

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

| |
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Richmond Hill House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 45 Richmond Hill Road

CITY, TOWN Asheville

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 11th

STATE North Carolina

VICINITY OF
CODE 37

COUNTY Buncombe
CODE 21

3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION | <input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: |

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. Nane Starnes

STREET & NUMBER 15 Normandy Road

CITY, TOWN Asheville

VICINITY OF
STATE North Carolina 28803

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, BUNCOMBE COUNTY COURTHOUSE
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Asheville

STATE North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input checked="" 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

Richmond Hill is located west of Asheville across the French Broad River on a hill that has begun to develop as a subdivision, but the house and environs retains the air of a country estate. Facing west, the severely imposing Queen Anne style dwelling is set well back from the street with trees and shrubs sheltering the large house and its view. To the rear, the yard slopes away gently and the French Broad River can be seen several miles away with the Asheville skyline in the distance.

The mansion combines the materials, irregular form and complex plan of the Queen Anne style with restrained generally Neoclassical ornament. The house has tall proportions with a high steep slate roof of complex plan and irregular silhouette--its hip form interrupted by a tower and gables. The multi-featured house is elegantly severe in exterior appearance, with roof planes that are smooth and folded. The eaves project and are supported by diminutive brackets; a heavy molded cornice carries around the house. Shingles are used extensively in the gables. Narrow lapped siding covers most of the exterior of the frame house, which rests on a cut stone foundation. A porte cochere at the northwest corner of the house marks the beginning of a one-story porch which carries across the front, around the south and part of the east sides of the house. Heavy, wing-like brackets support the molded porch cornice and are attached to attenuated turned posts.

The main block of the house is covered by a high hip roof with the roof ridge perpendicular with the front of the house. Each corner of the main block has a projection which not only gives additional space but also emphasizes the asymmetrical character of the house. The front entrance, located in the northwest corner, projects one short bay and the roof is an extension of the north plane of the main block. The front door consists of two leaves, each containing paired vertical raised panels in the top half and stacked, horizontal raised panels in the lower half. Long sidelights flank the entrance and are filled with intricate geometric patterns of wood muntins. Spanning the entire arrangement is a large fanlight with a smaller fanlight pattern formed by wooden muntins centered over the two doors and buffered by four circles of varying sizes on either side. The framing elements are decorated by two parallel lines of gouge work and unadorned corner blocks at the upper, outside corners of the doors. Above the door at the second floor level is a triple window, with two over two sash surmounted by a shingled gable containing a fanlight.

Projecting north from the northwest corner is a nearly square, one-bay wing. The north side has a triple window at the first level with an arched overwindow. The second floor contains a palladian window which carries into the gable, above which the surface is shingled. The northeast corner of the main block contains a two-story polygonal projecting bay with two over two sash windows in the three outer bays. The lower windows have arched heads. The roof is clipped in a crisp, folded manner that reflects the wall shape. Contained between the east and west projections on the north side are six windows of unequal shape and uneven distribution. Three vertical windows of one over one sash rise, front to rear, reflecting the path of the grand stair inside. Surmounting each of these are equal sized, square, stained glass windows said to contain Tiffany glass. Rising above these, breaking into the roofline, is a larger, squarish window, above which is a dormer with rounded roof and splayed eaves. The dormer window is rounded at the top echoing the roof shape. Below the

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largest window is a window with a sharply pitched pediment and ornamental window sill. To its right (west) is a small circular window directly under the shortest of the stair-step windows.

All of the above described can be seen from the front, circular drive, depending upon the approach taken. At the southwest corner of the front, there is a two-story demi-octagonal bay covered by a pyramidal roof with splayed eaves. The two over two sash, second floor windows rise from the shed roof of the porch and are surmounted by paneled overwindows. These panels mark the beginning of a shingle covered band around the top of the tower. The entire south side, first floor, contains tall equally spaced windows flanked by louvered blinds. (Only the blinds along the porch area of the first floor remain.) At the southeast corner is a pedimented gable with a shingled and splayed tympanum which contains an elliptical window with four keystones. The window is set vertically. Two-over-two sash windows at the second level are set into the three planes of the bay which is housed under this gable, leaving wide overhanging eaves at each corner. The bay window extends downward through the roof of the porch and stops just above the first floor windows. Two small pendant brackets support this three window bay. The porch bends once again and carries across the rear (east) end of the house for one more bay before terminating at the tall, two-story service wing. The wing, four bays long and three bays wide is treated much less elaborately than the rest of the house. There is a one-story porch, now enclosed, across the north side. Brick chimneys project from the multi-planed roof in an asymmetrical fashion.

