

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED  
DATE ENTERED

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

Pleasant Retreat Academy  
AND/OR COMMON

Memorial Hall

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

129 East Pine Street  
CITY, TOWN

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Lincolnton  
STATE

VICINITY OF  
#9  
CODE  
37

COUNTY  
Lincoln  
CODE  
109

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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: meeting room

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

United Daughters of the Confederacy

STREET & NUMBER

c/o Mrs. Marion Kitzert  
706 Dogwood Drive

*correspondence to her*  
President at present (1978): Mrs Sarah Long  
218 W Laurel St Lincolnton NC 28012

CITY, TOWN

Lincolnton

VICINITY OF

STATE

North Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Lincoln County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Lincolnton

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 type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Pleasant Retreat Academy is a two-story brick building, four bays wide and two deep, which rests on a low fieldstone foundation. The brick, laid in Flemish bond, has random glazed headers. The building, sitting nearly flush with the street, is ornamented with a wide corbel cornice that carries along the rake of each gable end. Flat arches occur above the window openings. At each end is a partially exposed, single-shoulder chimney. The windows, set in deep exterior reveals, with simple architraves, have at the first level twelve-over-twelve sash and at the second level, twelve-over-eight sash. These are less deeply set but again have simple architraves. The front door is located on the south (street) side of the building and is in the second bay from the east end. The six-panel door is flanked by fluted pilasters which support a projecting molded cornice that breaks over each pilaster; this entrance treatment appears to be a later addition. The deep door reveal is round-arched and contains a fanlight with three radiating muntins, each broken midway by small, glazed circles which are connected by muntins that repeat the shape of the arch. The rear closely reflects the fenestration of the front except that the entrance bay has been bricked up; it still exhibits the flat arch which was once above the door.

The first floor interior is one large room with a stair rising from east to west along the middle of the rear wall. This room has been thoroughly renovated with "pine paneling," and only the simple molded architraves survive. The second floor consists of one large room to the west and a small, one-bay room across the east end of the building. The large room has also been "pine paneled" but here there are symmetrically molded architraves with plain corner blocks. In the small room the walls are plastered and the symmetrically molded window architraves extend down to the beaded baseboard, forming a plastered panel beneath the beaded window sill. There are paired entrances to this room. At each end of the second floor, matching mantels remain which appear to conform to the early nineteenth century building date. A square, three-part molded band surrounds the slightly arched fire opening. The fire opening is flanked by slender, fluted pilasters which carry to the top of a relatively wide unadorned frieze and support a narrow molded shelf. The building reflects not only its early nineteenth century building date, but also mid to late nineteenth century alterations as well as twentieth century remodeling.

# 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 checked="" 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 1817-1820

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Pleasant Retreat Academy was chartered in 1813 and the present building constructed between 1817 and 1820. It is of significance to the history of education in the state as one of the largest of the few surviving early nineteenth century examples of the many private academies that flourished in North Carolina before the development of public schools. Also notable is the impressive roster of alumni, including governors, senators, and a Confederate general. The restrained Federal-style brick building, typical of the more ambitious Piedmont structures of the era, reflects the growing wealth and urban pride of Lincolnton, an important center of trade and culture in western North Carolina.

The building now known as Confederate Memorial Hall was erected in Lincolnton between 1817 and 1820 as Pleasant Retreat Academy, the first such educational facility to be constructed in Lincoln County. The academy was chartered by the North Carolina General Assembly on December 10, 1813. In 1816 the Assembly enacted a law providing for the laying off of additional lots in the town of Lincolnton. Part of this law provided "That a portion of the tract of land aforesaid not exceeding four acres and including a spring shall be laid off for the use of the Academy in said town." The following year a committee reported to the General Assembly that it had laid off a lot of slightly more than three and three-quarters acres, including a spring. Construction of the academy building apparently commenced sometime after this report was submitted. The actual deed to the property was made to the trustees of the academy on August 21, 1821, by Joseph Dixon, Trustee for the County of Lincoln.

