was started in the 1860's, this building was not constructed for its use until 1874. A July 18, 1874 notice in the Statesville Landmark announced the forthcoming opening of the Statesville Male Academy on August 20th and added that "a fine and prosperous school has been built up... The building is a large and commodious brick structure constructed expressly for the purpose." The Act of Incorporation of the Trustees of Statesville Academy, ratified on February 5, 1875, authorized the Trustees to take title to "the new academy lately erected" for the purpose of establishing and conducting a school for white male children. It was because of this academy that the surrounding area became known as Academy Hill. Professor J. H. Hill, a prominent Iredell educator, was the best-known of the school's headmasters. When he retired in 1905, the First Presbyterian Church rented the property and continued the school for several years.

21. Statesville Male Academy/
B. A. Cowan House (Cont'd.)

The 1911 Sanborn Map shows that the building was no longer functioning as an academy and that it was then vacant. The school was oriented toward Mulberry Street and was set far back from the street. The building had a projecting central bay with cross gable, the gable ends having elliptical vents. Above the projecting bay was a graceful, two-stage octagonal cupola. The design of the building as a whole was very symmetrical. According to the present owner, after the school closed (1910) her parents, the B. A. Cowans, bought the building and ca. 1916 remodelled it for their residence. T. L. Steele was the builder who carried out the remodelling. As a house, the building is now oriented toward Armfield Street, with a wrap-around Doric porch, altered windows, round gable end vents and other alterations. And yet with a knowledge of the academy building, one can still "read" it within the context of the building as a house.

- ✓ 22. House
422 Armfield St.
by 1911 (SM)
C

This one-story frame late Victorian cottage has a gable-on-hip roof with left front projecting gabled wing and right front pedimented dormer. Gable ends are shingled. Front porch has square, fluted posts with simple curvilinear brackets and a simple railing. At the rear of the house is a small garage.

- ✓ 23. Henry W. Miller House
428 Armfield St.
by 1911 (SM)
C

According to the present owner, a descendant of the original owner, this two-story late Victorian frame house was built in 1884. The hipped roof with front and side cross gables is covered with patterned tin shingles. The wrap-around Doris porch is probably an early 20th century alteration. On the second story above the main entrance is a slightly recessed area covered with flush siding and with a louvered door, which may originally have been a balcony. Behind the house is a garage. Henry Miller was a farmer and the owner of City Flour Mills.

- ✓ 24. House
434 Armfield St.
ca. 1945
F

One-story frame house with projecting center entrance bay. Garage behind house.

no 25. House
438 Armfield St.
by 1911 (SM)
C

Two-story frame dwelling with hipped roof. Right two bays project slightly, with second story balcony in center bay having a Doric corner post and plain balustrade. One-story wrap-around Doric porch with projecting center bay. Gara behind house.

26. Kerr L. Miller House
444 Armfield St.
1899, 1911-1918 (SM)
C

Kerr L. Miller was the son of Henry W. Miller, who built the house at 428 Armfield Street (No. 23). This house is now owned by Kerr Miller's daughter, Eugeni Miller Patterson, and his granddaughter Nancy Patterson Johnson, now owns the Henry Miller House (the home of her great grandfather). According to Mrs. Patter this house was built in 1899 for Kerr Miller and his bride. Originally, it was a one-story late Victorian cottage which was enlarged to a full two stories sometime between 1911-1918. The house has a hipped roof with cross gables and hipped dormer and a one-story Doric porch with turned balustrade. Above the center entrance bay of the porch is a balcony with turned posts and plain balustrade. A frame garage is behind the house.

no 27. House
445 Armfield St.
by 1911 (SM)
C

This one-and-a-half-story frame late Victorian cottage has a deep hipped roof and cross gable. The wrap-around front porch has turned posts with simple brackets and a turned balustrade. The center bay entrance has a glazed, arched upper half and paneled lower half. Behind the house is a frame shed.

no 28. House
439 Armfield St.
1918-1925 (SM)
C

This two-story brick veneer house has a low gable roof with gable end toward street and overhanging eaves. The one-story front porch with brick posts expands to form a porte-cochere on the left side. Behind the house is a small metal and frame shed building.