Entering the house from the front, the double doors open into the fully paneled great hall which is finished in natural wood. Centered on the right wall is a large fireplace flanked by double sliding doors which open into double parlors. The front one is traditionally called the gold room because of the fine silk damask wall covering of the same color. The second is traditionally called the billiard room but later became the pink parlor or drawing room also taking the name from the color of the fine wall coverings. To the left of the front door is a smaller room known as the library. These rooms, as throughout the house, contain Neoclassical Revival mantels. The mantels vary from room to room with some being accompanied by an overmantel but all are consistently of good quality and restrained design. Most of the woodwork is natural or a slightly darker stain. The front parlor or drawing room woodwork is painted white. There is a profusion of good quality woods used throughout the house. The great hall has an exposed beam ceiling and in the left rear quarter of this room rises the grand stair.

The stair, which turns several times in straight runs, has a fluted, square newel with large paneled ornamental caps surmounted by urns and lamps. The heavy molded handrail rests on turned balusters which have a stacked bead effect; the beads are largest in the middle of the baluster. Simple scroll brackets, which match the

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porch brackets, adorn the ends of the open string stair and the fascia has raised panels. As the stair climbs across the rear wall of the great hall it passes over a slender, fluted arch which leads to a hall and the first floor sitting room. Between the stair and sitting room is the only bath on the first floor. Bathroom fixtures appear to have remained as installed, throughout the house. The dining room may be entered from the pink parlor or the right rear of the great hall. A large butler's pantry is beyond the dining room as well as a storage room for eating and serving utensils, with a maid's or cook's room still further back (the only servants room on the first floor.) The walls of the dining room, like those of the two parlors have fine fabric coverings. At the end of the back hall, which runs front to rear by the right side of the sitting room, is the back stair. Opposite the stair is a dumbwaiter which abuts the china storage area. To the rear of the stair and to the left of the maid's or cook's room is a large kitchen. With the original sink and an electrical call board for the servants, it is a large functional looking room.

The house contains throughout what appears to be original hardware, lighting fixtures, wiring, bathroom fixtures and even highly ornamental radiators. The second floor contains the rooms of the original owners, Mr. and Mrs. Pearson, on the west and south, with three guest rooms on the north. There are two bathrooms, large clothing storage areas, and a trophy room on the south side, behind the master bedroom. A second floor sitting room is also in this area. In the rear wing are four small bedrooms, a linen closet and the attic as well as the back stair. The attic is one large storage area.

The cellar contains a wine room, meat storage room and several other areas of undetermined usage. The furnace in the cellar is said, by the long-time grounds keeper-maintenance man, to be original.

A description of the condition and character of the house in its heyday was provided by the son of the builder, Thomas Pearson, who gave guided tours of the place:

The house has always had running water. In the early days a windmill pumped water from a spring in the hollow up to a cistern on the highest part of Richmond Hill, about one-quarter of a mile from here. From there it ran down by gravity flow to a wooden tank in the attic of the house.

The view from the "knoll" as they used to call the highest point of Richmond Hill, is particularly fine. In the early days, a summer house, or gazebo, stood there. It was built of raw oak limbs, which gave it a lacy appearance. There was a platform, 30 to 40 feet above the ground, from which the view could be admired. The gazebo disappeared years ago, and unfortunately, the vegetation has now taken over, but the spot commands a wonderful 360-degree panorama of the surrounding country.

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The place, in the early days, was more or less, self-supporting. There was a wood and ice house over there. The ice was cut from a pond in winter time and stored underground. Those two granite posts were once part of the gate on the road leading to the stable, carriage house and corn crib located in the hollow. Down the hill on the left were dairy and pasture lands. Over here, on the right, were the greenhouses, flower beds, orchards and vineyards. And, on the several knolls surrounding us, were cottages for the people who used to live on the place and help in the house and in the fields.

Since the early 1900s, the Richmond Hill house has had Asheville city water. Originally, drinking water was obtained from a 60-foot well at the back of the house. The rain water drained off from the roof into a cistern serviced by a hand pump. You can still see the rounded top of the concrete cistern over there.

