

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Perry-Cherry House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 308 W. Main Street not for publication

city, town Mount Olive vicinity of

state North Carolina code 037 county Wayne code 191

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Marcus C. S. Cherry III

street & number P O Box 4088

city, town Wilmington vicinity of state N. C. 28406

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wayne County Registry of Deeds

street & number Wayne County Courthouse

city, town Goldsboro state N. C.

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

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

The Perry-Cherry House, situated on a tree-lined street in the town of Mount Olive in Wayne County, is a two-story Neo Classical house. The house is set back from the street, and is shaded by a number of mature oak trees. There are also mature foundation plantings which add to the somewhat secluded setting.

Although some of the details and massing of the house suggest a late nineteenth century building date, the house was apparently built or considerably overbuilt, about 1904 in the Neo Classical style during the ownership of Katie D. Lee and Daniel . Perry. Mrs. Perry had inherited the house lot and other property from her parents and brothers.

The house was somewhat altered during the occupancy of Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Geddie (1933-1936). At that time the gable roof was replaced by a nearly pyramidal hip roof; the square-roofed portico was changed to a semi-circular one and the columns, once paired at the corners of the original portico, were moved slightly to accommodate the change in the roof. The one-story wraparound porch was removed from the front facade; the side porch on the west was left but the side porch on the east was enclosed to create a sunroom. Modern plumbing fixtures were added about this time as well. The massing of the house is Colonial Revival, as is the interior detailing, the exterior detailing is a combination of Colonial Revival and Neo Classical Revival, making the house a fine example of early twentieth century taste and style.

The central block of the Perry-Cherry House is three bays wide, and two rooms deep, with varying fenestration arrangements. The facade is dominated by a two-story Classical semi-circular portico which is supported by monumental Ionic columns. The flat roof is surmounted by an iron balustrade which is repeated on the flat-roofed one-story side porch.

A nearly pyramidal hip roof shelters the main block. A hip roof also covers the rear two-story ell, original to the house. Interior end brick chimneys with exposed faces and modestly corbelled caps flank the main block. Sash on the front facade is eight-over-eight; most of the rest of the main block fenestration consists of one-over-one sash. The sash in the sun room and the rear additions is six-over-six.

The entry is a Federally-inspired Colonial Revival frontispiece with dentiled false gable supported by two reeded pilasters. The porch floor is composed of broken quarry tile set randomly in concrete. The entry is reached by two semi-circular steps. Leaded sidelights over blind panels flank the entry. Surmounting this entry is a three-part window composed of a central eight-over-eight section with flanking narrow two-over-two-light sash windows which light the stair hall on the second floor. Opposite this, at the rear of the stairhall is a palladian-inspired three-part bay.

The plan of the house centers on a stairhall with rooms radiating out from it. The front (north) rooms, east to west, consist of a sunroom, a living room, a den and a side porch. In the second tier of rooms on the first floor are a dining room, the large stairhall, and since the 1930s remodeling, a telephone alcove and bathroom behind which is a smaller room. A rear two-story ell at the southeast contains a modern kitchen and hallway which gives access to the dining room. On the southwest a side porch has been enclosed to create a study.

The second floor is somewhat less complicated but centers on the stairhall as well.

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Item number 7

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A U-shaped hall runs on either side of the stairwell, and a small hall at the head of the "U" gives access to the two front rooms. The front rooms from east to west are a formally finished bedroom, the hall, and a large, but less formally finished bedroom. Behind these rooms, again from east to west, are a large bath and dressing room, the stairhall, and a smaller room which also has a bath between it and the front west bedroom. The rear ell contains one bedroom connected to both the hall and the large bath/dressing room on the east.

The front door opens into a formal living room rather than a foyer or hall. There is a Colonial Revival mantel on the east wall which consists of slender reeded columns supporting a frieze of reeded panels flanking a central panel with an urn and sway motif which is repeated in a number of mantels throughout the house. The shelf is narrow and has a dentil band, and the fireopening is faced with black marble. Flanking this fireplace are a pair of round-arched French doors which lead onto the sunporch. This room is lined with windows, four six-over-six sash windows to a wall. The floor is composed of the same kind of broken quarry tile set in concrete as the front porch floor. There is a band of unbroken tiles around the walls which serve as a baseboard. Against the east wall is a fish pond composed of a basin faced with quarry tile resting on the floor. A lion's head, set in the wall, served as a fountain.

