Wilmington Novr 7th. 1817

To the Honble the Senate & house of Representatives of the State of N. Carolina

Whereas a Society has been established in this place, by the name of the "Female Benevolent Society of Wilmington N. Carolina" whose object it is "to secure, to poor children & destitute orphans, a moral & religious, as well as a common education; & besides furnishing with such education, to adopt, support, & provide with situations that are useful, & not unfavorable to virtue, such children, as, in the opinion of the Society, stand most in need of their patronage" & whereas they can neither adopt children, nor hold funds or property, in a corporate capacity, untill they are recognised, as such, by law; they beg leave to solicit your Honorable Body for an act of incorporation. And your Petitioners, as bound, will ever pray

Eliza Lord (1st Directress)

Mary L Orme (Secy)