## RALEIGH HISTORIC PROPERTIES

# <u>APPLICATION</u>

I.	General Information
	Address of property to be designated as Raleigh Historic Property
	Mordecal Historic Park
	1 Mimasa Street
	Roleigh, North Carolina 27604
	Name of Applicant and address
	the Roberth Historic Proper Fies Commission Telephone 932-7238
	1 Mimosa Street
	Paleigh, North Carolina 27604
	Owner of property and address
	(Me City of Rakeigh (c/o RUPC) Telephone 832-7238
	1 Mimasa Street
	Raleich North Carolina
	Classification:
	Building Structure Site Object
	Ownership:
	Public Private Both
	Status:
	Occupied Unoccupied Work in progress
	Accessible:
	Yes, restricted Yes, unrestricted No
	Present use:
	CommercialMuseumResidentialOther

	Location of legal description:								
		Courthouse <u>~</u> Registr	y of Deeds(	ther					
(Give specific address if outside Wake County)									
Part	II.	Significance of Proper	-ty						
	Peri	od:1400-1499 _	1500-1599	_ 1600-1699					
		1700-17991800-18	3991900 to	present					
	Areas of Significance								
		Archeology Historic	Conservation	Museum					
		Agriculture	Economics	Philosophy					
		Architecture	Education	Politics/Government					
		Art	Engineering	Religion					
		Commerce	∠ Law	Science					
		Communications	Literature	Social/Humanitarian					
	_	Community planning	Military	Other (Specify)					
Part		Basis for request of							
	even	Historical (attach add Describe the property t. How it now exist, been altered.	as it existed at						

Badger and Iredell each distinguished themselves in service to the State of North Carolina. George E. Badger, a native of New Bern, was licensed to practice law at age 19 and was elected to the North Carolina House of Representatives at the age of 21. He was elected a Judge of the Superior Court before he was 30. In 1841, President Tyler appointed him Secretary of the Navy, but Badger resigned the post when Tyler split with the Whig Party. In 1848, he was elected to the United States Senate where he served until 1855. Badger died in Raleigh in 1868 and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery.

James Iredell, Jr. was the son of the Revolutionary War patriot of the same name. Born in Edenton in 1788, he graduated from Princeton University in 1806. In 1809, at the age of 21 he was admitted to the Bar. Law was a tradition in the Iredell family; James, Sr. was a member of the first United States Supreme Court. During the course of his career, James Jr. was a Solicitor of the First District, a member and a speaker of the House of Commons, a Brigadier General in the North Carolina Militia, a Judge of the Superior Court, Governor

of North Carolina, and a Supreme Court Reporter. He moved to Raleigh in 1830, which is when he purchased the law office. He conducted a private law practice from the building and probably used it as a headquarters while he was one of the Commissioners to revise the laws of North Carolina in 1836 and 1837. He died in 1853 and was buried at Hayes Plantation near Edenton.

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Architectural (attach additional sheets as necessary)

Describe briefly, but fully, in a factual, straight forward fashion. Begin with the overall form, and then describe primary features common throughout the building. Then describe main facade, then other sides, extensions, alterations, and additions. Then go inside, describe the predominant floor plan, and introduce the overall character of interior, general characteristics of interior finish, general alterations. Then as appropriate, describe features of individual rooms or sections. If you have learned the original function of specific rooms, outbuildings, etc. note these as well as the physical appearance.

The Badger-Iredell Law Office is a single-story rectangular frame building that measures approximately 16' x 22'. The walls are sheathed in wooden clapboard. The roof is gabled with wooden shingles. The single room building rests on a raised fieldstone basement. The front (west) facade features a four paneled door to the right of center and a nine-over-nine double hung window to the left. The north facade contains two matching double-hung windows and the south one a window and door. All the windows have hinged blinds. The east facade features an exposed shouldered brick chimney laid in Flemish bond.

