

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina
COUNTY: Cleveland
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
**Banker's House**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**319 North Lafayette Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Shelby**

STATE:  
**North Carolina**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
**Tenth**

CODE: **37**

COUNTY:  
**The Hon. James Broyhill**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Cleveland**

CODE: **045**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Mr. and Mrs. George Blanton, Jr.**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**319 North Lafayette Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Shelby**

STATE:  
**North Carolina**

CODE:  
**37**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Cleveland County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Shelby**

STATE:  
**North Carolina**

CODE:  
**37**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

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COUNTY: Cleveland

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Banker's House is one of the major Second Empire style houses in North Carolina. Viewed from the street, the first floor of the two-and-one-half-story, stuccoed brick house is virtually obscured by the luxuriant growth of shrubs and trees. The front walk, once lined with English box, is now covered by them. The surprisingly irregular composition of the Banker's House can best be explained by its floor plan rather relying completely on external description. First glance at the main facade gives the mistaken impression of a symmetrically balanced house. This illusion is heightened by the use of porches, bays and proportions. The house is basically a "T" shaped building placed on a corner lot with the crosspiece of the "T" parallel to the secondary street (north) and its stem forming the main facade, facing east. The "T" plan is camouflaged by a square, three-and-one-half-story tower tucked into the angle of the "T" on the east side, with the remainder of the main facade filled by a one-story porch. The tower extends somewhat beyond the arm of the "T" and this is balanced by a bay window at its north end. The tower contains the entrance to the hall that runs through the top of the "T" stem, leaving one large room to the left (south) and two slightly smaller rooms to the right which comprise the crosspiece of the "T." To complete the outline of the house, there is a one-story porch along the south side of a one-story rear wing which houses the dining room and butler's pantry (now used as a kitchen).

The front entrance (at the base of the tower) is an arched, double door. It has three vertical panels in each leaf, the top two having delicately frosted glass. The door has heavy, wide moldings, and the panels are repeated in the door reveal. This door is protected by a small, flat-roof porch supported by chamfered, square pillars with molded neckings, each with an applied flower midway the height of the pillar. These are joined by a heavy balustrade with bulbous, turned balusters on the north and south sides. The molded porch cornice has short, wide dentils and is supported by elaborate brackets each of which terminates with an inverted fleur-de-lis descending from a scroll base. Between the brackets is a richly molded and paneled frieze which is punctuated at the mid points between the brackets by large, multi-faceted floral bosses. With some slight variations, this is the cornice treatment used throughout the house. The tower has a secondary entrance in its south face, a single door similar to the front double door. The porch it serves is treated in a manner similar to the front entrance porch. There are two large bay windows on the house: one, previously mentioned, is at the eastern terminus of the top of the "T" and the other facing south from the base of the "T." Both have tall, slender, segmental-arched, triple windows in their sides; both bay windows are ornamented in the same fashion as the porches. Each exterior wall of the house and tower has been treated as a recessed panel with concave corners and the windows have been placed within these panels (except for the east wall of the tower where the corners are convexed), generally in pairs. The windows have a wide masonry surround, hood-like at the top, narrowing along the sides and spreading abruptly with a molded stage to its full width once again to extend just below a heavy masonry sill. The windows, for the most part, are segmental-arched and have two-over-two sash. The east face of the tower is the chief deviant from this norm by having paired, round-arched windows at the second and third levels. The third level of the tower has a small balcony supported

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian;	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) ca. 1875

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	losophy	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	itarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Banker's House, a landmark of downtown Shelby, is among the state's finest examples of the Second Empire style, one of a small group distinguished by a central tower. The large, well-preserved house of stuccoed brick is notable for its handsome proportions, deceptively asymmetrical plan, and consistent use of rich ornament. Similarities to the Heck-Andrews House in Raleigh and the Cabarrus County Courthouse suggest that the Banker's House may be the work of architect G. S. H. Appalet. Since its construction in 1874-1875, the house has consistently been owned by prominent members of Shelby's banking profession.

The Banker's House was built for Jesse Jenkins on land he acquired from T. M. Dickson for \$175. Jenkins was the first owner of the house and founder of the town's first bank; thereafter, the history of the house he built and that of the banking business in Shelby have been continuously linked.

The designer of the house may have been G. S. H. Appalet, a native of New Jersey. Appalet first came to North Carolina in 1869, and settled in Charlotte in 1875. Here he boasted that he had designed "all of the best buildings, with only a few exceptions, in Raleigh, Goldsboro and Greensboro, and almost all over the State. . . ." No documentation has been found, and unfortunately the papers connected with the construction of the house have been destroyed. Appalet's work in western North Carolina, and more importantly, the similarities which exist between the Banker's House and Appalet's two other known designs in North Carolina--the Heck-Andrews House in Raleigh and the Cabarrus County Courthouse in Concord--seem to indicate that he was the designer of the Shelby mansion.

Jesse Jenkins was born in North Carolina in January, 1832. He was married to Harriett Brown on April 4, 1855, and became the father of one daughter. He served in 1861 as a lieutenant (and later as a major) in the "Cleveland Guards," and was appointed Clerk of the Cleveland County Superior Court about December, 1862. He served in this position continuously until 1875. In addition, he served as one of Shelby's town commissioners from about 1869 until at least as late as 1872, and as a state senator from 1874 to 1876. More important, Jenkins was a pioneering banker in the southwestern section of the state. Newspaper advertisements for "J. Jenkins & Co., BANKERS & BROKERS," appeared as early as December, 1872, and at least as late as March, 1876.

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8.

by consoles similar to the cornice brackets and a balustrade similar to the other porches. At the four corners of this balcony are unusual finials, with several turned stages concluding in a bulbous point.

The mansard roof of the main block is covered by rounded slate of various colors arranged in floral patterns. This mansard roof features gabled dormers containing paired windows of one-over-one sash with concave corners only at their tops. The outer edge of the dormer has a fanciful molding profile at the top and bottom and a Greek cross having rounded edges adorns the top corners. A large, incised, fleur-de-lis almost fills the gable of the dormer to complete the ornamentation. On the main facade, dormers flank the tower; in addition there is one dormer on the south side, two on the north side and three on the rear. The tower itself has a low, pedimented gable on all four sides, from which rises a tall, inwardly sloping mansard roof which terminates in a flat roof. There is a large, tall dormer in each face of the mansard roof of the tower. Each has a segmental-arched window with two-over-two sash protected by a gable roof similar to the other dormers. Just below the gable ridge, in the dormer face, is an incised pommée. The face of the dormer concludes on either side with a scroll-like base. Two elaborately molded chimney caps pierce the flat upper roof of the main block, flanking the tower.

Though spacious, the interior is relatively simple when compared to the exterior. Rising along the north wall of the hall, a cantilevered stair ascends in one long run which is nearly the length of the long hall. The stair has paired, turned balusters, resting on treads ornamented with vine-and-bud brackets, and supporting a heavy molded handrail which originates at a large, turned newel. The stair continues in another long single run to the third floor. The interior architraves are wide, molded ones, as is the base-board. Large four-panel doors have very heavy moldings as do the panels of the door reveals. Interior blinds remain at many of the windows. The large, left room is the main parlor and has a standard late nineteenth century, dark marble mantel with arched opening, paneled spandrels, and a central cartouche. Other typical Victorian mantels occur as well. There is also a heavy, molded cornice in several rooms. During a renovation which took place in 1910, there were some minor alterations, such as replacement of the right (north) front room mantel and addition of bathrooms.

Several outbuildings remain to the rear of the house. A wellhouse is directly to the rear, and a one-story brick building which could have been a combination of servants quarters and kitchen is to the south of the well. A bit further back and to the north is a large, two-story, cross-gable frame stable with clipped gables. It is a replacement of one which burned in the first quarter of the twentieth century. It is finished in keeping with its close proximity to the house.

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In the meantime, a rival bank was being established in Shelby. In February, 1875, the General Assembly incorporated the "Cleaveland Savings Bank" under the direction of H. D. Lee, S. J. Green, B. Blanton and others. Thereafter, Jenkins apparently became involved in financial problems: in July, 1879, the sheriff of Cleveland County sold Jenkins's house at public auction to satisfy various writs of execution against him arising from a lawsuit brought against him in the superior court. High bidder on the property was T. D. Lattimore, who later transferred his successful bid to H. D. Lee's wife Sarah. Jenkins is believed to have then moved to Meridian, Texas, where he died on December 4, 1889.

H. DeKalb Lee was born in North Carolina about 1830. He served as a captain (and later as a major) in the Sixteenth Regiment North Carolina Troops during the Civil War, and was severely wounded during the battle of Fredricksburg. After the war he practiced law and became the owner of at least twenty-five lots in the business district of Shelby. Lee, together with Burwell Blanton and S. J. Green (two of the original incorporators of the Cleaveland Savings Bank), bought out the holdings of their three former associates and joined in the new banking partnership of "H. D. Lee and Company" sometime between 1878 and 1880. This banking firm flourished for nearly a decade. A sketch of Shelby written in 1889 boasted that the Lee concern was "as safe as any bank in the State" and noted that it had been "a great convenience to Shelby and the surrounding country." Lee moved to Knoxville, Tennessee, in early 1888 and evidently rented his residence to one J. S. Martin. In 1894 Burwell Blanton's wife Pattie purchased the house from Mrs. Lee for \$3,500. The following year the banking enterprise bearing Lee's name was purchased outright by Burwell Blanton and his sons Charles and George, who changed the firm's name to "B. Blanton & Company."

Burwell Blanton was born in North Carolina on January 7, 1834. He was married to Frances Doggett in August, 1855, and became the father of five children. He was a merchant, a farmer, and the proprietor of a grist mill before becoming a banker. Blanton and his sons continued to operate the bank under the name "B. Blanton & Company" until June, 1903, when they obtained a federal charter and changed the firm's name to the "First National Bank." In October, 1907, Burwell and Pattie Blanton sold their residence to their eldest son Charles for \$6,000 and on May 18, 1908, Burwell Blanton died at the age of seventy-six.

Charles Coleman Blanton was born about 1858 and became a hardware and dry goods merchant at an early age. He is said to have spent eleven years as a banker in Meridian, Texas, and to have returned to Shelby about 1895 to join his father in the B. Blanton banking firm. He later became a prominent Shelby business leader during the early years of the twentieth century. He remained an active business and civic leader in Shelby for over forty years.

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COUNTY	Cleveland	
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ENTRY NUMBER		DATE

(Number all entries)

9.

A Brief Sketch of Shelby, A Thriving Town in the Piedmont Section of North Carolina. Shelby: C. P. Roberts, 1889.

Charlotte Observer. Obituary, November 25, 1944.

Clark, Walter, ed. Histories of the Several Regiments and Battalions from North Carolina in the Great War, 1861-65. Raleigh and Goldsboro: State of North Carolina, 5 volumes, 1901, IV.

Cleveland Banner (Shelby). Advertisement, December 14, 1872; "SALE OF VALUABLE TOWN LOTS!!" April 25, 1874.

Cleveland County Records, Cleveland County Courthouse, Shelby, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds).

Cleveland County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Miscellaneous Papers).

Connor, R. D. W., comp. and ed. A Manual of North Carolina, 1913. Raleigh: North Carolina Historical Commission Division of Archives and History, 1913.

Daily Charlotte Observer. Advertisement, May 26, 1875.

Mountain Eagle (Shelby), June 19, 1861.

Private Laws of North Carolina, 1874-1875. c. LXIII, s. 1-13.

Ramey, S. Arnold, comp. Cleveland County, North Carolina, Marriages: 1851-1868.  
n.p.: By the Author, 1971.

Shelby Aurora. Notice, May 22, 1875; "Sketch of Shelby," December 14, 1906.

Shelby Banner. Advertisements, April 8, 1875; March 25, 1876; Notice, April 8, 1875.

Topkins, Robert M. Telephone conversation with Mr. George H. Blanton, Jr., October 2, 1974.

United States Census Office. Ninth Census of the United States, 1870; Tenth Census of the United States, 1880: Cleveland County, North Carolina, Population Schedules.

United States Works Projects Administration. Pre-1914 Graves Index, State Archives.

