### 1. Name

- historic: Daniel Stone Plank House
- and/or common:

### 2. Location

- street & number: S. side U.S. 158 business, 0.2 mi E of SR 1125
- city, town: Henderson
- state: North Carolina

### 3. Classification

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<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
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### 4. Owner of Property

- name: Miss Maude Wade
- street & number: Rt. 8, Box 166
- city, town: Henderson
- state: N.C.

### 5. Location of Legal Description

- courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.: Vance County Courthouse

### 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

- title: N/A
- has this property been determined eligible? yes
- date: 
- depository for survey records: N/A
- city, town: Henderson
- state: N.C.
The Daniel Stone House stands as an unusually well preserved example of a late eighteenth or early nineteenth century sawn plank farm house. Built and altered in at least three periods, the structure is 22 feet long by 23 feet deep with a gable roof projecting over the vertical plane of the walls on all four elevations. Originally built with a gable-end chimney exterior to the main block but enclosed on either side with framed-in chimney closets, the building served as a dwelling until the 1880s when the stack was demolished and the building moved to its present location for use as a tobacco stripping shed.

Built of sawn planks two inches thick with an average face of eleven inches, the Stone House is finished at the corners with tightly fitted full dovetail notching. As the building was erected the walls were additionally stabilized with wooden pins driven into the upper and lower edges of the planks vertically locking the walls together. When completed the corners of the house were cased with vertical boards and the interstices between the planks covered with riven strips of scantling—both being held in place with full wrought nails. Although presently standing on rubble fieldstone piers, the house in its original location was reported to have had a continuous brick foundation and full masonry lined cellar.

Of particular note is the roof covering the Daniel Stone House. Laid out on a common rafter system with half-dovetail, lap-jointed collar beams, the roof base extended two-and-a-half feet over the principal facades, two feet beyond the east gable end, and almost four feet beyond the west or chimney gable end. The footing for the roof framing was the top plank which served as a plate running the full length (28 feet) of the building. The four-foot overhang at the west end was supported with the studs and sway braces employed to frame in the chimney closets. Across the plates were laid joists on approximately two-and-a-half foot centers. A board false plate nailed to the upper face of the joists provided a seat for the rafter feet where they came down on top of the joists as well as lending the joist framing increased lateral stability. As the rafter were raised, diagonally set scantling wind bracing was nailed to the undersides of the rafters. While the wind-braces closest to the loft floor level were finished structural members lapped over the individual rafters, those higher up in the roof were rough and frequently showed wavy edges. When finished the rafter backs were equipped with shingle lath and wood shingle, later replaced with a modern tin roof. The former chimney pile was located under the west gable end of the roof where its probable dry wall masonry was sheltered from the elements. The common rafters surrounding the chimney pile lacked collar beams.

In its first building the Daniel Stone House contained two long rooms back to back under a common ridge. The front or common room, furnished with a gable-end hearth and an enclosed stair along the opposing wall, was approximately 16 feet wide and 22 feet long. The rear room, which appears to have served as an unheated fully integrated leanto, completed the double cell plan with its seven foot depth and 22 foot length. The partition wall separating these rooms consists of four posts with slotted edges. Tenoned in place with morticed pillows, strap mortices, and
cross pieces between the joists, the posts were loaded with horizontal planks averaging one inch by eight-and-a-half inches. Once the walls had been filled in to the level of the loft floor, wooden keys were nailed into position finishing the tops of the posts. With the walls in place the ceiling was finished with similarly dimensioned boards concealing the undersides of the joists and their ragged juncture with the board walling. All the doors dating to this period are of board and batten construction with the primary door to the common room hung on HL hinges and the rear door on wooden strap hinges. Overhead the loft hinge was left as an open room with an off center gable end hearth.

