# John Wheeler House

**Location**
- **Street and Number:** 103 East Broad Street
- **City or Town:** Murfreesboro
- **State:** North Carolina

**Classification**
- **Category:** Building
- **Ownership:** Public
- **Public Acquisition:** In Process
- **Status:** Occupied
- **Accessible to the Public:** Yes

**Present Use**
- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment

**Owner of Property**
- Murfreesboro Historical Association, Inc.
  - C/o Mr. E. Frank Stephenson, Jr., Chowan College

**Location of Legal Description**
- Courthouse, Registry of Deeds, etc.
  - Hertford County Courthouse

**Representation in Existing Surveys**
- Title of Survey:
- Date of Survey:
- Depository for Survey Records:
  - State:
  - Code:

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**Instructions**

1. **Name:**
   - John Wheeler House

2. **Location:**
   - Street and Number: 103 East Broad Street
   - City or Town: Murfreesboro
   - State: North Carolina

3. **Classification**
   - Category: Building
   - Ownership: Public
   - Public Acquisition: In Process
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   - Accessible to the Public: Yes

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   - Commercial
   - Educational
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7. **Representation in Existing Surveys**
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   - Date of Survey:
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     - Code:
The Wheeler House is a two-story structure built of brick laid in Flemish bond. The south (front) facade is three bays wide with windows of nine-over-nine sash on the first story and six-over-nine on the second, both trimmed with jack arches. The main feature of the facade is a later two-story pedimented portico supported by four simple square columns and enclosed with scroll saw balustrades. The central entrance is framed by attenuated paneled pilasters, sidelights, and is surmounted by an elliptical fanlight. The house has a single interior chimney at each end. The gable roof has slightly splayed eaves and rests on a simple cornice ornamented with pierced dentils. The north (rear) facade is covered by a two-bay shed porch which connects the house to a separate outbuilding. This dependency is a single-story, two-bay, gable-roofed structure of brick laid in common bond. It has a box cornice and slightly splayed eaves.

The interior of the Wheeler House is a central passage plan with one room on either side. To the left of the hall is a large parlor which has been greatly altered. It retains traces of the original painted wallpaper applied directly to vertical sheathing. The hall is finished with board and batten above and below the chair rail. The right parlor has plaster above the chair rail which is not original. In this room is an enclosed stair which actually opens into the hall.
### Statement of Significance

John Wheeler came to Murfreesboro in 1796 from Hope Plantation in Bertie County, where he was employed by the Stone family. He bought the brick house in the first decade of the nineteenth century soon after its completion. Wheeler became quite prominent in Hertford County. He served as the town postmaster and a trustee of both Murfreesboro and Hertford academies. In 1806, his son, John Hill Wheeler, was born in the house. The younger Wheeler served as superintendent of the United States Mint at Charlotte, and as the first United States minister to Nicaragua, and he wrote a history of his state. After the death of the elder Wheeler and his wife Sarah in 1832 and 1833, the house was transferred to their son, Dr. Samuel Jordan Wheeler who graduated from Union College in New York and later became an authority on the history of the Baptist Church in North Carolina. He also founded the Murfreesboro Citizen newspaper. His son, Samuel, Jr., sold the house in 1872 to Julian G. Moore who quickly resold it to Jesse J. Yeates, a United States Senator from North Carolina. Yeates sold the property within one month to James M. Trader. The Trader family retained the house for over eighty years. In 1969 it was donated to the Murfreesboro Historical Association by Mrs. Virginia Camp Smith for restoration and inclusion in the Murfreesboro Historic District.

Plans are presently underway to restore the Wheeler House as an interesting example of vernacular architecture of the Federal period in North Carolina.
### 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

#### Latitude and Longitude Coordinates

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Corner</th>
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<tr>
<td>SW</td>
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**Approximate Acreage of Nominated Property:** One-half acre.

#### List All States and Counties for Properties Overlapping State or County Boundaries

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<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Code</th>
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### 11. FORM PREPARED BY

**Name and Title:**
John Wells, Survey Specialist; Sherry I. Penney, Survey Assistant

**Organization:**
State Department of Archives and History

**Street and Number:**
109 East Jones Street

**City or Town:**
Raleigh

**State:**
North Carolina

### 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 [ ]
- Local [ ]

**Name:** Dr. H. G. Jones
**Title:** Director, State Department of Archives and History
**Date:** October 5, 1970

### NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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:**

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**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Hertford County Records, Hertford County Courthouse, Winton, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate Papers, Census Reports.)

Hertford County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate Papers, Census Reports.)