Weathers, Lee B. The Living Past of Cleveland County: A History. Shelby: Star Publishing Co., 1956.

Research by Robert Topkins, survey specialist; architectural description by Catherine W. Cockshutt, survey supervisor

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Branson, L., ed. Branson's North Carolina Business Directory For 1884. Sixth Edition; Raleigh: Levi Branson, 1884.

    . The North Carolina Business Directory. Raleigh: J. A. Jones, 1872.

    . The North Carolina Business Directory, 1877 and 1878. Fifth Edition; Raleigh: L. Branson, 1878.

Branson's North Carolina Business Directory, For 1867-8. Raleigh: Branson & Jones, n.d.

Branson's North Carolina Business Directory, For 1869. Raleigh: J. A. Jones, n.d.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		
NW	° ' "	° ' "	35° 17' 42"	81° 32' 24"		
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Survey and Planning Unit

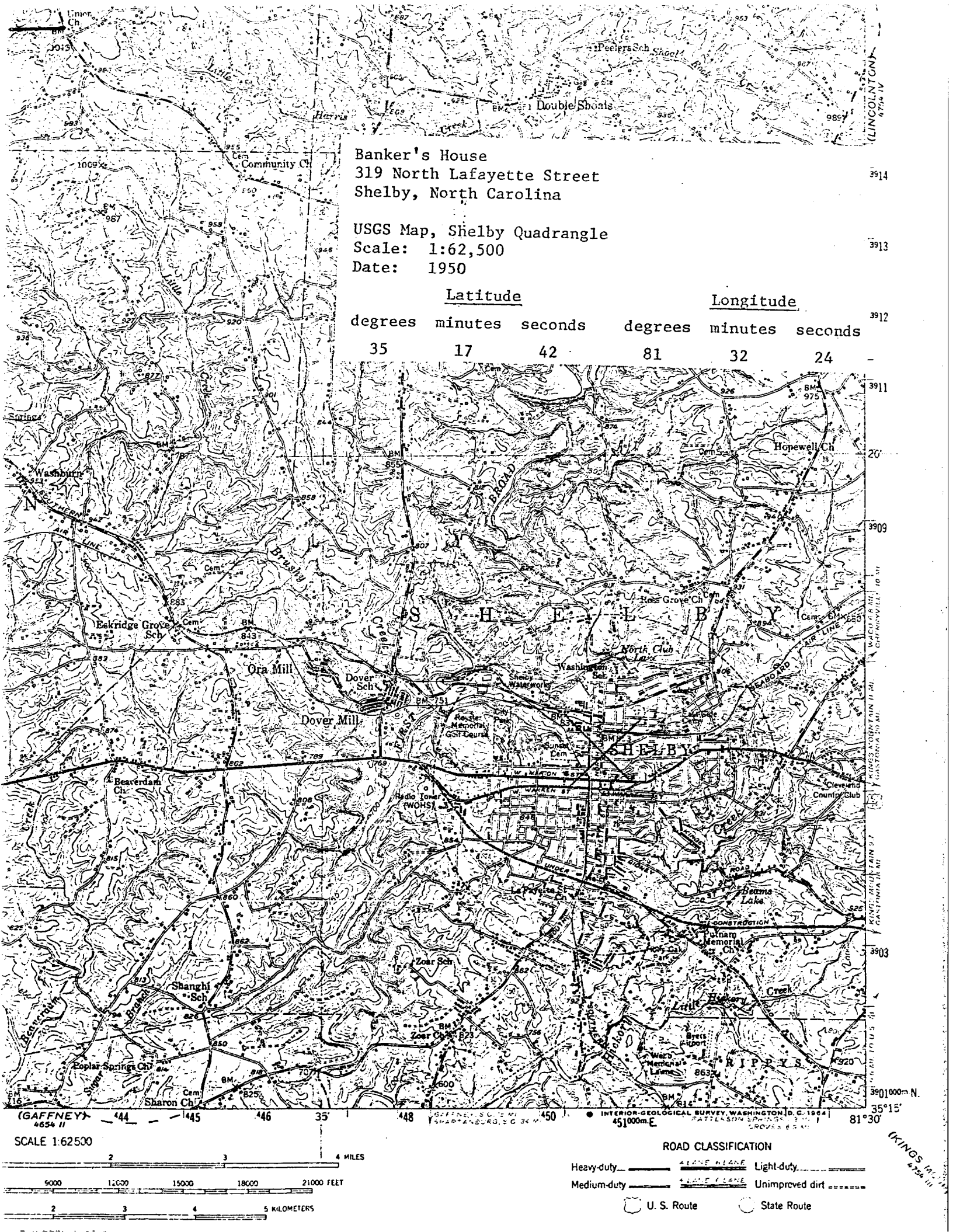
ORGANIZATION: Division of Archives and History DATE: 10 January 1975

STREET AND NUMBER: 109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION	NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION
<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Robert E. Stipe</u></p> <p>Title <u>State Historic Preservation Officer</u></p> <p>Date <u>10 January 1975</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date _____</p>

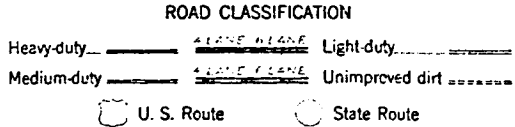
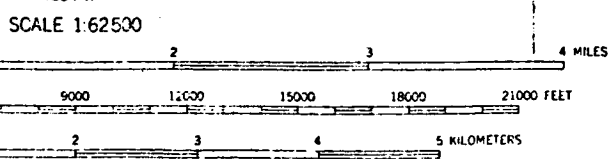
SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Banker's House  
 319 North Lafayette Street  
 Shelby, North Carolina

USGS Map, Shelby Quadrangle  
 Scale: 1:62,500  
 Date: 1950

Latitude			Longitude		
degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
35	17	42	81	32	24



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# Home Nominated To Historic List

By JOE DePRIEST  
Star Staff Writer

The George Blanton Jr., residence on North LaFayette Street — a Shelby landmark for 100 years — has been nominated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places by Robert E. Stipe, state preservation officer, N. C. Division of Archives and History.

The national register is a list of distinctive properties

"worthy of preservation because of their historical or other cultural value."

Known as the Banker's House because its original builder and subsequent owners were all associated with banking in Shelby, the house has been described as one of the state's "finest examples of the Second Empire style."

Inclusion in the national register, according to Blanton, essentially protects the structure under eminent domain operations or future alterations. Approval of the nomination by the Department of Interior usually takes about six months and will be announced through the state's congressional delegation. The nomination was in connection with the Division of Archives and History's "long-range program to identify and document the authenticity of historic properties in North Carolina."

Blanton and his wife have lived in the house since 1937 and it has been in the Blanton family since 1894 when it was purchased by Pattie Blanton, wife of Burwell Blanton.

Blanton said today the nomination was "very flattering. It is a very interesting house; we are always having people stop by."

State Archives and History officials describe the house as "one of a small group of Second Empire-style houses that features a central mansard-roof tower." Second Empire refers to the period 1860 to 1880 — the reign of Napoleon III — during which the French architect Mansart (spelled mansard in this country when used as an architectural description) developed his distinctive style.

The house was built in 1874-1875 for Jesse Jenkins, founder of Shelby's first bank, forerunner of the First National. Born in 1832, Jenkins was a Confederate officer with the "Cleveland Guards," was later a town commissioner and state senator. He died in Meridian, Tex. in 1889 and is buried in Sunset Cemetery. "He had the tallest house in town and the tallest stone in the cemetery," commented Blanton.

"Similarities with the Heck-Andrews House in Raleigh and the Cabarrus County courthouse suggest the architect may have been G. S. Appleget," according to Archives and History researchers.

"But no documentary proof of this has been found." Jenkins' house was sold at auction in 1879. It was next owned by Sarah Lee, wife of another Shelby banker, H. D. Lee. The late Charles Blanton and George Blanton Sr., also lived in the house.

Built of stuccoed brick and "richly ornamented," the house has two and one-half stories and 13 rooms.

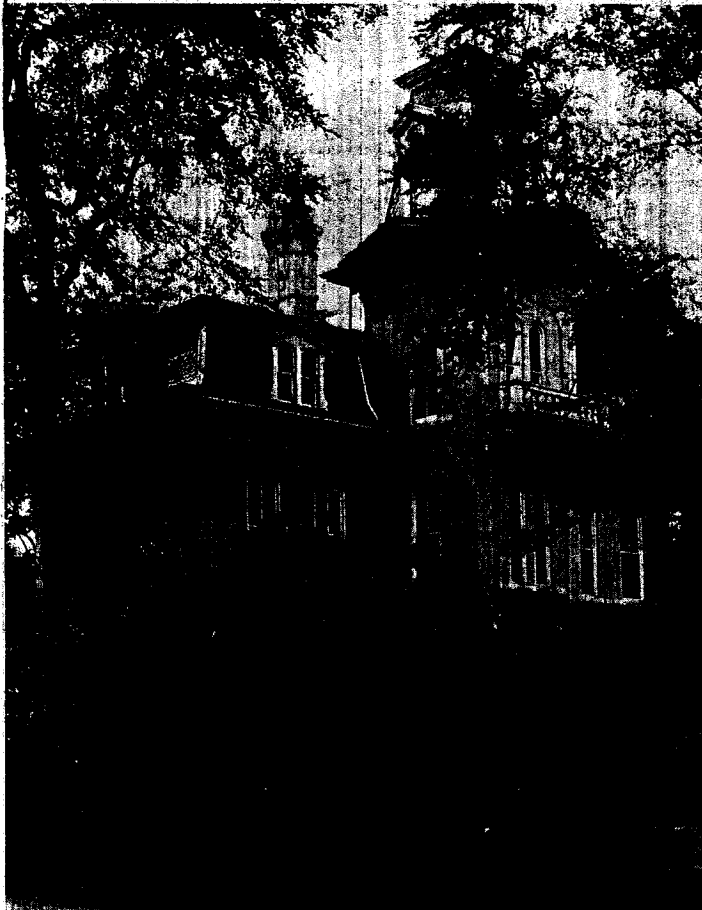
Mrs. Blanton recalled that several years ago a young man with the Southern Antiques and Interiors publication from High Point stopped by in connection with his research on Second Empire houses in the state. They were, he said, with the exception of five — the Blanton home included — apparently "doomed to extinction." He did an article on the Blanton house and this apparently brought about the state's interest in preserving the structure, she said.

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Cleveland

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SHELBY LANDMARK — The Banker's House on North LaFayette Street — owned by George Blanton Jr. — has been nominated by the state for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. It was built in 1874-75 for Jesse Jenkins, founder of Shelby's first bank and is one of the few remaining houses in the state with this particular style architecture.

country after the Civil War. Marcus Wifin's description of buildings of the style as "tall, boldly molded, and emphatically three-dimensional in effect" is particularly apt. As well as embodying the hallmarks of this style, the Heck-Andrews House, with its dramatic tower, has a memorable individualism all its own. Along with its neighbors to the north and east, the Andrews-Duncan and Hawkins-Hartness houses, it is a significant and imposing embodiment of the exuberance and variety of the best of Victorian architecture.

Its most striking features are its high mansard roof, repetitive detail, and fanciful tower with a dramatic four-sided convex mansard roof.