This small frame building is characteristic of the one room office buildings of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. It was thought to have been constructed around 1810 by John Marshall. The building was the office of two prominent North Carolina Lawyers, George E. Badger and James Iredell, Jr. Originally located at the northwest corner of Edenton and Dawson Streets, the building was relocated in the early 1960s by Beth Crabtree, a local preservationist, who put it on Midway Plantation to keep it from being destroyed. In 1973, the law office was placed at Mordecai Historic Park and the Wake County Bar Association restored the building to its present appearance as a Law Office Museum.

## Part IV. Physical/Geographical description of site

Kindly provide a boundary description with sketch map showing measurements and other landmarks as well as you can. You do not have to get a surveyor to do this. The thing to remember is that the boundaries should be clear, defensible and reasonable. Also, you should try to find out how the people happened to build the place in this way and the influences that shaped the decision and execution.

## Part V. <u>Documentation</u>

The following items must accompany this request:

Photographs

Citations for Deed Recording

Earliest listing in City Registry

Evidence of original construction date and original owner, e.g., Deeds of Trust, family Bible, Sanborn Insurance Maps, publications, personal mementoes.

For further information and/or assistance contact:

Raleigh Historic Properties Commission, Inc. 1 Mimosa Street Raleigh, North Carolina 27604

832-7238

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## IGNIFICANCE

DA FEEE INDIANOD DOTTO EHISTORIC AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW \_\_ARCHEULUGY-PREHISTORIC \_\_COMMUNITY PLANNING \_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE -RELIGION \_ARCHEOLOGY HISTORIC \$00·1499 \_ CONSERVATION \_LAW \_\_SCIENCE 3500·1599 \_\_AGRICULTURE \_\_ECONOMICS \_\_LITERATURE \_\_SCULPTURE 7600-1699 \*ARCHITECTURE \_\_EDUCATION \_\_MILITARY \_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN \_1700-1799 \_\_ART \_\_ENGINEERING \_MUSIC \_\_THEATER \_\_COMMERCE 1800-1899 \_EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT \_\_PHILOSOPHY \_TRANSPORTATION \_\_ 1900-\_\_COMMUNICATIONS \_INDUSTRY X POLITICS/GOVERNMENT \_OTHER (SPECIFY) \_INVENTION

SPECIFIC DATES See individual forms BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE The following are short summaries of reports for each building to be submitted as an amendment to the Modecai House National Register entry.

St. Mark's Chapel: Completed in 1847, St. Mark's Chapel was built by John Haughton of Gulf in Chatham County for use by his family and servants. A simple frame structure with some Greek Revival details the chuch was moved in 1953 for use by a small Episcopal congregation in Siler City. After years of disuse it was moved to Mordecai Park and is undergoing restoration.

Early Raleigh Post Office: Reputed to be Raleigh's first post office, this small temple-form structure was probably built about 1847 on Fayetteville Street. Later used as an office by Dr. Fabius Julius Haywood, the building was moved to Mordecai in 1972 and restored. It is now the office of Raleigh's Preservation Planner.

Badger-Iredell Law Office: The historical significance of the building stems from its use as an office for the practice of law by two distinguished nineteenth century North Carolinians, George E. Badger and James Iredell, Jr., both of whom were important legal and political personages in the history of the state. Probably built about 1815, the office was moved to Mordecai in 1973.

Andrew Johnson Birthplace: Tradition and strong circumstantial evidence support the contention that this building was the kitchen of Peter Crasso's Inn on Morgan Street across from Capitol Square and the birthplace of Andrew Johnson, Seventeenth President of the United States. The building was moved twice before being located at Mordecai in 1969 and restored.

Allen Kitchen from Anson County: Built about 1842 for the Allen family of Wadesboro, this kitchen replaces the one that would have been on the Mordecai property and is an example of a phase of the life and culture of the American South of the nineteenth century.

Mordecai House Dependencies: Not mentioned in the Mordecai nomination are the original outbuildings: a smokehouse and office. Both served as part of the Mordecai homestead and both have been restored to serve as educational elments at the site.

-- See individual reports for details on each building.

