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1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Richmond Hill Law School

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
5 miles northwest of East Bend (NC 67) and 1 mile south of Yadkin River

CITY OR TOWN:  
Rockford vicinity

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
North Carolina	32	Yadkin	99

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure 	<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 type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Not used	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Yadkin County Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:  
c/o Carl Hoots, President

CITY OR TOWN:  
Yadkinville

STATE:  
North Carolina

CODE:  
32

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Yadkin County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Yadkinville 27055

STATE:  
North Carolina

CODE:  
32

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:

STATE: North Carolina

COUNTY: Yadkin

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DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(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

Richmond Hill is a two-story house of brick laid in American bond and has a deep unadorned cornice overhang and low hip roof. The main facade is three bays wide with a central doorway framed by sidelights. The solid areas between each bay are expressed by vertical projecting panels which extend from the ground to the top of the house. This scheme of alternating recessed and projecting panels is repeated on all exterior walls.

In plan the house is roughly T-shaped. The main section features a center hall with a large room on either side. Each of the rooms have fireplaces in the center of their rear walls. Beyond this section is a stair hall which runs perpendicular to the central hall of the front section. Off this hall open two rooms of unequal size which share a common interior chimney. There is a brick one-story shed room at the side of the larger rear room. All rooms are finished with plaster walls above a simple baseboard. The mantels are of the simplest Greek Revival design. It seems that this whole structure is the product of one continuous building operation and the unusual plan which resulted must have been due to the use of the building as a school, to the peculiar wishes of Richmond M. Pearson, or both.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 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 checked="" 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 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

Richmond Hill was the home and law school of Richmond M. Pearson. Born on June 28, 1805, Pearson attended the University of North Carolina and qualified at the North Carolina Bar in 1826. He served in the State Legislature from 1829 to 1833 and on the Superior Court from 1836 to 1848. He was Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court from 1850 to 1878, where he gained a national reputation for the lucidity and logic of his opinions. Pearson, having Whig sentiments, generally opposed secession as well as Radical Reconstruction.

Pearson was known as an excellent teacher. His famous law school was originally situated in Mocksville but was later moved to his newly constructed Richmond Hill home after 1848. Beginning in the 1850s over 1,000 law students studied with Pearson, including Secretary of the Interior (under President Buchanan) Jacob Thompson of Mississippi; State Chief Justices William A. Hoke and David Furches; Federal Justice Thomas Settle; Congressman W. H. H. Cowles; and Governor David Fowle.

The Richmond Hill property was acquired by Pearson between 1844 and 1851. After his death in 1878 his son, Richmond, possessed it and sold it shortly thereafter on July 23, 1884, to George Z. Poindexter. George Z. Poindexter transferred one hundred acres of the estate, including the homestead, to H. D. Poindexter on November 18, 1891; and Poindexter conveyed the property to J. F. Yokley on January 13, 1913. The North Carolina Society for the Preservation of Antiquities possessed the Pearson tract on November 19, 1940, and transferred the title to the Yadkin County Historical Society in 1968.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Coates, Albert. "A Century of Legal Education: Beginnings of Legal Education in North Carolina." North Carolina Historical Review. XXIV, 4. June, 1946, pp. 314-326.

Farmer, Fannie Memory. "Legal Education in North Carolina." North Carolina Historical Review. XXVII, 3. July, 1951, pp. 271-297.

Wilson, James Grant, and John Fiske, eds. Cyclopaedia of American Biography. IV. New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1887-1900. p. 693.

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" 0"	0' 0" 0"		36°	16'	07"
NE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"		80°	36'	05"
SE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				
SW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **9.5 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
J. G. Zehmer, Survey Specialist; Sherry I. Penney, Survey Assistant

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History DATE: June 16, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:  
109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 32

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 Dr. H. G. Jones  
 Title Director, State Department of Archives and History  
 Date June 16, 1970