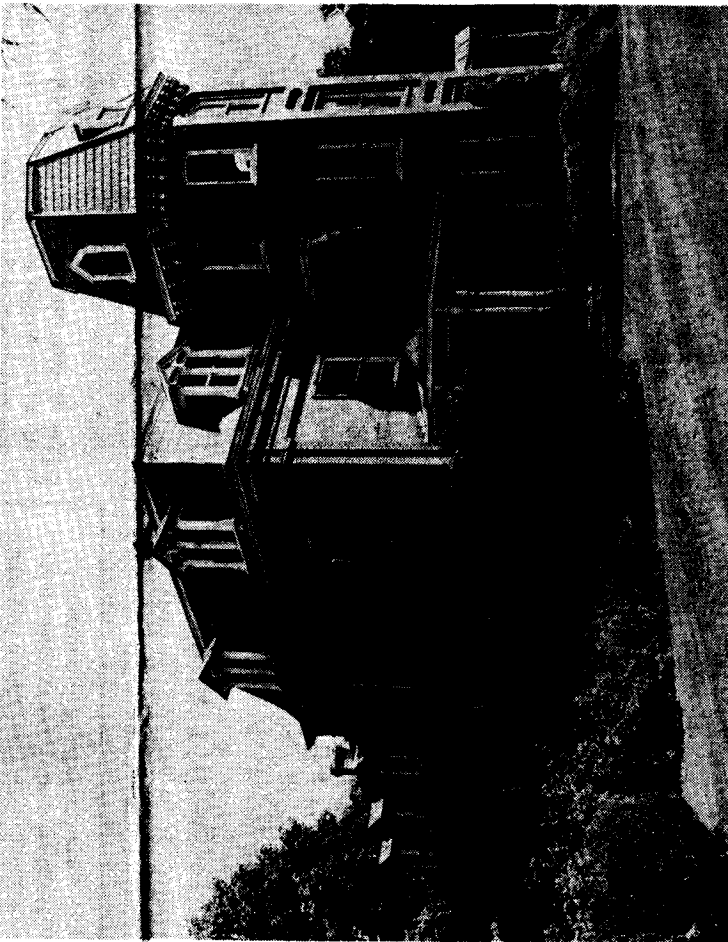
Piercing the mansard roof of the main block on either side of the tower is a pair of segmental-arched dormer windows under one large pediment. The windows are divided and flanked by heavy buttress-like projections.

At present there are only three chimneys standing. Two, with blind arcing around the stacks, are interior chimneys rising on either side above the juncture of the wing and the main block. The third, an interior end chimney, rises at the rear of the wing between the two dormer windows. An early picture of the house indicates at least two more chimneys in the main block, placed to heat the two front rooms.

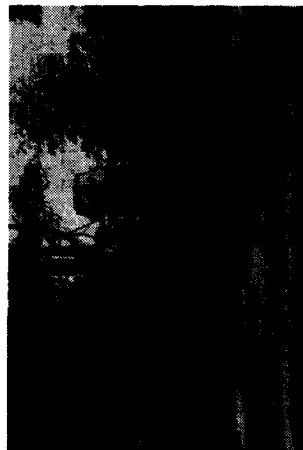
The house remains a private residence, but since access to the inside is currently impossible, any description of its interior must rest on external evidence.

## Bankers House

The Bankers House in Shelby was built on a lot extending the depth of one block on North Lafayette Street in 1874-1875 by Major Jesse Jenkins at a cost of \$7,500.00. This cost included the lot, three outbuildings, and the original barn, in addition to the main house. The house was built of brick with smooth floated cement stucco. All interior partitions are of solid brick measuring thirteen inches.



Tate Home, Morganton, N. C.—c.1841-42, c.1875



A fireplace is located in each room on the first and second floors, and in all the rooms of these floors the windows have walnut blinds. A curving walnut balustrade rises on the stairs from the first to the third floor.

The only decoration missing from the exterior is a wooden tiara that once surmounted the crest of the tower, and fleurs-de-lis design sawnwork that reportedly surmounted each dormer window. Both Italianate and French Second

Manassas, Sharpsburg, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, Cedar Creek, and Petersburg. Being wounded the third time he was sent home to Morganton and before he had fully recovered, was helping check the advancement of Stoneman's raiders as they moved eastward from the mountains to the Catawba River. (A group of Stoneman's men burned the records at the Court House in Morganton thereby destroying information that would be valuable even in the preparation of an account of the Tate home.)

Following the War, Colonel Tate was again employed, as president, by the Western North Carolina Railroad. It was then bankrupt. In 1868, he was replaced by the appointee of Provisional Governor Holden.

In the Legislature, where Colonel Tate was sent in 1874, he instituted the lease and working of the State's convict labor force upon her works of internal improvements. The Western Road was a chief beneficiary, as was the construction of the railroad through Saluda Gap, as will be mentioned in the Flat Rock story.

Colonel Tate carried to completion the legislation which founded the Hospital for the Insane at Morganton, now Broughton Hospital. In 1886, Colonel Tate became examiner of National Banks in the district stretching from West Virginia to and inclusive of Florida.

In 1866, Colonel Tate married Miss Jennie Pearson of Morganton and they moved into the home that he had bought in 1855. Records note that Colonel Tate completed the interior of his home in 1868. The construction of additions to what had been the Dr. McRee home were brought to completion about 1875. These additions, in the Second Empire style, included the one and one-half story ell to the rear that includes the dining room, the octagonal tower, the third-floor half story with a mansard roof, and probably the replacement two-over-two sashed French windows on the first floor of the

Empire influence is seen in the eaves and tower design.

The three outbuildings are of the same outside construction material as the main house. They consist of a smoke-house, servants quarters, and barn; plus a well house. The barn may be either the second or third one to stand on the site, but it is reportedly an exact duplication of the original. The present structure is known to be over fifty years old.

The box shrubs are said to have been about fifty years old when planted at the Bankers House, and today, the rows, on either side of the entrance walk from Lafayette Street, have completely overgrown the walkway. They create a very proper setting for the house front and the family willingly uses either the side walk to the front entrance, or the rear walkway to enter the house while not disturbing the luxurious growth.

Major Jenkins, builder of the house,

("North Carolina's"—Cont. from Page 21)

Colonel Heck signed an agreement to build a similar house, without a tower, in Ridgeway, Warren County. Nothing is known of this Ridgeway house, but construction of the Blount Street building, referred to as Mr. Heck's house, soon began. The original estimate of time and cost proved to be too low, and on April 11, 1870, an additional contract was signed to give further time and money, providing that Wilson and Waddell "keep not less than ten hands employed constantly upon the building until its completion."

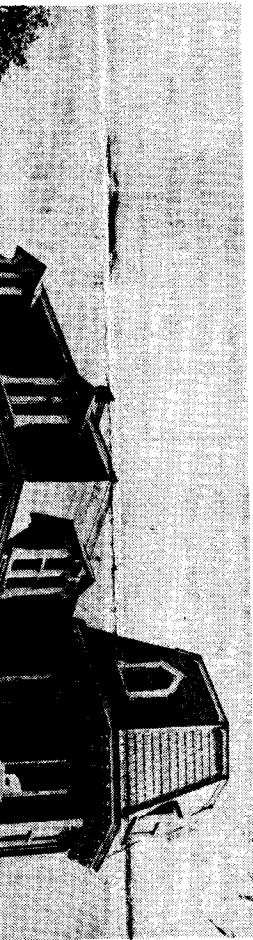
The Hecks made their home in the elegant Blount Street residence. Among the nine children they raised there was Fannie Exile Heck, long time president and organizer of the Woman's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention. Colonel Heck died February 10, 1894, and in 1916 Mrs. Heck decided the house to her daughter, Matric. Matric Heck Boushall and her husband sold it to A. B. Andrews, a prominent Raleigh lawyer. Andrews was the son of the first vice-president of the Southern Railroad who built the Andrews-Duncan House next door. It is said that Andrews bought the Heck house at the insistence of his wife, Helen. Mrs. Andrews died before they could move in, reportedly while making arrangements for the refurbishing of the house, and Mr. Andrews lived there alone until his death. On October 15, 1948, the house was purchased by Julia Russel and is now owned by her daughter, Gladys R. Perry.

The Heck-Andrews House stands as a superb example of the flamboyant Second Empire style popular throughout the country after the Civil War. Marcus Wif-fin's description of buildings of the style as "tall, boldly molded, and emphatically three-dimensional in effect" is particularly apt. As well as embodying the hallmarks of this style, the Heck-Andrews House, with its dramatic tower, has a memorable individualism all its own. Along with its

*file w/ Bankers House when pic comp  
and photo.*



Bankers House, Shelby, N. C.—1874-1875



organized a private bank in 1874 known as J. Jenkins and Company. In 1875, he sold the house and his business to H. W. Lee who subsequently sold both to S. J. Greene, a partner. In 1888, the firm was bought by Burwell Blanton who changed the name to B. Blanton and Company. Mr. Blanton later purchased the residence, leaving it to his son upon his death. The present owner inherited from his uncle both the house and the business, that had received a federal charter in 1903 becoming the First National Bank of Shelby. The Bankers House is currently the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Blanton, Jr.

### Tate Home

Sufficient records have not been accumulated to ascertain exact construction dates, but it is known that Colonel Samuel McDowell Tate bought this home in 1855. In that year its previous owner, Dr. McRee, died.

Samuel Tate was a prominent native of Morganton, and indeed, of North Carolina. Born in 1830, he lived for several years in Philadelphia, but returned to Morganton in the early 1850's. The years 1855-56 found him journeying by Pony Express in Texas. Soon afterward he was employed in management by Charles F. Fisher, who had contracted to build the Western North Carolina Railroad from Salisbury to Morganton.

In 1861, Mr. Tate joined the Confederate Army and organized a company to serve under Colonel Charles Fisher. He fought gallantly in many well known battles of the War; including First Manassas, Seven Pines, Gaines' Mill, Second Manassas, Sharpsburg, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, Cedar Creek, and Petersburg. Being wounded the third time he was sent home to Morganton and before he had fully recovered, was helping check the advancement of Stoneman's raiders; as they moved eastward from the mountains to the Catawba River. (A group of Stoneman's men burned the records at the

26 June 1974

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY  
*Cleveland*

HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

(Type all entries - Complete applicable sections)

COMMON: *Barbers' House*

AND/OR HISTORIC:

STREET AND NUMBER OR OTHER DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION  
*319 North Lafayette St.*

CITY, TOWN, OR TOWNSHIP: *Shelby* CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE: NORTH CAROLINA CODE: 37 COUNTY: CODE:

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition:	<input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>		

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Zoning (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

OWNERS NAME: *Mr + Mrs. George Blanton Jr. (704) 487-6308*

STREET AND NUMBER: *319 North Lafayette Street*

CITY OR TOWN: *Shelby NC* STATE: ZIP CODE: *28158* CODE:

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: *Cleveland County Courthouse*

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: *Shelby* STATE: NORTH CAROLINA ZIP CODE: CODE: 37

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

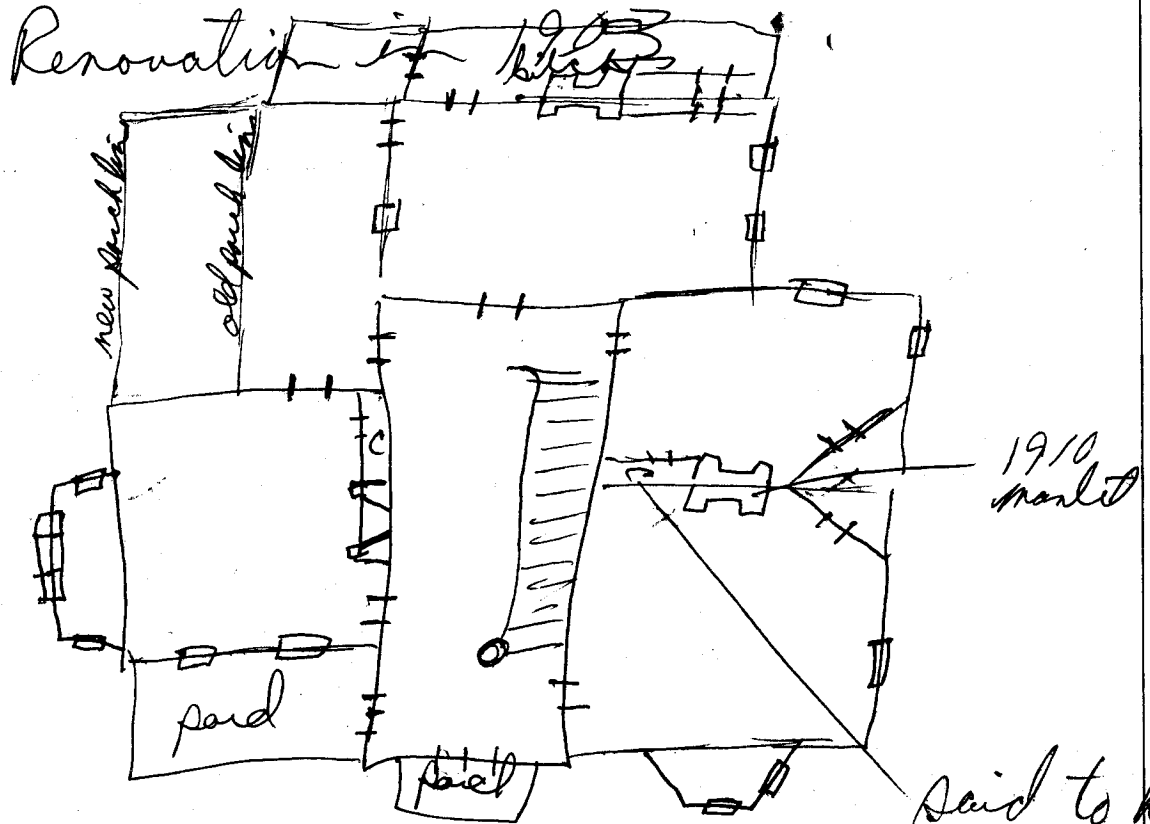
STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: ZIP CODE: CODE:

NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY  
DATE

CONDITION	Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	(Check One)		
				Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE



up stair is  
one large room on left & two on right  
center hall

third floor has rough plaster  
finish - very plain  
nice ballustrade in tower

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian  16th Century  18th Century  19th Century  20th Century   
 15th Century  17th Century  1st Qtr.  3rd Qtr.  1st Qtr.  3rd Qtr.   
 2nd Qtr.  4th Qtr.  2nd Qtr.  4th Qtr.