#### BADGER-IREDELL LAW OFFICE

### Location and Circumstances of Moving

The building known as the Badger-Iredell Law Office was located originally on the north side of Edenton Street just west of Dawson Street in Raleigh, N. C. It was a dependency of a larger frame building that stood at the northwest corner of the intersection of Edenton and Dawson streets. Both structures were located on the southeast corner of the lot designated as Lot 216 on the original Plan of the City of Raleigh of 1792. Both are shown on a map of Raleigh of 1847 drawn by J. W. Johnson, on Drie's "Birdseye View of Raleigh 1872" (photograph from observation balloon), and on the map of Raleigh of 1881 attributed to Shaffer. The office was built early in the nineteenth century. Some time in the latter part of the century it possibly was moved on the lot closer to the residences or raised on its original foundation.1 The office remained at the Edenton Street location until the early 1960's. At that time the residence to which it was a dependency was razed consequent to the changing character of that area of the city. However, the office was saved from demolition by its acquisition by Miss Beth Crabtree who had it moved for temporary safekeeping to the Midway Plantation, the farm of Charles Silver, 10 miles east of Raleigh on Highway 64. 2 Wishing to have the building permanently located where it would be restored and preserved, Miss Crabtree approached the Raleigh Historic Sites Commission in 1970 about having it placed at Mordecai Square and offered the office to the Commission for that purpose. The Commission agreed to accept the offer and to place the office on the Square when funds from cutside the Commission were available. This action did not produce any tangible results, apparently as a result of the failure of such funds to materialize. But a later offer of the building to the Wake County Bar Association was more fruitful in getting the building moved to Mordecai Square. In 1973 the Bar Association agreed to accept the building and established a nonprofit corporation, entitled the Badger-Iredell Foundation, Inc., to administer the law office and to solicit funds for its removal to the Square and for its restoration. In October, 1973 the Wake County Bar Association, through the Badger-Iredell Foundation and in cooperation with the Raleigh Historic Properties Commission and the Wake County Historical Society, had the building moved from Midway Plantation to Mordecai Historic Park and work was begun on its restoration.3

#### History and Chain of Title

The early history and ownership of the Badger-Iredell Law Office is not entirely clear. It appears to have been constructed probably about 1815 by a John Marshall of Raleigh, N. C. According to one account the building passed to Marshall's heirs and then to Governor Hutchins G. Burton who sold it to George Badger. However the attribution of the building to Burton seems to have been based on a misalignment of names and lot numbers on a tax list for 1827.4 Another account states that the property on which the office was built was sold to William Hill, Secretary of State of North Carolina, at a public sale after the foreclosure of a deed of trust placed on it by Marshall. This account states that Hill sold the property to George Badger about 1827. But this account appears to be based on a deed of 1826 recorded in Deed Book 7 of Wake County Registry. However, this deed conveys to Hill the lot identified as Lot 200 in the original Plan of the City of Raleigh whereas the law office was located on Lot 216 of that Plan across Edenton Street from Lot 200. 5 The first extant map of Raleigh which shows the office is one of 1847 drawn by J. W. Johnson. A map of 1834 shows Lot 216, north of Edenton Street, owned by James Iredell and Lot 200, directly across Edenton Street on the south from Lot 216, owned by William Hill and James Iredell.6 In any event, the

property on which the office was located had been acquired by George E. Badger by 1830 and probably about 1827. The Wake County Registry Deed Book in which Badger's acquisition probably was recorded is missing as the result of a fire in 1832 in which nineteen deed books of the Wake County Registry, which were kept in a store on Fayetteville Street belonging to the Register of Deeds, were destroyed. 7

