

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Monreath

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

East side U.S. 401, 0.7 mi. south of U.S. 401-N.C. 39 junction

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Ingleside

VICINITY OF

2nd

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

North Carolina

37

Franklin

059

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. John Jones

STREET & NUMBER

Route 3

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Louisburg

VICINITY OF

North Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Franklin County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Louisburg

North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Monreath stands near the road from Louisburg to Warrenton, on a slight rise, facing west. It is a simple L-shaped two-story frame Georgian house with exterior end chimneys and--very unusual for its era in Franklin County where gable roofs dominate--a hip roof. The evolution of the house is uncertain: some exterior and interior features suggest that it was first a one or one-and-one-half-story structure, raised to two stories and expanded with a two-story rear all early in its history, but the present long-time owner states that the timber corner posts rise unbroken. The house is covered with weatherboards: those at the first story in the front block are molded; the second level and ell have plain ones. The front elevation is three bays wide, with the door being slightly off center to the south. Windows at the first level contain nine-over-nine sash and, like the six-panel front door, have heavy two-part molded frames; window sills are also heavy and molded. The second level has three evenly spaced windows with six-over-six sash and three-part molded frames. Projecting from the north half of the rear elevation, is the two-story ell covered with plain weatherboards and with windows like the second level of the front. At the south end of the front block is a double-shoulder chimney: it is of stone blocks to just below roof level; the second shoulder and the stack are of brick. The foundation under the front section is also of brick, laid in Flemish bond. The foundation under the ell is stone, as is the single-shoulder chimney at the rear of the ell. The chimney that once stood at the north end of the front section is gone; there is a recent one-story hip-roof wing added here; at the rear, a shed fills in the angle between the ell and the main block.

The interior of the front section follows a hall-and-parlor plan (typical of early Franklin County houses), with enclosed stair rising in the north room; it begins in the southeast corner and runs east-to-west against the partition wall. The ell consists of an additional room behind the north room. The finish throughout is of simple, well-executed Georgian character. The present owners, in maintaining the house, have covered over a few original surfaces, including the floors, which retain the original wide boards beneath the hardwood floors, but the essential fabric of the house is basically unaltered. The finish of both the front section, first level, and the ell and second story is Georgian, but that in the front section, first level, is considerably more robust--and presumably older--than the rest of the house. Door and window frames in this section (the two rooms) are very heavy two-part molded, mitered ones, with heavy rounded bead and outer molding. The doors have six raised panels and quarter-round moldings roughly 1 1/2 inch wide--about twice as wide as the corresponding moldings in the other parts of the house. The doors are hung with L hinges (the H is buried in the frame) attached with rosehead nails and the apparently original leather washers. The wall surfaces have been covered with sheet rock, but were originally plastered, with a very heavy, symmetrically molded Georgian chair rail, vestiges of which are preserved elsewhere. Window frames are quite heavy, and resemble those at the probably mid-eighteenth century Shem Kearney House also in Franklin County and at the Sutton House in Perquimans County (also mid-eighteenth century): the two-part mitered molding continues around to frame the window on all four sides, rather than having a different treatment at the sill. The muntins of the south window are original, and are one inch thick. The walls contain brick nogging, a feature known to exist in only two other Franklin County houses--the Patty Parson Taylor House (NR) and the Peggy Wright House.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE one

The mantel in the north room is gone, but that in the south room is of simple, typical Georgian design. Two horizontal flat panels occur above the opening, and the whole is framed by a simple, mitered molding. This is surmounted by a heavy molded shelf.

The ell room has a horizontally sheathed wainscot with shelf-type chair rail. The mantel has a molded frame around the opening. Above are two flat panels flanked by pilaster-like end blocks; these carry a molded shelf. The doors here also have raised panels, but with narrower moldings.

The second story has a simple shelf-like chair rail, consistently used with the plastered walls. The stair well is protected by a simple balustrade, with square post with cap, balusters square in section set diagonally, and molded rail. Above the stair is a flush-sheathed storage space. The fireplace treatment in the two second-story rooms in the front section is quite curious, consisting of an opening (now covered over), and, several inches above this, a shelf running between the windows that flank the chimney--and no other features of a mantel. In that in the south room, the chair rail beneath the windows runs perhaps three inches into the area that would normally be the mantel. The second-story ell room is similarly treated. In the enclosed area above the stair is written, "J. A. Tucker June 6 1884/Farmed at this place for 17 years."