The Pleasant Retreat Academy was at first governed by a group of twenty-one trustees, but this number was reduced by the General Assembly to five in 1819. These included Robert H. Burton, Lawson Henderson, John Hoke, David Ramsour, and Robert Williamson, all prominent citizens of Lincoln County.

The history of the formative period of the institution's history is obscured by the absence of all of its official records. An early newspaper advertisement reveals, however, that the academy opened its doors on February 1, 1820, under the leadership of the Reverend Joseph E. Bell, formerly of the Union Seminary in Sewanee, Tennessee. The first academic year consisted of two sessions: one extending from February 1 through June 20; the other from July 11 to December 22, 1820. The first session's program of study included reading, writing, and arithmetic (at a total cost of \$5.00); the second, the arts and sciences and the Latin and Greek languages (at a total cost of \$10.00). It is uncertain how many students were in attendance at the academy's opening session, but about eighty were enrolled there by 1822.

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Among the students at Pleasant Retreat before the Civil War were Lincoln County natives James Pinckney Henderson, future governor and United States senator from Texas; William A. Graham, future governor, two-term United States senator, and secretary of the Navy; and Robert F. Hoke, future Confederate general. Hoke Smith, future governor and United States senator from Georgia and secretary of the Interior, was a student at Pleasant Retreat after the Civil War. It is uncertain how long the academy remained open, but it was advertised in a local newspaper as a going concern at least as late as June, 1878. The academy is listed by name in the North Carolina Business Directory for 1877-1878; it is absent, however, from the 1884 edition.

During the years between 1878 and 1908, the building had a variety of uses. It served as a private residence for a time, but during much of this period a number of private schools were conducted on the ground floor. Miss Sallie B. Hoke conducted a private school in the building in 1884-1885, and between 1900 and 1904 Miss Kate Shipp conducted the Mary Wood School there. This institution, named in honor of Miss Mary Wood Alexander, one of Miss Shipp's former teachers, was the forerunner of Fassifern, a college preparatory school for girls begun by Miss Shipp in 1907. The upstairs section of the building was often used as a Masonic lodge during these years.

Shortly before 1908 the Southern Stars Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy began operating a library for the benefit of the public in the old academy building. Judge W. A. Hoke is credited with having recommended to the General Assembly that the structure be let to the local chapter of the U.D.C. on a long-term basis. The legislature acted on the proposal by enacting a law which provided that the Southern Stars Chapter be given a ninety-nine-year lease "for the purpose of a memorial hall of Confederate Veterans of said county. . . ."

About 1925 a subscription library was organized by local patriotic and social organizations as a memorial to Lincoln County soldiers who lost their lives in World War I. The Southern Stars Chapter offered the ground floor of Confederate Memorial Hall as a permanent site for the new library. About 1934 membership dues were discontinued and the library was made a completely public facility. Memorial Hall continued to house the Lincoln County Public Library until March, 1965. Since that time the structure has been renovated and now serves as a local museum.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE one