On December 3, 1830 George E. Badger transferred the property to James Cathcart Johnston, of Edenton, N. C., who was a relative of James Iredell and was apparently acting as his agent in this transaction. This was approximately the time Iredell moved to Raleigh. He and his son then used the building as their law office.8 On June 27, 1853 Johnston sold Lot 216, the lot on which Frances Iredell then resided, to Frances Iredell and her son, James J. Iredell, Frances Iredell to hold the property during the term of her natural life after which it would revert to James J. Iredell.9 On September 7, 1863, Charles Johnson, acting under a power of attorney of June 27, 1863 granted to him by James J. Iredell conveyed Lot 216 to Helen B. Iredell and Margaret Iredell for the duration of their lives and at the death of either to the survivor of them. 10 On April 19, 1876 Helen B. Iredell, William M. Shipp and Margaret T. (Iredell) Shipp conveyed to William J. Hicks the southeast portion of Lot 216 on which the law office was located. 11 The property then remained in the Hicks family until 1964. On September 3, 1964, George S. Moore, trustee under the last will and testament of John M. W. Hicks, conveyed the law office property to C. A. Dillon and Charles H. Young. The latter apparently were acting as agents for the Edenton Street Methodist Church and on September 24, 1964 they transferred the title to the property to a group of trustees for the church.12

Since the church had acquired the property for use as a parking lot the structures on it faced demolition. In order to prevent this happening to the law office, Mr. C. A. Dillon, Sr., offered to give the building to Miss Beth Crabtree who was interested in its preservation. Miss Crabtree accepted the offer and had the structure moved to the Midway Plantation for temporary safekeeping. Wishing to have its preservation and restoration placed on a more certain and permanent footing, Miss Crabtree approached the Wake County Historical Society offering to give the building to the Society for use as an office. She also later offered it to the Raleigh Historic Sites Commission and, still later, the Wake County Bar Association, with the idea of having it moved to Mordecai Square and on the condition that it be restored and preserved. The Historic Sites Commission was willing to acquire the office but lacked the funds needed to move it from Midway. Finally in 1973 the Wake County Bar Association formed a nonprofit corporation, the Badger-Iredell Foundation, Inc., to administer the building and to secure funds for its removal to Mordecai Historic Park and its restoration. The building was moved to the Mordecai site later that year and the following year title to the building was transferred by Miss Crabtree to the Foundation by a deed of gift.13

The historical significance of the building stems from its use as an office for the practice of law by two distinguished nineteenth-century North Carolinians, George E. Badger and James Iredell, Jr., both of whom were important legal and political personages in the history of the state.

George E. Badger was born in New Bern, North Carolina in 1795. His father died when Badger was four years old but with the financial aid of a relative he entered Yale at the age of 15. He stood first in his class but was forced to leave college during his sophomore year when his financial support was withdrawn. He read law with a cousin, John Stanly, in New Bern and was admitted to the courts in 1814 and soon became district solicitor. He served briefly during the War of 1812

 $\vec{J}a$  major in the North Carolina militia and in 1816 was elected to the North irolina House of Commons where Thomas Ruffin was Speaker. When Ruffin was sppointed to a judgeship he asked Badger to take over his legal practice in the Orange County Circuit and then later moved to Hillsborough for this purpose. From there he moved to Warrenton, the home of his wife, Rebecca Turner, daughter of Governor Henry Turner. He was elected Superior Court Judge by the General Assembly in 1820 and remained on the bench until 1825 when he retired and moved to Raleigh to enter private legal practice. He netered politics as a Federalist but became a Republican on the demise of the Federalist party after the War of 1812 and was an active supporter of Andrew Jackson for President in 1828 expecting apparently to be named Attorney-General by Jackson upon his election. This expectation, however, was not realized and, upon the split in the Republican party during the Jackson administration, Badger joined the Whig party and was appointed Secretary of the Navy in 1841 by President William H. Harrison. He resigned the same year over disagreement with President John Tyler who, after his accession to the Presidency broke with the Whigs particularly over the question of rechartaring the United States Bank.

