

34

State of North Carolina
Division of Archives and History

Iredell COUNTY

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

_____ QUAD

Iredell County

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR _____ THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Wood Lawn
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
N side SR 1138, 0.4 mile E of jct. with NC 115 — NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN _____ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
 VICINITY OF Davidson 9th
STATE CODE COUNTY CODE
North Carolina 037 Iredell 097

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Mr. and Mrs. George F. Mundle
STREET & NUMBER
Route 1, Box 242
CITY, TOWN _____ STATE
Mooreville _____ VICINITY OF North Carolina 28115

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN _____ STATE

6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Laura A. W. Phillips (Winston-Salem)
ORGANIZATION _____ DATE
Consultant for Survey & Planning Branch February 4, 1980
STREET & NUMBER _____ TELEPHONE
Archives and History (919) 733-6545
CITY OR TOWN _____ STATE
Raleigh North Carolina

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

Wood Lawn is located at the end of a dirt lane off SR 1138 just north of the Mecklenburg County line. The house is located in the center of a clearing with some trees and other plantings. Beyond the clearing on north and west (the house faces west) are heavily wooded areas. Although some new residential development is taking place to the south and east of this tract, Wood Lawn retains its rural character of setting.

Wood Lawn is a two-story frame, ca. 1840 house of generous proportions exhibiting stylistic details of the transitional Federal/Greek Revival mode. In form, plan and detail it bears many similarities to Mt. Mourne and the McClelland-Davis House. (See these sections of the MRN.) It is especially close in design to Mt. Mourne, located only several miles to the north, and the two may have shared a common builder. These two houses are the only ones remaining in the county with double end chimneys.

Wood Lawn is four bays wide, with the bays asymmetrically arranged. The weatherboarded house is topped by a gable roof with boxed cornice and molded eaves and rests on a high fieldstone foundation with cast-iron basement grilles. The two chimneys on each side are laid in one-to-three common bond brick with single stepped shoulders, free-standing stacks, and high fieldstone bases. First and second story windows have 9/9 double-hung sash with narrow molded surrounds. Each gable has a 6/6 sash window between the chimney stacks.

The one-story entrance porch has a low hipped roof and simplified full entablature. The unfluted Doric columns have either been cut off, with brick plinths placed underneath, or they are complete replacements of the originals.

The double-leaf front door with three raised panels is headed by a rectangularly-patterned pane transom. The whole is enframed by a fine Greek Revival fluted surround with lozenge-shaped corner blocks and center tablet. Beyond the front porch post alteration, the only change to the exterior has been the addition of several one-story rooms across the rear, ca. 1950s.

The interior of Wood Lawn features a center passage with two rooms of unequal size on either side; this plan recurs on the second floor. The center hall boasts a graceful spiral stair with slender turned handrail and thin square balusters. The handrail forms a volute over the newel; this and modified tulip brackets reflect Owen Biddle's 1810 Young Carpenter's Assistant (also found at Mt. Mourne and the McClelland-Davis House). This stair treatment occurs in a number of early nineteenth century dwellings of the Piedmont. The stair rises all the way to the attic.

Each of the mantels in two rooms has Doric colonettes, a three-part fluted frieze with plain center tablet, plain shelf and pointed arch backboard. Other mantels are simpler versions of this. Door and window surrounds in the front room to the right of the center hall downstairs are fluted with flat corner blocks. The window surrounds continue to the floor, framing a plastered apron under the window. All other rooms have surrounds matching those used in the center hall--wide and plain, with inside bead and plain corner blocks. Windows in the other rooms also feature the apron underneath. Doors have six flat panels and many retain their original locks. Front and rear doors have iron box locks with British seal.

Behind the house are two twentieth century outbuildings--a small frame shed and a barn with vertical board sheathing.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

____ NATIONAL

____ STATE

 X

____ LOCAL

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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1840

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Wood Lawn, built ca. 1840 by Dr. George Stinson, prominent planter and trustee of Davidson College, is one of the most sophisticated and best preserved plantation houses in Iredell County. The transitional Federal/Greek Revival house is very similar in form, plan and detail to Mt. Mourne and the McClelland-Davis House. It is especially close in design to Mt. Mourne, located to the north, and the two may have shared the same builder.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- B. Wood Lawn is associated with the life of Dr. George Stinson, prominent local planter and trustee of Davidson College.
- C. Wood Lawn is one of the most sophisticated examples in Iredell County of a plantation house representing the transitional Federal/Greek Revival stylistic period. Its close design relationship to Mt. Mourne plantation house only a few miles away suggests that the two houses may have shared the same (as yet unknown) builder. The influence of Owen Biddle's Young Carpenter's Assistant on the graceful stair design links the house with several others in the region.

Dr. George Washington Stinson moved to south Iredell County from Chester, South Carolina, in the 1830s.¹ He married (consecutively) two Byers sisters, daughters of Nancy Cecilia Osborne, whose father was Col. Adlai Osborne, who was the son of Alexander Osborne who held the original land grant to the property on which Wood Lawn stands.² The exact date of construction of Wood Lawn is not known. One Stinson descendent claims that the house was built the year that Davidson College was founded--1837. Stinson had married for the first time in 1835. Another descendent gives the date as 1845.

Dr. Stinson was an early trustee of nearby Davidson College. Tradition relates that Stinson's home was popular among the Davidson students, not only because he had several eligible daughters but because he permitted square dancing, which was strongly discouraged by the Presbyterians of the day. Stinson was a member of Centre Presbyterian Church (see #33 in MRN), where he and his wife are buried.

Edgar Burret Stinson was the son of Dr. George Stinson. He was graduated from Davidson College in 1856, fought in the Civil War, and then returned to Wood Lawn where he later died. The house then passed to his sister, Mrs. Ida Stinson Davis, and remained in the family until the twentieth century. The Queen family owned the house for a number of years during this century. The house is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. George Mundle, who are working toward its restoration.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

¹Laura A. W. Phillips, interview with George Mundle at Wood Lawn, September, 1979.

²This and the remaining information on Dr. Stinson's family and Wood Lawn was obtained from: Chalmers Gaston Davidson, The Plantation World around Davidson (Davidson, N.C.: The Mecklenburg Historical Association, 1973), p. 40.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 14.25 (approx.)

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	51,5	1,410	3,9	3,0	2,110	B	1,7	51,4	8,510	3,9	3,0	2,110
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING
C	1,7	51,4	8,510	3,9	3,0	4,210	D	1,7	51,5	1,410	3,9	3,0	4,210

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

That part of Tract 53, Block A, Map 1C, Coddle Creek Township lying along the north side of SR 1138 between the Davidson Township/Coddle Creek Township line and the Duke Power Co. lines, measuring approximately 950 X 700 feet, as outlined in red on map.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

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

Iredell County

Wood Lawn

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

Geographical Data (Cont'd)

The property being nominated includes the house and the generally open land surrounding it, bordered on two sides by woodlands, on a third side by the Duke Power lines, and on the fourth side by the road and Tract 57. The acreage being nominated with the house is necessary to help preserve its rural character in the face of encroaching development of new homesites.