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

ca. 1875

ck

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/>	Education <input type="checkbox"/>	Political <input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering <input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Phi- losophy <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Historic <input type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Architecture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Human- itarian <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Art <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Commerce <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>		
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Music <input type="checkbox"/>		

STATEMENT OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Include Builder/Architect, Original & Subsequent Owners, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Cleveland  
County land - 29 May 1874 (Deed DD Page 402)  
T.M. Dickson to Jesse Jenkins  
(first banker)

house sold 24 September 1879  
B.F. Logan, sheriff to Mrs S.J. Lee  
(Deed Book N Page 71)

25 August 1894  
Mrs S.J. Lee to Mrs. P.K. Blanton  
(Deed Book DD Page 122)

Mrs. Blanton is present owners  
grandmother

Barn is not original - original  
burned about 50 years ago.

5  
Acres

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE							
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	.	.	"	.	.	"	.	.	"	.	.	"
NE	.	.	"	.	.	"	.	.	"	.	.	"
SE	.	.	"	.	.	"	.	.	"	.	.	"
SW	.	.	"	.	.	"	.	.	"	.	.	"

Ash  
Green

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES		APPROXIMATE ACREAGE	
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

Survey and Planning Unit	TEAM NO.	SIGNATURE
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State Department of Archives & History	DATE
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**STREET AND NUMBER:**  
109 East Jones Street, Box 1881

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh	STATE North Carolina 27602	CODE 37
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RECOMMENDED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: National  State  Local

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian  16th Century  18th Century  19th Century  20th Century   
 15th Century  17th Century  1st Qtr.  3rd Qtr.  1st Qtr.  3rd Qtr.   
 2nd Qtr.  4th Qtr.  2nd Qtr.  4th Qtr.

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

ca. 1875

ck

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/>	Education <input type="checkbox"/>	Political <input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering <input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Historic <input type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Architecture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Art <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Commerce <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>		
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Music <input type="checkbox"/>		

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 grandmother

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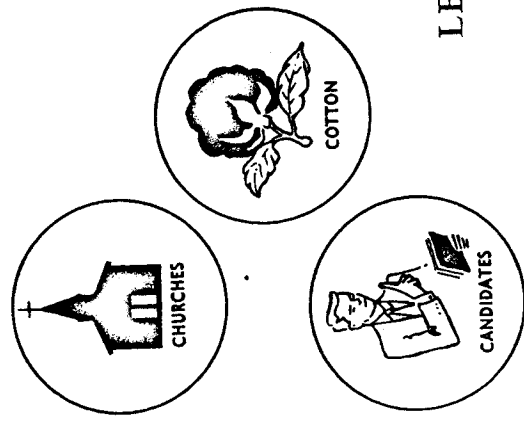


# THE LIVING PAST of CLEVELAND COUNTY

A HISTORY

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LEE B. WEATHERS  
SHELBY, N. C.

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LEE B. WEATHERS

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cilities. He was to arrange transportation and I was to secure the appointment. Senator Josiah Bailey was here at the time speaking before a civic club so he secured an appointment by telephone for us to confer with Administrator Harold Ickes, the dispenser of Federal funds, on Monday morning at 9 o'clock in Washington.

When I informed my wife of the planned trip with Mayor Woodson on official city business she asked me how we were to travel. I evaded an answer by saying the mayor was arranging that and I was making the appointment. With all arrangements made, the mayor drove by my home on Sunday afternoon in 1936 to pick me up; and we were to take the plane at Spartanburg, South Carolina. The Mayor, to this day, tells with great glee that I was scared to death to fly and my fright was intensified as we left my door with my wife playing "Nearer My God to Thee" on the piano.

Our conference with Secretary Ickes was brief but fruitful. When we told him that we realized we needed a high school more than an electric generating plant and I chimed in, pointing out the age of the school building, the stern old Ickes replied, "Hell, we're using school buildings in Chicago that are twice the age of yours. However, go back home, have your city council pass a resolution agreeing and authorizing the change, send up the application and I will approve."

As a result, Shelby's Senior High School was completed in 1938 at a cost of \$182,600, with the cost shared equally by the Federal and local governments. Fully \$3,000,000 was secured from the Federal government for various public projects by the Woodson administration between 1935 and 1941. The city matched Federal grants with varying amounts depending on the nature of the project.

Lawrence M. King, who was elected mayor for a four-year term in 1951, revamped the electric system, expanded the water plant, extended water and sewer mains

and completed a million dollar distribution system for natural gas, which the city had never enjoyed as a fuel before.

#### Private Banking Facilities

The year 1875 marked a new era for Shelby, for it was in that year that the "Town of Shelby" was chartered, the first passenger train arrived from Lincoln and the first banking institution was organized. The Cleveland Savings Bank was organized under a special act of the Legislature in 1875 with the following as incorporators: H. D. Lee, S. J. Green, D. Beam, David Mauney, Burwell Blanton, A. R. Homesley and J. M. Ware. The year before, 1874, H. D. Lee and Jesse Jenkins had organized a private bank known as J. Jenkins and Company. A few years later, about 1879, Burwell Blanton and S. J. Green were added to the firm and the name changed to H. D. Lee and Company, Bankers. For several years the firm operated under this name. H. D. Lee retired from the firm in 1888 when he moved to Knoxville, Tennessee and in 1895 the name was changed to B. Blanton and Company, Bankers.

This firm was composed of Burwell Blanton and his two sons, Charles C. and George Blanton. Charles C. had returned to Shelby from Meridian, Texas, where he had been engaged in the banking business for eleven years, and George had returned from Virginia where he had been selling sewing machines. Both joined their father and in 1895 the private bank received a Federal charter; it became the First National Bank in 1903.

Prior to the formation of banks in Shelby, the people of Cleveland County had been greatly handicapped in their financial dealings. Often they borrowed from each other or obtained loans from local merchants. However, money was not needed as much as it is today. Many of the farms in the county were self-sufficient and surplus were hauled first to Columbia or Charleston, South Carolina in wagons and after the coming of the

#### PROPERTY OF

#### STATE DEPT. OF ARCHIVES & HISTORY

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

a result of this earthquake which destroyed a greater part of Charleston.

Another old residence is that of Mrs. Ina Sisk Forney on East Marion Street built about 1842 out of hand-hewn logs by the Hoke family. It has been remodeled from time to time but retains its original lines and appearance. There is also a decaying residence on West Warren Street, now the property of the Gheen Lumber Company, which was owned and occupied as long as she lived by Miss Mattie Adams. This house was built in the early fifties. Another early residence is the Ebeltoft home on South Washington Street, built by the Fullenwiders. It was here that the late Mrs. Mary Fullenwider McBrayer, mother of the Misses Agnes and Ruby McBrayer who are well-known to Shelbians today, played as a child. Her playmate was Kansas Andrews, who married the late Judge J. L. Webb. Mrs. McBrayer, when she grew older, planted the large boxwoods that now grace the yard.

Possibly the largest and most expensive of the early homes now standing in Shelby is the "Bankers' House" on North LaFayette Street, so-called because it was occupied successively by several families of Shelby bankers—the Lees, Jenkins and Blantons. George Blanton, Jr., president of the First National Bank of Shelby, now lives there. This house was erected by J. Jenkins, using slave labor before the Civil War.

Many of the old houses were built by Mike L. Rudasill, who, in 1884, stated that he had built one hundred homes in his forty years' experience in Shelby, and hoped to build a hundred more. Mr. Rudasill had a shop on the present site of the Colonial Store on South LaFayette Street.

Where Sterchi's store now stands on the northeast corner of Marion and LaFayette Streets was once the old Courtview Hotel. One the corner, in front of the hotel, stood the town's number one "upping block," a

boulder of stone to assist horsemen in mounting. It was on this block that Miss Zulia Durham, daughter of C. C. Durham, the builder of Courtview, stood in 1861 to present a flag she and other young ladies had made to the first company of men wearing the Gray as they marched off to join their Southern comrades in the war against the Yankees. (For further details on this incident, see Chapter II)

#### First Post Office

Shelby's first post office was a small wooden building on the spot where the present post office now stands. It "circulated" around the square, being housed at different times in the old Commercial Hotel in the Miller Block and in the Love Building.

Among the early postmasters were Walton W. Green, Jule B. Fortune, and T. K. Barnett. The last named had four beautiful girls to assist him and they were an attraction to the young swains of the community who found frequent excuses to check their mail or buy stamps. Other postmasters, who did not serve in the order named, were George W. DePriest, Dr. John McBrayer, Barney Barber, Will Roberts, J. H. Quinn, Frank L. Hoyle and Roger Laughridge.

#### Oil Street Lamps

Before the coming of electricity, the streets of Shelby were lighted by oil lamps mounted on wooden posts. They were placed at intervals along the main streets in the business section and it was the duty of the chief of police to refuel with kerosene and light the lamps each evening. Miss Mayme Jones, a Shelby resident still living, recalls that when her father, Shelt Jones, was chief of police, he lighted the lamps each evening and she says that he did not ride from post to post, but walked.

There was no stock law in the latter part of the Nineteenth Century, so livestock was permitted to roam at

## 7. Description

The Banker's House is one of the major Second Empire style houses in North Carolina. Viewed from the street, the first floor of the two-and-one-half-story, stuccoed brick house is virtually obscured by the luxuriant growth of shrubs and trees. The front walk, once lined with English box, is now covered by them. The surprisingly irregular composition of the Banker's House can best be explained by its floor plan rather relying completely on external description. First glance at the main facade gives the mistaken impression of a symmetrically balanced house. This illusion is heightened by the use of porches, bays and proportions. The house is basically a "T" shaped building placed on a corner

lot with the <sup>crosspiece</sup> top of the "T" parallel to the secondary street (north) and its <sup>stem forming the</sup> main facade, facing east. The "T" plan is camouflaged by a square, three-and-one-half-story tower tucked into the angle of the "T" on the east side, with the remainder of the main facade filled by a one-story porch. The tower extends somewhat beyond the arm of the "T" and this is balanced by a bay window at its north end. The tower <sup>contains</sup> marks the entrance to the hall that runs through the top of the "T" stem, leaving one large room to the left (south) and two slightly smaller rooms to the right which comprise the <sup>crosspiece</sup> top of the "T." To complete the

outline of the house, there is a one-story porch along the south side of <sup>a</sup> the <sup>one story</sup> ~~dining wing~~ <sup>now wing</sup> which houses dining room & butler's pantry (now <sup>used as a kitchen</sup>).