- Branson, L., Ed. The North Carolina Business Directory, 1877 and 1878. Fifth Edition;  
Raleigh: L. Branson, 1878.
- Laws of North Carolina, 1813, 1816, and 1819.
- Lincoln County Records, Lincoln County Courthouse, Lincolnton, North Carolina  
(Subgroups: Deeds).
- Lincoln County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina  
(Subgroups: Deeds).
- Lincoln County News (Lincolnton). "Memorial Hall Home of Lincolnton's First School,  
Hospital & Library," Sesqui-Centennial Edition, October 7, 1935.
- Lincoln Progress (Lincolnton). Advertisement, June 22, 1878.
- Public Laws of North Carolina, Extra Session, 1908.
- Sherrill, William L. Annals of Lincoln County, North Carolina. Baltimore: Regional  
Publishing Company, 1967.
- Star (Raleigh). Notice, February 4, 1820.
- Survey of Resources & Needs: The Lincoln County Public Library. Lincolnton:  
American Association of University Women, 1969.
- Times-News (Lincolnton). "Memorial Hall Being Restored," September 24, 1971.
- Topkins, Robert M. Telephone conversation with Mrs. Louise Stoudemire, library  
assistant at Lincoln County Public Library, November 1, 1974.
- Western Carolinian (Salisbury). "Examination," November 16, 1822.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Address by Alfred Nixon, Esq. at the Dedication of the Confederate Memorial Hall, Lincolnton, North Carolina, August 27, 1908. Lincolnton: Southern Stars Chapter U.D.C., n.d.  
Branson, L., ed. Branson's North Carolina Business Directory for 1884. Sixth Edition; Raleigh: Levi Branson, 1884.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 L&L  $35^{\circ} 28' 20''$   $81^{\circ} 15' 22''$   
 UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME/TITLE	Research by Robert Topkins, survey specialist;
ORGANIZATION	Architectural description by Charles Greer Suttlemyre, Jr., survey specialist
STREET & NUMBER	Division of Archives and History
CITY OR TOWN	109 East Jones Street
STATE	Raleigh
DATE	4 March 1975
TELEPHONE	919/829-7862
STATE	North Carolina

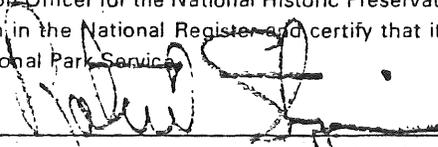
**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL      STATE      LOCAL x

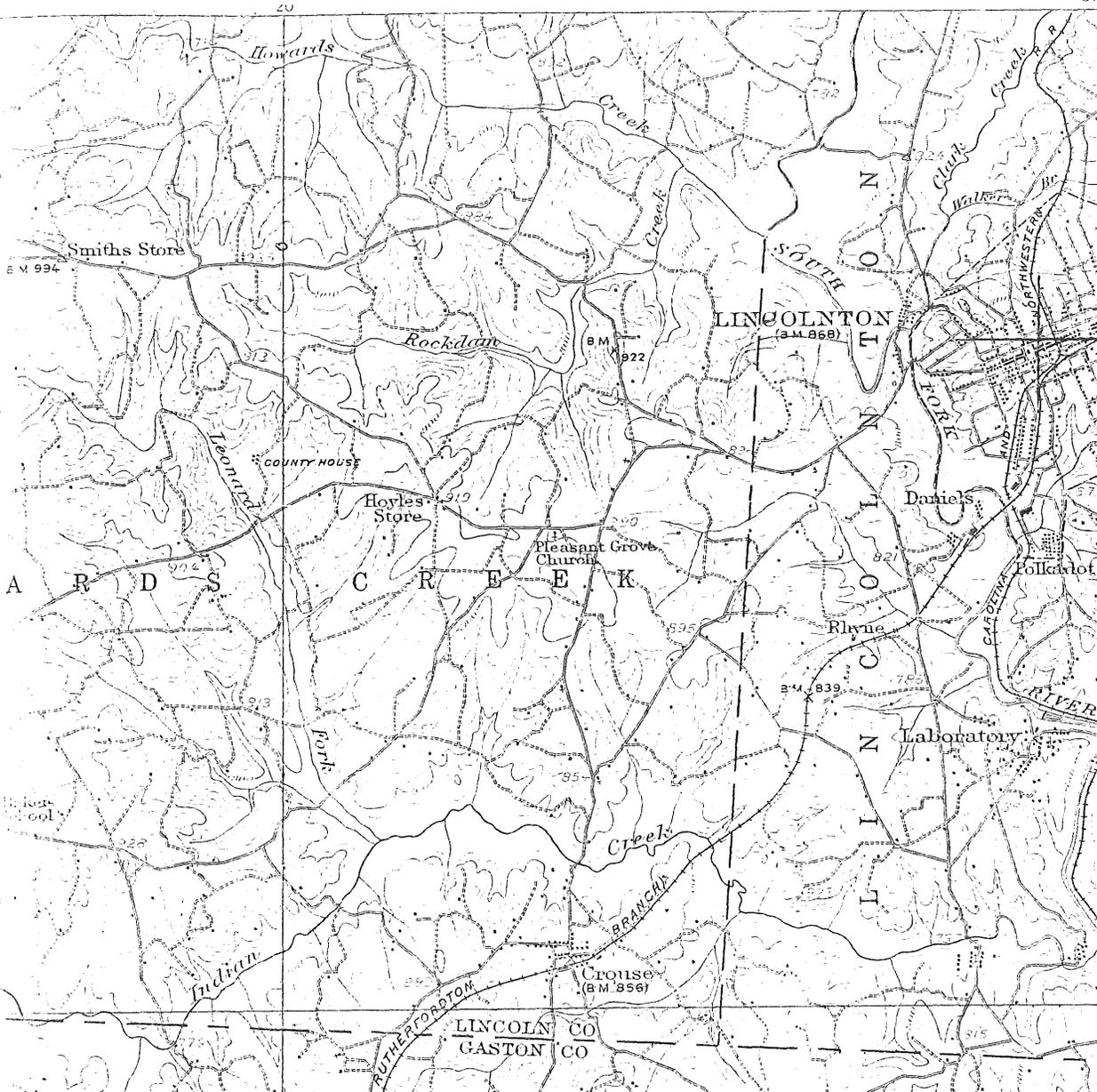
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National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