Although ample evidence remains describing the first period form of the dwelling, the present interior arrangement reflects second period changes probably completed around 1800. The fenestration was left unaltered with the doors aligned from front to rear defining the lateral axis of the plan. The rear room, however, was subdivided into a small seven by eleven foot room at the west end entered through a batten door hung on wooden strap hinges. The remaining space was converted to a rear lobby entrance containing the stairs relocated from the front room. The method for partitioning the rear rooms remained similar to that used in the first period although the slotting for the board walls was built up of scabbed on molding strips rather than one piece trenched posts. The loft area remained unaltered in this period of the building's history.

Throughout the first and second period of the dwelling's development the overall plan included one-story gable-end chimney closets located outside the plank core of the building but under the projecting west gable. Both closets were of frame construction with studs lapped or tenoned into the extended plate and girt. In addition to the stud walling corner braces extended upwards from the corner posts set against the plank walls. The lower ends of the posts and studs may have been carried on a separate sill butted up to the plank core or simply set in the earth. The longer of the two closets was entered from the common room through a doorway placed between the hearth jamb and the partition wall, while the other was accessible only from the exterior.

In its third building period during the 1880s the house was moved downhill from its original site, the chimney demolished and the closets removed. The ceiling material for the main block was also removed and the loft opened clear to the ridge. Other than these modifications, plus the addition of a gable and storage shed, the house retains much of its first and second period character.
The Daniel Stone Plank House is a rare and remarkably intact example of dovetailed sawn plank construction, with several unusual construction features including a roof with broad overhang on all sides, original finishing strips over cracks and corners, and interior partitions and finish displaying interesting joinery techniques. Its date of construction is unknown: it may have been built in the late eighteenth century for the Johnston or White family, or it may date from the early nineteenth century ownership of Daniel Stone, the cabinetmaker and farmer who bought the property in 1823.

Criteria Assessment:

C. Embodies several different interior and exterior construction techniques using plank walls and partitions as well as traditional finishing elements inside and out. Displays unusual architectural form, particularly in the broad overhanging roof that has given rise to the local appellation of "blockhouse." Embodies fine craftsmanship in the execution of plank construction methods.

Note: The house was moved in about 1885 a few yards to make room for a new dwelling. As its significance is architectural, and as it retains sufficient fabric to exemplify important construction techniques and craftsmanship, it remains significant despite the move.
In 1823 Daniel Stone purchased two adjoining tracts of land totaling 104 acres from Anderson Sears, who had owned the property for less than four years. Architectural evidence is uncertain in dating the house, which could well have been standing on one of the tracts purchased by Stone, although it is undetermined which tract contained the house. The fifty-four acres purchased by Stone for $125 had been part of sixty acres owned by the White family from 1787 until 1819. Both tracts were valued equally at $2.00 per acre on the county tax lists immediately before Stone's purchase giving no indication of which tract contained the house. The plank house is a rare survivor of a simple but substantial plank dwelling for a farm family of modest holdings, of which the Johnston and White families were both representative.

Daniel Stone (1796-1886), a native of Virginia, was a prosperous farmer and cabinetmaker. He was evidently living in Granville County by 1822 when he married Mary Ann Fletcher Hicks, the daughter of prosperous farmer Abner Hicks. Stone and his wife probably lived with Abner Hicks until Stone purchased the 104 acres from Anderson Sears in 1823. In 1825 Abner Hicks, "in consideration of natural love and affection," gave Daniel and Mary Ann Stone a slave woman Denice and her son John. Stone himself may have built the house, particularly as he was a skilled woodworker and its craftsmanship reflects joinery techniques.