To the right of the entry is a den paneled with dark knotty pine. Against the west wall is a fireplace with plain mantel. A door beside the fireplace leads out onto the porch and another in the south wall leads to a bath which was added during the 1930s remodeling. This room is one of the most striking features of the house. The long room, nearly as long as the stairhall is deep, is lined with black arrera glass tile to a height of about five feet on the interior walls. A silver band circles the top of this tile. The west wall projects slightly to accommodate a set-in sink and cabinets. The east wall is a series of three areas: to the south is a commode circled on three sides by black carrera glass-tiled wall; the central section contains a tub, also surrounded on three sides by tiled walls, the north end is a built-in shower stall with glass door. The ensemble presents a very elegant, formal, somewhat stylized appearance.

To the south of this bath is another smaller room with plain plaster finish and a small Colonial Revival style mantel which projects slightly into the room. It is composed of square columns which support a bracketed mantel shelf. The same urn and swag motif found in the living room is in the central panel of the frieze. The fireopening is composed of glazed brick.

Opposite this room on the east is the dining room which is reached through an arched doorway off the living room. This room is also simply finished with plaster walls and simple baseboards. To the south is a door and hallway which lead to the kitchen which is in the rear ell. This hallway has a three-part projecting bay, original to the house, on the east wall which creates a sunny alcove off the kitchen. The kitchen is completely modernized.

The stairhall is between the two rear rooms. The stair rises along the east wall, front to back, and turns at right angles at a small landing, lit by a palladian-inspired window in the rear wall, and then turns again to the north, creating a U-shaped stair. The railing is brass, as is the balustrade of square-in-section balusters. There is a plain

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wainscot with molding along the stair wall. Under the landing, on the first floor, is an arched opening giving onto the rear additions and a transverse hall which connects them. The rear entrance of the house is in this hall, and consists of a door with one large pane of glass over two vertical panels set between two four-light sidelights. Flanking the small back porch is the two-story ell and a small study created by enclosing a porch. The sash in this room is six-over-six, and the finish is mid-twentieth century.

The stairhall on the second floor creates a U-shape with a hallway on either side of the stairwell. Closets and an attic stair open off the eastern wall of the eastern landing. At the crosspiece of the U, at the north, is a small hall which gives access to the two front rooms. It is lit by the three-piece facade bay.

On the east side are two rooms separated by a small bath. The front room is larger, but simply finished. The fireplace on the west wall has a post and lintel mantel, the posts are square with molding "capitals" and "bases". Flanking this fireplace are two one-over-one sash bays. The front facade bay is eight-over-eight sash. The rear room is simply finished with plaster and baseboards. Sash is one-over-one.

To the south off the end of the stair landing is a bedroom in the rear ell. This rear room has the proportions and finish of the Greek Revival style as it is expressed in North Carolina. The window and door surrounds are heavily molded, and have bulls-eye corner blocks. A pair of closets project into the room on the south wall flanking a single bay there. A door in the northeast corner leads through a shelved closet to a large bath with ca. 1930s fixtures. A dressing room separates the bath from the master bedroom.

This front bedroom is the most formally finished in the house. It also has Greek Revival inspired finish. The door and window surrounds are heavily molded and have bulls-eye corner blocks. The fireplace mantel is Colonial Revival, however, and features the same urn and swag motif found in the mantels in other formal areas of the house. As in the room opposite, the fireplace is flanked by two one-over-one sash windows, and the front facade bay is composed of eight-over-eight sash.

The Perry-Cherry House presents the appearance of a solid, stylish dwelling which has undergone some alterations, principally in the early 1930s, to make it more habitable by modern standards, without compromising the finish of the exterior or interior to too great a degree. The overall appearance is that of an early 1930s Colonial Revival-Neo Classical Revival house. Plans for the house, which has stood vacant since 1984, are not decided at this time, but the property is being maintained and some thought is being given to the future of the house, either as an endowment to Mount Olive College, or as a private property to be sold with restrictive covenants. The owner is concerned that the house be protected from unsympathetic alterations. The house stands as a testament to the values and taste of early twentieth century residents of Mount Olive.