~~The house has a wealth of ornamentation, and the description will begin with the front door which is an arched, double door on the east side of the tower. It has three vertical panels in each leaf, the top two having delicately frosted glass. The door has heavy, wide moldings, and the panels are repeated in the door reveal. This door is protected by a small, flat-roofed porch supported by chamfered, square pillars with <sup>molded</sup> elaborate neckings, each with an applied flower midway the height of the pillar. These are joined by a heavy balustrade with bulbous, turned balusters on the north and south sides. The molded porch cornice has short, wide dentils and is supported by elaborate, <sup>each of</sup> brackets which terminates with an inverted fleur-de-lis descending from a scroll base. Between the brackets is a richly <sup>and</sup> molded paneled frieze which is punctuated at ~~its~~ <sup>the</sup> mid points between the brackets~~

by a large, multi-~~oetaked~~ <sup>faceted floral</sup> ~~fluted~~ boss. With some slight variations, this is the cornice treatment used throughout the house. The tower has a secondary entrance in its south face, a single door similar to the front double door. The porch it serves is treated in a manner similar to the front entrance porch. There are two large bay windows on the house: one, previously mentioned, is at the eastern terminus of the top of the "T" and the other facing south from the base of the "T." Both have tall, slender, segmental-arched, triple windows in their sides; both bay windows are ornamented in the same fashion as the porches. Each exterior wall of the house and tower has been treated as a recessed panel with concave corners and the windows have been placed within these panels, <sup>(except for the</sup> ~~generally~~ <sup>east wall of the</sup> ~~mostly~~ <sup>tower where</sup> ~~in pairs.~~ <sup>the cornice</sup> ~~The windows have a wide masonry surround, hood-like at the top, narrowing along the sides and spreading abruptly with a molded stage to its full width once again to ~~carry~~ <sup>extend</sup> just below a heavy masonry sill. The windows, for the most part, are segmental-arched and have two-over-two sash. The east face of the tower is the chief deviant from this norm by having paired, round-arched windows at the second and third levels. The third level of the tower has a small balcony supported by consoles similar to the cornice brackets and a balustrade similar to the other porches. At the four corners of this balcony are unusual finials, with several turned stages concluding in a bulbous point.~~

The mansard roof of the main block is covered by rounded slate of various colors arranged in floral patterns. This mansard roof feature ~~elaborately~~ <sup>5</sup> ~~treated~~ gabled dormers. ~~The dormer face contains~~ <sup>1830</sup> paired windows of one-over-one sash with concave corners only at their tops. The outer edge of the dormer has a fanciful molding profile at the top and bottom with a Greek cross having rounded edges adorns the top corners. A large, incised, fleur-de-lis almost fills the gable of the dormer to complete the ornamentation. On the main facade, dormers flank the tower; <sup>in addition</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>dormer</sup> there is one on the south side, two on the north side and three on the rear. The tower itself has a low, pedimented gable on all four sides, from which rises a tall, inwardly sloping mansard roof which terminates in a flat roof. There is a large, tall dormer in each face of the

mansard roof of the tower. Each has a segmental-arched window with two-over-two sash protected by a gable roof similar to the other dormers. Just below the gable ridge, in the dormer face, is an incised pommée. The face of the dormer concludes on either side with a scroll-like base. Two elaborately molded chimney caps pierce the flat upper roof of the main block, flanking the tower.

Though spacious, the interior is relatively simple when compared to the exterior. Rising along the north wall of the hall, a cantilevered stair <sup>ascends</sup> rises in one long run which is nearly the length of the long hall. The stair ~~consists~~ <sup>has</sup> of paired, turned balusters, resting on <sup>heads ornamented with</sup> ~~standard~~ vine-and-bud ~~ornamented~~ brackets, and supporting a <sup>heavy</sup> ~~large~~ molded handrail which originates at a large, turned newel. The stair continues in <sup>another</sup> ~~the~~ long single run to the third floor. The interior architraves are wide, molded ones, as is the baseboard. Large four-panel doors have very heavy moldings as do the panels of the door reveals. Interior blinds remain at many of the windows. The large, left room is the main parlor and has <sup>standard typical</sup> a ~~standard~~ late nineteenth century, dark marble mantel with arched opening, paneled spandrels, and a central cartouche, <sup>Other typical Victorian mantels occur as well. There is</sup> also a heavy, molded cornice in several rooms. During a renovation which took place in 1910, there were some minor alterations, such as replacement of the right (north) front room mantel and addition of bathrooms.

Several outbuildings remain to the rear of the house. A wellhouse is directly to the rear and a one-story brick building which could have been a combination of servants quarters and kitchen is to the south of the well. A bit further back and to the north is a large, two story, cross-gable frame stable with clipped gables. It is a replacement of one which burned in the first quarter of the twentieth century. It is finished in keeping with its close proximity to the house.

## 8. Significance

The Banker's House, a landmark of downtown Shelby, is among the state's finest examples of the Second Empire <sup>style,</sup> one of a small group distinguished by a central tower. The large, well-preserved house of stuccoed brick is notable for its handsome proportions, deceptively asymmetrical plan, and consistent use of rich ornament. Similarities to the Heck-Andrews House <sup>in Raleigh</sup> and the Cabarrus County Courthouse suggest that the Banker's House may be the work of architect G. S. Appleget. Since its construction in 1874-1875, the house has consistently been owned by prominent members of Shelby's banking profession.

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The Banker's House was built for Jesse Jenkins on land he acquired from T. M. Dickson for \$175. Jenkins was the first owner of the house and founder of the town's first bank; thereafter, the history of the house he built and that of the banking business in Shelby have been continuously linked.

The designer of the house may have been G. S. H. Appleget, a native of New Jersey. Appleget first came to North Carolina in 1869, and settled in Charlotte in 1875. Here he boasted that he had designed "all the best buildings, with only a few exceptions, in Raleigh, Goldsboro and Greensboro, and almost all over the State. . . ." <sup>2</sup> The similarities which exist between the Banker's House <sup>and</sup> Appleget's two other known designs in North Carolina--the Heck-Andrews House in Raleigh and the Cabarrus County Courthouse in Concord--seem to indicate that he was the designer of the Shelby mansion.

Jesse Jenkins was born in North Carolina in January, 1832. <sup>3</sup> He was married to Harriett Brown on April 4, 1855, and became the father of one daughter. <sup>4</sup> He served in 1861 as a lieutenant (and

no documentation has been found, and unfortunately the papers connected with the construction of the house have been destroyed. Appleget's work in western North Carolina, and more importantly,

later as a major) in the "Cleveland Guards,"<sup>5</sup> and was appointed Clerk of the Cleveland County Superior Court about December, 1862.<sup>6</sup> He served in this position continuously until 1875. In addition, he served as one of Shelby's town commissioners from about 1869 until at least as late as 1872,<sup>7</sup> and as a state senator from 1874 to 1876.<sup>8</sup> More important, Jenkins was a pioneering banker in the southwestern section of the state. Newspaper advertisements for "J. Jenkins & Co., BANKERS & BROKERS," appeared as early as December, 1872, and at least as late as March, 1876.<sup>9</sup>

In the meantime, a rival bank was being established in Shelby. In February, 1875, the General Assembly incorporated the "Cleveland Savings Bank" under the direction of H. D. Lee, S. J. Green, B. Blanton and others.<sup>10</sup> Thereafter, Jenkins apparently became involved in financial problems: In July, 1879, the sheriff of Cleveland County sold Jenkins's house at public auction to satisfy various writs of execution against him arising from a lawsuit brought against him in the superior court.<sup>11</sup> High bidder on the property was T. D. Lattimore, who later transferred his successful bid to H. D. Lee's wife Sarah.<sup>12</sup> Jenkins is believed to have then moved to Meridian, Texas, where he died on December 4, 1889.<sup>13</sup>

H. DeKalb Lee was born in North Carolina about 1830.<sup>14</sup> He served as a captain (and later as a major) in the Sixteenth Regiment North Carolina Troops during the Civil War, and was severely wounded during the battle of Fredricksburg.<sup>15</sup> After the war he ~~was married to Sarah J. Dawson and later became a law partner of Plato Durham in the firm of "Lee & Durham."~~<sup>16</sup> This partnership ~~was dissolved by mutual consent in March, 1875,~~<sup>17</sup> but Lee continued



<sup>d</sup> ~~to practice law on his own.~~ ~~He was~~ <sup>and ~~was~~ became</sup> the owner of at least twenty-five lots in the business district of Shelby,<sup>18</sup> ~~and was apparently quite wealthy.~~ Lee, together with Burwell Blanton and S. J. Green (two of the original incorporators of the Cleaveland Savings Bank), bought out the holdings of their three former associates and joined in the new banking partnership of "H. D. Lee and Company" sometime between 1878 and 1880.<sup>19</sup> This banking firm flourished for nearly a decade. A sketch of Shelby written in 1889 boasted that the Lee concern was "as safe as any bank in the State" and noted that it had been "a great convenience to Shelby and the surrounding country."<sup>20</sup> Lee moved to Knoxville, Tennessee, in early 1888 and evidently rented his residence to one J. S. Martin.<sup>21</sup> In 1894 Burwell Blanton's wife Pattie purchased the house from Mrs. Lee for \$3,500.<sup>22</sup> The following year the banking enterprise bearing Lee's name was purchased outright by Burwell Blanton and his sons Charles and George, who changed the firm's name to "B. Blanton & Company."<sup>23</sup>

Burwell Blanton was born in North Carolina on January 7, 1834.<sup>24</sup> He was married to Frances Doggett in August, 1855, and became the father of five children.<sup>25</sup> He was a merchant, a farmer, and the proprietor of a grist mill before becoming a banker.<sup>26</sup> Blanton and his sons continued to operate the bank under the name "B. Blanton & Company" until June, 1903, when they obtained a federal charter and changed the firm's name to the "First National Bank."<sup>27</sup> In October, 1907, Burwell and Pattie Blanton sold their residence to their eldest son Charles for \$6,000<sup>28</sup> and on May 18, 1908, Burwell Blanton died at the age of seventy-six.<sup>29</sup>

Charles Coleman Blanton was born about 1858 and became a hardware and dry goods merchant at an early age.<sup>30</sup> He is said to have spent eleven years as a banker in Meridian, Texas, and to have returned to Shelby about 1895 to join his father in the B. Blanton banking firm.<sup>31</sup> He later became a prominent Shelby business leader during the early years of the twentieth century. He remained an active business and civic leader in Shelby for over forty years.

In May, 1941, Charles Blanton sold his residence to his nephew, George H. Blanton, Jr.,<sup>32</sup> and on November 24, 1944, died at the age of eighty-six.<sup>33</sup> The younger Blanton has served as president of the First National Bank since 1947 and, true to tradition, has resided in the "Bankers' House" throughout his entire career as a banker.

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> Cleveland County Deed Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Cleveland County Courthouse, Shelby, Deed Book DD: 402, hereinafter cited as Cleveland Deed Books.

<sup>2</sup> Advertisement, Daily Charlotte Observer, May 26, 1875.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Works Projects Administration, Pre-1914 Graves Index: North Carolina, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, hereinafter cited as W.P.A. Graves Index.

<sup>4</sup> S. Arnold Ramey (comp.), Cleveland County, North Carolina, Marriages: 1851-1868 (n.p.: By the Author, [1971]), 66, hereinafter cited as Ramey, Cleveland County Marriages; Ninth Census of the United States, 1870: Cleveland County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, 145, hereinafter cited as Ninth Census, 1870: Cleveland County.

<sup>5</sup> Notice in The Mountain Eagle (Shelby), June 19, 1861.

<sup>6</sup> Cleveland County Miscellaneous Papers, 1841-1905, File Number 10225 [1862], originals in State Archives.

<sup>7</sup> Branson's North Carolina Business Directory, For 1869 (Raleigh: J.A. Jones, n.d.), 41, hereinafter cited as N.C. Business Directory, 1869; L. Branson (ed.), The North Carolina Business Directory (Raleigh: J.A. Jones, 1872), 65, hereinafter cited as N.C. Business Directory, 1872.

<sup>8</sup> R.D.W. Connor (comp. and ed.), A Manual of North Carolina, 1913 (Raleigh: North Carolina Historical Commission [Division of Archives and History], 1913), 563.

