**Archibald Henderson Law Office**

**LOCATION**

**Street and Number:** Corner of Church and Fisher streets

**City or Town:** Salisbury (8th Congressional District, Hon. Earl Ruth)

**STATE:** North Carolina

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Accessible to the Public</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Occupied</td>
<td>Yes: Restricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Unoccupied</td>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object</td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>Unoccupied</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PRESENT USE**

- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Religious
- Museum
- Scientific
- Transportation
- Other (Specify) storage

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

**Owner's Name:** Rowan County Commissioners

**Street and Number:** North Main Street

**City or Town:** Salisbury

**ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC**

- Yes: Restricted
- Unrestricted
- No

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

**Courthouse, Registry of Deeds, Etc.:** Register of Deeds, Rowan County Courthouse

**Street and Number:** North Main Street

**City or Town:** Salisbury

**STATE:** North Carolina

**TITLE OF SURVEY:** Historic American Buildings Survey

**DATE OF SURVEY:** Federal

**DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:** Library of Congress

**Street and Number:** East Capitol and Independence Avenues, SE

**City or Town:** Washington

**STATE:** D.C.
The Archibald Henderson Law Office is a one-story frame building with a low hip roof and a Flemish bond foundation. The front (east) facade is three bays wide with a central entrance containing a flat-paneled door surmounted by a transom, enriched with geometric tracery. The north side features a single window to the left of an interior end chimney, while the south side contains only a single window. The rear facade is similar to the front but has no window in the right bay. All windows feature molded architraves, square sills, and nine-over-nine sash.

The interior consists of one large room with plaster walls. Beneath each window is a flat panel framed by the baseboard and an extension of the window architrave.

The well-executed three-part Federal style mantel that dominates the north wall is accented by a cable molding around the rectangular opening and a row of dentils below the molded shelf. The shelf rests on an unadorned frieze, which is supported by engaged fluted colonettes. To the left of the fireplace is a flat-paneled cupboard that appears to be original.
Lot 19 in the original plan for the town of Salisbury is the site of the Henderson Law Office. The town trustees deeded it in 1755 to Nathaniel Alexander, governor of North Carolina (1805-1807). In 1773 it was sold to Colonel Adlai Osborne, the first "Clark [clerk] of the Crown for the County of Rowan" and an original trustee of the University of North Carolina. Osborne, who built an impressive house on the lot, sold it to Superior Court Judge Spruce Macay. Macay, whose law office was located on this lot near his house is remembered particularly as the legal preceptor of two of North Carolina's greatest men, Andrew Jackson, the seventh president of the United States, and William Richardson Davie. Davie served as a general in the American Revolution, was a lawyer, legislator, and was "chiefly responsible for the establishment . . . of the University of North Carolina."

In 1796 Macay sold the lot and dwelling house to his brother-in-law, Archibald Henderson. Sometime after this date, Henderson built the small law office that stands on the southeast corner of the lot. Henderson was a lawyer and a congressman whose "chief distinction was gained in a long and extensive practice . . . in the federal circuit and state courts." An ardent Federalist, he ran for Congress and was elected in 1798 at the age of thirty. With the election of Jefferson in 1801 and the rising tide of Republicanism, however, Henderson withdrew himself from congressional politics and concentrated his energies on the profession in which he was preeminent, law. He was a member of the North Carolina General Assembly for three terms between 1807 and 1820, where he was an authority on legal constitutional questions. When he died in 1822, the property and law office were inherited by his daughter, Jane Caroline Henderson. Miss Henderson married a distinguished jurist, Nathaniel Boyden, a justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court who had also been a United States congressman. From Mrs. Boyden the property passed to her son, Archibald Henderson Boyden, for many years mayor and later postmaster of Salisbury. In 1952 A. H. Boyden's daughter, Mrs. Burton Craig, made a gift of the lot and the Henderson Law Office to Rowan County. The structure is presently being used for storage, but its restoration as a law office is under consideration.

Owned by several men of distinction, the Archibald Henderson Law Office is typical of a number of similar buildings which served lawyers in courthouse towns throughout the South. It is one of the best preserved and most interesting examples in North Carolina.
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>Degrees</td>
<td>Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>Degrees</td>
<td>Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>Degrees</td>
<td>Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>Degrees</td>
<td>Minutes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>35 40 03</td>
<td>80 28 20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/4 Acre

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

STATE: 
CODE: 
COUNTY:  

STATE: 
CODE: 
COUNTY:  

STATE: 
CODE: 
COUNTY:  

STATE: 
CODE: 
COUNTY:  

NAME AND TITLE:
Survey and Planning Unit, John B. Wells, Supervisor

ORGANIZATION:
State Department of Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER:
109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Raleigh

STATE: North Carolina  
CODE: 37

11. FORM PREPARED BY

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 [X] Local [ ]

Name: H. G. Jones

Title: Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date: July 6, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Signature:

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date:

ATTEST:

Signature:

Keeper of The National Register

Date: