

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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 Zollicoffer's Law Office

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

215 N. Garnett Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Henderson

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

STATE

North Carolina

VICINITY OF

CODE

37

COUNTY

Vance

CODE

181

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 checked="" 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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 A. A. Zollicoffer, Jr., and John H. Zollicoffer, Jr.

STREET & NUMBER

215 N. Garnett Street

CITY, TOWN

Henderson

VICINITY OF

STATE

North Carolina 27536

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Vance County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Henderson

STATE

North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

EXCELLENT

DETERIORATED

UNALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE

GOOD

RUINS

ALTERED

MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

FAIR

UNEXPOSED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Zollicoffer's Law Office is one of the few Victorian commercial buildings standing intact along Henderson's main business street, Garnett Street. It is a remarkably complete survival of a type once common in the eastern Piedmont but now seldom seen.

The two-story brick building, of restrained Italianate character, is two bays wide and two deep, with shallow segmental-arched openings. Windows contain nine-over-nine sash at both levels and are surmounted by arches in brick. The main (southeast) facade has at the first level a central entrance closely flanked by windows; two windows occur at the second level. The doorway, with deep, paneled reveals, has a transom reflecting the arched form of the opening. The brickwork of the building is subtle but effective: pilaster strips at the ends of the facade rise to intersect a cornice, in effect framing a large recessed panel that encompasses the central portion of the facade. Across the first level, within this panel, extends a handsome wooden porch with simple chamfered posts from which spring delicate sawn brackets, creating an arch in each of the three bays. The porch is enclosed by a simple turned balustrade, and the porch roof is underlined by simple rafter brackets. The roofline of the front facade is accented by a bracketed cornice with irregularly placed brackets. Between them extends a dentil course, above a frieze adorned with decorative incised panels.

The interior of the building, divided into two rooms, has been thoroughly remodeled. To the rear is a 1926 addition, and behind it is a series of mid-20th century extensions of functional character which do not detract noticeably from the appeal of the original front portion of the building.

# 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 checked="" 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. 1887

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Zollicoffer's Law Office, a small brick Victorian commercial building, is a landmark of downtown Henderson, and one of the best preserved reminders of the town's post-Civil War prosperity. In 1881 Henderson became the county seat of newly formed Vance County, and in 1885 much of the main street (Garnett Street) was burned. The law office was built about 1887 for A. C. Zollicoffer, who had come to Henderson in 1881, becoming a very prominent citizen. It remains in the ownership and continued use of the Zollicoffer family.

Assessment of criteria:

Law Office

- (A) Associated with the post-Civil War development of Henderson as a county seat and trade center.
- (B) Associated with A. C. Zollicoffer, prominent in local and regional legal, political, and business circles.
- (C) Embodying distinctive characteristics of Victorian commercial architecture, practically unaltered on the exterior, a rare survival in the town and region.

Henderson was begun in 1789 when Samuel Reavis built a new home in Granville County near the intersection of an east-west road and the road from Washington, D.C., to Columbia, South Carolina. This site was just outside the present corporate limits of Henderson.<sup>1</sup> His son Lewis is said to have built the first store in 1811 on the stage-coach road which ran<sup>2</sup> about where Garnett Avenue is now and the first house in the present town limits in 1822.

The Reavis family donated land, built a church, and soon a community emerged around the crossroads location. In 1835 the directors of the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad decided to run the line through the area. Work on the railroad brought prosperity to the community which soon took the<sup>3</sup> name Henderson, a proposal by Samuel Reavis to honor the late Judge Leonard Henderson.<sup>4</sup> On January 11, 1841, the town of Henderson was incorporated.

Growth was very slow at first. By 1870 the population had risen to only 545.<sup>5</sup> The decade of the 1870s, however, were banner years for Henderson. In 1872 the town became a tobacco market and soon there were several auction warehouses and five tobacco factories. The cotton market was established in 1878 and three steam gins were put into operation. A new railroad, the Oxford & Henderson, arrived in 1879 making Henderson a transportation and commercial center for the region. By 1880 the town had, in addition to the businesses named above, a tin and sheet iron factory, one iron and plow factory, two buggy and

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wagon factories, livery stables, a host of saloons (one for every forty adult males), six churches, a newspaper, a male academy, two schools for females, and a number of lawyers, dentists, and doctors.<sup>6</sup> Growth during the 1870s was so rapid that the population increased by 202 percent.<sup>7</sup> In 1881 citizens of Henderson led the successful fight for the creation of Vance County. Henderson was the obvious choice for the county seat.

Disaster struck in 1885 when the wooden buildings in downtown Henderson burned to the ground. The citizens rallied, however, and replaced the frame structures with brick. Since then Henderson has had a stable growth but never another heyday period such as the decade of the 1870s.