Daniel Stone's new home was about five miles southeast of the Granville County seat of Oxford and was located on the Oxford-to-Warrenton road in the community known as Healthseat. Healthseat was a community of some local importance with several merchants having stores there; in 1816 a post office was established in Healthseat and the community was shown on the MacRae-Brazier map of North Carolina published in 1833. With the establishment of the town of Henderson five miles east of Stone's farm in 1841, Healthseat lost its post office but deeds refer to the Oxford-to-Healthseat road as late as the 1880s. Stone's land was situated on the waters of Little Ruin Creek and was bounded on the north by the Oxford-to-Healthseat Road. Henderson was established as a depot for the newly completed Raleigh and Gaston Rail Road and Stone, like his neighbors, no doubt, benefited economically from the improved transportation facilities. In 1881 Granville County was divided to form Vance County with Henderson as the county seat; Stone's farm was in the new county with the boundary line less than two miles west of his house.

The 1830 census shows that Stone was the head of a six-member household and the owner of seven slaves; by 1840 his household had increased to eleven members and his slaves numbered nine. Six members of the household in 1840 were engaged in farming and one in manufacturing, probably Stone himself working as a cabinetmaker. By 1850 Stone and his wife were the parents of Henry, Sally, Mary, Thomas, Daniel, Betsy, Robert, and Lucy; if the family still resided in the three-room plank house their quarters must have been cramped indeed. The 1850 census records Stone's occupation as a cabinetmaker and as the owner of six slaves; his sons Henry and Thomas were listed as farmers. Stone owned 75 acres of improved farmland and 265 acres of unimproved land, all valued at $1,100, on which was raised wheat, hay, oats, peas, and potatoes; Stone also produced 500 bushels of corn and 1,100 pounds of tobacco. Livestock on the farm included 5 horses, 3 cows, 4 oxen, 15 sheep, and 40 swine.

The 1860 census population schedule is missing for the Tabbs Creek District of Granville County which included Stone's property, but the slave schedule shows that Stone's
oldest son Henry W. Stone owned four slaves. By 1860 Henry W. Stone was probably working as a cabinetmaker with his father. Henry Stone died in 1865 and his estate inventory recorded an extensive holding of woodworking tools. During the Civil War Henry Stone served as commissary sergeant, Field and Staff, Ninth Regiment, North Carolina State Troops; in April 1865 he suffered a gunshot wound in the left arm and was furloughed home where he soon died and was buried near his father's house. Daniel Stone served as administrator of his son's estate which took nearly six years to settle because of the many accounts due the estate.

By the time of the 1870 census Daniel Stone had increased his land holdings to 420 acres worth $2,000; 60 acres were improved and 40 acres were woodlands. Stone had to pay $125 for labor on his farm to produce small crops of wheat, corn, oats, tobacco, peas, and potatoes in addition to making butter and molasses. Stone's livestock consisted of 2 horses, 3 cows, 12 sheep, and 14 swine. In 1872 and again in 1877 Stone was listed in Levi Branson's North Carolina Business Directory as one of the prominent farmers of Granville County.

In 1879 Stone began selling off his property to his children; at this time he was eighty-three years old and he probably had retired from farming to live with one of his children. In 1880 he sold to his daughter Mary and son-in-law William S. Fuller for $350 ninety acres on the road from "Healthseat to Oxford known as the place on which Daniel Stone lived before he quit housekeeping or farming." Stone was evidently living with one of his children by that time, and he died six years later at the age of ninety. Stone's will directed that all his remaining property, personal and real, was to be sold and the money equally divided among his nine surviving children; Stone noted in his will that he had previously made gifts to his heirs totaling $2,400.

In October 1885 Mary and William S. Fuller sold to Benjamin Franklin Wade for $650 the ninety acres on the "south side of the Oxford to Healthseat road being a part of that tract of land known as the Daniel Stone tract at Healthseat the same having been purchased by the said William S. and Mary L. Fuller of said Daniel Stone." Benjamin F. Wade was a member of a family long settled in the section of Granville County included in the newly-formed Vance County. In 1890 Wade was listed in Branson's North Carolina Business Directory as a prominent farmer of Vance County. Soon after acquiring the Stone property Wade built a new house nearby and the plank structure was moved about 100 yards to its present site for use as a farm outbuilding. At Benjamin F. Wade's death in 1934 his farm was inherited by his children, and his daughter Miss Maudé Wade currently resides on the property.
NOTES

1 Anderson Sears to Daniel Stone, 28 January 1823, Granville County Deeds, Book 1, p. 365; Anderson Sears to Daniel Stone, 28 January 1823, Granville County Deeds, Book 2, p. 367, microfilm copy, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, hereinafter cited as Granville County Deeds.

