

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Pleasant Hill/Rivenoak/Hawkins House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER E side SR 1371, 0.3 mi. S. of SR 1375

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Middleburg

VICINITY OF

2nd

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

North Carolina

37

Vance

181

3 CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY
OWNERSHIP
STATUS
PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

X OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

X BUILDING(S)

X PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

X WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

X PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

X NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Maurice and Dianne Floyd

STREET & NUMBER

Rt. 3, Box 917

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

Vance County Inventory

DATE

1975

FEDERAL X STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS Survey and Planning files, Division of Archives & History

CITY, TOWN

Raleigh

STATE

North Carolina 27611

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Pleasant Hill, or Rivenoak, stands in a rural setting surrounded by a grove of huge trees, its side toward the present secondary road that runs near it. The large frame house dates from the eighteenth century, and combines fabric and form of that period with Greek Revival embellishments of the mid-nineteenth century. It is one of the largest and best-preserved early houses in present Vance County. Recent renovation has carefully preserved the fabric of the dwelling.

The house stands 2½ stories tall, with a moderately steep gable roof punctuated by dormers. The main (south) facade is five bays wide, and the double pile plan is reflected in the presence of pairs of exterior end chimneys at either side. Until recently a twentieth century stone porch carried across the facade, and nineteenth and twentieth century 1-story extensions covered the side elevations, but these have been removed, revealing the austere dignity of the original block.

The eighteenth century character of the house is evident in its massing, as well as much of the finish. The double-shoulder chimneys are of brick laid in Flemish bond with decorative glazed headers. The eaves are flush and the raking cornices taper upward. Much of the house, particularly the rear elevation, retains early beaded and molded weatherboards. The rear shows most clearly the eighteenth century appearance, for here the door and window frames are robust, mitered and molded, window sills are heavy molded ones, and nine-over-nine sash is consistently present in the narrow windows. The central entrance consists of a double door, the two leaves composing the configuration of a standard six-panel door.

The front, which originally looked like the rear presumably, shows the Greek Revival renovations, though the basic format remains the same. The windows are larger, contain six-over-six sash, and have typical symmetrically molded Greek Revival frames with cornerblocks accented with bold roundels. The sills are plain. The doorway is also typical of the mid-nineteenth century, with a double door, each leaf with a single long panel, enframed by sidelights and transom. The whole is framed with broad, symmetrical moldings and roundel cornerblocks. Surviving from the Greek Revival porch that preceded the most recent stone number are engaged pilasters at the ends of the facade, with simple grooves to resemble panels, and molded caps. The roofline is treated with a handsome frieze adorned with a Greek key molding, typical of contemporary work in Warrenton. The removed wings were small, simple structures with similar Greek Revival detail.

It is not certain whether the dormers are early ones redecorated in the Greek Revival embellishment or are purely mid-nineteenth century construction. Their form could be early, and without examining their construction it is uncertain. The gable dormers are simply pedimented, and their six-over-six sash windows are framed with diminutive versions of the Greek Revival work of the lower stories.

Within, the finish of the house shows the thoroughness of the Greek Revival renovation. The bones of the house--the massive timber-frame construction including huge cornerposts and the brickwork of the fireplaces, which had arched openings, and other elements, probably including floors--show the eighteenth century construction date, but most of the woodwork is Greek Revival. Consistent nearly throughout are bold

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Greek Revival door and window frames, similar to the front exterior ones. Panels beneath the windows are frequently used. Doors are generally composed of the two long panels, though some early doors with six raised panels survive, and on the second floor a cupboard beneath the stair has four raised panels. Mantels, described as solid walnut beneath paint, are simple pilaster and frieze Greek Revival models. The stair rises in the hall, with a heavy round newel and turned balusters carrying a heavy molded handrail; it too probably is of mid-nineteenth century vintage.

The plan, which likely is essentially original, is the standard Georgian double pile with central hall--a formal plan unusual in surviving eighteenth century North Carolina dwellings. It was more common in Greek Revival houses, but judging from the form and chimneys of the house, it is probably original here. The chief alteration is probably the insertion of sliding double doors between the two parlors on the west side, first floor. The scale of the house is very generous, and the finished and plastered attic provides even more room, two rooms and a small hallway.

There are no standing outbuildings.