The house was originally lit by gas. The gas was stored in a great copper tank buried in the ground, about fifty feet away from the house. Some time after 1900, the lighting system was changed to electricity, but the gas fixtures were retained. I invite your attention, in particular, to the wrought iron gas fixtures, lamp, andirons and fire pieces. All of them were presumably made in this neighborhood, just as the wood used in the paneling came from the forests around here.

In addition to the fireplaces, the house was, originally, heated with hot air registers. Around 1900, a central steam heating system was installed. The furnace has not been lit, however, for more than thirty years now. My sister and I used stoves to heat our quarters in the winter time. Her apartment consists of what used to be the old billiard room, with telephone room and bath adjoining, while I have rooms near the old kitchen.

The tiles around the fireplace in the Front Hall were, I think, imported, possibly from England. There are ten master fireplaces in the house. The others are all faced with uniformly colored tiles or glazed bricks, to suit the decoration of the various rooms. . . Nothing has been done, in any of the rooms, to reinforce the fireplace tiles and all are still in almost perfect condition.

The ceiling (Pink Drawing Room) was once a fresco painting: cherubs, pink clouds, blue ribbons --that sort of thing. A portion of it was ruined by a leak, during the years when the house was unoccupied. My sister and I had to have the whole thing painted out when we opened up the house in 1951.

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The electric bell on the wall is one of the few left in the house. The bells all connected with a terminal box near the kitchen. The number of rings and the room of origin were marked up on a board. (Bells and other fixtures torn out and stolen by painters during World War II.)

Here at the foot of the (back) stairs is the old kitchen. My sister and I use it as a living room.

And downstairs, partly underground, is an equally large basement (extends length of house). It contains laundry, utility rooms, bathroom, storeroom, furnace-room, dry-room, and wine cellar.

An elevator, operated by a rope on a pulley, used to lift furniture, luggage, and other heavy items from the basement as far up as the attic. The elevator was not, as a rule, used to lift people.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) | | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | | | |

SPECIFIC DATES 1889-1890

BUILDER/ARCHITECT James G. Hill

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Richmond Hill, one of the chief nineteenth century landmarks of present-day Asheville, is a large, impressive, and little-altered frame house of restrained, classicizing Queen Anne style. It was built during the years 1889-1890 for the distinguished congressman and diplomat Richmond Pearson, who entered foreign service during the administration of his friend Theodore Roosevelt. The house, part of a handsomely sited hilltop estate, was designed for Pearson by James G. Hill of Washington, D.C., who had served as supervising architect of the U. S. Treasury in the 1870s and 1880s. Original plans for the house survive.

On February 2, 1867, Richmond Mumford Pearson, chief justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court, obtained a deed of trust from N. W. Woodfin for three tracts of land along the French Broad River in Buncombe County. Woodfin was indebted to Pearson for \$3,864.92. To secure payment of the debt, Woodfin mortgaged one large tract of 620 acres and two smaller adjoining tracts of 100 acres each. Payment was due on March 4, 1872. Woodfin defaulted on the debt and Pearson foreclosed on the mortgage, taking possession of the property early in 1873.

At the time of acquisition of the Buncombe County property (the only land Pearson owned there), the chief justice resided at his Yadkin County home known as Richmond Hill where he continued to live until his death on January 5, 1878.² The lands along the French Broad River were leased to tenants and were used largely for grazing cattle.³ No Pearsons occupied the property until the end of the next decade.

Richmond M. Pearson's will was probated on February 6, 1878. His widow, Mary Bynum Pearson (second wife and not the mother of his children), received a life estate, but there was no provision for disposition of the property after her death. A clause in the will, however, gave Mary Pearson the right to sell the estate upon agreement with Richmond Pearson, her stepson and the executor of Richmond M. Pearson's will.⁴

In April, 1879, Richmond Pearson placed the Buncombe County property for public sale. No adequate bids were entered and the land was withdrawn from the market. A contemporary description of the land called it "unproductive . . . not susceptible of an advantageous partition among the residuary legatees."⁵ Ownership passed to the five surviving children of the deceased chief justice: Richmond, Eliza, Mary, Sallie, and Ellen Brent. Each held an undivided one-fifth interest.⁶

Richmond Pearson began purchasing the interests of his relatives in October, 1879, and by the end of the month, he held full title to the property. He spent

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nearly \$3,000 to acquire the remaining 677 acres of the original 820-acre estate.⁷

Richmond Pearson was born January 26, 1852, at his father's home in Yadkin County, but not at Richmond Hill as popularly believed. That famous Yadkin County home was not built until the end of the decade, about 1859-1860. Attendance at Horner's School in Oxford prepared young Pearson for a college education. He received A. B. (1872) and A. M. (1873) degrees from Princeton and followed his father into the legal profession. Although he was admitted to the North Carolina Bar in 1874, Pearson's fame came from his political and diplomatic service.

After serving as a U. S. consul in Belgium during President Grant's second term, Richmond Pearson spent eight years in his private law practice. In 1885 he was elected to the North Carolina legislature where he served two terms, after which he again returned to private practice. He was persuaded to run for Congress in 1895 and thus began nearly fifteen years of uninterrupted public service.

While in Congress (1895-1901), Pearson developed a personal friendship with Theodore Roosevelt. When the latter became president in 1901, he enticed Pearson to enter the diplomatic service. Pearson began his second tour of foreign service as a U. S. consul in Genoa, Italy (1901-1902). From there he became envoy extraordinary to Persia (1902-1907), and concluded his diplomatic career as minister plenipotentiary to Greece and Montenegro (1907-1909). When his friend left the White House, Pearson retired from public service to concentrate on his law practice.¹⁰

Richmond Pearson married Gabrielle Thomas on March 30, 1882. A few years later he moved to Buncombe County and decided to build a home on his property outside Asheville. He selected a site on a high knoll overlooking the French Broad River and named the 50-acre tract Richmond Hill after his father's estate in Yadkin County (and incidentally after his grandfather's estate in Rowan County).¹¹ A family friend who visited the site in 1889 wrote to Pearson a year later commenting that ". . . the view from the hill chosen for your house is one never to be forgotten. I hope you are in your house, enjoying it to the full."¹² Clearly the house had not been completed at the time of this visit. Yet Marjorie Noel Pearson, oldest child of Richmond and Gabrielle, was born in the house in 1890.¹³ Thus the structure known as Richmond Hill was completed in late 1889 or early 1890.

When Richmond Pearson decided to make his home near Asheville, he first consulted a Boston firm and received plans for a granite structure. For reasons not clear even to the family, that design was scrapped in favor of a frame structure designed by James G. Hill of Washington, D.C.¹⁴

Hill was born in Malden, Massachusetts, in 1841. At age thirty-five, he was appointed supervising architect of the U. S. Treasury.¹⁵ Government buildings con-

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structed under his supervision and planning included the old Bureau of Printing and Engraving and the Printing Office in Washington; a courthouse and post office in Albany, New York; a post office in Baltimore; and a courthouse and post office in Minneapolis.¹⁶ During construction of the Chicago Customs House, charges of fraud were levied against Hill and his staff. A congressional investigation began in July, 1883, and two months later Hill resigned his post as supervising architect in a swirl of controversy.¹⁷

James G. Hill returned to private practice and established a Washington firm under the name of Hill & Kendall in 1884.¹⁸ While in Congress as a representative of the Ninth North Carolina District, Richmond Pearson apparently met Hill and hired him to design a house for his Richmond Hill estate. The original plans for the house prepared by Hill are now contained in the Richmond Pearson Papers in the Southern Historical Collection in the University of North Carolina Library at Chapel Hill. The actual cost of construction is unknown, but the fifty-acre tract and new house, with outbuildings, were valued at \$50,000 in 1890.¹⁹

Hill's subsequent architectural career remains unsearched. He died suddenly at his residence in Washington on December 20, 1913, at the age of seventy-two.²⁰

Pearson retired to his Richmond Hill estate in 1909 and there he lived until his death on September 12, 1923.²¹ His will was concise and clear: "I will and devise all my estate personal and real to my wife Gabrielle absolutely and in fee simple." A rather unusual feature of this will was its long unchanged duration before probate, a span of forty years (1883-1923).²² Gabrielle Pearson survived her husband by only a year. In accordance with the terms of her will, probated December 26, 1924, the Richmond Hill tract passed to her two children, Marjorie Noel and James Thomas Pearson.²³

Thomas (he never used James) was equally successful as his father and grandfather but never attained the same recognition. Born at Richmond Hill near Asheville on June 24, 1893, Thomas²⁴ received his basic education at St. Paul's School in Concord, New Hampshire. Like his father he attended Princeton from which he was graduated in 1915. A career with American International Corporation was interrupted by the entry of the United States in World War I. Pearson attained the rank of captain and distinguished himself by winning the Legion of Honor (France), the Order of the Crown and the Croix de Guerre (Belgium), the Order of Prince Danilo I (Montenegro) and Officer Honneur et Merite (Haiti). Following the war, he served briefly as foreign trade editor of the New York Evening Post before embarking on a long career that included the reorganization and administration of financial institutions in foreign countries. In 1951 he retired from service and returned to Richmond Hill.²⁵

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Until Thomas returned, Richmond Hill had been closed for nearly twenty-seven years. The only residents were a caretaker and his wife who lived on the grounds and kept the big house in good condition. Marjorie came to live with Thomas and together they made some renovations in the house and opened it to the public as a museum in 1953.²⁶ Both Thomas and his father had collected valuable objects from all over the world, and these combined with family heirlooms and antiques awed hundreds of visitors to Richmond Hill, many of whom were conducted through the house by Thomas Pearson himself.²⁷

Neither Thomas nor Marjorie ever married, and when Thomas died on April 16, 1963, Marjorie assumed full ownership of the house and the twenty-one acre tract known as Richmond Hill. Thomas and Marjorie sold the remaining Pearson property along the French Broad River, including 28.6 acres of the Richmond Hill tract, to developers of the Bingham Heights residential community before Thomas' death in 1963.²⁸ Marjorie continued to live in the big house until she became seriously ill.²⁹ She died in a nursing home in Asheville on May 25, 1972, at the age of eighty-two.

Article V of Marjorie Pearson's will reads as follows:

I devise the following described boundary of land, including the Richmond Hill residence. . . together with all personal effects and all tangible personal property located therein and not specifically bequeathed in this will, to my cousin, General Hayne Davis Boyden, during the term of his life, and upon his death I devise and bequeath³⁰ said real and personal property to his son, Richmond Pearson Boyden.

On May 10, 1974 Hayne Davis and Dorothy T. Boyden and Richmond P. and Alita C. Boyden sold the house and 21.4 acres to the Western North Carolina Baptist Retirement Home, Inc., for \$100,000. A stipulation in the deed reads ". . . that the large Pearson house or homeplace located on said property shall not be moved,³¹ demolished or torn down for a period of TEN YEARS from the date of this conveyance."³¹ The protection clause expires May 10, 1984. Plans for the future of the house are uncertain at this time.³²

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FOOTNOTES

¹Buncombe County Deed Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Buncombe County Courthouse, Asheville, Deed Book 28, pp. 249-250, and Deed Book 40, pp. 129-133, hereinafter cited as Buncombe County Deed Book.

²Adelaide L. Fries, "Report on Chief Justice Richmond Mumford Pearson, His House in What is Now Yadkin County, N.C., and His Famous Law School." Copy of typescript in Research Branch, Historic Preservation Section, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, 9-10, hereinafter cited as Fries, "Report on Chief Justice Richmond Mumford Pearson."

³Buncombe County Deed Book 40, pp. 126-128, 129-133, and 133-136; and Deed Book 28, pp. 249-250.

⁴Yadkin County Wills, originals in Archives Section, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, N.C.

⁵Buncombe County Deed Book 40, pp. 129-133, see Sallie C. and James M. Hobson to Richmond Pearson.

⁶Buncombe County Deed Book 40, pp. 126-128, 129-133, and 133-136.

⁷Buncombe County Deed Book 40, pp. 126-128, 129-133, and 133-136. Eliza's interest passed to her daughter, Maggie, who was an orphan in 1879. Richmond placed her share of the estate in trust until she reached maturity, at which time he compensated her for the remaining one-fifth interest. See Richmond Pearson Papers, folder 17, Journal 1878-1888, p. 41, in the Southern Historical Collection in the University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill, hereinafter cited as Richmond Pearson Papers.

⁸Who Was Who in America, I, 1897-1942 (Chicago: The A. N. Marquis Company, 1943), 950, hereinafter cited as Who Was Who; Biographical Directory of the American Congress 1774-1949 (Washington: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1950, 1662) hereinafter cited as Biographical Directory of the American Congress; and Fries, "Report on Chief Justice Richmond Mumford Pearson," 9-10.

