

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina	
COUNTY: Bertie	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Woodbourne

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
SR 1139, 0.5 mile west of junction with SR 1140

CITY OR TOWN:  
Roxobel (First Congressional District, Hon. Walter B. Jones)

STATE: North Carolina      CODE: 37      COUNTY: Bertie      CODE: 015

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
		<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Thomas Figuers Norfleet

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Woodbourne

CITY OR TOWN: Roxobel      STATE: North Carolina      CODE: 37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Bertie County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
King Street at Dundee Street

CITY OR TOWN: Windsor      STATE: North Carolina      CODE: 37

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:      CODE:

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DATE

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(Check One)			(Check One)	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Woodbourne, a fine early nineteenth century house, is composed of a main block built about 1810 and wings constructed in 1819. Set on a vented English bond foundation, the house is frame covered by molded weatherboards. The three-bay central pedimented pavilion is two full stories in height. Both floors are lighted by windows of the six-over-six sash which rest on heavy sills. A central double door with five-light transom is sheltered by a single-story porch with a shed roof supported by four square posts. This porch, which spans the entire front (south) facade, appears to be a replacement for an earlier one-bay single-story porch. The tympanum of the pediment is framed by a cornice with oblique modillions and contains a central semi-circular fanlight, the glazing of which has been replaced. The modillion cornice carries along both sides of the main block. The rear of this section is not pedimented, being finished with simple bargeboards. On this end are two boldly executed Flemish bond chimneys with weathered offsets which begin above the second story.

The one story wings continue the fenestration of the main block and are covered by gable roofs set at right angles to the pavilion. Both wings terminate with exterior end chimneys laid in one-to-three common bond with muisetanden coping at the offsets. Incised on the west are the initials "J M" and the year "1819"; the east chimney bears the initials "I S M" and the complete date "May 29, 1819." To the right of the east chimney is a six-panel door. Protecting this door is a latticework porch with hip roof which extends across the entire east end of the wing.

When the wings were added, the main block may have been remodeled, creating the present floor plan. It is highly irregular with unexpected relationships occurring between one room and another. The layout of the interior does not conform to the pattern one might expect from the uniform exterior appearance of the house. The facade suggests a transverse hall plan, but the main door leads to an entrance space which is shortened by the stair immediately to the right of the door.

The enclosed straight stair with two sets of winders is also unusual in that the balustrade is engaged and appears to have had the wall plastered right into it. Although the reason for such a treatment is unknown, it is probably the result of changes made from the original plan. Directly behind the entrance room or hall is a large parlor with a dining room to the east. Access to the dining room can also be gained from a tiny, oddly-placed passageway situated beneath the stair to the right of the northeast corner of the entrance hall. The entrance area, dining room, a closet beneath the stair, and a room in the southeast section of the main block all open into this quadrangle. The west wing is entered from the entrance hall, and the east wing from either the dining room or the southeast room of the main block.

The entrance room, parlor, and dining room have molded cornices and walls plastered above dados composed of one wide board. The entrance room and the dining room have identical molded chair rails and baseboards. A more elaborate decorative treatment in the parlor emphasizes the importance and formality of the room. Although the dado is flat like that in the other rooms, the chair rail and baseboard are reeded. Blind lunettes framed by heavily

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(Numbered continuation)

7. Description

molded architraves appear above the doors leading to and from the parlor. A peculiar variation of this treatment occurs above the mantel where molded strips form a reverse-shouldered semicircular blind arch.

The mantel treatment throughout Woodbourne exhibits similarities in some elements, but each mantel has individualized decoration. In the three-part Adamesque parlor mantel, which is appropriately the largest and most elaborately worked, the fireplace opening is framed by an architrave, the backboard of which is enriched by a cable molding. The opening is flanked by pairs of fluted pilasters and has a reeded band across the top. Another reeded band appears below the molded shelf which repeats the cable motif. The unacademic dining room mantel is quite different from the others in the house. Above the molded architrave that surrounds the opening is a frieze with reeded blocks at either end. The blocks support a heavily molded shelf which breaks over the blocks and is enriched by a band of reeded molding and a cable like the one on the parlor mantel.

The mantel in the west wing has a simple surround which supports a heavily molded cornice, creating a subordinate shelf. The plain frieze is framed on three sides by applied moldings and flanked by paneled end blocks. A reeded band separates the upper cornice shelf and the frieze. Although not identical, the mantel in the east wing has some of the same elements as that in the west. A molded architrave surrounds the opening and supports courses of moldings and a band of reeding. The frieze, treated with applied moldings like those on the west wing mantel, in this case is flanked by single pilasters. The upper half of each pilaster is fluted and ornamented with a raised circular sunburst. Beneath the cornice shelf runs a vertically reeded band. Chevron reeding occurs beneath the shelf which breaks above the pilasters.