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Monreath is a well-preserved, still-inhabited Georgian farmhouse with most of its eighteenth century fabric, exterior and interior, intact, as well as the typical hall-and-parlor plan. There is evidence that the house was expanded from a smaller eighteenth century house, probably by James Maxwell who purchased it in 1807 and named the place "Moareath." It was the summer home in the mid-nineteenth century of the Reverend Joseph Blount Cheshire and his family, including the eldest son, Joseph, Jr., who was to become the fifth bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina.

The construction date of the house known as Monreath is unknown, but stylistic evidence indicates that the building dates from the late eighteenth century. The simple Georgian mantels, extremely heavy quarter-round moldings, bulbous chair rail, and other features in the first story are typical of the county's earliest surviving houses, dating from the mid to late eighteenth century. Because early deeds do not give identifiable landmarks, the ownership of the land before 1788 is not known. Further, between 1788 and 1807, the land was owned by several people; thus the identity of the person for whom the house was built is uncertain, though a later resident credited James Maxwell who bought the property in 1807.

On November 7, 1788, Thomas Christmas of Franklin County, North Carolina, deeded 200 acres of land on Bear Swamp, to Thomas Knibb Wynne. Wynne paid Christmas 100 pounds in Virginia currency for the land. Thomas K. Wynne was a distinguished citizen of Franklin County, and a member of the General Assembly of 1792. On January 1, 1795, Jordan Hill, executor for the estate of Wynne, sold 100 acres of the land to William Pleasants. Pleasants was married to Elvia, the daughter of Thomas and Polly Wynne. Following the Pleasants' ownership, the land had a succession of owners--Adam and John Haywood (both members of a distinguished North Carolina family), and Stephen Outterbridge, who was one of the largest landowners in Franklin County in the 1810 census.

On March 9, 1807, Outterbridge sold 160 acres of land to James Maxwell. This land was the same as that owned by Wynne until his death. James Maxwell died in 1830, leaving his wife, Mary, an unusually large estate in land, slaves, stocks and bonds, and live-stock. According to the unpublished memoirs of Bishop Joseph Blount Cheshire (dated 1924), Moareath, which his father purchased as a summer home in 1850, was built for Maxwell "a Scotchman," and named for the principal seat of the chief of the Maxwell family in Scotland. (It seems likely, from physical evidence, that the house was an eighteenth century one-story structure enlarged and raised for Maxwell.) Cheshire went on to affirm that Monreath being named for the Scottish estate, should correctly be spelled Monreith. After the death of Mary Maxwell in 1834 the land was sold to Young Patterson, who was for fifteen years clerk of the Franklin County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, and

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE one

a member of the General Assembly of 1842.

On September 20, 1836, Daniel S. Hill of Franklin County, purchased 499 acres in two tracts from Patterson, for \$2,000. One tract was 160 acres, "lying on the east side of the road leading from Warrenton to Louisburg, being part of the tract which formerly belonged to Thomas K. Wynne . . ." Daniel S. Hill, and his wife, Susan Irwin Toole Hill, moved into the county seat town of Louisburg in 1849, and on December 5, 1850, he sold the 160-acre tract called Monreath to Joseph Blount Cheshire of Edgecombe County, North Carolina for \$600.

Joseph Blount Cheshire was born at Edenton, North Carolina, on December 29, 1814, the son of John and Elizabeth Blount Cheshire. He studied law under Thomas P. Devereux of Raleigh, and was admitted to the bar in 1836. In 1838 he began to study for the ministry under Episcopal Bishop Levi Silliman Ives. He also studied botany under the Reverend Moses Ashley Curtis, the noted botanist and musician. He was ordained a deacon in 1840, and assigned parishes at Halifax and Windsor, North Carolina; he was ordained a priest in 1841, becoming rector of Cavalry Church, Tarboro.

Dr. Cheshire was married to Elizabeth Toole Parker of Tarboro, and they had six children. When Dr. Cheshire purchased Monreath, it was with the intention of using it in the summer to escape "bilious fever," which he said was prevalent in Tarboro. Already relatives of Mrs. Cheshire had summer homes in the area. Her cousin, Mary Lavinia Toole, had married General Joseph Blount Littlejohn, and they lived at Ingleside (which later gave its name to the community), and for a time the Littlejohns made their permanent home in Franklin County. The Cheshire family moved to Monreath in late June and stayed through September. Among the children was Joseph Blount Cheshire, Jr. (1850-1932). Writing his memoirs for his children in 1924, he said of his childhood summer home: "The house at Monreath was an exceedingly well built house, of six very good sized rooms, three upstairs and three down stairs with pantry, etc. It had also kitchen, servant's house, stable, and a very good house in the yard, where my father sometimes put tramps who asked for a night's lodging." During the Cheshire occupancy all the hearths were granite, "broad, well-dressed stone slabs, except the parlor, which had its hearth laid with common red brick" Cheshire wrote. "This puzzled me," he went on