Upon the resignation of William H. Haywood from the United States Senate in 1846, Badger was elected to that body and continued in the Senate until 1855. In the Senate he became recognized as one of the able members of that body at a time when sectional conflict and controversy over slavery were predominant issues. His position was that of a nationalist, but he supported the southern interests generally on matters affecting slavery. Shortly before the end of his presidential term, President Fillmore nominated Badger to be Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court but the Senate, under Democratic control, never acted on the nomination. Upon leaving the Senate, Badger returned to North Carolina where he resumed the practice of law and was active in public life. He was Chairman of the Wake County Court and a Regent of the Smithsonian Institute. He took an active part in the organization of the Constitutional Union party and was a Bell-Everett elector in the presidential election of 1860. Elected as a delegate to the May, 1861, state convention which adopted the ordinance of secession, Badger was a strong supporter of the Union but signed the secession ordinance and supported the Convention war efforts in 1861 and 1862. After the death of his first wife, he married Mary Polk, daughter of Colonel William Polk and sister of Bishop Leonidas Polk. On her death, he married Delia, daughter of Sherwood Haywood and widow of General Williams, who survived him several years. In January, 1863, he suffered a paralytic stroke which incapacitated him until his death in May, 1866. He was buried in Raleigh in Oakwood Cemetery. Badger was a combination of scholar, orator, and lawyer. Widely read and possessing a noted sense of humor, he was eminently successful as a speaker and debater. His oratorical capacities contributed to his ability to influence juries and thus to success in trial courts, and his ability to expound the law similarly was a basis for success in appeals courts. In his appearance in cases before the United States Supreme Court he has been rated the equal of Webster and Crittenden.14

James Iredell, Jr. the son of a notable North Carolinian and distinguished in his own right, was born in 1788 in Edenton, the son of James Iredell, a prominent Revolutionary War leader in North Carolina and an appointee of President Washington as Associate Justice of the first United States Supreme Court. He was graduated with honor from Princeton in 1806, studied law, and was admitted to the bar in 1809. He subsequently became prominent in the legal profession and in political circles in his state. During the War of 1812 he raised a company of volunteers at Craney Island, Virginia, and took part in its defense against a British attack. After the war, he returned to Edenton and resumed the practice of law. Elected to the House of Commons of the North Carolina state legislature in 1816 he remained a member of that body until 1827, serving as Speaker in 1817

and 1818. He was appointed Judge of Superior Court in 1819 but resigned the following year. Iredell was elected Governor of North Carolina in 1827 and held that office, 1827-1828. In the latter year he was elected United States Senator and was a member of the body in 1831. Shortly after his retirement from the Senate, he moved to Raleigh and practiced law there. He was a member of the Commission appointed to revise the North Carolina state laws. The result of the work of that Commission was the publication of the Revised Statutes of 1836-1837 (Raleigh 1837). Iredell served, 1841-1842, as Reporter for the North Carolina Supreme Court. His reports of cases in law at the Supreme Court were published in thirteen volumes, and his reports of cases in equity occupy eight volumes. These were published, 1841-1852. He also published Treatise on the Law of Executors and Administrators, and Digest of all the Reported Cases in the Courts of North Carolina, 1778 to 1845. (Raleigh 1839-1846.) Iredell was an outstanding member of the bar in North Carolina in the early nineteenth century. He was also one of the leading figures in the political circles of the state of that time, having served with distinction in all three branches of state government - legislative, executive, and judicial. He married the daughter of Samuel Treadwell, of Edenton. He died April 13, 1853, and was buried at Hayes Plantation near Edenton. 15