8 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Pleasant Hill, or Rivenoak, is a substantial plantation house built in the late eighteenth century and remodeled in the mid-nineteenth century. The house from construction to the 1850s was the home of the politically prominent Hawkins family. The probable builder, Philemon Hawkins, Jr., was prominent during the Revolutionary period, and was a signer of the North Carolina Constitution. His son, William, was born here and was governor of the state during the War of 1812. In 1829 the house was described as having once been "the resort of the fashionable and the gay, the man of business and the literate of the county." From the mid-nineteenth century to 1978 the place was held by the Carroll family. It is currently under careful rehabilitation after a period of neglect.

Criteria Assessment:

- Associated with the eighteenth century prominence of the northeast Piedmont as a wealthy and politically prominent plantation region.
- Associated with the lives of important state political leaders Philemon, Philemon, Jr. and William Hawkins, the latter a governor of the state.
- Embodies distinctive characteristics of unusually substantial and large scale late eighteenth century domestic construction and mid-nineteenth century remodeling.

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It is not certain when Pleasant Hill was built. Some local tradition places it as early as 1750, and it is not likely to have been later than 1780. Its builders, the Hawkins family, were one of the most prominent families in early North Carolina history. The Hawkins family, which claimed descent from Sir John Hawkins, the noted Elizabethan explorer, came to North Carolina by way of Virginia, as did many settlers in the Granville-Warren county area. The first Hawkins to reach the New World was Philemon Hawkins who was born in England in 1690 and came to Virginia in 1717. His son, Philemon Hawkins, usually referred to as Senior in order to distinguish him from his son, was the first Hawkins to settle in North Carolina.¹

Philemon Hawkins, Sr., was born in Virginia in 1717. He and his wife Delia moved to North Carolina in 1737. He was one of the first settlers in the Pleasant Hill area, an area that would be largely populated by Virginians. Hawkins was a farmer, owned a mill, and was a provincial leader of prominence. The 1792 Warren County Tax list credits him with 3,216 acres, and the 1790 census lists him as the owner of 54 slaves. Hawkins served under Governor Tryon at the Battle of Alamance, and was high sheriff of Bute County, sergeant-at-arms for the Colonial Assembly, and justice of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions. He was a Whig in the Revolution, serving as a lieutenant-colonel in the militia. He died in 1801, having sired a family² that was to be influential in North Carolina through the entire nineteenth century.

Philemon Hawkins, Jr., was born in 1752 and died at Pleasant Hill in 1833. In all probability he built the house shortly after he obtained 700 acres from his father in exchange for "natural love and affection" in August of 1775. One year later he married Lucy Davis (1759-1807). They had thirteen children.

Hawkins is best known as being one of the signers of the North Carolina Constitution in 1776. Prior to that time he had been a Deputy Sheriff of Granville County at the young age of 16, fought like his father under Tryon at Alamance, and served in the General Assembly from Bute County. He inherited his father's mill, along with 2,000 acres of land. At one time he owned over 4,000 acres, but disposed of it to his children. In 1824 he owned 1,715 acres, according to Warren County records.⁴ Philemon, like many of his class, was interested in racing; a stud service notice of March 7, 1812 advertised that "'Jolly Star would stand this season at my stable Pleasant Hill and will be set to Mares at The Moderate price of \$15 the season. . . ." Phil Hawkins."⁵

The most prominent of the children of Philemon and Lucy Hawkins was William Hawkins, the eldest child. He was born on October 10, 1777, and grew up at Pleasant Hill. His biographers assert that he was born there, lending credence to a mid 1770s building date for the house. William Hawkins left his father's home in 1797 to become an assistant Indian agent in Georgia. Later he became a lawyer, then a Warren County representative in the North Carolina House of Commons. He was elected Speaker of the House in 1810, and again in 1811. In December of 1811 he was elected governor of

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North Carolina, serving until December of 1814, a period covering almost the entire War of 1812. Hawkins was a member of the Republican Party which controlled North Carolina and Washington politics at that time. Therefore, he and most of the state's other political leaders supported the presecution of the war. Also of importance during Hawkins term was the beginning of construction of North Carolina's first governor's residence, which was completed in 1816. Hawkins died in 1819.⁶

John Davis Hawkins, the fourth child of Philemon and Lucy Hawkins was also born at Pleasant Hill, on April 15, 1781. An attorney, he represented Franklin County in the State Senate, and was Presiding Justice of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions. He is best known, however, for being one of the state's railroad pioneers. He was active in building and financing the Raleigh & Gaston Railroad, and was influential on several occasions in securing the support of the state legislature for railroads.⁷

Other children of Philemon Hawkins, Jr., attained positions of respect and power in the community.⁸ As might be expected the Pleasant Hill plantation house was a social and cultural center of northern North Carolina. Speaking at a family reunion in 1829 John Davis Hawkins detailed some of the history of the house:

This house was the resort of the fashionable and the gay, the man of business and the literate of the county. All found here a plentiful, an elegant, and a sumptuous repast. . . . However this house, once animated by the prescence of our venerated ancestors, and once the seat of pleasure, of grandeur, and⁹ of science, has undergone by the work of time a great change.

