**WOODSIDE**

**James Pinckney Henderson House**

**US 182, 0.4 mile west of junction with US 27**

**Lincolnton Township**

**North Carolina**

**37 Lincoln**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category (Check One)</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Accessible to the Public</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>Building</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Public Acquisition:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>In Process</td>
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<tr>
<td>Object</td>
<td></td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>Being Considered</td>
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**Present Use** (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Museum
- Private Residence
- Religious
- Scientific

**Owner of Property**

**Jack Ramseur**

**Route 1, Woodside in**

**Lincolnton Township**

**North Carolina**

**37**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONDITION</th>
<th>☑ Excellent</th>
<th>☑ Good</th>
<th>☑ Fair</th>
<th>☑ Deteriorated</th>
<th>☑ Ruins</th>
<th>☑ Unexposed</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☑ Altered</td>
<td>☑ Unaltered</td>
<td>(Check One)</td>
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<tr>
<td>DESCRIPT THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE</td>
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Woodside, a large Federal plantation house located on the outskirts of Lincolnton in a well-planted tract, is a two-story brick structure with a gable roof. It is four bays wide and three bays deep, and is set on a random granite foundation. The brick walls are laid in Flemish bond as are the single-shouldered exterior end chimneys—one on the east side and two on the west. Two identical entrances occupy the central bays of the main (north) facade, each with a flush-paneled door surmounted by a four-light transom and enframed by a molded architrave. With one exception, the remaining bays of this facade are marked by windows with wide molded architraves, stone sills and flat arches. All are flanked by louvered shutters. Most windows retain original nine-over-nine sash of the first story and the nine-over-six sash of the second except for a large multi-pane replacement window that occupies the first-story east bay. The overhanging eaves are boxed on both the front and rear. The side windows correspond to the original windows of the main facade, and two six-pane sash windows are present in each gable. The windows which flank the east chimney have been replaced by arched doors. Each chimney has single shoulders and a molded cap. The rear elevation is similar to the main facade.

The interior Quaker plan of Woodside, with a single east room and two west rooms on each level, has been somewhat altered, although the trim, including interesting vernacular mantels, remains largely intact. The original stair ascended against the west wall of the east room, but a Victorian stair now rises in two flights in the southeast corner of that room. Floral brackets ornament the open string, and the square newel is topped by an Ionic capital. In both stories, the soffit and reveals of the windows and the doors opening to the exterior are flush-paneled, while those of the interior door openings are flat-paneled. The interior face of each outside door is diagonally sheathed, and features nail studwork and original hardware. Each room on the first level is finished with a flat-paneled wainscot, plaster walls, a molded cornice and a sheathed ceiling and contains a delicate Federal mantel. The most elaborate mantel, that in the parlor, is quite vernacular. The reeded pilasters rise in two stages separated by a block with a demi-sunburst. The frieze features a paneled center tablet accented by a circular sunburst and is flanked by flat panels with oval sunbursts. The heavy molding, including a band of vertical reeding under the cornice shelf, breaks out to form caps over the pilasters and center tablet, but the shelf itself continues uninterrupted. The smaller scale, three-part mantels in the two west rooms are almost identical, with flanking two-stage reeded pilasters and a small frieze with a raised center block and a molded shelf. In each room on this level is a whimsical twentieth century ceiling medallion, carved of wood to simulate plaster. The parlor medallion consists of grape clusters, the music room medallion of an assortment of musical instruments, and the dining room of an arrangement of fruits and vegetables—all rendered in astonishingly lifelike detail.

At the second level a central hall, finished with wide vertical sheathing, separates the east bedchamber from the two west bedchambers.
7.

Each chamber contains a vertically sheathed wainscot beneath plaster walls and a mantel similar to those on the first level. The east mantel is large in scale like the parlor mantel and has wide reeded pilasters quite vernacular in design, which support a tall frieze with sunbursts flanking the vertically reeded center block and a plain molded shelf. The attic was finished at a later date and is partitioned into two rooms each heated by a flue opening in the chimney stack.
Woodside was built probably by Lawson Henderson on a large tract west of Lincolnton soon after his marriage to Elizabeth Caruth on July 20, 1798. The Henderson family was one of the most prominent pioneer families of western North Carolina, and Lawson was no exception. He was sheriff of Lincoln County from 1796 to 1801 and clerk of the county court from 1804 to 1837. By 1805 he owned five slaves and a plantation of over two thousand acres. It is thought that his son, James Pinckney Henderson, was born on this plantation called Woodside on March 31, 1808. James Pinckney carried the Henderson family name to Texas where he became one of that state's most important political figures. In 1836 after practicing law in both North Carolina and Mississippi, Henderson organized a company of troops and traveled to Texas to aid the fight for independence there.

After the establishment of Texas as a republic, James Pinckney Henderson stayed on in his new country to serve as attorney general, secretary of state, minister to France and England, and finally as the representative to the United States during annexation negotiations in 1844 and 1845. In 1846 he was elected the first governor of the state of Texas, and while governor he served as major general in the Mexican War. When his term as governor expired he declined reelection and resumed his law practice until 1857 when he was appointed a United States senator from Texas. He served until June 4, 1858, when he died in Washington.

Woodside plantation remained the home of his father until the latter's death in 1842 when he willed "the brick plantation where I formerly dwelt (about a mile west from Lincolnton)" to his wife, Elizabeth, and their son, Wallace A. J. Henderson. A short time afterward Henderson's widow and son moved to Madison County, Mississippi, and sold the plantation to Dr. Alexander Ramseur on August 16, 1848. The house has remained in the Ramseur family for over a century and is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Ramseur.

Woodside is a good example of the two-story brick Federal houses built in the area in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. Particularly interesting are the unusual vernacular Federal design of the interiors and the unique twentieth century wooden medallions. The house is historically significant as the birthplace of James Pinckney Henderson, the first governor of the state of Texas.
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 [x]

Name

H. G. Jones

Title Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date 17 April 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