> L. W. Seegers January, 1980

### BADGER-IREDELL LAW OFFICE

#### NOTES

- 1. John Bivens: "Examination and Comments on the Badger-Iredell Law Office", typescript, March 1976, in office files of Mordecai Historic Park; "Wright Dixon's speech before the North Carolina Bar Auxiliary, 1974", typescript in office files of Mordecai Historic Park; Plan of City of Raleigh (1792), Map of City of Raleigh. Surveyed and drawn by J. W. Johnson (1847), Enlargement of Drier's Birdseye View of Raleigh, 1872, Map attributed to Shaffer, 1881 in N. C. Division of Archives and History, Map Collection, MC 50-A3, MC 147K, MC 287 Plate XXV, MC 287 Plate XXVi.
- 2. George Badger, James Iredell, Jr., and their Law Office, brochure published by the Badger-Iredell Foundation, Inc.
- 3. <u>Ibid</u>:; Wright Dixon, <u>op. cit.</u>; Minutes of Meeting of Badger-Iredell Law Office Committee (of the Wake County Bar Association, June 5, 1973 (copy in office files of Mordecai Historic Park); Minutes of Special Meeting of Board of Directors of Badger-Iredell Foundation, Inc., March 14, 1974 (copy in office files of Mordecai Historic Park); telephone conversation with Carl Holleman, August 23, 1979; Raleigh Historic Sites Commission, Minutes, August 18, 1970, September 15, 1970; Raleigh Historic Properties Commission, October 16, 1973; The News and Observer, Raleigh, N. C., October 15, 1973.
- 4. George Badger. James Iredell, Jr., and their Law Office, brochure in office files of Mordecai Historic Park; "Wright Dixon's Speech before the North Carolina Bar Auxiliary, 1974", typescript in office files of Mordecai Historic Park; John Bivens: "Examination and Comments on the Badger-Iredell Law Office... March 1976", typescript in office files of Mordecai Historic Park.
- 5. <u>Ibid.</u>; Wake County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 7, page 175; Plan of City of Raleigh (1792), N. C. Division of Archives, Map Collection, MC 50-A3.
- 6. Plans of the City of Raleigh first published in the Year 1834; Map of the City of Raleigh. Surveyed and drawn by J. W. Johnson, N. C. Division of Archives, Map Collection, MC 50 -A4, MC 147-K.
- 7. Wright Dixon; op. cit.
- 8. Wake County, Register of Deeds, Deed Book 9, page 418; Wright Dixon, op. cit.
- 9. Wake County, Register of Deeds, Deed Book 19, page 597.
- 10. Wake County, Register of Deeds, Deed Book 24, page 267-268. Since apparently Johnson neglected to have the power of attorney from James J. Iredell recorded, on December 30, 1872 Cadwallader J. Iredell, by a quit claim deed, relinquished to Helen B. Iredell and Margaret T. (Iredell) Shipp any claim he might have to the property. Wake County, Register of Deeds, Deed Book 35, page 305.
- 11. Wake County, Register of Deeds, Deed Book 44, page 107.
- 12. Wake County, Register of Deeds, Deed Book 1613, page 3 and Deed Book 1609, page 795.

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- 13. Telephone conversation with Miss Beth Crabtree, July 19, 1979; Raleigh Historic Sites Commission, Minutes, August 18, 1970, September 15, 1970; Minutes of Meeting of Badger-Iredell Law Office Committee (of the Wake County Bar Association), June 5, 1973; Minutes of Special Meeting of Board of Directors of Badger-Iredell Foundation, Inc., March 14, 1974.
- 14. <u>Ibid.</u>; biographical sketch of George Edmund Badger by J. G. de Roulhac Hamilton in <u>Dictionary of American Biography</u>, Vol. I, ed. by Allen Johnson (N.Y. 1928. Charles Scribner's Sons); biographical sketch of George Edmund Badger by S. A. Ashe in <u>Biographical History of North Carolina</u>, Vol. VII, ed. by S. A. Ashe, et. al. (7 vols. Greensboro 1905-1917. Charles L. Van Noppen); biographical sketch of George E. Badger in <u>Cyclopedia of Eminent and Representative Men of the Carolinas of the Nineteenth Century</u>, Vol. II (2 vols. Madison Wisc. 1892. Brant and Fuller)
- 15. George Badger, James Iredell, Jr., and their Law Office, brochure published by the Badger-Iredell Foundation, Inc.; Wright Dixon's speech before the North Carolina Bar Auxiliary, 1974", typescript in office files of Mordecai Historic Park; biographical sketch of James Iredell, Jr., in Cyclopedia of Eminent and Representative Men of the Carolinas of the Nineteenth Century, vol. II. (2 vols. Madison Wisc. 1892. Brant and Fuller); biographical sketch of James Iredell, Jr., in The National Cyclopedia of American Biography, Vol. IV, page 423. (N.Y. 1897 James T. White Co.)

#### Bibliographical Note.

The documentary materials referred to in the notes are located in a file folder designated "Badger-Iredell Law Office" in the office files of Mordecai Historic Park.