2 In October of 1821 Anderson Sears had named Moses Neal as trustee to sell his land for the payment of debts (Granville County Deeds, Book 2, p. 55). Sears identified his land as fifty-four acres bought of William Sears and formerly belonging to Gideon Johnston and fifty acres formerly bought of Mark White, Jr., and formerly belonging to John Suit. Both tracts were located on the waters of Little Ruin Creek: Jonathan Johnston had purchased 100 acres in 1753 (Granville County Deeds, Book B, 141) and 495 acres in 1757 (Granville County Deeds, Book C, 449). In 1788 Jonathan Johnston sold Gideon Johnston 206 acres lying on Little Ruin Creek (Granville County Deeds, Book 0, 576). At Gideon Johnston’s death in 1797, he left all his property to be equally divided among his wife Zilpha and children Gideon, Jonathan, Sugar, and Rebecca (Granville County Wills, Book 4, p. 65, microfilm copy, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, hereinafter cited as Granville County Wills). In 1821 Jonathan, Gideon, and Sugar Johnston and the children of John Rainey, all of Abbeville District, South Carolina, sold the 206 acres to William Sears for $412 (Granville County Deeds, Book Z, 262). William Sears then sold Anderson Sears 54 acres out of the tract for $150 (Granville County Deeds, Book 1, p. 377). John Suit sold Thomas White sixty acres, “adjoining Johnston’s line,” in 1787 (Granville County Deeds, Book P, 158). No will or estates papers have been located for Thomas White, but Mark White, Jr. (d. 1820) must have received the land through inheritance as there is no record of his purchase of the land from Thomas White. Mark White sold fifty acres to Anderson Sears for $150 in 1819 (Granville County Deeds, Book 2, p. 298).

3 Granville County List of Taxables, Tabb Creek District, 1817-1823, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

4 Inventories of Gideon Johnston (d. 1797) and Mark White, Jr. (d. 1820), show that both men were farmers of modest holdings. Johnston owned 4 slaves, 2 horses, 15 cattle, 17 hogs, 6 sheep, farming tools, a cart, 3 spinning wheels and a loom, and household furnishings of 4 beds, 7 chairs, 2 chests, 2 tables, and cooking utensils (Granville County Wills, Book 4, p. 119). White owned 2 cows, a horse, 3 barrels of corn, 150 pounds of tobacco, farm tools, and 3 beds, 1 table, 1 chest, 1 cupboard, 4 chairs, and a spinning wheel (Granville County Wills, Book 8, p. 398).

5 Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: Granville County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, Tabb Creek District, 265, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, hereinafter cited as 1850 Census, Granville County, with appropriate schedule. Stone’s tombstone records that he was born 29 February 1796 and died in March 1886, Works Progress Administration Pre-1914 Graves Index, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh. It should be noted that cabinetmaking and joinery were often combined by a single individual, particularly in rural areas, raising the strong possibility that Stone’s artisanry was represented in his own house.
The marriage bond is dated 14 January 1822, so Stone probably had been living in Granville County long enough to conduct a successful courtship, Granville County Marriage Bonds, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

Abner Hicks to Daniel Stone, 30 April 1825, Granville County Deeds, Book 2, p. 291.

Granville County Deeds refer to the Oxford-to-Healthseat road as early as the 1780s. The Healthseat post office was established 26 January 1816 with Thomas W. Kean as postmaster, United States Post Office Department, Record of Appointments of Postmaster, 1824-1827, microfilm copy, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh; W. P. Cumming, North Carolina in Maps (Raleigh: State Department of Archives and History, 1966), Plate X.