The second floor is divided into four main rooms. All feature plaster dadoes between simple beaded baseboards and chair rails. The rear rooms have mantels of almost identical design--simple architrave surrounds which are topped by shallow subordinate shelves, and wide cavetto moldings above plain friezes supporting the main shelves.

A dairy building on the property is covered with beaded weatherboards and has a very unusual sawn wooden grill directly under the deep eaves of the pyramidal roof.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Thomas Figuers Norfleet built Woodbourne near his father's home in the Roxobel vicinity about 1810. He is said to have built the house for his bride, Margaret. The couple, who reared a family of six children, added the wings to the house in 1819. Thomas wrote his will on January 10, 1838, and died on January 11, 1838, at the age of fifty. In the will he made Dr. Richard Urquhart, husband of his daughter, Mary Norfleet Urquhart, executor of his will and charged Richard and Mary with the responsibility of his wife Margaret, and his minor children, Louiza, Stephen, Margaret, Francis, and Thomas. Sometime after the children reached legal age, their father's property was divided, and Stephen A. Norfleet received the Woodbourne residence. In addition he received in 1855 lands inherited by his mother from her father. Stephen Norfleet in turn willed the house to his son, Thomas Spruill Norfleet, on March 4, 1902. Thomas Spruill, who was a county commissioner of Bertie County for fourteen years, passed Woodbourne to his son, Thomas Figuers Norfleet. Thomas Figuers died in 1957 leaving Woodbourne to his son, Thomas Figuers Norfleet, Jr., who now resides there.

In the first half of the nineteenth century two specific house types became popular in North Carolina, the temple-form dwellings, and houses with a three-part scheme (commonly called "Morris-plan"). Woodbourne is one of the few houses that combines these two types. Though not as sophisticated as the best examples of the individual modes, it does show an awareness of the popular classicism of the day on the part of literate but not erudite local builders. Woodbourne is an example of an inventive adaptation of two known models into a new form suited to the peculiar needs and/or desires of its builders. As such, it is an interesting vernacular sidelight to the whole Classic Revival movement in the South.

SECTIONS

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8.

Note on temple-form and three-part (Morris-plan) buildings as requested by the National Register Office June 4, 1971:

Temple form dwellings are, as the name implies, rectangular houses, usually pedimented at one or both ends, having the over-all proportions and outline of a Greek or Roman temple. They may have full prostyle porticoes, small entrance porches, or none at all. Three-part dwellings can be traced back to the multiple-massed designs of the Italian Renaissance architect, Andrea Palladio (1508-80). Such Palladian-influenced designs were popularized by a number of architectural style books and various authors have cited Select Architecture by Robert Morris as a source for the three-part scheme in America. The earliest known house of this type is the Semple House in Williamsburg, Virginia. This fine building may have been the prototype for a number of similar houses in southeastern Virginia and northeastern North Carolina. Buildings of this sort generally have a two-story central pavilion which is either pedimented or gabled and often features a small entrance porch. The pavilion is flanked by lower transverse wings. Almost without exception the central pavilion is more vertical in proportion than a temple-form building. In the case of Woodbourne, the central pavilion of the three-part scheme is in effect a temple-form house in size and proportion; hence the combination of the two types.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bertie County Records, Bertie County Courthouse, Windsor, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).  
 Bertie County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).  
 Grant, Daniel Lindsey. Alumni History of the University of North Carolina. Durham, North Carolina: General Alumni Association of the University of North Carolina, 1924.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES														
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE														
	Degrees	Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes Seconds													
NW	°	' "	°	' "	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">LATITUDE</th> <th colspan="2">LONGITUDE</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Degrees</th> <th>Minutes Seconds</th> <th>Degrees</th> <th>Minutes Seconds</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>36°</td> <td>11' 15"</td> <td>77°</td> <td>15' 54"</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		Degrees	Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes Seconds	36°	11' 15"	77°	15' 54"
LATITUDE		LONGITUDE															
Degrees	Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes Seconds														
36°	11' 15"	77°	15' 54"														
NE	°	' "	°	' "													
SE	°	' "	°	' "													
SW	°	' "	°	' "													