The lot on which the Zollicoffer Law Office in Henderson now stands was the property of M. Armaduke Hawkins in 1882. At that time a structure stood on the site where the office is now located but was among the many buildings on Garnett Avenue destroyed in the great fire of 1885.<sup>10</sup> Two years later, August 8, 1887, A. C. Zollicoffer, an attorney, purchased the lot from M. Hawkins and wife.<sup>11</sup> Shortly thereafter he constructed the Zollicoffer Law Office which has been used for Zollicoffer attorneys ever since. The firm today consists of A. A. Zollicoffer, Jr., and John H. Zollicoffer, Jr., grandsons of A. C. Zollicoffer.<sup>12</sup>

Allison Caulaincourt Zollicoffer (1854-1922) was of Swiss/French descent though he spent his childhood in Halifax County. His middle name was taken from one of Napoleon's marshalls, while his father, Jerome Bonaparte Zollicoffer, had been named for Napoleon's brother. The Zollicoffer family maintained an interest in Altenklingen, a castle in Switzerland purchased and enlarged by an ancestor Leonard Zollikofer in the sixteenth century.<sup>12</sup> Descendants in North Carolina made frequent pilgrimages to the ancestral home. Jerome Bonaparte Zollicoffer owned and operated an antebellum hotel in Halifax and may have been among the immigrants who were naturalized there in the 1830s and 1840s.<sup>12B</sup> A. C. Zollicoffer attended Wake Forest College and Judge George B. Strong's Law School. He also read law with W. H. Day.<sup>13</sup>

Zollicoffer came to Henderson in 1881 and established a law practice.<sup>14</sup> He either rented an office or became a partner in a firm because he owned no property in Henderson until 1887. Zollicoffer was a prominent attorney as evidenced by the fact that his is one of only three portraits of distinguished lawyers of Vance County to hang in the courthouse. He was also accomplished in other endeavors. A businessman as well as a lawyer, A. C. Zollicoffer served as president or vice-president of several organizations and was a director of at least six corporations. He was a member of the Vestry of Holy Innocents Church for more than thirty years, acting as secretary for most of that time.<sup>15</sup> Zollicoffer served in the State Senate in 1905, and his grandson, A. A. Zollicoffer, Jr., presently<sup>16</sup> a partner in the family firm, was active in the General Assembly for four terms.

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A. C. Zollicoffer died on January 27, 1922. His son, Jere P. Zollicoffer, continued his father's practice in partnership with his brother, John H. Zollicoffer. The practice and office building have been handed down to the present owners and occupants.

FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Samuel T. Peace, "Zeb's Black Baby": Vance County, North Carolina (Henderson, 1955) p. 288; hereinafter cited as Peace, "Zeb's Black Baby"; and Rebekah Young Dodd Cooper, Reminiscences 1811-1911 (Henderson, 1941), unpaginated, hereinafter cited as Cooper, Reminiscences.

<sup>2</sup> Cooper, Reminiscences; and Peace, "Zeb's Black Baby," p. 289.

<sup>3</sup> Cooper, Reminiscences; and Peace, "Zeb's Black Baby," p. 291.

<sup>4</sup> William S. Powell, The North Carolina Gazetteer (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1968), p. 221.

<sup>5</sup> Peace, "Zeb's Black Baby," p. 292.

<sup>6</sup> Cooper, Reminiscences; and Peace, "Zeb's Black Baby," pp. 292-293.

<sup>7</sup> Peace, "Zeb's Black Baby," p. 293.

<sup>8</sup> Peace, "Zeb's Black Baby," p. 293; and Cooper, Reminiscences.

<sup>9</sup> Cooper, Reminiscences; and Peace, "Zeb's Black Baby," p. 293.

<sup>10</sup> Gray's New Map of Henderson, 1882, Raleigh: Division of Archives and History; and Samuel T. Peace, "Zeb's Black Baby," p. 293.

<sup>11</sup> Vance County Deed Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Henderson: Vance County Courthouse, Deed Book 5, p. 263; Deed Book 58, p. 315, for expansion of lot.

<sup>12</sup> Interview with John H. Zollicoffer, Jr., of Zollicoffer and Zollicoffer of Henderson, October 10, 1977, hereinafter cited as Zollicoffer interview.

<sup>12A</sup> Peace, "Zeb's Black Baby," pp. 414-415.

<sup>12B</sup> Halifax County Court Minutes, 1830-1850, Raleigh: Division of Archives and History.

<sup>13</sup> Peace, "Zeb's Black Baby," p. 415.

<sup>14</sup> Zollicoffer interview.

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<sup>15</sup>Peace, "Zeb's Black Baby," p. 415.