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

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

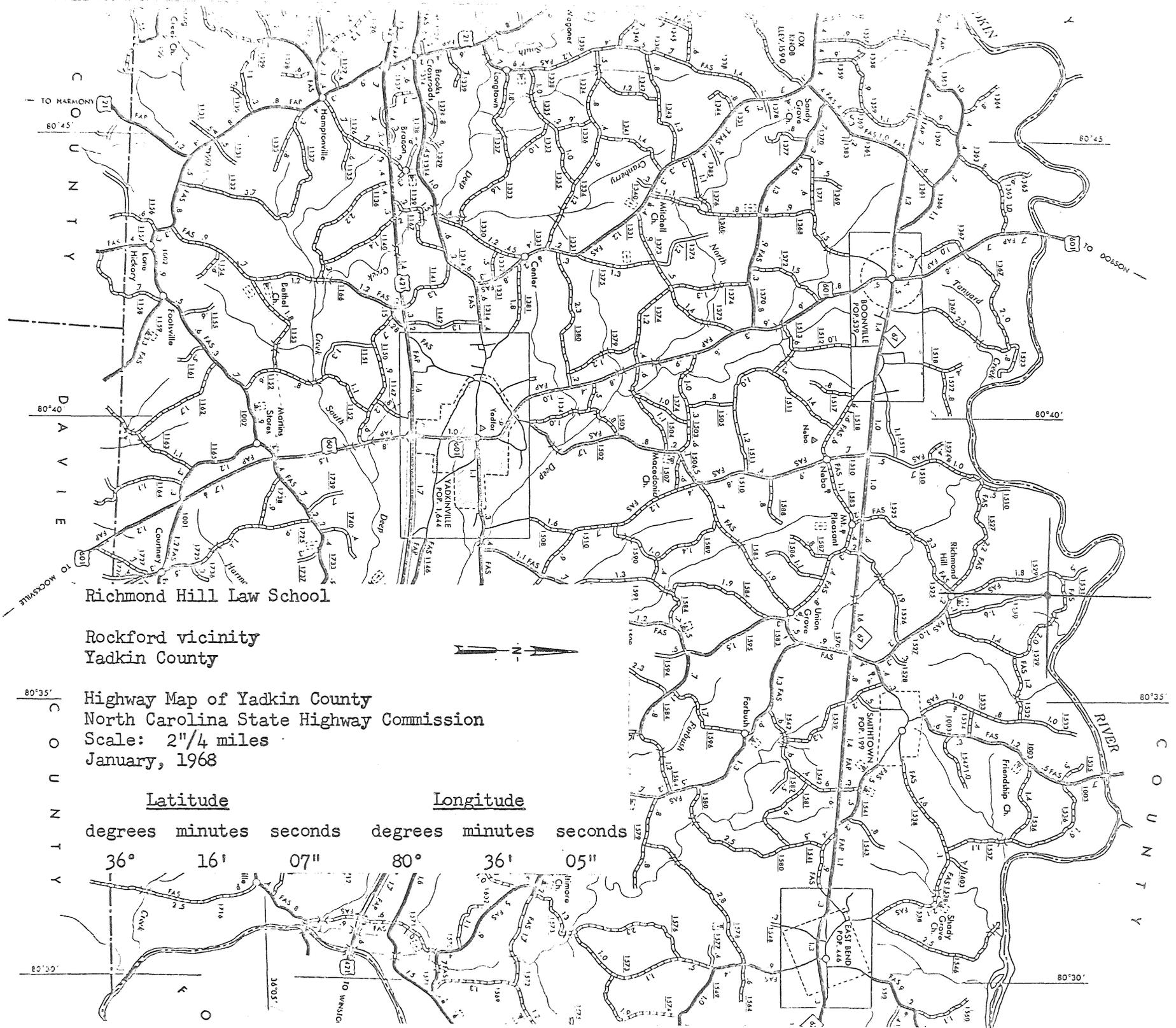
(Continuation Sheet)

North Carolina	
COUNTY	
Yadkin	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

9. Yadkin County Records, North Carolina State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate Papers, Census Reports.)

Yadkin County Records, Yadkin County Courthouse, Yadkinville, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate Papers, Census Reports).



Richmond Hill Law School

Rockford vicinity  
Yadkin County

Highway Map of Yadkin County  
North Carolina State Highway Commission  
Scale: 2"/4 miles  
January, 1968

<u>Latitude</u>			<u>Longitude</u>		
degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds

36° 16' 07"      80° 36' 05"