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE



TITLE North Carolina State Historic Preservation Officer DATE 4 March 1975

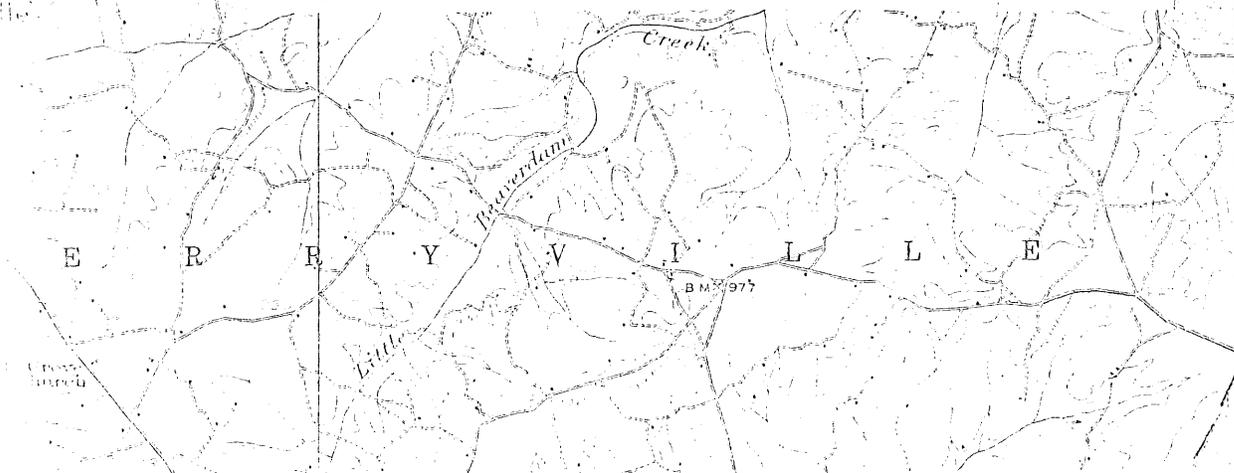
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE
ATTEST:	DATE
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	



Pleasant Retreat Academy  
 129 East Pine Street  
 Lincolnton, North Carolina

USGS Map, Lincolnton Quadrangle  
 Scale: 1:62500  
 Date: 1909

<u>Latitude</u>			<u>Longitude</u>		
degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
35	28	20	81	15	22



Gaston