Hawkins goes on to mention that the house, already a half-century old, was in a state of disrepair.¹⁰ John Davis Hawkins lived on a huge plantation of 10,000 acres, in Franklin County, while other members of the Hawkins' family had established other homesteads throughout the state.¹¹ When Philemon Hawkins died in February of 1833, Pleasant Hill was no longer the focal point of the Hawkins family, although it did not leave the hands of the family until 1853, when the property was sold to John Clark of New Bern.¹² It is thought to have been Clark who made numerous Greek Revival style additions and renovations to the house.¹³ However, Clark did not keep the property long. On January 1, 1856, he sold 1,146 acres, including the Pleasant Hill property to James Robinson Carroll of Warren County for \$10,000.¹⁴ The renovation might also have been Carroll's work.

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The Carroll family renamed the property Rivenoak. Census records reveal James Robinson Carroll to have been a respectable farmer, if not a state wide figure like members of the Hawkins family. In 1860 he owned 9 slaves.¹⁵ Shortly after the onset of the Civil War, Carroll, at the time thirty-one years old, joined the Confederate forces, where he was promoted to sergeant.¹⁶ During the war his sister-in-law Mrs. Joe Carroll and her children of New Orleans took refuge at the house after the Union forces had captured her home town.¹⁷

After the war Carroll was quickly able to restore his farm to working order. The 1870 census values his farm at \$3,504, with his largest crop being corn.¹⁸ By 1880 Carroll was financially secure to the point of having a resident teacher and three servants for himself, his wife Laura Holleman Carroll, and their four children.¹⁹

Carroll died intestate in 1899. His property was divided among his wife and children, Laura Holleman Carroll, James Robinson Carroll, Thomas Carroll, Carrie Holleman Carroll, and Joel Carroll.²⁰ Joel Carroll never married and died intestate,²¹ while his two sisters apparently never married. Carrie Carroll's will, probated in 1915, left her part of the property to her sister, with the land reverting to her brothers upon her sister's death.²² When Laura Holleman Carroll died in 1958, having lived her entire life at Rivenoak, the property was left in the hands of the descendants of her two married brothers, James Robinson Carroll, II, and Thomas Carroll. In 1960 the five descendants of Thomas Carroll sold the old homeplace to the two descendants of James Robinson Carroll, II.²³ In 1963 James Robinson Carroll, III sold his share of the property to his sister Laura Carroll Byrd for \$2,500. This transaction also included a parcel of land in Henderson. By this time the property had been reduced to 59.9 acres.²⁴ In February of 1978 Maurice and Diane Floyd of Henderson purchased the house and 3.678 acres. The Floyds have nearly completed a careful rehabilitation of the house.

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¹John Hawkins, "Colonel Philemon Hawkins, Sr.," The North Carolina Booklet, XIX (January, 1920), 93-95, hereinafter cited as Hawkins, "Colonel Philemon Hawkins,"; Samuel Thomas Peace, Zeb's Black Baby (Henderson, N.C., 1955), 383-384, hereinafter cited as Peace, Zeb's Black Baby.

²Samuel B. Ashe, Stephen B. Weeks, Charles L. Van Noppen (eds.), Biographical History of North Carolina (Greensboro: Charles L. Van Noppen, 1906), V, 135-138, hereinafter cited as Ashe, Biographical History of North Carolina; First Census of the United States, 1790, Heads of Household, Warren County, North Carolina; Warren County Tax Lists, 1792. The 1792 tax lists credit John Hawkins, a son of Philemon Hawkins, with the ownership of over 7,700 acres.

³Ashe, Biographical History of North Carolina, V, 139-142; Warren County Deed Books, 5-265.

⁴Ashe, Biographical History of North Carolina, V, 140-142; Warren County Will Books, 11-226; Warren County Tax Lists, 1824.