<sup>9</sup> Advertisements, Cleaveland Banner (Shelby), December 14, 1872; Shelby Banner, March 25, 1876.

<sup>10</sup> Private Laws of North Carolina, 1874-1875, c. LXIII, s. 1-13.

<sup>11</sup> Cleveland County Superior Court, Minutes, 1876-1884, 214, originals in State Archives.

<sup>12</sup> Cleveland Deed Book N: 71-73.

<sup>13</sup> W.P.A. Graves Index, State Archives.

<sup>14</sup> Ninth Census, 1870: Cleveland County, Population Schedule, 145.

<sup>15</sup> Walter Clark (ed.), Histories of the Several Regiments and Battalions from North Carolina in the Great War, 1861-65 (Raleigh and Goldsboro: State of North Carolina, 5 volumes, 1901), IV, 174.

<sup>16</sup> Ramey, Cleveland County Marriages, 209; Branson's North Carolina Business Directory, For 1867-8 (Raleigh: Branson & Jones, n.d.), 31. Plato Durham (1840-1875) was a prominent Shelby lawyer and politician who served in the North Carolina House of Representatives from 1866 to 1870.

<sup>17</sup> Notice in Shelby Banner, April 8, 1875.

<sup>18</sup> "SALE OF VALUABLE TOWN LOTS!!" Cleaveland Banner (Shelby), April 25, 1874; notice in Shelby Aurora, May 22, 1875.

<sup>19</sup> The census of 1880 lists Lee as a "banker & broker," but the North Carolina Business Directory for 1877-1878 lists him only as a lawyer (Tenth Census of the United States, 1880: Cleveland County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, 548, hereinafter cited as Tenth Census, 1880: Cleveland County; L. Branson [ed.], The North Carolina Business Directory, 1877 and 1878 [Fifth Edition; Raleigh: L. Branson, 1878], 78, hereinafter cited as N.C. Business

Directory, 1877-1878).

<sup>20</sup> A Brief Sketch of Shelby, A Thriving Town in the Piedmont Section of North Carolina (Shelby: C.P. Roberts, 1889), 31.

<sup>21</sup> Lee B. Weathers, The Living Past of Cleveland County: A History (Shelby: Star Publishing Co., 1956), 49, hereinafter cited as Weathers, Cleveland County; Cleveland Deed Book DD: 122.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> Robert M. Topkins, telephone conversation with Mr. George H. Blanton, Jr., present owner of the "Bankers' House," October 2, 1974.

<sup>24</sup> W.P.A. Graves Index, State Archives.

<sup>25</sup> Tenth Census, 1880: Cleveland County, Population Schedule, 563. (Missing from this census is Burwell Blanton's eldest son Charles, who was residing in Meridian, Texas, at the time the census was taken.)

<sup>26</sup> N.C. Business Directory, 1877-1878, 79; Tenth Census, 1880: Cleveland County, Population Schedule, 563; Levi Branson (ed.), Branson's North Carolina Business Directory For 1884 (Sixth Edition; Raleigh: Levi Branson, 1884), 228.

<sup>27</sup> "Sketch of Shelby," Shelby Aurora, December 14, 1906.

<sup>28</sup> Cleveland Deed Book SS: 301.

<sup>29</sup> W.P.A. Graves Index, State Archives.

<sup>30</sup> Tenth Census, 1880: Cleveland County, Population Schedule, 544.

<sup>31</sup> Weathers, Cleveland County, 49.

<sup>32</sup> Cleveland Deed Book 5C: 60.

<sup>33</sup> Obituary, The Charlotte Observer, November 25, 1944.

## CLEVELAND COUNTY.

Population 20,000; 420 square miles. Cleveland is comparatively a new county. It was formed in 1841 from the counties of Rutherford and Lincoln. It is bounded on the South by the State of South Carolina; joins Gaston, Burke, Rutherford and Lincoln counties; contains 275,000 acres of fertile land; has 2500 farms, about 90,000 acres of improved land. No fences, except around county and pastures. This county belongs to the Piedmont belt of the State. The soil is principally clay. Every thing that grows in North Carolina can be grown in Cleveland County with more or less profit.

It is watered by the two Broad Rivers and several large creeks, along which are thousands of acres of the richest alluvial bottoms to be found in any of the old coast States. One of these creeks—Buffalo—is particularly noted for the large quantity and fertility of its bottoms. This remarkable stream has its source at the foot of South Mountain, in the extreme North, and flows the entire length of the county. For twenty miles it will average a hundred acres of low lands to the mile. These low lands are especially adapted to the growth of corn, and the yield is enormous. Corn also does well on the uplands, as much as 75 bushels per acre having been raised. That amount is above the average for uplands.

Cotton does well, the average per acre being about 900 pounds of seed cotton, but it is said this soil is capable of producing 2500 pounds per acre very easily. The weed does not grow large, but fruits well.

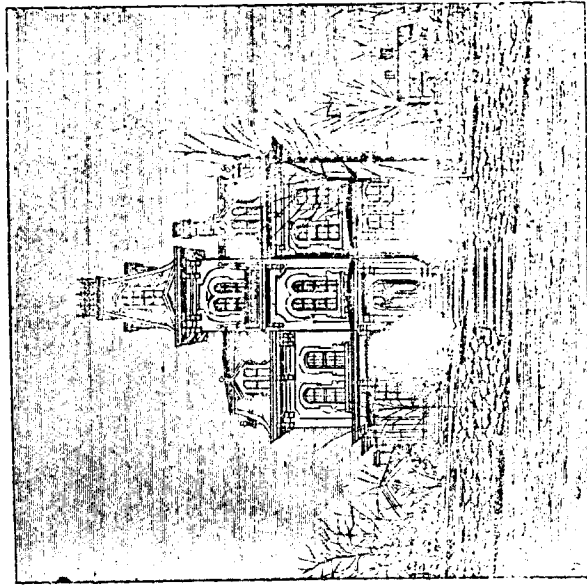
Wheat is one of the best paying products. The product of the county reaches perhaps 300,000 bushels, and very little attention is paid to its culture.

Oats do well, and our people are beginning to pay more attention to their culture, 60 bushels per acre being made on uplands with very little fertilizers.

Sweet potatoes do well, the supply being so plentiful that during harvesting time they can be bought at from 20 to 30 cents per bushel, and even now—April 1st—the supply is plentiful at 50 cents per bushel.

Irish Potatoes yield largely, and the supply is usually abundant, the price ranging at from 50 to 75 cents per bushel.

(Lover and grasses grow to perfection, and much interest is being manifested in their culture.



RESIDENCE OF MAJ. H. D. LEE.

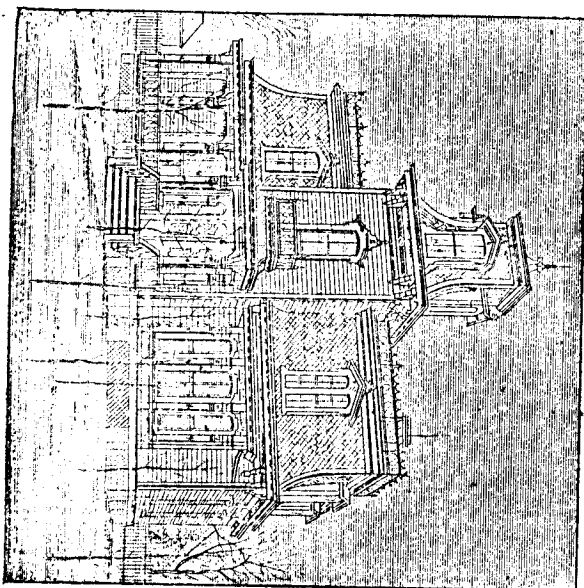
town is about one thousand feet above the sea level. It is one of the most beautiful small towns in the United States, its population having increased from 900, in 1880, to 2,500 in 1890. Within the town limits are mineral springs possessing valuable medicinal properties, and within two miles of the Court House are the world-famed Cleveland White Sulphur and Chalybeate Springs; also within four miles are Patterson's Springs, noted far and wide for their healing properties, more fully described elsewhere in these pages. The seasons are mild and salubrious. During the past winter (1888-'89) we had but one snow storm, and within twelve hours every vestige of the snow had entirely disappeared. The summer's heat is tempered by gentle mountain breezes; the sweating, oppressive, dog-day weather so well known elsewhere, and often experienced even in New York and the Eastern states, is here unknown, and bed-clothing can not be dispensed with, even in the midst of the hot season.

We have two trunk lines of Railroad which connect us with the outside world, viz: the Carolina Central, whose seaport terminus is Wilmington, N. C., and the Charleston, Cincinnati & Chicago Railroad. These roads intersect and connect with the great railways systems of the South and carry four daily mails. The main line of the Richmond & Danville Railroad also passes through the county, South of Shelby, the Charleston, Cincinnati & Chicago Railroad connecting with and crossing it at Blacksburg, S. C., about twelve miles south-west of Shelby, making close connection both North and South. The Carolina Central being a part of the great Seaboard Air-Line, makes close connection at Wadesboro with the Atlantic Coast Line for all points South, and at Hamlet with Raleigh & Augusta Air-Line for Norfolk, Washington, Baltimore and all points North. Work is rapidly progressing on the division of the South-Western Air-Line Railroad from Shelby to

Morganton, about twenty-five miles being already graded, steel rails contracted for, and in a few months we will have connection with the Richmond & Danville system at Morganton for Asheville, N. C., Knoxville, Tenn., etc. Shelby has more than doubled its population in the past five years. Its houses are all new and built in modern styles.

#### TOWN COUNCIL:

Mayor—W. L. Dannon.  
Aldermen—S. G. Brice, M. L. Carroll, G. L. Leak and C. V. Bostic.



RESIDENCE OF S. G. BRICE.

# Random numbers

$$\begin{array}{r} X = 189 \\ 300 \quad 349 \\ \hline 567 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 165 \\ 349 \overline{) 56700} \\ \underline{349} \phantom{00} \\ 2180 \phantom{0} \\ \underline{2096} \phantom{0} \\ 840 \\ \underline{698} \\ 142 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 2 \\ 60 \overline{) 122} \\ \underline{12} \\ 42 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 35 \quad 15 \\ \hline 2 \quad 42 \\ \hline 35 \quad 15 \quad 42 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} X = 137 \\ 300 \quad 286 \\ \hline 411 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 133 \\ 286 \overline{) 41100} \\ \underline{286} \phantom{00} \\ 1250 \phantom{0} \\ \underline{1144} \phantom{0} \\ 1060 \\ \underline{858} \\ 202 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 2 \\ 60 \overline{) 124} \\ \underline{12} \\ 24 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 81 \quad 30 \\ \hline 2 \quad 24 \\ \hline 81 \quad 30 \quad 24 \end{array}$$



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3:11

3:14, 17, 19;

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Cleveland Deed Book DD, 402 (May 29, 1874)

T. M. Dickson and M. H. Dixon to Jesse Jenkins (for \$175)

beginning on Fay Fayette Street at a stake rune West 200 feet to an alley [sic] thence North 100 feet to a stake thence East to a stake 200 feet to a stake on Fay Fayette Street thence South with Fay Fayette Street to the beginning being lot No 4 in Dickson division Shelby one other, lot No 9 immediately West of the above at beginning at a stake on Morgan Street thence North along Morgan Street 100 feet to a stake thence East 200 feet to stake on an alley thence South along said alley 100 feet to a stake thence East 200 feet to the beginning. — The two lots containing 40,000 square feet including streets & alleys as located by Survey of J B Logan Survey ....

Cleveland Deed Book N, 71-73 (September 24, 1879)

B. F. Logan, Sheriff of Cleveland County, to Mrs. S. J. Lee [for \$1,510].

Whereas certain writs of execution issued out of the Superior Court of Cleveland County in favor of Henderson Canall et al, Plaintiffs and against J. Jenkins that Defendants Viz - J. W. Gidney & J. Jenkins

Whereas, because sufficient personal property of said ... debtor to satisfy said execution ... could not be found, ... the said Sheriff, did ... seize all the estate ... and did on the Seventh day of July 1879, sell the said premises at public auction at the Court House door in Shelby, N.C. ... at which sale T. D. Lattimore who transferred his bid to Mrs. S. J. Lee became the last and highest bidder ... for the price of Fifteen hundred Ten and <sup>00</sup>/<sub>100</sub> Dollars.

