History of the Sloan-Brantley House, Mooresville, North Carolina



The estimated date of construction of the Sloan-Brantley House in the Coddle Creek Township of Iredell County, North Carolina is said to be ca. 1830. The original owner of the house was Hiram T. Sloan, Esq. Hiram Sloan was born in 1796 in Mecklenburg County, the son of Robert Sloan and Nancy Agnes Curry Sloan. Among his siblings was John Sloan, who served as sheriff of Mecklenburg County. The Sloan family lived in the vicinity of Huntersville, as most family members are buried at Ramah Presbyterian Church. Hiram Sloan married Eleanor Templeton, daughter of George Templeton, Sr. and Eleanor Gracey Templeton of Iredell County. In October 1826, Sloan purchased 204 acres of land "on the head branches of the East Fork of Rocky River" from James Chilton for $700. While the

chain of title ends with Chilton's ownership of the land, that deed traces the property back to a 1778 state grant to James Bowman.[1]

Near the Rocky River, the counties of Mecklenburg, Cabarrus, and Iredell intersect, and the histories of the families in this area meander across the county lines. Settlement along the river trickled downstream, thus familial and community centers such as churches would have been established in Iredell first. Presbyterian congregations were planted at Coddle Creek in 1761 and Centre in 1765, whereas Ramah in Mecklenburg County, the home church of the Sloans, was organized ca. 1783. Economically, these three counties were tied together as well, focused on mills powered by the Rocky River tributaries and small family farms during the antebellum period.



The Sloan-Brantley House is constructed of wood frame. While it was common for homes during the early decades of the nineteenth century to be constructed of squared logs, there are examples of contemporary homes built of wood frame in the area. Mount Mourne (left), the home of Rufus Reid located a few miles due west of the Sloan-Brantley House, was built in 1836 of wood frame. Also, nearby in Rowan County, the General William Kerr

[1] Iredell County Deed Book M, Page 764.

House (right) was built between 1817 and 1820 with a wood frame structure.[2] The plan of the Sloan-Brantley House appears to be the 3-room Quaker or Penn plan, which featured a large parlor with two rooms off to the side. This arrangement is also present upstairs. Settlers from Pennsylvania brought the plan with them to North Carolina, and it became common in the Piedmont section. The lost Ezekiel Wallace rock house in Mecklenburg County used the Quaker plan.



Architectural details also help date the period of construction of the Sloan-Brantley House. The carved brackets on the stringer are found in houses incorporating the Federal style, which is generally considered to have been popular between the end of the American Revolution to ca. 1830. Brackets of a similar simplistic design were found in Vesuvius Furnace, the General Joseph Graham House near Denver (ca. 1792) and Hollywood near Caldwell (ca. 1800). More ornate designs may be found in houses contemporary or older than the Sloan-Brantley House—the ca. 1825-1827 Graham House in Lincoln County and the ca.

[2] Mount Mourne, National Register Nomination, June 1974; General William Kerr House, National Register Nomination, July 1982.

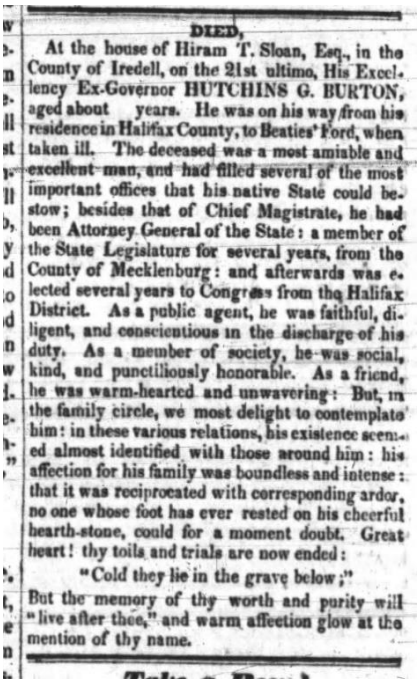
1820 Pinckney Chambers House in Elmwood in Iredell County had intricate curled brackets—but it could be that the builder of the Sloan-Brantley House either had limited woodcarving abilities or Hiram Sloan preferred a simpler design.







Mouldings and the mantle in the Sloan-Brantley House feature a vertical reeded pattern, which was also utilized during the Federal period.



DIED,

At the house of Hiram T. Sloan, Esq., in the County of Iredell, on the 21st ultimo, His Excellency Ex-Governor HUTCHINS G. BURTON, aged about years. He was on his way from his residence in Halifax County, to Beaties' Ford, when taken ill. The deceased was a most amiable and excellent man, and had filled several of the most important offices that his native State could bestow; besides that of Chief Magistrate, he had been Attorney General of the State: a member of the State Legislature for several years, from the County of Mecklenburg: and afterwards was elected several years to Congress from the Halifax District. As a public agent, he was faithful, diligent, and conscientious in the discharge of his duty. As a member of society, he was social, kind, and punctiliously honorable. As a friend, he was warm-hearted and unwavering: But, in the family circle, we most delight to contemplate him: in these various relations, his existence seemed almost identified with those around him: his affection for his family was boundless and intense: that it was reciprocated with corresponding ardor, no one whose foot has ever rested on his cheerful hearth-stone, could for a moment doubt. Great heart! thy toils and trials are now ended:

"Cold they lie in the grave below;"

But the memory of thy worth and purity will "live after thee," and warm affection glow at the mention of thy name.