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 type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates Ca. 1904, ca. 1933 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Perry-Cherry House is a handsome ca. 1904 Neo Classical/Colonial Revival style house remodeled somewhat in the same styles about 1933, creating a fine blend of the earlier and later expressions of these popular modes. The Perry-Cherry House is located in the 300 block of West Main Street in a fine, well-kept early twentieth century neighborhood of dwellings similar in size, scale, and style. The Perry family built the house about 1904. L. G. and Bessie Welling Geddie purchased the house and lived there from 1933 to 1937. Geddie was one of the original investors in the Mount Olive Pickle Company in 1926. The company is one of the largest employers in the county, and contributes to the overall economy of the county through the purchase of cucumbers, one of the largest crops in the area. Walter Cherry and his family rented the house briefly about 1930, and later, in 1937, purchased the house from the Geddies. The house has remained in the Cherry family since 1937. Walter Cherry's father, Marcus Cicero Stephen Cherry, moved from Pitt County to Mount Olive and founded an insurance company, M. C. S. Cherry, in 1892. M. C. S. Cherry and Son is the oldest firm in continuous operation in the town of Mount Olive. The Perry-Cherry House was occupied until December 1984, and has been maintained. It remains a fine example of early twentieth century taste and style.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT:

- A. Associated with the development of Mount Olive in the early twentieth century from a small community to a prosperous manufacturing and educational center. The town is the home of the Mount Olive Pickle Company, a large employer and purchaser of agricultural products in the county, and the home of Mount Olive College, a private college.
- B. Associated with L. G. and Bessie Welling Geddie, original investors in the Mount Olive Pickle Company, one of the largest economic forces in the county today. The house is also associated with three generations of the Cherry family which settled in Mount Olive in the late 1800s. M. C. S. Cherry II founded an insurance company in the town in 1892, which is the oldest continuously operated firm in the town. M. C. S. Cherry III is the present owner of the house and has been actively involved in the development and support of Mount Olive College through charitable foundations.
- C. The Perry-Cherry House is a blend of early and late Neo Classical and Colonial Revival styling. The original ca. 1904 house was a blend of these elements in their earlier expressions. About 1933 the house was remodeled somewhat to provide a more up-to-date interpretation of the still-popular Neo Classical and Colonial Revival modes. Modern conveniences were added at this time, the porch was altered and the roof line was changed to create a more formal appearance which was the prevailing expression of these two popular styles. The house remains today as it was at the time of these renovations.

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The crossroads community which became the town of Mount Olive grew around the merchantile business of William F. Pollock, of Canada, and Benjamin Oliver. Pollock moved to the area in 1840, and he and Oliver established their business in 1845. By 1950 the railroad established a depot at the crossroads and a post office was opened there in 1854. By 1861 the town was firmly established with a number of stores, distilleries and other businesses, as well as the seat of a depot which attracted local farmers to the town to trade.¹

The community was incorporated as Mount Olive in 1870 and Benjamin named the town for the Biblical Mount of Olives.² The town continued to grow and to attract new businesses. The town suffered a depression in 1894, as did most of the state, but by 1900 was experiencing a resurgence of business.³

The property on which the Perry-Cherry House was built was owned by R. J. and Annie W. Southerland who deeded a portion⁴ of the property to the Presbyterian Church and another portion to T. R. Lee in 1892. Two years later the house lot was deeded by Lee to his son, Robert E. Lee. There were six Lee children: three sons died between 1899 and 1904. In addition, lots were traded among and inherited by brothers and sisters during the period. By 1904 Katie D. Lee and her husband, M. D. Perry, who had married in 1893, owned the property and built a house there soon after.

After Mrs. Perry's death in 1918 the house passed to the Perry's daughter, Katie Perry and her husband Grainger Martin. The Martins had built a brick residence next door to the Perry's house, and continued to live there while renting the older house to a series of tenants, including Walter Cherry. In 1923 Mr. and Mrs. Martin traded the lot and house to Mrs. Martin's brother, Robert E. Perry. The house continued to be occupied by tenants for the next ten years.

