

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
Ashland

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
West side of Satterwhite Point Road, 5.6 miles northwest of U.S. 1

CITY OR TOWN:
Henderson (Second Congressional District, The Hon. L. H. Fountain)

STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37 COUNTY: Vance CODE: 181

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) _____ _____ _____

Yes:
 Restricted
 Unrestricted
 No by appointment only

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Lieutenant Colonel Henry E. White

STREET AND NUMBER:
Satterwhite Point Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Henderson

STATE:
North Carolina

CODE:
37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Henderson

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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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	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(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

Ashland, a handsome plantation house approached by a boxwood walk, stands on a slight rise in a broad yard dotted with great trees. The house is in excellent condition and is surrounded by well-tended rolling farmland. The frame house consists of two sections, side by side, each two stories high beneath a gable roof running parallel to the front (east) facade. The two-bay older (north) structure is somewhat lower (about 18 feet to the eaves) than the south section, which is three bays wide and about 25 feet to the eaves. The exterior finish of Ashland is consistent throughout both sections. The house is covered with beaded weatherboards. Each window has a plain sill and is flanked by symmetrically molded pilasters with a pulvinated center strip. These support an entablature that breaks out over the pilasters and has a narrower pulvinated band across the frieze. Similar frames occur on the doors as well. Narrow paneled corner posts define each facade, and the molded cornice is augmented by dentils. The windows at the first level contain nine-over-nine sash; those at the second, six-over-nine; the single gable windows contain four-over-four. The windows of the northern section are noticeably smaller than those of the southern section.

The main doorway, in the north bay of the three-bay south section, is sheltered by an academic pedimented Tuscan entrance porch, with the columns grouped in two pairs. The double door, framed by sidelights and a transom, has a long faceted panel on each leaf. The rear facade has two porches: one is centrally placed on the north section; the other is in the north bay of the south section, corresponding to the front porch. Each has a gable roof supported by pairs of Tuscan posts on pedestals, connected by a balustrade with slender square balusters between rounded rails. The doors are like the main entrance, but the south one has only sidelights; the north one is unlighted. Two single shoulder chimneys of brick laid in Flemish bond rise at each end. Both ends have two bays, but the windows on the north flank the symmetrically placed chimneys; on the south the chimneys are to the rear of center and the windows are placed to the front and between them.

The interior of Ashland reflects the changes made by its mid-nineteenth century owners, which all but conceal the earlier fabric of the older section. The plan of the north section has four rooms: on the east (front) are a stair hall and parlor, and on the west, a small unheated room behind the hall and the present dining room behind the parlor. The stair hall (now reached from the main hall of the new section) and the parlor feature symmetrically molded architraves with roundel corner blocks. The rear rooms have three-part molded architraves. All rooms have flush-sheathed dadoes beneath various kinds of chair rails. The doors in the front two rooms and at the rear entrance have two long panels, but those in the rear rooms have six raised panels. The parlor mantel has pairs of engaged tapered colonnettes, square in section, supporting paneled end blocks. A symmetrically molded architrave with plain corner blocks frames the fire opening beneath a frieze with a plain center tablet. The dining room mantel has symmetrically molded pilasters and a flat molded band across the frieze.

The stair rises in two short flights at the east end of the hall. The lower part of the wall and the soffit are flush-sheathed, and the closed string is finished with a wide molded band. Newel and posts, square in section with

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molded caps, and turned balusters support a heavy molded handrail. Beneath the second flight is a closet entered through a small six-panel door. The plan of the second floor is essentially like that of the first. The architraves are simple molded ones, framing doors with four or six raised panels. Very narrow molded chair rails and baseboards define the flush-sheathed dado. The two mantels have reeded architraves with corner blocks below flat-paneled friezes and plain shelves. In the attic and basement are remnants indicating a possible eighteenth century construction date: a few sections of flat-paneled wainscot, a batten door with strap hinges and wooden lock, and rosehead nails.

The newer section of the house is executed on a much grander scale, and the trim, with both Greek Revival and unusually heavy Federal elements, is correspondingly robust. The hall runs along the north side and to the south are a large front room and two much smaller rear ones. The most striking room in the house is the wide hall, which is divided by an elaborate transverse arch supported on heavy paneled pilasters. Acanthus and a beaded astragal outline the archivolt. The flush-sheathed dado is bounded by a very heavy molded chair rail and baseboard. The molded cornice is quite wide. The door frames are symmetrically molded with a pulvinated center strip; the corner blocks have faceted panels. The wide doors have seven flat panels: three long upper vertical panels, a single horizontal one, and three shorter ones beneath. They are fitted with carpenter locks. In the front hall ceiling is a large, handsome medallion with a recessed center featuring egg-and-dart and acanthus bands. The rear hall is dominated by the impressive stair. The first flight begins just behind the transverse arch with two treads and three winders before rising in a straight run along the south wall. A long landing spans the breadth of the hall, and another straight run along the north wall ascends to the second floor. The wainscot of the hall continues up the stair. Slender balusters, square in section, and a turned newel and posts support a rounded handrail. Wave-pattern brackets adorn the treads; the fascia of the landing is ornamented by a continuous band of the same design.