A lot in the North-West Square of the Town of Shelby, N.C. part of Lot No 19 and bounded as follows.

Beginning 10 feet North of the NE Corner of said Lot No 19 in the center of and alley set apart by Dr Williams leading from Lafayette Street West toward John Wilcox and running by said corner South with Lafayette Street One hundred and thirty-five feet to a stake, then west to the line of C Fronchberger Near J.C. & J.W. Gidney Lot Then North One hundred and thirty five feet to the of said alley then East with said alley 430 feet to the beginning. Said lot being known as the house and lot occupied by J. Jenkins, and known as his residence.

Together with all and singular Tenements and appurtenances thereto belonging ....

Cleveland Deed Book DD, 122 (August 25, 1894)

Mrs. S. J. Lee (now of Knox County, Tennessee) to Mrs. P. K. Blanton  
(for \$3,500)

in the North-West square of the town of Shelby ... known as the H. D. Lee and Jenkins residence and being the property where J. S. Martin now resides.

Cleveland Deed Book SS, 301 (October 23, 1907)

Patric K. Blanton and husband B. Blanton to Charles C. Blanton (for \$6,000)

in the North West square of the town of Shelby, N.C., and being the property upon which the parties of the first part now reside and heretofore known as the H. D. Lee and the J. Jenkins residence lot, ...

Cleveland Deed book 5C, 60 (May 30, 1941)

Charles C. Blanton, widower, to George Blanton, Jr. (for \$6,500)

Tract #1: [the H.D. Lee and the J. Jordan residence lot]

Tract #2: in the Northwest square of the town of Shelby, N.C. ... and bounded as follows: Beginning at a stake on the West edge of North Lafayette Street, Mac. P. K. Blanton's corner (near C.C. Blanton's corner) and running west with his line 245 feet, more or less, to Crowder's corner; thence with Crowder's line South 35 feet to a stake, a near corner; thence a new line East with K. Kendall and Maggie Kendall's line 245 feet ... to a stake on the West edge of North Lafayette Street; thence North with the West edge of North Lafayette Street 35 feet to the beginning.

Private Laws of North Carolina, 1874-1875, c. LVII, p. 1-47

[Ratified Feb. 26, 1875] - incorporates the Town of Shelby

✓ Private Laws of North Carolina, 1874-1875, c. LXIII, p. 1-13

[Ratified Feb. 23, 1875] - incorporates the "Cleveland Savings Bank," in the town of Shelby, Cleveland County.

SECTION 1. The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact, That

H. D. Lee, S. J. Green, D. Beam, David Manney, B. Blanton, A. R. Homeley and J. M. Ware, and their associates and successors, are hereby constituted and declared a body politic and corporate by the name and style of the "Cleveland Savings Bank" ....

Shelby Aurora, May 22, 1875

✓ Mr. John Tweber has bought the Saw Mill of Mr. Burl Blanton.

"COME AND BUY" We know of a large number of vacant lots inside of the incorporate limits of Shelby that can be bought cheap.

NOTICE!!

Valuable Town Lots for Sale

I WILL SELL ... at public auction (unless sold before at private sale) two valuable town lots, situated in a flourishing part of the town of Shelby, near the depot, and suited either for building or manufacturing purposes.

H. D. LEE

[Shelby Aurora, May 22, 1875, cont.]

[advertisement]

✓ J. Jenline & Co.  
BANKERS & BROKERS,  
Shelby, N.C.  
Buy and sell exchange, Gold and Silver  
Coin. Deal in Stocks and Bonds, loan  
money, and collect drafts. Buy and sell cur-  
rent Bank Notes. Receive money on  
deposit and pay interest on the same, and  
transact any other business that may come  
in their line.

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### Our Business Directory

#### LAWYERS.

H. D. Lee ✓

#### HOUSE-BUILDERS,

M. E. Rudwick.

M. P. & D. Dellinger.

S. A. Hany.

J. G. Webb,

Webb Owners,

J. W. Nance

#### PLASTERERS, PAINTERS and BRICK- LAYERS.

W. R. Hardem,

J. L. Alexander,

T. P. Alexander,

W. S. Alexander,

N. Camp

R. Putnam

#### BANKERS

J. Jenline & Co.

#### CABINET SHOP.

N. N. Haynes & Son.

D. Justice.

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Shelby Aurora, January 13, 1881

[advertisement]

H. D. Lee B. Blanton S. J. Green

H. D. LEE & CO.

BANKERS AND BROKERS,

SHELBY, N.C.

Transact a general banking business.

Interest allowed on deposits and each member of the firm individually responsible to the depositors. Will also make loans on approved security.

★

"Sketch of Shelby," Shelby Aurora, December 14, 1906.

Shelby is highly favored, having two first-class National banks both doing a successful business.... The Shelby National, in charge of Mr. James T. Dorman, as cashier, assisted by Mr. S. O. Hamrick, occupies handsome quarters in the new bank building at the corner of La Fayette and Warren streets. The First National, in 1903, succeeded the well known firm of B. Blanton & Co, which was the pioneer banking house in this section. This bank occupies comfortable quarters on La Fayette street but is fitting up new quarters in the corner room of the Central Hotel building which will have every modern improvement and attraction.

X  
[adv. for J. Jenkins & Co.  
BROKERS, SHELBY, N.C.  
in Cleveland Banner  
(Shelby), December 14, 1872.



"Sketch of Shelby,"

Shelby Amara, December 14, 1906 [cont.]

[C.C. Blanton a director of Shelby Cotton Mill (also president); president of Shelby Ice and Fuel Company (organized 1905)]

(Hotel is a living stable run by W.H. Blanton)

Blanton & Kendall, Hardware

(B.F. Blanton d. about mid-Dec. 1906 - wife of C.C.?)

W.H. Blanton served as town alderman in 1906.

Cleveland Banner (Shelby), April 25, 1874.

✓ J. Jenkins shown as C.S.C. in legal announcement T. D. LATTIMORE  
BY 1875

"SALE OF VALUABLE TOWN LOTS !!," Cleveland Banner (Shelby), 4-25-74

I WILL sell at auction on MONDAY the 4th day of may next 25 VALUABLE LOTS in the North West Square of the Town of Shelby. The lots are in a flourishing part of the Town, and near the Depot of the Carolina Central Rail-road

H. D. Lee

NOTICE,

Shelby Banner, April 8, 1875 ✓

The law co-partnership of LEE & DURHAM is this day dissolved by mutual consent. The legal business of the firm will be attended to by Capt. Durham.

H. D. LEE,

PLATO DURHAM.

March 2nd, 1875

[Plato Durham thereupon found a new partnership with W. C. Durham.]

J. Jenkins shown as agent for the Life Insurance Company of Virginia in ad in Shelby Banner, April 8, 1875 ✓

Shelby Banner, January 13, 1876

[Thomas J. Jenkins & W. C. Durham as administrators of the estate of Plato Durham]

ad for J. Jenkins & Co., Bankers and Brokers, in Shelby Banner, March 25, 1876. ✓

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The Mountain Eagle (Shelby), June 12, 1861 ✓

[refers to "Lieut. Jesse Jenkins, of the Cleveland Guards ...."]

[notice]

The Mountain Eagle (Shelby), June 19, 1861

THE friends of Lieut. JESSE JENKINS, beg leave to announce him as a candidate for the office of Superior Court Clerk for Cleveland County, at the ensuing election, as he is now absent on active duty.

Tenth Census of the United States, 1880; Cleveland County,  
Pop. Sch., 471 [Township No. 2]

~~Blanton Bennett 69 Farmer N.C.~~

~~- Malinda 50 sister Keeping house N.C.~~

~~p. 499~~

~~Blanton Charles 38 Farmer S.C.~~

~~Elizabeth 50 wife House Keeper N.C.~~

~~Mary 18 Daughter House Keeper N.C.~~

~~John 12 Son Farm Hand~~

~~John 10 Son Farm Hand~~

~~Nancy 8 Daughter~~

~~Angeline 6 Daughter~~

~~Marta 4 Daughter~~

N/A

p. 542 [Township #6]

F M

Dixon Rev Thos	59	minister & farmer	S. C. N. C. S. C.
Amanda E	44	wife	N. C.
Thos	16	son	
Franklin	14	"	
Delia	7	daughter	
Addie M.	5	"	

p. 544

Hanton Charles (single)	22	hardware & dry goods Merchant	N. C. —
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p. 548

Lee Maj. H. De Kalle	48	banker & broker	MAIMED, CRIPPLED BEDRIDDEN OR OTHERWISE DIS- ABLED	N. C.
Sarah	32	wife	Keeps house	N. C.
Deliah	6	daughter		
Heibert	4	son		
Damron Will D	21	bro-in-law		N. C.

[Total population of the village of Shelby in 1880 : 990]

p. 563

Blanton Burned	46	farmer	N. C.	
Francis	42	wife	Keeps house	N. C.
Margaret S.	17	daughter	goes to school	
Darah	15	daughter	goes to school	
George	8	son	works in farm	
Edson	4	son		

W. P. A. Pre-1914 Graves Index, Arkansas

Dickson, Mary A.

b. January 7, 1826

d. August 20, 1901

Wife of T. M. Dixon

Jenkins, Jane ✓

b. January, 1832, in N.C.

d. December 4, 1889, in Meridian, Texas

buried in Shelby City Cemetery

Blanton, Bunnell

b. January 7, 1834 ✓

d. May 18, 1908

buried in Shelby City Cem.

Dickson, T. M.

b.

d. Feb. 12, 1882 (age 58)

buried in Kodesch M. E. Church cemetery,  
Belwood, N.C.

Ninth Census, 1870: Cleveland County, Pop. Sch., 145.

Lee, H. D.	✓ 40	Lawyer	N. C.
Sarah G.	22	Keeping house	
Charles	4	at Home	

p. 148

Jenkins, Jesse	38	Clerk of	✓ N. C.
" Harriet M.	33	Keeping	
Nelson, Tho. W.	18	Farm	
Jenkins, Elyja	14	Seamstress	

Branson's North Carolina Business Directory, For 1867-8 (Raleigh:

Branson & Jones, m.d.), 31.

COUNTY OFFICERS.

Clerk Superior Court, J. Jenkins ✓

LAWYERS

Lee & Durham, (Plato) Shelby ✓

MERCHANTS

Dickson, Thae, Gen'l M'd'd'ye, Shelby

Branson's North Carolina Business Directory, For 1869 (Raleigh:

J.A. Jones, m.d., 41

TOWN OFFICERS. OF SHELBY

Commissioners ..... J. Jenkins [and 4 others] ✓

MERCHANTS.

J. Jenkins, Shelby GS [p. 42] ✓

MINISTERS.

Dixon T., Shelby box

L. Branson (ed.), The North Carolina Business Directory (Raleigh:

J.A. Jones, 1872, 65

TOWN OFFICERS

Commissioners - J. Jenkins [and 3 others] ✓

LAWYERS. [p. 66]

Lee H.D., Shelby ✓

MERCHANTS.

Dixon T. Shelby GS

Jenkins J., Shelby GS ✓

L. Branson (ed.), The North Carolina Business Directory, 1877 and 1878 (Fifth Edition; Raleigh; L. Branson, 1878), 77

Population in 1870 - 12,696

Population [of Shelby] - 1,849

County Officers.

Clerk Superior Court, - T. D. Fathore ✓

[Jenkins not listed as Town Commissioner] ✓

Lawyers. [p. 78]

Lee H. D., [Shelby] ✓

Merchants [p. 79]

Jenkins J., Shelby CS ✓

Jenkins J. & Co., Shelby Brokers ✓

Mills.

Blanton's, Shelby, Bunnell Blanton ✓

Blanton's, Shelby, B. Blanton ✓

Lewis Branson (ed.), Branson's North Carolina Business Directory For 1884 (Sixth Edition; Raleigh; Lewis Branson, 1884), 226

TOWNSHIPS AND MAGISTRATES.