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Four acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Survey and Planning Unit, John Wells, Supervisor

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History DATE: May 5, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: 109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: H. G. Jones

Title: Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date: May 5, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

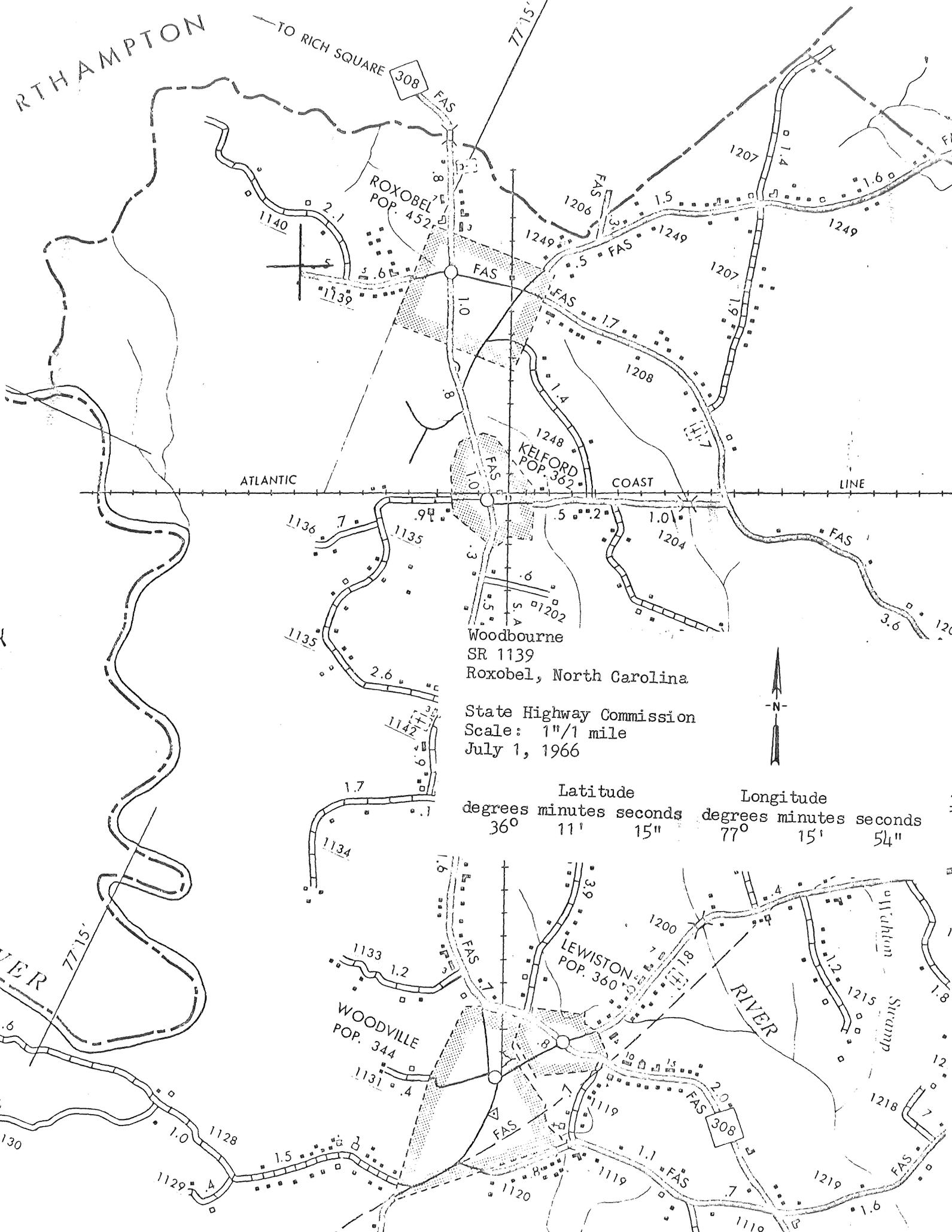
Keeper of The National Register

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

RTHAMPTON

TO RICH SQUARE



ATLANTIC

COAST

LINE

Woodbourne  
 SR 1139  
 Roxobel, North Carolina

State Highway Commission  
 Scale: 1" / 1 mile  
 July 1, 1966

Latitude			Longitude		
degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
36°	11'	15"	77°	15'	54"

VER

RIVER

WOODVILLE  
 POP. 344

LEWISTON  
 POP. 360

ROXBEL  
 POP. 452

KELFORD  
 POP. 362

Watham  
 Swamp