⁵Granville County, Miscellaneous Records, (Raleigh: N. C. Division of Archives and History, Archives and Records Section).

⁶Ashe, Biographical History of North Carolina, V, 153-159.

⁷Ashe, Biographical History of North Carolina, V, 160-163.

⁸Also of considerable importance in the state was William J. Hawkins, son of John Davis Hawkins, and grandson of Philemon Hawkins, Jr. W. J. Hawkins was president of the Raleigh & Gaston Railroad from 1855 until 1875, and was largely responsible for keeping it going during the difficult days of the Civil War. Peace, Zeb's Black Baby, 390-391.

⁹Hawkins, "Colonel Philemon Hawkins," 103.

¹⁰Hawkins, "Colonel Philemon Hawkins," 104.

¹¹Peace, Zeb's Black Baby, 388.

¹²Warren County Deed Books, 31-531. Clark purchased the house and 96 acres for \$384 from Rufus Hawkins, a nephew of Philemon Hawkins, Jr. Rufus Hawkins acquired the tract from his brother Philemon Hawkins in 1843. Philemon had obtained it from his father Dr. Joseph Hawkins, who had obtained it after his brother's death. Warren Deed Book, 28-629.

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¹³Peace, Zeb's Black Baby, 224.

¹⁴Warren County Deed Books, 31-555.

¹⁵Eighth Census of the United States, 1860, Slave Schedule, Warren County, North Carolina.

¹⁶Weymouth T. Jordan (compiler), North Carolina Troops, 1861-1865: A Roster (Raleigh: N. C. Division of Archives and History, 1975), V, 148.

¹⁷John Bullock Watkins, Jr., Historic Vance County (Henderson, N.C., 1944), 10.

¹⁸Ninth Census of the United States, 1870, Agricultural Schedule, Warren County, North Carolina.

¹⁹Tenth Census of the United States, 1880, Population Schedule, Warren County, North Carolina.

²⁰Vance County Deed Books, 39-576.

²¹Vance County Deed Books, 395-604. Joel Holleman Carroll was not listed in the 1880 census, so presumably became the Carroll's fifth child after that date.

²²Vance County Will Books, B-461.

²³Vance County Deed Books, 395-604.

²⁴Vance County Deed Books, 395-612.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ashe, Samuel B., Weeks, Stephen B., and Van Noppen, Charles L. Biographical History of North Carolina. Greensboro: Charles L. Van Noppen, 1905-1917. 8 Volumes. Volume V, 1906.

Hawkins, John. "Colonel Philemon Hawkins, Sr." The North Carolina Booklet. XIX, January, 1920. Reprint of address given at family reunion on September 28, 1829.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.678 acres (see plat for boundaries)

QUADRANGLE NAME Middleburg

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 738300 4031450

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Description prepared by Catherine W. Bishir, Head, Survey and Planning Branch;
Significance prepared by Jim Sumner, Research Branch

ORGANIZATION

DATE

N. C. Division of Archives and History

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

109 East Jones Street

(919) 733-4763

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Raleigh

North Carolina 27611

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

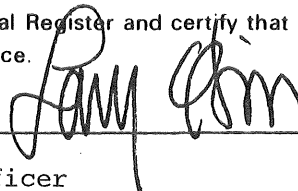
NATIONAL

STATE X

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



TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

January 11, 1979

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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Peace, Samuel Thomas. Zeb's Black Baby. Henderson, N.C., 1955.

United States Census Office. First Census of the United States, 1790, Heads of Households, Warren County, North Carolina. Eighth Census of the United States, 1860, Agricultural Schedule, Warren County, North Carolina. Ninth Census of the United States, 1870, Agricultural Schedule, Warren County, North Carolina. Tenth Census of the United States, 1880, Population Schedule, Warren County, North Carolina. Microfilm copies. Raleigh: N. C. Division of Archives and History.

Vance County Deed Books. Microfilm copy. Raleigh: N. C. Division of Archives and History.

Vance County Will Books. Microfilm copy. Raleigh: N. C. Division of Archives and History.

Warren County Deed Books. Microfilm copy. Raleigh: N. C. Division of Archives and History.

Warren County Tax Lists, 1790, 1792, 1824.

Warren County Will Books. Microfilm copy. Raleigh: N. C. Division of Archives and History.

Watkins, John Bullock. Historic Vance County. Henderson, N.C., 1944.