No. 9 - Thomas Dixon [and 5 others]

MERCHANTS AND TRADESMEN. [p. 227]

Lee, H. D. & Co., Bankers ✓

MILLS [p. 228]

Flour and corn, Shelby, Bunnell Blanton ✓



Leri Branson (ed.), Branson's North Carolina Business Directory, 1890  
(Vol. VII; Raleigh; Leri Branson, 1889), 202

MERCHANTS AND TRADESMEN

Lee, H.D. & Co.

Bank ✓

MILLS.

Flour and corn, Shelby, Bennell Blanton. ✓

Leri Branson (ed.), Branson's North Carolina Business Directory,  
1896 (Vol. VIII; Raleigh; Leri Branson, 1896), 191

TOWN OFFICERS - SHELBY -

Commissioners, B B Blanton [et al] ✓

MERCHANTS AND TRADESMEN. - O -

MILLS. [p. 195]

Flour and corn, Shelby, Bennell Blanton. ✓

Leri Branson (ed.), Branson's North Carolina Business Directory,  
1897 (Vol. IX; Raleigh; Leri Branson, 1897), 191.

TOWN OFFICERS - SHELBY -

Commissioners, B B Blanton [et al] ✓

MILLS [p. 195]

Flour and corn, Shelby, Bennell Blanton

[All Same as 1896]

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A Brief Sketch of Shelby, a Thriving Town in the Piedmont Section of North Carolina (Shelby: C.P. Roberts, 1889).

p. 19 [notes that Shelby had one banking house in 1889]

p. 31 "H. D. LEE & CO. do a general banking and brokerage business. This company is composed of Maj. H. D. Lee, B. Stanton and S. J. Green, all men of considerable property, and considered as safe as any bank in the State. This bank has been a great convenience to Shelby and the surrounding country."

Elizabeth M. Howe, A Ku Klux Uniform [Buffalo Historical Society Publications, Vol XXV (1921)], 20-21.

"The village consisted of two streets crossing at right angles, with a few interesting lanes bordered by rough and broken board fences, with scattered dwellings and a church here and there. At the crossing of the streets was a comparatively broad square where rose the court-house, in its bare wooden architecture; opposite the tiny post-office; diagonally across the street the low, rambling inn, also of wood; then the village store. The country and the woods crowded close on the heels of the small settlement." [Description of Shelby in 1871].

Superior Court of Cleveland County, Minutes, 1876-1884, 214.

Henderson Canall

vs

D Justice J W Gidney

[ Fall Term, 1878 ]

J C Gidney J Jenkins

& J C Byers

\* It is considered by the Court that the plaintiff recover of the defendants the sum of Twelve hundred and seventy-six  $\frac{80}{100}$  (1276<sup>80</sup>) dollars with interest on Eleven hundred & forty (1140.) dollars, at 8 per cent from the 4<sup>th</sup> day of November 1878 till paid and the cost of this action, to be taxed by the Court.

~~Superior Court of Cleveland County, Minutes, 1876-1884,~~

Cleveland County Miscellaneous Papers, 1841-1905, <sup>Case</sup> ~~Number~~ 10,221-10,400, Originals in existence:

Cleveland County Miscellaneous Papers, 1841-1905, File No. 10225 (1862).

Jesse Jenkins appointed C.S.C. for Cleveland, <sup>about</sup> Dec., 1862.

S. Arnold Ramey [RAMEY] (comp.), Cleveland County, North Carolina, Marriages: 1851-1868 (n.p.: by the author, [1971]),

p. 27


JENKINS, Jesse m. Harriet Beaman, April 4, 1855 [reg. April 21, 1855, p. 66]

p. 29

LEE, H. D. m. Sarah J. Dawson, Jan. 3, 1865 [p. 209]

p. 3

BLANTON, B. (Bennell) m. Frances Doggett, Aug. 16, 1855 [reg. Nov. 16, 1855, p. 74].



XFX

Cleveland New Era (Shelby), June 30, 1888.

Maj. H. D. Lee and family, who have spent the winter and spring in Knoxville, Tenn., arrived at home yesterday.

MANGUM 1836-1843  
1844-1846

H. D. Lee served as a Captain in the Sixteenth Regiment, N.C.T., and commanded Company D of that Regiment. Served as being from Rutherford County (Walter Clark, IV, 137)

"Major Lee having been crippled for life at Fredricksburg...."  
(Clark, IV, 174).

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Plata Dinkham served as a member of the N.C. House of Representatives from 1866 to 1870 (A Manual of North Carolina passed by the North Carolina Historical Commission for the Use of Members of the General Assembly, Session 1913 (R. D. W. Connor (comp. and ed.), Raleigh; E. M. Uggell & Co., 1913), 563.

Cleveland County Manager, p. 74; Mr. Frances Doggett,  
Aug. 16, 1855.

BURWELL BLANTON (and wife PATTIE K.)

Operated a sawmill until May, 1875 (Stokely Owners,  
May 22, 1875).

A partner with H. D. Lee and S. T. Green in "H. D. LEE  
& CO., BANKERS AND BROKERS" (see Stokely Owners),  
Jan'y 13, 1881.)

Tells Census, 1880, shows Burwell Blanton as "Farmer"  
and age 69 (born in N.C.). He lived with his  
sister Malinda, 50.

b. Jan'y 7, 1834

WPA

d. May 18, 1908

Burwell, 1877 and 1878, p. 79, shows Blanton as a  
merchant.

Burwell, 1884, p. 228, shows him as prop. of a  
flour and saw mill

Burwell, 1890, p. 202, blind.

Burwell, 1896, shows Blanton as a Tom commissioner

Prister Malinda, 50.

b. January 7, 1834

WPA

d. May 18, 1908

Branson, 1877 and 1878, p. 79, shows Stanton as a  
president.

Branson, 1884, p. 228, shows him as prop. of a  
flour and corn mill

Branson, 1890, p. 202, shows

Branson, 1896, shows Stanton as a farm commissioner  
(p. 191); and as prop. of flour and corn mill,  
(p. 175).

Same in 1897 (same page)

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CHARLES C. BLANTON

and president

A director<sup>1</sup> of Shelby Cotton Mill and president of  
Shelby Ice and Fuel Company [organized 1905],

Shelby Brannon, Dec. 14, 1906.

B.F. Blanton died about mid-Dec. 1906 [C.C.'s wife?]

Remney, Cleveland County, Missouri



CHARLES C. BLANTON - 2

Tenth Census, 1880, p. 499.

~~Stance Blanton as age 38 and a "Farmer" born in  
S.C.~~

~~Wife Elizabeth, 50, Housekeeper  
& daughter, 2 sons~~

Stance Blanton, 22 and single, as "hardware & dry goods  
merchant" (p. 544)

Blanton - 0 -

JESSE JENKINS

✓ Bought the Skelby property from Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Dickson on May 29, 1874 (Book DD, 402)

Advertisement for "J. Jenkins & Co., BANKERS & BROKERS," appeared as early as December 14, 1872 (in Cleveland Banner) and <sup>AT LEAST</sup> as late as March 25, 1876 (in Skelby Banner).

✓ Served as C.S.C. from Feb 1875

✓ Served as agent for the Life Insurance Company of Virginia in and in Skelby Banner, April 8, 1875.

✓ Served as lieutenant in the Cleveland Grenade - The Mountain Eagle (Skelby), June 12, 1861.

✓ Served as C.S.C. while in the Cleveland Grenade - notice in The Mountain Eagle (Skelby), June 19, 1861.

✓ b. in N.C., January, 1832

✓ Show as agent for the Life Insurance Company of Virginia as  
ad in Shelby Banner, April 8, 1875.

✓ Send as lieutenant in the Cleveland Guards - The Mountain  
Engle (Shelby), June 12, 1861.

✓ Show for CSC while in the Cleveland Guards - notice in The  
Mountain Engle (Shelby), June 19, 1861.

✓ b, in N.C., January, 1832

d. in Meridian, Texas, December 4, 1889

✓ Show as "Clark" in Census of 1870, 148  
Wife: Harriet M.

Branson, 1867-1868, show Justice as CSC (p. 31)

Branson, 1869, show Justice as one of 5 Shelby Tam  
commissioners, and as owner of General Store (p. 42)

Branson, 1872, show him as one of 4 Tam commissioners  
and G.S. (p. 66)

Branson, 1877 and 1878, show T. D. LATIMORE as CSC.  
Justice not a Tam commissioner, but does own a GS and  
also a brother. (p. 79)

H. DeWalt Lee [and wife Sarah J. Lee]

One of the undertakers (along with S. T. Green, Bennett  
Benton and four others) granted a corporate charter as  
the "Cleveland Savings bank" in February, 1875 (Public  
Journal of North Carolina, 1874-1875, c. LXII, r. 1-3.)

Advertisement for "H. D. LEE & CO, BANKERS AND BROKERS,  
[H. D. Lee, B. Benton, and S. J. Green, partners], in Skelly  
Amora, January 13, 1881.

Listed as a lawyer in a local American directory published  
in Skelly Amora, May 22, 1875

Owned a large number of town lots near the Benton's Home  
"SALE OF VALUABLE TOWN LOTS, '11" Cleveland Banner  
(Skelly), April 25, 1874.

a former law partner (with Mack, 1875) of 1 lot

[H.D. Lee, B. Blanton, and S.J. Green, partners], in Shelby  
Among, January 13, 1881.

Listed as a lawyer in a local business directory published  
in Shelby Among, May 22, 1875

Owned a large number of town lots near the Bankers' Home  
"SALE OF VALUABLE TOWN LOTS!!" Chancellor Bamer  
(Shelby), April 25, 1874.

A former law partner (until March, 1875) of Peter  
Dunham (Shelby Bamer, April 8, 1875).

Census of 1880 shows him as "Mayer" Lee and as  
a wifele, aged 48. "Barker & Broker" (p. 548)

b. N.C., about 1832

Shown as "lawyer" in 1870 Census, 145.

Branson, 1867-1868, where law firm of "Lee & Branson  
(plate)" (p. 31)

Branson, 1872 where him as a lawyer (individually), p. 66  
Mid., 1877 and 1878

H. DE KALB LEE - 2

Branson, 1884, lists "H.D. Lee & Co., Bankers" (p. 227)

Branson, 1890, lists "H.D. Lee & Co., bank" (p. 202)

A Brief Sketch of Shelby, a Thriving Town in the  
Piedmont Section of North Carolina (Shelby: C.P. Roberts,  
1889), notes that Shelby had only one banking house in  
1889 (p. 19) and

"H.D. LEE & CO. do a general banking and brokerage business.  
This company is composed of Maj. H.D. Lee, B. Blanton and  
S. J. Green, all men of considerable property, and considered  
as safe as any bank in the State. This bank has been  
a great convenience to Shelby and the surrounding country."  
(p. 31).

Married Sarah J. Dawson January 3, 1865 (Raney,  
Cleveland Marriages, 29.

JESSE JENKINS-2

Branson, 1884, - 0 -

Appointed CSC for Cleveland about Dec., 1862  
(Cleveland County Miscellaneous Papers, 1841-1905,  
File No. 10225, Archives)

married Harriet Brown April 4, 1855 (S. Arnold  
Ramey [RAMEY] (comp.), Cleveland County, North Carolina,  
Marriages: 1851-1868 (m. p. i. By the Author, [1971]),  
p. 27.)

T. D. Lottmore CSC by 1875.

*Cleveland*

CLEVELAND TIMES  
SHELBY, N.C.  
TU-TH-SAT-6,300

DATE FEB 4 1975

**"Bankers' House" Nominated**

The "Bankers' House," a new style, of which there are very few, if the Department of Interior approves the nomination, the house will be protected from any alterations to preserve the cultural value. The approval of the nomination could take approximately 6 months and the permit will be issued by the Secretary of the Interior.

George Blanton, Jr., president of First National Bank, and his wife have occupied the distinctive home on South 15th Street since 1937. Before this, George Blanton, Sr. and Charles Blanton had also lived in the house. The H. D. Lee family and the Jess Locklear family also occupied the home. All of the families who have lived in the house have been associated with banking.

The home is of a cream colored brick and features a central inward-projecting tower. The house contains 13 rooms and is two and one-half stories high. A balcony characterizes the home and has two impressions trimming the eaves and windows.