Bessie Welling Geddie, wife of L. G. Geddie, bought the house from Robert E. Perry in 1933 and during the occupancy of the Geddies, 1933 to 1937, the house underwent renovations which resulted in its present appearance.⁸ Geddie was one of the original investors in the Mount Olive Pickle Company which was organized in 1926.⁹ The company grew over the years, becoming one of the largest employers in the county. The company purchased cucumers from area farmers, addint to the agricultural economic base as well.

The Perry family home was altered somewhat by the Geddies. The house was originally an early Neo Classical/Colonial Revival dwelling with a gable roof and a one-story wrap-around porch with a monumental classical portico with a square roofline over the entrance. The renovations included the addition of a hip roof, adding more attic space, the removal of the front section of the wrap-around porch and the enclosure of the left side porch as a sun room. The right side section was left as a porch. A number of changes were made to the interior, including the addition of bathrooms on the first and second floor. Some trim was apparently changed as well. A pair of arched doors composed of panes of glass, similar to single "french doors" were added to give access to the sun room. The house by late 1936 had the appearance of both an early and a later Neo Classical/Colonial Revival dwelling, which it retains today. The house is one of the best examples of the two styles in the town of Mount Olive.

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In 1937 the Geddies sold the house to Walter T. Cherry, son of Marcus C. S. Cherry (1872 - 1935), originally from near Bethel, Pitt County, North Carolina. ¹⁰ Marcus C. S. Cherry had moved to Mount Olive and established an insurance company in 1892. In 1929 he took his son Walter into partnership, becoming M. C. S. Cherry and Son. The company is still in business today, the oldest continuously operating business in the town. The house passed to Cherry's son, M. C. S. Cherry III, in 1972 and remains in his ownership today. ¹¹

In addition to the insurance business, M. C. S. Cherry III has close ties to Mount Olive College, a liberal arts college located in the town. He has developed a charitable giving program for the college in 1965 which continues to raise funds for the college.

The Perry-Cherry house is presently vacant, but excellently maintained. Its future is secure. The house remains one of the best preserved examples of both the early and late Neo Classical Revival style and the Colonial Revival style in the town of Mount Olive.

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FOOTNOTES:

¹The Heritage of Wayne County. Wayne County Historical Society and Old Dobbs County Genealogical Society. Winston-Salem: Hunter Publishing Company, 1982, p. 13; hereinafter cited as Heritage of Wayne County.

²Powell, William S., ed. North Carolina Gazateer, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1968, p. 339.

³Heritage of Wayne County, p. 7.

⁴Wayne County Deed Book 68, p. 46.

⁵Wayne County Deed Book 66, p. 488.

⁶Wayne County Will Book 3, p. 340; Wayne County Orders and Degrees, Book 3, p. 647-79.

⁷Wayne County Deed Book 165, p. 54, 53.

⁸Wayne County Deed Book 300, p. 162.

⁹Heritage of Wayne County, p. 110.

¹⁰Wayne County Deed Book 244, p. 444.

¹¹Heritage of Wayne County, p. 188.

¹²Wayne County Deed Book 636, p. 413; Deed Book 411, p. 123; Deed Book 810, p. 350.

9. Major Bibliographical References

The Heritage of Wayne County, Wayne County Historical Association and Old Dobbs County Genealogical Society, Winston-Salem: Hunter Publishing Company, 1982.

Wayne County Deed Books

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one

Quadrangle name Mount Olive

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References

A

1	7	7	6	6	7	8	0	3	8	9	8	6	7	1	0
Zone			Easting				Northing								

B

Zone			Easting				Northing								

C

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D

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E

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F

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The property being nominated consists of a city lot at 308 W. Main St., Mount Olive, N. C. A sketch map of the property is enclosed with boundaries in red. The deed is recorded in the Wayne County Registry of Deeds, Deed Book 878, p. 719.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
-------	-----	------	--------	-----	------