29. Clifford House
431 Armfield St.
by 1911 (SM)
C

This large, two-story frame late Victorian house has a deep hipped roof and front shingled cross gables. The left gable has an ornate bargeboard with sunburst and star designs. Across the front of the house is a one-story wrap-around Doric porch. The center bay, double-leaf front door has glazed upper and paneled lower halves. The house is situated far back on a spacious lot. Behind the house is a frame, three-car garage.

- ✓30. House
423 Armfield St.
1918-1925 (SM)
C
One-story brick veneer bungalow with large, Flemish bond brickwork. Wrap-around porch with heavy paneled wood posts set on brick plinths. Frame garage behind house.
- ✓31. House
419 Armfield St.
1918-1925 (SM)
C
Two-story frame house with lower half weatherboarded, upper half shingled. Only two bays wide, with entrance on right bay. Low hipped roof with hipped dormer on front. Open piazza across front.
- ✓32. J. C. Hildebrand House
417 Armfield St.
ca. 1950
F
One-story frame cottage with center bay entrance porch. Garage/shed behind house.
- ✓33. J. T. Montgomery House
606 S. Mulberry St.
by 1911 (SM)
C
This two-story frame, late Victorian house has a deep hipped roof with pedimented cross gables on sides and corner. Although the main entrance is on the Mulberry St. side, the house seems oriented toward the corner of Mulberry and Armfield Streets because of its corner projecting bay set at an angle to both sides of the house. A one-story Doric porch follows this angle in wrapping around the corner of the house.
- ✓34. C. M. Steele House
612 S. Mulberry St.
1901, 1925-1930 (SM)
P
C. M. Steele was the son of J. C. Steele and worked with his father and brothers at J. C. Steele and Sons, a brick-making and brick machine-making business located down Mulberry Street from his house. An article in the Statesville Landmark of July 16, 1901 gives a description of the house being built, and it is illustrated on the 1905 Sanborn Map. W. E. Poovey may have been the builder, as his name and the date 1901 are carved in a brick on the house. The primary feature of this two-story brick Queen Anne style house is the corner turret with wide frieze decorated with S-shaped applied floral ornament. The one-story Doric wrap-around porch has a projecting pedimented entrance bay with applied plaster fleur-de-lis ornament on the tympanum. The house has a deep hip roof with hipped dormers and 1/1 sash with stone sills and lintels. Stained glass is used in the window to the right of the front door as well as in the transom of the door itself. A porte-cochere and conservatory are on the left side of the house and a two-story brick garage is in the rear. The Sanborn Maps indicate that these were added between 1925-1930.

35. J. C. Steele House
624 S. Mulberry St.
1878; 1925-1930 (SM)
P

late 19th century

J. C. Steele was the founder and patriarch of J. C. Steele and Sons, a brick-making and brick machine-making firm which still operates in the block just south of the house on Mulberry Street. The two-story frame, German-sided house exhibits strong Second Empire influence with its simple but impressive Mansard turret on the center front bay. The roof is a combination of hips and gables with some gables clipped. Perhaps the most unusual feature of the house is a two-story, very shallow bay window on the right side, covered with wood shingles. The left side has a somewhat more projecting, shingled bay window on the second story level with bracketed eaves. Below this is a conservatory, again with bracketed eaves and with 2/2 floor-to-ceiling windows. The Doric front porch which extends beyond the right side of the house to form a porte-cochere was an alteration made between 1925-1930, according to the Sanborn Maps. The main entrance with side lights and fan-light transom is also a replacement. The second story, center bay balcony uses the same Doric columns but has a shingled, gable-end roof. Two original outbuildings are behind the house - probably a smoke-house and a well house.

36. House
420 Western Ave.
Ca. 1950
F

One-story brick veneer house with projecting center bay and open porch on right side. Garage behind house.

37. House
424 Western Avenue
by 1911 (SM)
G

This picturesque one-and-a-half-story Queen Anne style cottage was probably built toward the end of the 19th century. The deep hipped roof, which is covered with pressed tin shingles, has two front cross gables, the ends of which are covered with rounded wood shingles. The gable ends are edged with a molded bargeboard with applied panel ornament. The balcony which projects from the roof above the center bay has a shingled skirt and pedimented canopy roof with spindle brackets and sunburst tympanum. The wrap-around front porch of the house has turned posts and balustrade and spindle brackets. A frame and metal shed is behind the house.