<sup>16</sup>John L. Cheney, Jr., North Carolina Government 1585-1974 (Raleigh: Department of the Secretary of State, 1975) pp. 482, 530, 531, 537, 538.



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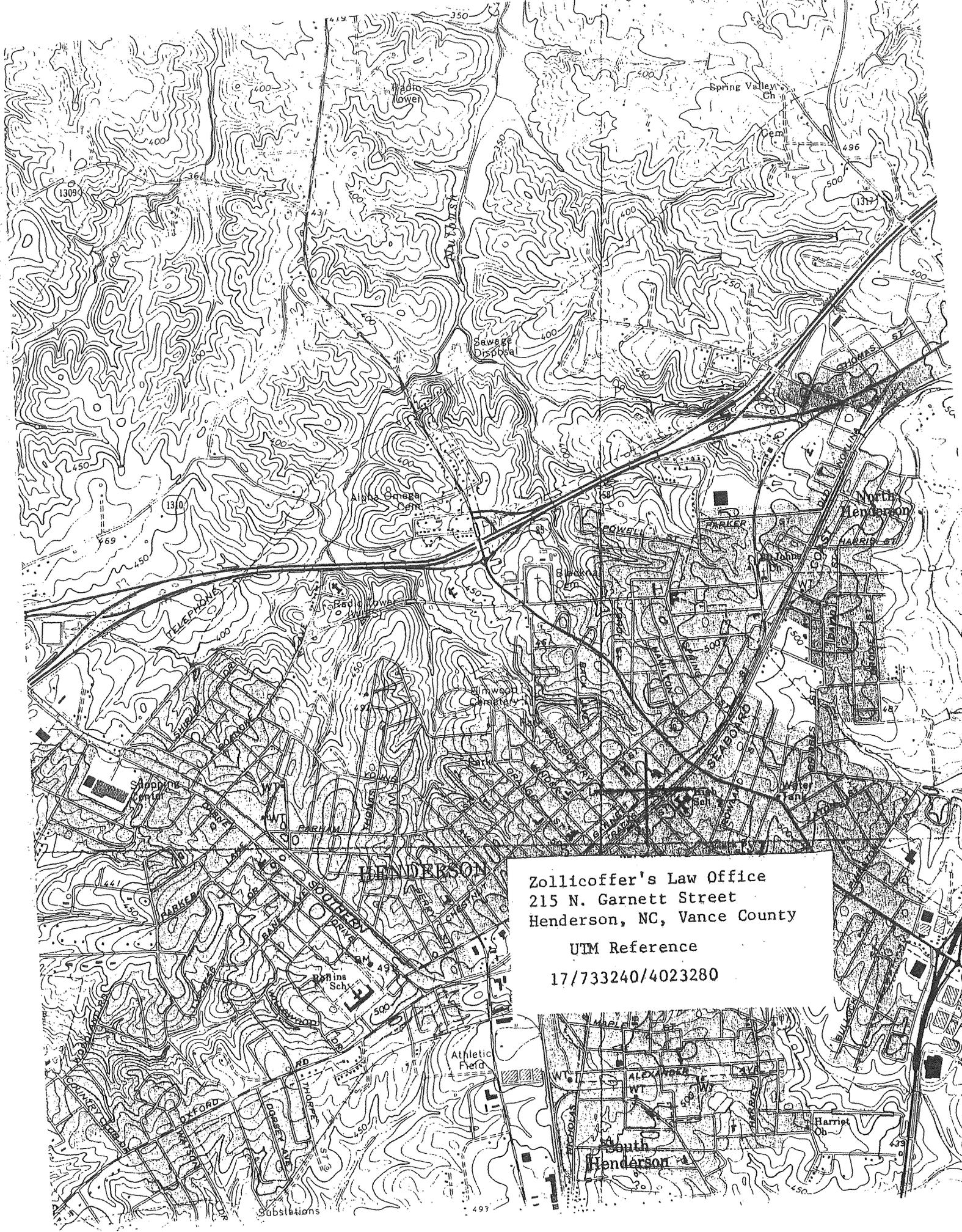
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Interview with John H. Zollicoffer, Jr., of Zollicoffer and Zollicoffer of Henderson.  
October 10, 1977.

Peace, Samuel T. "Zeb's Black Baby:" Vance County, North Carolina. Henderson, 1955.

Powell, William S. The North Carolina Gazetteer. Chapel Hill: The University of North  
Carolina Press, 1968.

Vance County Records. Register of Deeds Office. Henderson: Vance County Courthouse.  
Subgroup: Deeds.



Zollicoffer's Law Office  
215 N. Garnett Street  
Henderson, NC, Vance County

UTM Reference  
17/733240/4023280