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title E. Virginia Oswald

organization Survey and Planning Branch date January 9, 1986

street & number 109 E. Jones Street telephone (919) 733-6545

city or town Raleigh state N. C. 27611

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 William S. King

title State Historic Preservation Officer date January 9, 1986

For NPS use only

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

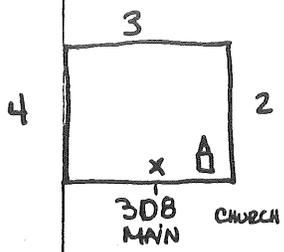
date

Keeper of the National Register

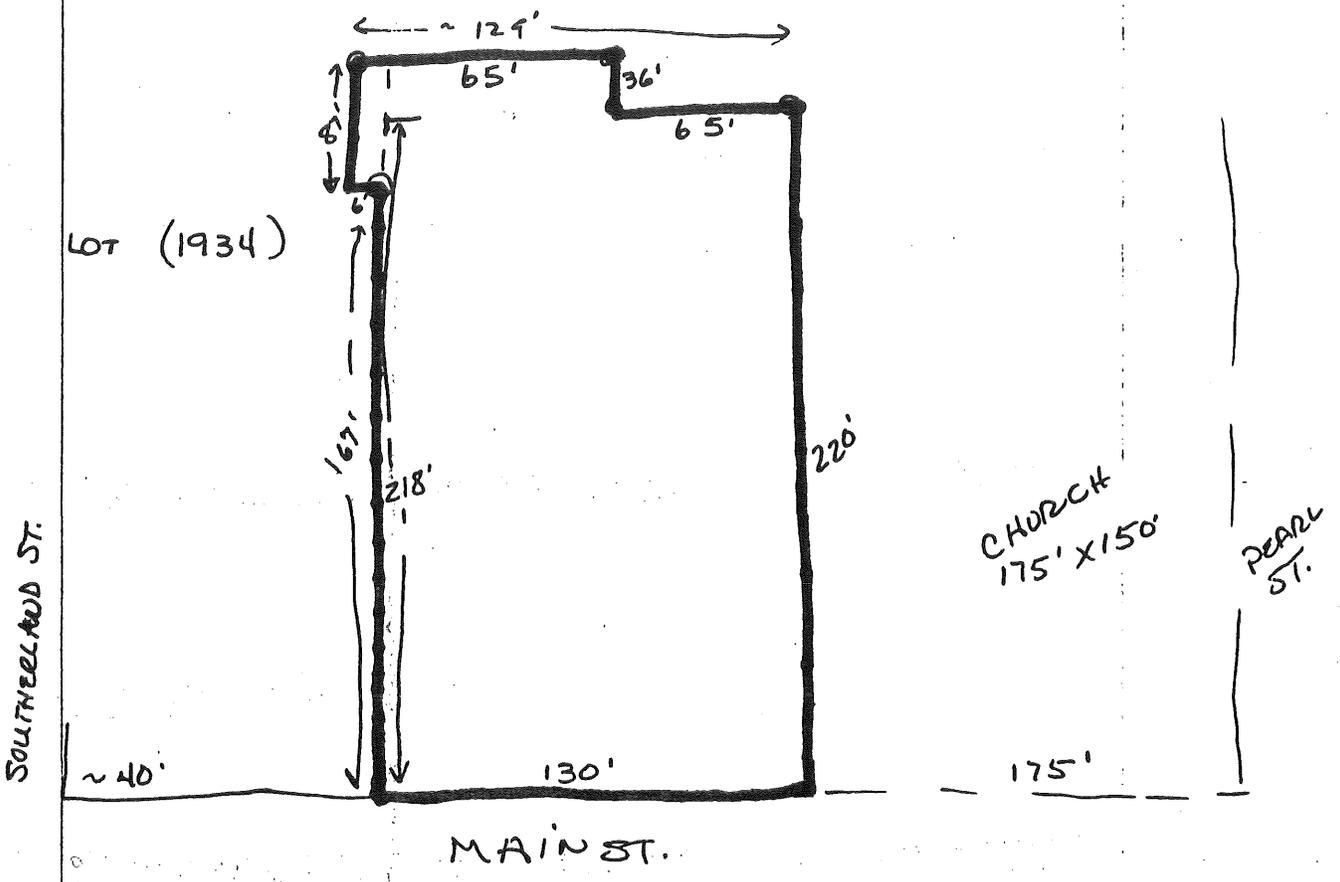
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



- 1 MAIN ST.
- 2 PEARL ST. (OR BENNETT) BREAZEALE
- 3 JAMES ST.
- 4 (SOUTHERLAND)



308 W. Main St.
Mt. Olive, N.C.

Perry-Cherry House
Mount Olive, N. C., Quadrangle
Zone 17 Scale 1:24 000

17 766730/3898670

