

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Dempsey Wood House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
North side of S. R. 1324; 2.5 miles from junction with S. R. 1336

CITY OR TOWN:  
Kinston (First Congressional District)

STATE North Carolina	CODE 37	COUNTY: Lenoir	CODE 107
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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	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Will Emerson

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Route 2

CITY OR TOWN:  
La Grange

STATE:  
North Carolina

CODE:  
37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Lenoir County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Queen Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Kinston

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:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: North Carolina

COUNTY: Lenoir

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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Dempsey Wood House is a two-story frame dwelling with a low hip roof. It rests on brick piers. Protecting the central bay of the three-bay front (south) facade is a two-tiered porch. It features two square pillars with molded caps and corresponding paneled pilasters. The upper level is enclosed by a well-turned balustrade. The central entrance is framed by two pairs of attenuated paneled pilasters which support a diminutive entablature adorned with tiny ornamental brackets. The door is flanked by multi-paned sidelights and surmounted by a narrow nine-light transom.

The four-bay east and west sides are dominated by pairs of massive step-shouldered common bond chimneys with split shafts. Those on the west side contain narrow recessed panels with a triangular motif. These curious chimneys are reminiscent of the multiple-stack chimneys of the seventeenth century, and are the only ones of this type known in North Carolina. At each corner are massive posts which take the form of paneled pilasters with cornice capitals. The north facade is similar to the front. The central entrance consists of double doors flanked by pairs of pilasters between which occur multi-paned sidelights. The pilasters support a shallow triangular pediment.

Most of the windows on the north and south facades contain their original six-over-six sash. The windows on the sides are quite narrow and have four-over-four sash. All windows feature molded architraves and shallow triangular pediments. Paneled aprons directly below the windows emphasize the verticality of the overall design.

On the interior the Dempsey Wood House has a center-hall plan two rooms in depth. The stair, rising from the right side of the hall, has an exceptionally heavy newel post and a handrail octagonal in section. Each room contains an unusual mantel featuring flat panels and wide applied moldings below a massive cornice shelf. The walls are finished with plaster above a vertically sheathed wainscot, and all doors and windows are framed with molded architraves with paneled cornerblocks.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**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

In 1836 James Wood acquired from his father a plantation in the Falling Creek area of Lenoir County. Before 1850 he had begun building a house on the property. Construction of the house proceeded slowly until it was halted by the coming of the Civil War. By that time the house must have been virtually complete, since the Wood family had been living there for some time.

Dempsey and Jesse Wood, sons of James Wood, remained in the house until the property they owned was divided in 1892. It is from James's son, Dempsey, that the house takes its name. After the Wood property was divided, the house was purchased by N. J. Rouse. It passed through several hands before being purchased by Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Emerson in 1945. The Emersons are the present owners of the house.

The Dempsey Wood House is an important example of the transition from the pure Greek Revival to the more elaborate Victorian eclecticism which was becoming popular just before the Civil War. This curious structure is one of the few houses left which clearly exhibits this change in mid-nineteenth century taste.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lenoir County Records, Lenoir County Courthouse, Kinston, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

Lenoir County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	1	"	0	1	"	35 <sup>o</sup>	13'	51"	77 <sup>o</sup>	43'	28"
NE	0	1	"	0	1	"						
SE	0	1	"	0	1	"						
SW	0	1	"	0	1	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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 Staff, John B. Wells, III, Supervisor

ORGANIZATION

[ ] State Department of Archives and History

DATE

April 16, 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

April 16, 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