Fifth Census of the United States, 1830: Granville County, North Carolina, 70; Sixth Census of the United States, 1840: Granville County, North Carolina, 93, microfilm copies of National Archives manuscripts, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

1850 Census, Granville County, Population Schedule, Tabbs Creek District, 265; Slave Schedule, 911.

1850 Census, Granville County, Agricultural Schedule, 211. Stone's other purchases of land were in 1829, 1833, and 1836 (Granville County Deeds, Book 4, p. 83; Book 6, p. 17; Book 7, p. 306, p. 352).

Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: Granville County, North Carolina, Slave Schedule, Tabbs Creek District, 70, microfilm copy of National Archives manuscript, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

Granville County Estates Papers, folder for Henry W. Stone, sale of personal property, 26 January 1866, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, hereinafter cited as Granville County Estates Papers. By 1865 Henry W. Stone was married and maintained his own household.

Stone was released from a hospital in Danville, Virginia, see Louis H. Manarin, comp., North Carolina Troops, 1861-1865, A Roster (Raleigh: State Department of Archives and History, 1968), II, 52. At the time the Works Progress Administration Pre-1914 Graves Index was prepared, Daniel Stone, Henry W. Stone, and Sallie Stone (d. 1877) were recorded as buried in the Daniel Stone cemetery. Henry Stone's marker recorded the information that he died in 1865 "from wounds received in war."

Granville County Estates Papers, folder for Henry W. Stone. Stone died in comfortable circumstances owning 47 acres, extensive household furnishings, a buggy and two wagons, and a silver watch in addition to his many woodworking tools. Fifty-five individuals owed him $1,208.82, perhaps indicative of a flourishing career as a cabinetmaker.

Ninth Census of the United States, 1870: Granville County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule, Henderson Township, 9, microfilm copy of National Archives manuscript, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh; no entry was found for Stone in the population schedule of the 1870 census.

18. Daniel Stone to Mary and William Fuller, 17 February 1880, Vance County Deeds, Book 1, p. 351, microfilm copy, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, hereinafter cited as Vance County Deeds. Between 1879 and 1885 Stone sold off 369 acres of his land, most of it to his children.

19. Will of Daniel Stone, 15 May 1883, probated 15 December 1886, Vance County Wills, Book A, 48, microfilm copy, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, hereinafter cited as Vance County Wills.


10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 100' x 100'

 Quadrangle name Henderson

 UTM References

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Quadrangle scale 1:24000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The building is on a farm but is being nominated alone because the rest of the buildings on the farm are much later in construction and apparently not eligible for listing. The property nominated is a square 100 feet across. The building stands

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries at the center of the square.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title  Catherine W. Bishir, Chief, Survey and Planning Branch

organization N.C. Division of Archives and History

date October 14, 1982

street & number 109 E. Jones Street

telephone (919) 733-6545

city or town Raleigh

state North Carolina

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

- national
- state
- local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

State Historic Preservation Officer date March 31, 1984

For NPS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration
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**Branson, Levi, ed.**  

**Cumming, W. P.**  

**Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: Granville County, North Carolina, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.**

**Fifth Census of the United States, 1830: Granville County, North Carolina, microfilm copy, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.**

**Granville County Records (subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Lists of Taxables, Inventories, Marriage Bonds, Estates Papers), Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.**

**Manarin, Louis H., comp.**  

**Ninth Census of the United States, 1870: Granville County, North Carolina, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.**

**Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: Granville County, North Carolina, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.**

**Sixth Census of the United States, 1840: Granville County, North Carolina, microfilm copy, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.**

**United States Post Office Department. Record of Appointments of Postmaster, 1824-1827, microfilm copy, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.**

**Vance County Records (subgroups: Deeds, Wills), Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.**

**Works Progress Administration Pre-1914 Graves Index, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.**