⁹Who Was Who, 950; Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1662; and Richmond Pearson Papers, folders 3-5, 7-9.

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¹⁰Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1662; Richmond Pearson Papers. Folders 9-13; McKinley Pritchard, A Tribute to Richmond Pearson (n.p., 1924), 4, hereinafter cited as Pritchard, Tribute to Richmond Pearson; The Asheville Citizen, September 6, 1968.

¹¹Richmond Pearson Papers, folder 17; Pritchard, Tribute to Richmond Pearson, 2; Who Was Who, 950; Fries, "Report on Chief Justice Richmond Pearson," 7; and Thomas Pearson, Richmond Hill, A Guided Tour (Asheville, 1961), 7, hereinafter cited as Pearson, Richmond Hill.

¹²Henry M. Field to Richmond Pearson, March 11, 1890. Richmond Pearson Papers, folder 5.

¹³Richmond Pearson Papers, folder 17; and The Asheville Citizen, May 26, 1972.

¹⁴Richmond Pearson Papers, folder 17; and Pearson, Richmond Hill, 33.

¹⁵Henry F. Withey and Elsie Rathburn Withey, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased) (Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc., 1970), 287, hereinafter cited as Withey, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects; and The New York Times, August 12, 1876.

¹⁶Withey, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects, 287; and The New York Times, November 15, 1879, December 21, 1913.

¹⁷The New York Times, August 3, 24, 30, and September 20, 1883.

¹⁸Withey, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects, 287.

¹⁹Richmond Pearson Papers, folder 17, Journal, 1878-1888, p. 41.

²⁰The New York Times, December 21, 1913.

²¹Who Was Who, 950; Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1662; Asheville Citizen-Times, June 3, 1973; and Pritchard, Tribute to Richmond Pearson, 4.

²²Buncombe County Wills, originals in the Archives Section, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, N.C.

²³Buncombe County Will Books, Office of the Clerk of Court, Asheville, Will Book L, 439, hereinafter cited as Buncombe County Will Book.

²⁴Pearson, Richmond Hill, 29; Richmond Pearson Papers, folder 17; and Asheville-Citizen Times, June 3, 1973.

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²⁵Who Was Who, IV, 1961-1968, p. 741; Asheville Citizen-Times, March 28, 1937; The Asheville Citizen, September 5, 1951, April 17, 1963; and Pearson, Richmond Hill, foreword.

²⁶Pearson, Richmond Hill, foreword; The Asheville Citizen, April 17, 1963; and Asheville Citizen Times, June 3, 1973.

²⁷Pearson, Richmond Hill, 10-33; Thomas Pearson, The Richmond Hill Museum (Asheville, 1959), 3-43; and Asheville Citizen Times, June 3, 1973.

²⁸Pearson, Richmond Hill, 7; and Buncombe County Will Book 725, p. 498, will of Marjorie Noel Pearson.

²⁹The Asheville Citizen, April 17, 1963, May 26, 1972; and Asheville Citizen-Times, June 3, 1973.

³⁰Buncombe County Will Book 725, p. 498.

³¹Buncombe County Deed Book 1102, p. 057; and Western North Carolina Baptist Home Development Program, "Questions and Answers" (Asheville, 1975), 3.

³²Researcher's interview with the Reverend Nane Starnes, chairman of the board of the Western North Carolina Baptist Retirement Homes, Inc., September 16, 1976.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Asheville Citizen. September 5, 1951; April 17, 1963; May 26, 1972.

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Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1949. Washington: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1950.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 9 acres

UTM REFERENCES

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE C. Greer Suttlemyre, Survey Specialist, prepared description
Jerry Cross, Researcher, prepared significance