The only reference found in newspapers of Sloan's ownership of the Sloan-Brantley House was published in the *Charlotte Journal* in May 1836. Former governor Hutchins G. Burton died at the Sloan-Brantley House while traveling from his Halifax County residence to Beatties Ford.[3] But more about Sloan may be learned from Iredell County public records. In 1833 an indenture was filed showing Sloan to be heavily in debt, with his brother-in-law Elam Templeton serving as trustee. Though some of the document is illegible, it shows that Sloan owned all or interest in 541 acres of land including the house. Several enslaved women and children were part of his estate as well.[4]

While Hiram Sloan may have built the house, the Brantley family owned it for the longest period of time. James Brantley purchased for $975 the house and 291 acres from

[3] *Charlotte Journal*, May 6, 1836.
[4] Iredell County Deed Book Q, Page 22.

Sloan in June 1839.[5] After Sloan sold the property, he moved to Charlotte and operated a hotel for a period. Later he moved to Camden, South Carolina, where he died in 1850.

James Brantley was born October 10, 1813 in Northampton County, Virginia, the son of Henry B. Brantley (1779-1853) and wife Martha Williford Brantley (1780-1834). He married Jane Cresswell McNeely, the daughter of David McNeely and Elizabeth Cresswell McNeely of Iredell County, North Carolina. James and Jane had eleven children, all likely born in the house. The Brantley family likely lived comfortably, though less extravagantly than Hiram Sloan may have attempted. While no record of James Brantley having enslaved persons appears in the 1850 and 1860 U. S. Censuses, a notice for a runaway "bound Boy" named C. F. Brantley was published by Brantley in the *Iredell Express* in 1859.[6] James likely did not serve during the Civil War, as he was approaching his fifties when fighting began, and only his oldest son David Henry Brantley was old enough to have served.[7]

Ownership of the Sloan-Brantley House passed to Robert, the youngest child of James and Jane Brantley. He was born in 1863 likely in the Sloan-Brantley House. Around 1887 Robert traveled to Missouri to work as a surveyor. He returned after seven years in 1894 along with his new wife Ella Wilson Brantley, a native of Cape Girardeau, Missouri. They had two children, Ella Brantley Alexander (1902-1998) and Robert Wilson Brantley (1908-2005). Robert and his family lived in the house along with his aged father, who died in 1907 at age 93; Jane had died in 1897. Robert's wife Ella died in 1919, the same year Robert began working as the head of the plumbing department at Mooresville Mills, a position he would retire from in 1949. He sold the house and 116.5 acres of land to A. M.

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[5] Iredell County Deed Book U, Page 62.
[6] *Iredell Express*, March 4, 1859.
[7] Records show that a David Henry Brantley, age 15, enlisted in June 1864 at Camp Holmes at Raleigh.

Henderson and moved to Mooresville, residing at 233 S. Academy Street until his death in 1955 at age 91.[8]

Chain of Title

Grantor	Grantee	Date	Iredell County Deed Book Reference	Acreage*
Gary W. Bowles and wife Constance T. Bowles	Randle Bowles and wife Clare E. Bowles	June 1, 1978	Book 625, Page 94	21.2 acres*
Andrew Richard Barnette and wife Vivian Barnette, Mary Elizabeth Barnette Stutts and husband Gordon Stutts, Thomas Eugene Barnette and wife Louise A. Barnette, Avery Black (widower of Vessie Barnette Black)	Gary W. Bowles and wife Constance T. Bowles	April 10, 1975	Book 572, Page 61	21.2 acres*
A. M. Henderson and wife Pearl R. Henderson	W. A. Barnette and wife Lottie H. Barnette	October 25, 1948	Book 201, Page 206	23.3 acres*
A. M. Henderson and wife Pearl R. Henderson	V. A. Johnston and wife Mabel Johnston	April 14, 1943	Book 153, Page 247	0.9 acres
Robert E. Brantley	A. M. Henderson and wife Pearl R. Henderson	August 28, 1920	Book 65, Page 401	116.5 acres*

[8] Iredell County Deed Book 65, Page 401.

James Brantley and Jane Brantley his wife	Robert E. Brantley	October 30, 1894 (filed July 27, 1907)	Book 36, Page 127	116.5 acres*
Hiram T. Sloan	James Brantley	June 8, 1839	Book U, Page 62	291 acres*
Adam R. Simonton	Hiram T. Sloan and Elam Templeton	August 14, 1829	Book O, Page 443	300 acres
James Chitton	Hiram T. Sloan	October 4, 1826	Book M, Page 764	241 acres*
* Denotes property with the house on it.				