

Iredell CITIZEN

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Downtown Statesville Development Corporation offers...

A Key to Christmas



YEAR AFTER YEAR, SEASON AFTER SEASON, more and more Iredell citizens bring the *Iredell Citizen* into their homes and keep us hanging around. This Christmas - quite literally - we can "hang" with you thanks to the Downtown Statesville Development Corporation's choice of the Key Building, home of your hometown newspaper, as its 2005 Christmas ornament.

Please, hang our home from the highest bough; place us among the glitter and tinsel; and let us dangle among the winking, colored lights. Just make sure the branch is sturdy and we are well hooked.

The beautiful Key Building ornament, in full color, has arrived and is available at Frame Gallery & Gifts, 110 W. Broad St.; Express Yourself Stationery & Gifts, 111 E. Water St.; Westmoreland Antiques and Collectibles, 117 S. Center St.; Sub Express, 126 W. Broad St.; Olde Towne Sweets, 107 1/2 E. Broad St.; and the Visitor Information Center in the Depot on Shelton Avenue. Each ornament is \$7.

Now, as you hang the ornament, ponder for a moment the history it represents. Land and money for the Key Building chapel was donated by the widow of Philip Barton Key, who owned the P.B. Key Whiskey Company. P.B. Key, it turns out was the great nephew of Francis Scott Key, author of our National Anthem.

The chapel became home for the local Catholic congregation in 1898 and was dedicated in 1901. Years later the growing Catholic congregation moved to a larger church. Bert Walser, a local attorney, purchased the building in 1985 for his law practice. After his death, the *Iredell Citizen*, in 2004, leased the completely remodeled building and moved in.

Now that's a lot to hang on just one tree! That's why we'd like to see the ornament hanging in many, many trees for many, many years!

For more information on the Key Building ornament, or on ornaments from other years, contact the Downtown Statesville Development Corporation at 704-878-3436.

Bob Plyler/CITIZEN