ORGANIZATION Division of Archives & History DATE

STREET & NUMBER 109 E. Jones Street TELEPHONE 829-4763

CITY OR TOWN Raleigh STATE North Carolina 27611

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE DATE January 13, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Buncombe County Records. Buncombe County Courthouse. Asheville, N.C. Subgroups:
Deeds, 1867-1974; Inventories and Settlements of Estates, 1878-1924;
Taxables, 1888-1892; Wills: Richmond Pearson, Gabrielle Pearson, and Marjorie
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Fries, Adeliade. "Report on Chief Justice Richmond Mumford Pearson, His House In
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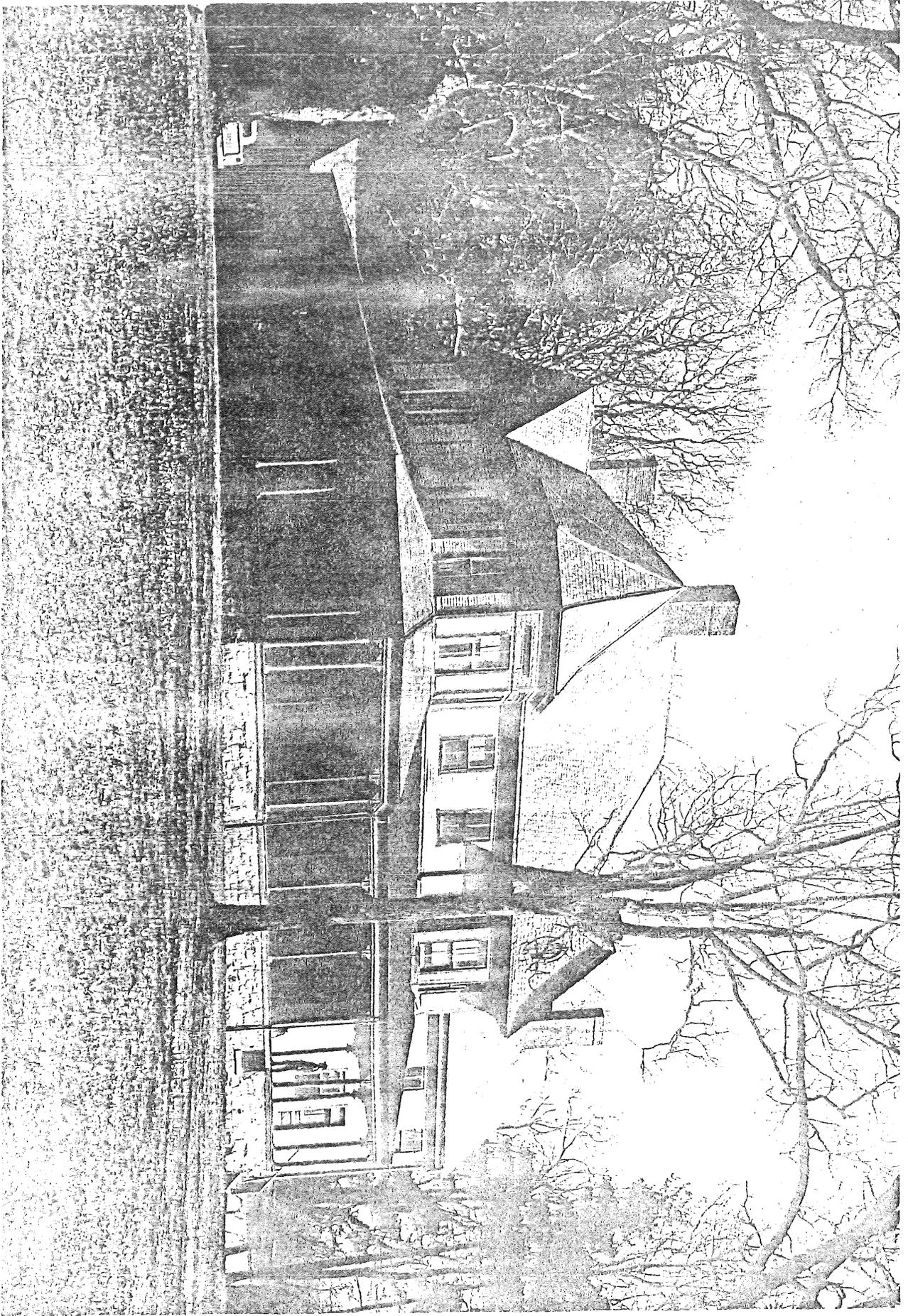
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

1987
Add Doc.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION & JUSTIFICATION

Boundaries have been drawn to include the entire 7.48 acre tract presently associated with the house. The tract is mostly wooded and overlooks the French Broad River. See attached surveyor's plat map with boundary outlined in red.

ACREAGE: 7.48 acres

QUAD: Asheville, NC

UTMs: Easting 356850
Northing 3941780

ZONE: 17

NEW OWNER: Dr. Jake Michel
The Education Center
1411 Mill St.
Greensboro, NC 27408