✓38. J. C. Steele & Sons
710 S. Mulberry St.
by 1900 (SM), by 1905 (SM),
1925-1930 (SM), mid-20th
century.
P, C, F.

*by the end of
the century*

J. C. Steele began manufacturing bricks in the early-1880's. His business was located on the east side of Mulberry St just north of the railroad tracks. So he was experimenting with his own brick making machinery, and in 1889 abandoned brick-making and turned his attention to the manufacture of brick-making machinery. In 1890 his four sons¹⁸⁹⁰ joined the business. The firm began building on the west side of Mulberry Street, and through the years the complex has grown until now a conglomerate of buildings from different periods occupies the site. By 1900 a long one-story building and several smaller buildings were on the site. Some or all of these buildings may still exist, but are largely hidden within newer structures (B). The oldest building which is still readily visible is a long one-and-a-half-story brick building running parallel to Mulberry Street (A). It first appeared on the Sanborn Maps in 1905 and was at that time used for the storage of finished machinery. This building has a gable roof and arched windows. Between 1925-1930 a one-story brick office building (C) was built by firm on the southwest corner of Mulberry Street and Western Avenue. Probably during the 1960's a two-story brick office (D) was built behind the corner office and was connected to it.

n^o 39. O. W. Slane Glass Co.
720 S. Mulberry St.
1905-1911 (SM), mid 20th cent.
C, F

The Slane Glass Co. has been manufacturing mirrors in Statesville since the business opened ca. 1906. The original structure (A) is a low, one-story brick building with broad stepped-gable parapet on the Wise Street side and a flat replacement parapet on the Mulberry Street side. That side has arched door and window openings. At the rear of this building is a large cinder block addition (B), facing Wise Street.

(*Rankin*)
40. Rankin Brothers Tobacco
Factory/L. Ash Tobacco
Factory
374 Wise Street
by 1895 (SM)
P

This building is first shown on the 1895 Sanborn Map as the Rankin Brothers Tobacco Factory, but by the 1900 map it was being labeled the L. Ash Tobacco Factory. Ludwig Ash continued to manufacture plug tobacco until around 1935. The building is now used for storage. The three-and-a-half-story, 3 X 4 bay brick structure is laid in 1 to 5 common bond. The gable roof terminates on the front with a crow-stepped parapet. The center bay front has a double-leaf, diagonally laid batten door. Door and window openings are segmentally arched. The one story section at the rear of the building has small casement windows and barrel vaulted openings in the foundation.

✓41. House
627 S. Mulberry St.
by 1905 (SM)
C

This one-story frame late Victorian cottage has a deep hipped roof with cross gable projections. The left front gable end has a pointed arch vent with "open-book" shaped curvilinear louvers. The porch which extends across the right two front bays wraps around the right side and has replacement tapered Doric posts. Behind the house is a garage.

✓42. House
623 South Mulberry St.
by 1905 (SM)
C

This one-and-a-half story frame cottage has a deep pyramidal roof, side cross gables, and hip-roofed, balconied dormer on the front. The front recessed porch across the right two bays has Doric colonettes set on brick plinths. A garage is behind the house.

✓43. House
613 S. Mulberry St.
by 1905 (SM)
C

This two-story, 3 X 1 bay frame house has a one-story front porch with chamfered posts and simple railing and a second-story center-bay balcony with a later extension on the right side. The left front cross gable of the house is covered with fish scale wood shingles and a round-arched vent with "open-book" shaped curvilinear louvers. Behind the house is a small metal structure.

✓44. Duplex
601-603 S. Mulberry St.
1918-1925 (SM)
C

This two-story, four bay wide duplex has a hipped roof with widely overhanging eaves. The one-story shed-roofed front porch has heavy brick posts and brick arched porch ends.

no 45. House
325 Armfield Street
1925-1930 (SM)
F

One-story frame bungalow, now covered with asbestos shingles. Front porch has metal posts set on brick plinths and extends beyond the left side of the house to form porte cochere.



ACADEMY HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT

STATESVILLE, REBELL COUNTY, N. C.

NORTH



WESTERN
1885

1886-1905

1906-1918

1919-1930

PERIOD
BUILDING

STEEL

HIGHLAND

MULBERRY ELEM. SCHOOL

BELL

WOODWARD

S. MULBERRY

ARMFIELD

WATER