until my father explained that originally the parlor hearth had been of one granite stone as the others. But when Mr. Hill bought the house, his wife, our cousin, being from Edgecombe, insisted upon the stone hearth in the parlor being replaced with brick, so that she might have a servant scour it every morning with a brick, and paint it red, as was the custom in Edgecombe where she had been brought up.

Cheshire went on to record the annual trip to Franklin County:

16-7710-100a
Rev. 10-74

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE two

In going from Tarborough to Monreath our very common custom was to dine the first day at Dr. Philip's, to spend that night with my uncle, Col. Parker at Culpepper's Bridge; and the second day to go on by Hillardston, Sill's, Cedar Rock and Cobb's Cross Roads, to our house for that night, eating our dinner by the roadside.

The eldest Cheshire son, Joseph Blount, Jr., (born March 27, 1850) began his education at the Tarboro Male Academy, but found that when the family moved to Monreath for the summer he missed two months of school (school began in July). In 1864 Dr. Cheshire gave his son permission to attend the Louisburg Academy during the months of July, August and September. Cheshire recalled, "So, from the middle of July 1864 to the middle of September I walked into Louisburg, four miles, and back at night and read Virgil's Bucolics and one book of the Georgics with that good scholar and excellent man /Mr. Matthew Davis/."

Joseph Blount Cheshire, Jr., was later to become the fifth bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina, and served in that office with distinction. During his Episcopate, when the bishop visited St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Louisburg, the Franklin Times reported on Friday, February 3, 1905, "Bishop Cheshire visited St. Paul's last Sunday. The Bishop has a large number of friends in Louisburg, having attended school here when a boy, and they are always glad to welcome him."

The Cheshire family continued to summer at Monreath except the years, 1865, 1868 and 1870, and in 1871 they moved instead to Hillsborough, in the Carolina piedmont. The title to Monreath in the years following the Cheshire occupancy is not clear. Written in a second floor closet of the house are these words: "J. A. Tucker, June 6, 1884/ Farmed at this place for 17 years." The lack of deed records to show Tucker's ownership would tend to indicate his rental of the property. On January 19, 1892, Charles Mather Cooke, commissioner, sold to J. O. Davis, land in Franklin County "Known as Monreath."

James Owens Davis and his wife, Ellen Macon Davis lived at Monreath from 1892 until their deaths. Mrs. Davis taught school in a room of the house. The property descended to their daughter Eleanor Owens Davis and her husband Americus Jones. Their son John Jones now lives at Monreath with his family.

II MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cheshire, Joseph Blount, "Some Account of My Life for My Children" unpublished manuscript in the possession of Godfrey Cheshire, Jr., Raleigh.
 Connor, R. D. W., ed. Manual of North Carolina. Raleigh: 1913.
 Davis, Edward Hill, Historical Sketches of Franklin County. Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton Company, 1948.

III GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5

L&L: $36^{\circ} 10' 00''$ $78^{\circ} 17' 34''$

UTM REFERENCES

A

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

IV FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Research by John Baxton Flowers, III, survey specialist; architectural description by Catherine W. Cockshutt, survey supervisor

ORGANIZATION Division of Archives and History DATE 13 June 1975

STREET & NUMBER 109 East Jones Street TELEPHONE 919/829-7862

CITY OR TOWN Raleigh STATE North Carolina

V STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Lawrence M. Dwyer

TITLE Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer DATE 13 June 1975

FOR THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER'S USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE one

Franklin County Records, Franklin County Courthouse, Louisburg, North Carolina
(Subgroups: Wills, Deeds, Estate Papers).

Franklin County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina
(Subgroups: Wills, Deeds, Estate Papers).

Landon, Lawrence Fouchee. Bishop Joseph Blount Cheshire His Life and Work. Chapel
Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1941.



Monroeth
 Ingleside vicinity
 North Carolina

N.C. Highway Commission Map (no 1968 map available)
 Scale: 1" = 1 mile
 Date: 1974

Latitude			Longitude		
degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
35	10	00	78	17	24