The large front first-floor room, said to have been a ballroom, measures about 21 by 25 feet. Symmetrically molded architraves with roundel corner blocks frame the large windows and flat panels beneath. The walls are plastered between a heavy molded baseboard and an elaborate cornice featuring modillions, egg-and-dart, and scroll pattern moldings. The ceiling medallion is like that in the hall but the center element is of radiating acanthus. The large, plain mantel is of veined black marble. The south rear room contains a wooden Greek Revival mantel with symmetrically molded pilasters beneath Greek key corner blocks. The plan of the second floor is similar, and the finish is simpler, with six-panel doors whose flat panels have been painted with graining to simulate raised ones. The mantel in the front room resembles that in the parlor of the older section.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 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 checked="" 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 the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, when nearby Williamsboro (now a nearly deserted village) was a lively social and political center, the Nutbush Creek area of Granville County (now in Vance) was occupied by some of North Carolina's wealthiest and more influential men. Notable among them was judge and colonizer Richard Henderson, who owned the Ashland tract. Ashland, one of the most impressive and best-maintained of the plantation houses in the area, is Vance County's most widely known antebellum showplace and landmark.

The present Ashland is considered by some to incorporate the house of Samuel Henderson, who moved to North Carolina from Virginia shortly after 1740. His petition for 100 acres of land in Edgecombe County in 1744 records his early presence there. According to one historian, Henderson was appointed one of the first justices of the county court when in 1746 the new county of Granville was formed out of Edgecombe. Colonial records include him in "a list of Gentlemen in the Commission of the Peace for Granville County, July 6th 1756," which means he was at this time in the post of justice of the peace. Ashland is thought to have passed from Samuel Henderson to his son Richard.

Richard Henderson was born in 1735 in Virginia but grew up at his father's home in the Nutbush area of Granville County (now Vance County). Although there were only meagre opportunities for education he prepared himself for a legal career and after a formidable grilling occasioned by his lack of formal training was admitted to the bar at an early age. In 1768, Royal Governor William Tryon appointed him associate justice of the superior court, then the highest court in the colony. Richard Henderson is best known as the organizer of what was to be an independent colony called Transylvania. The famous scout, Daniel Boone, explored land for him between the Kentucky and Cumberland rivers. In 1774 he formed a land company and bought a tract of more than twenty million acres from the Cherokees. Henderson established several settlements, but his grand design was thwarted when Virginia and North Carolina claimed the land.

In his capacity as crown judge of the superior court Henderson ran afoul of militant farmers who called themselves "Regulators" and who felt justice was being denied them in the courts. His letter to Governor Tryon from "Granville September 29th 1770" describes his encounter and how he thought it "more advisable to break up court than sit and be made a mock

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judge for the sport and entertainment of those abandoned wretches." Not long afterwards an entry in colonial records preserves the testimony of Thomas Henderson, a brother, that "on the night of the Wednesday following being the 14th instant a house which was lately the dwelling house of said Richard Henderson was set on fire to and consumed." It is known that Richard Henderson died in 1785 at his home on Nutbush Creek, so it can be concluded that after his house was burned, probably by "Regulators," Henderson rebuilt what may have been the original Ashland.

Richard Henderson's will, proved in 1785, divided his vast holdings among his children. He devised his home tract to a son, John L. Henderson. This property was bought in 1800 by his guardian and kinsman Archibald Henderson of Salisbury, a lawyer of great talent and note. It is unclear whether the "home tract" referred to represents Ashland or another house in which Richard Henderson may have lived. Another plantation Richard owned, willed to his daughter Fanny, more nearly fits the location of the present Ashland. This latter tract is probably that listed in 1832 tax list as 882 acres on Nutbush Creek belonging to Archibald E. Henderson "of Nutbush" (a nephew of Archibald of Salisbury and frequently confused with him). Ashland was purchased in 1901 from the executors of Mrs. E. H. Scales (a daughter of Archibald E. Henderson who had inherited it) by Adolphus E. White. It is now the property of his son, Lieutenant Colonel Henry White.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Research by Charles Blume, survey specialist; architectural description by Catherine Cockshutt, survey specialist.
 Granville County Records, Granville County Courthouse, Oxford, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).
 Granville County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).
 Vance County Records, Vance County Courthouse, Henderson, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).
 Vance 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
NW	0' "	0' "		36°	25'	47"
NE	0' "	0' "		78°	22'	16"
SE	0' "	0' "				
SW	0' "	0' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 10 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Survey and Planning Unit Staff

ORGANIZATION
 State Department of Archives and History

DATE
 5 September 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
 109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN:
 Raleigh

STATE
 North Carolina

CODE
 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 5 September 1972

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 _____

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Henderson, Archibald. North Carolina. The Lewis Publishing Company, Chicago, 1941.

Malone, Dumas, ed. Dictionary of American Biography. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1943.

Clark, Walter, ed. The State Records of North Carolina. M. I. and J. C. Stewart, Winston, 1896.

VIRGINIA

78 25'

78 20'

MECKLENBURG CO.



Ashland
Satterwhite Point Road
Henderson, North Carolina

MIDDLEBURG ROAD

State Highway Commission Map of Vance County
Scale: 1" : 1 mile
Date: January 1, 1968

Latitude			Longitude		
degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
36	25	47	78	22	16



